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THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story.

THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 121).

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We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 1875.

DISQUALIFICATION FOR BRIBERY.

In commenting, some time ago, on the new Electoral Law, we expressed the fear that its provisions were not sufficiently explicit to bring home the charge of personal bribery to the candidate himself. We stated that the responsibility thrown upon the Judge presiding at a contested election trial was so great, that he would naturally seek every loop-hole of escape, before taking upon himself to declare a respectable man guilty of the odious civic crime of corruption. Fortunately, our misgivings have been since dispelled by two remarkable cases, that of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, who narrowly escaped conviction on this very score, and more recently, that of Major WALKER, who has just been found guilty of the same and disqualified for seven years, from holding a seat in Parliament. Our previous remark was based precisely on the case of this gentleman, when it first came up for trial, in London, last autumn. There the presiding Judge distinctly expressed his perplexity as to the charge of personal bribery, and declined to assume the responsibility of pronouncing upon it, but he himself suggested the propriety of an appeal from his ruling. This appeal was taken, and the result just announced is that Major WALKER has been found guilty on every count, and thereby disqualified for reelection to Parliament. In delivering judgment, the learned Judge expressed an opinion which deserves attention, because it lays down a principle of guidance very useful in future trials of a like nature, and tears away the veil of excuse which has been persistently employed by candidates to secure themselves from personal charges. The Judge stated that the pre-arrangement or understanding, tacit or expressed, between the parties was that Major WALKER should be kept in ignorance of the particular, separate and distinct acts of bribery committed, while he was aware, as he

could not but be on any rational principles, that corruption and bribery upon a most extensive scale were being daily practiced on his behalf and in his sole interest. Hereafter, on the strength of this judgment, the plea of ignorance, on the part of the candidate, will have to be sifted more carefully than it has previously been in contested elections.

If the case of the London election somewhat dispels the apprehensions we entertained in regard to the undue responsibility of the Judges in matters of personal bribery, that of South Huron, on the other hand, tends to confirm it. Judgment has also been delivered on appeal in this case, their Lordships stating that there were strong grounds for thinking that the respondent, MALCOLM C. CAMERON, had been guilty of personal bribery. Had the Judge who tried his case given judgment to that effect, they would have sustained it. But as he had not done so, they confirmed the judgment which he had delivered, and had to dismiss the case. They so far differed from it, however, that they would not impose the costs on the plaintiff. We regard this judgment, in South Huron, as highly important, and we trust it may prove a lesson to all Judges called upon to try election cases, in the first instance.

GLADSTONE'S RESIGNATION.

MR. GLADSTONE'S voluntary retirement from the leadership of the Liberal party in Great Britain may be a matter of regret, but it cannot be the occasion of surprise. Ever since his defeat in February of last year, he has kept aloof from public affairs, and only occasionally occupied his seat in Parliament. Once or twice, during debates on ecclesiastical subjects, he woke up to his old energy and delivered speeches worthy of himself, but, in general, he remained gloomily in his tent like another Achilles. He all along intimated to his friends that it was his intention to withdraw from active participation in political strife, and it was only at their earnest solicitation that he consented to hold the nominal guidance of his party. Even this he has, at length, determined to resign. In a letter to Earl GRANVILLE, after reviewing a number of private and public considerations, Mr. GLADSTONE declares that he sees no advantage in his continuing to act as the head of the Liberal party. After forty-two years of laborious public life, he thinks himself entitled to repose. He states that his retirement is dictated by personal views regarding the method of spending the closing years of his life. What Mr. GLADSTONE'S personal motives are in taking this important step is gathered from the fact, already made public, that he desires to "complete the cycle of his Homeric researches, for which two years of close application will be requisite. The bent of his mind has always been religious, not to say ascetic, and it may be that, at the evening of his life, he irresistibly reverts to the tastes which characterized his youth, and which prompted his first work on the relations between Church and State. Indeed, the situation which Mr. GLADSTONE has created for himself by the recent publication of his "Vatican Decrees" is such that, if he purposes continuing the controversy and answering all the pamphlets which have been issued in reply, he will have his hands full for another twelve months, without any leisure for political discussions.

It were altogether premature to use the present occasion to write a political obituary of Mr. GLADSTONE. He is by no means dead. He still retains his seat in Parliament, and, doubtless on days of important debate, his potent voice will again be heard. He may yet leap forward for a final battle and a victory, dragging his Hector around the walls of Troy. Were Mr. DISRAELI to withdraw from office within the next two or three years, we should not be at all surprised to see Mr. GLADSTONE called upon to form a new cabinet.

A more pertinent question is concerning the successor of the retired chieftain. We

are informed that, at a meeting of the leading men of the Liberal party, held at the residence of Lord GRANVILLE, the prevailing opinion was in favour of the selection of Mr. FORSTER as leader of the party. The names of the Marquis of HARTINGTON and Sir VERNON HARCOURT were also mentioned. The subject is regarded as of so much importance, however, that the succession will not likely be formally announced until the opening of Parliament, when a general meeting of the party will take place, and all the members will be allowed to express their choice.

There is a passage in the account of the preliminary meeting at Lord GRANVILLE'S which, if authentic, would lead to the conclusion that Mr. GLADSTONE'S retirement was prompted not merely by personal motives, but by discontent in the ranks of his followers. All the members present at that meeting are said to have agreed that Mr. GLADSTONE'S withdrawal from the leadership of the Liberals should be immediately followed by his withdrawal from Parliament. And it is further stated that the constituency of Greenwich will present a requisition calling upon the ex-Premier to resign his seat. With our present means of information, this piece of news is unintelligible, and we trust that it will not be confirmed. Should it prove true, we shall further indulge the hope that the electors of Greenwich will be guilty of no such foolish step, and that Mr. GLADSTONE himself will insist on retaining a place in that assembly which he has always honoured by his presence and so often led by his genius. In the present circumstances of English politics, the complete absence of Mr. GLADSTONE from St. Stephen's would be a national misfortune.

LITERARY AND SOCIAL CLUBS.

In Montreal and Toronto, as in all other cities of wealth and importance, there are clubs, the membership of which is principally composed of men of the wealthy class and where public and private business matters form almost the sole topics of conversation. Nor can any other result be expected from the congregation together of those who are engaged in commercial or manufacturing enterprises. Conversation will naturally turn on subjects which engross the minds of a majority of the members.

Science, literature and art can have little interest to such men in the hours of business and though many of these persons, in the quietude of their homes, may take a deep interest in such matters, and by their substantial aid would be glad to forward any scheme that might tend to advance them, they cannot be expected to expend their time as well as money in the pursuit of objects so foreign to their daily avocations.

In a recent issue of the *Boston Traveller*, an account was given of the formation of the "Athenian Club." This club is formed after the pattern of the "Lotos" and "Arcadian" clubs of New York, and from the success which seems to have attended the efforts of its promoters at the first meeting, will in all probability be as profitable to its members in Boston as those clubs have been to their members in New York.

The membership of the "Athenian" club, the *Traveller* tells us, is composed of Journalists, Artists, Musicians, Actors, and men of all the liberal professions, and from the list of office bearers elected, journalists seems to have taken the lead in the matter. The question naturally suggests itself, if New York can have its Lotos and Arcadian Clubs and Boston its Athenian club, why cannot Montreal and Toronto, the Metropolitan cities of the Dominion, have clubs of a similar character; and we think the only answer that can be given to such a question is, because the individuals to whom such an institution would be of incalculable benefit have been too indifferent to their own interest in the past, while through the columns of the press, from the school room, from the stage and from the platform, they have struggled to

elevate, instruct and amuse the outside public.

Such an enterprise as that now spoken of cannot, of course, be carried out successfully without money, and it is a noted fact that many of those engaged in the professions here alluded to are not overburdened with a weight of gold. It is then to the generous outside public for whose edification they have in the past, do in the present and will in the future, write, lecture, sing, play, act and teach, that application must be made for assistance in such a work. Nor do we think it would be made in vain. There surely is in Montreal and Toronto sufficient appreciation of all those things which tend to elevate society to guarantee that a deep interest would be taken in such a work were it but started and taken hold of by men of prominence in the several professions included in the list of membership. And we hope the day is not far distant when Montreal, like Boston, the Athens of America, may come to look upon all those engaged in intellectual pursuits, as something different from the proverbial Bohemian, at the mention of whose name the shoulders and eyebrows of the bear-ideal of society are significantly shrugged and elevated.

GLADSTONE AND HARCOURT.

The controversial war which has arisen out of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet on the Vatican Decrees has taken a political phase, and Sir W. V. HARCOURT, who was Solicitor General in the Gladstone Government, has turned against his chief in a very decided manner, in a speech delivered to his constituents at Oxford. Upon the merits of the controversy excited by Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet we do not propose, as we have before stated, to enter in these columns. But the political incident to which we refer has a general significance which calls for notice. Sir W. V. HARCOURT has not been very long in Parliament; but very soon after he had obtained his seat, he was selected for the post of Solicitor General by Mr. Gladstone. This was a tribute to his marked ability, for his appointment was promotion over the heads of many men who had longer served the party. Before his entry into Parliament he was known to the public both in England and America as the author of the remarkable series of articles on the recent American war, signed *Historians*, in the columns of the *London Times*. And we now find him pointed out by several of the newspapers as the possible successor and supplanter of Mr. Gladstone. However this may be, his speech at Oxford is a cruel attack on his late chief. He began by acknowledging that the Liberal party was completely beaten, broken, and routed at the polls. He said: "those who conduct a party, like those who do not, are a race, ought to be good judges of the pace. You cannot govern a people without some regard to their sentiments, their convictions and even their prejudices. You will not restore the healthy tone of an over excited system, by blaring rhetoric and sensational pamphletting. If any medicament is wanting it would prescribe a few grains of the salt of common sense, to be taken night and morning, as a gentle alternative." * * * "This country does not love a Government which is capable of nothing; but there is one thing which it fears still more and that is a Government which is capable of anything. It has a wholesome dread of parties of sensation and politics of surprise." And a little further on Sir W. V. HARCOURT said: "The lesson to be learned from the great disaster which has befallen the Liberal party is that parties that desire to be trusted must have the courage to put down their foot. (Hear, hear.) To extend a covert toleration to rash speculation and questionable schemes in order to secure a precarious support is not the way to recover confidence but further to destroy it." * * * "You cannot get unity on the terms of insisting that every one else shall agree in your opinions. I cannot help thinking