St. John Chronicle.

"COLONIAL CONSERVATIVE."

VOLUME XXIII. SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1858. NUMBER 4.

THE ST. JOHN CHRONICLE,

Is published every Friday by DURANT & BOOVER, at their Office in the brick building, corner of Market Square and Prince Wm. street, over Mr. Hutchinson, watchmaker.

Visiting and Business Cards, (plain and ornamental) Pamphlets, Blanks, and Printing generally neatly executed.

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DURANT & CO.,
Chronicle Office, Saint John, N. B.

☞ Archibald M'Allister, is an authorised Agent for the *Chronicle* at Gagetown, and vicinity.

Stephen Wiggins, is an authorized Agent for Grand Lake.

Joseph R. Perkins, Esq., is an authorized agent for Petersville, (Q. C.)

☞ The *Chronicle* is filed, and may be seen free of charge at Professor Holloway's Establishment, 244 Strand, London. Professor Holloway is duly empowered to receive all monies due our establishment in London, and whose receipts will be regarded by us as valid.

GEORGE WHITMAN,
Auctioneer, Commission Merchant.
AND DEALER IN DRY GOODS.
GROCERIES AND HARDWARE,
CLEMENTSPORT, N. S.

G. M. BURNS
AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION MERCHANT
No. 26 South Market Wharf, St. John, N. B.
March 20, 1857

For Arthur White, from London.

100 CHESTS Souchong TEA;
5 tons Brandram's No. 1 WHITE LEAD;
1 ton Brandram's Coloured PAINTS;
Casks Boiled and Raw OIL;
8 do. PUTTY; 1 cask STARCH;
4 cases INDIGO;
2 case ladies' BOOTS;
1 do. STATIONERY.
For Sale at the lowest market rates.
June 13. L. H. DEVEBER & SONS.

JUST PUBLISHED—A new Edition of Lennie's English GRAMMAR, strongly bound in linen. Price 5s. 6d. per dozen.
June 6. B. O'BRIEN.

A Few Dozen London made Gents. Volkomen Dress SHIRTS, superior to anything made in the City, as regards style of durability.
August 7. THOMAS R. JONES.

Cordage, Twine, Tar,
Now Landing and in Store
120 TONS Manila CORDAGE, 1 to 6 inch;
15 tons Hemp Cordage 6 thds. inch;
Tarred Hemp and Tarpaulin DUNNAGE;
100 bbls PITCH, 50 bbls. ROSIN;
50 bbls. Coal TAR.
For Fishermen
120 Coils 6 and 9 thread RATLINE;
50 bbls. Thin TAR. For sale at low rates by
JOHN WALKER.
St. John, May 8, 1858.

NOTICE.—All persons having legal demands against the Estate of William White, Senr., late of Cambridge (Queen's County,) deceased, are requested to hand in the same, duly attested, within three months from this date, and all persons indebted are requested to make immediate payment to

SAMUEL WHITE,
WM. WIGGINS,
Executors.
Queen's County, May 1, 1858.

Waverly House, No. 69, King street

GENTLEMEN'S BOOTS AT REDUCED PRICES.
LADIES' 3s 6d. Gents' 3s. 6d. Leather Boots and Shoes of every description, together with English felt Cloth BOOTS at first Cost.
The public will please to understand that I will continue these low prices to the 1st of May, and also that I will use no deception or second price.
March 6. B. O'BRIEN.

Earthenware, China & Glass.

F. CLEMENTSON has received per "John Duncan" and "Boadicea"—A general assortment of the above Goods, which are offered at the lowest Market rates, Wholesale and Retail 91, Dock Street. October 30.

JUST RECEIVED:
200 QUINTALS large CODFISH;
100 Boxes Dipper Harbour Smoked HERRINGS, a good Article.
JOHN MARVEN,
October 28. Ward-street.

Furniture & Upholstery Ware Rooms.
No. 57, Head of King Street.
DRAWING ROOM FURNITURE; DINING Room Furniture; BED ROOM Furniture—of different designs, in Mahogany and Walnut.
—ALSO—
HAIR MATTRESSES, MOSS MATTRESSES, GRASS MATTRESSES, STRAW MATTRESSES.
—ALSO—
Cheap CHAIRS and BEDSTEADS, in great variety. For sale by the subscribers.
March 19. J. & G. LAWRENCE.

Reversible Caps.
IN compliance with the wishes of a number of Customers, we are again manufacturing a quantity of PALA ALTO REVERSIBLE CAPS. This is a style which was in great demand in the United States at the time of the late Mexican War, and is a very convenient Cap for travellers. Call and see.
C. D. EVERETT & SON,
August 7. 15, King-street.

HOLLANDS.
LANDING ex "Ann Hankins" from London, 1—150 packages GENEVA, Anchor Brand, which will be sold at 4s. per gallon in Bond from Wharf.
THOS. PARKS,
October 21. 25, Dock-street.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—The Subscriber having been lately appointed a Licensed AUCTIONEER for Queen's County wants from the Public a Share of Business which shall receive his prompt attention, on most reasonable terms. ARCHIBALD McALLISTER.
Gagetown, August 22.

LUMBER! LUMBER!
THE Subscriber thankful for the past favours offers his Stock for Sale very low for Cash, consisting of all qualities of DRY PINE LUMBER from 5-8 to 4 Inch in thickness, FRAME TIMBER, SCANTLING all sizes, Rough and planed Flooring, LATHS, &c.
Jan 19 R. S. DICKSON.

LIVERPOOL OAKUM.—Landing ex "John Duncan"—5 Tons Liverpool OAKUM. For sale by JOHN WALKER.

82, King Street.
Saint John Hotel Building.
RECEIVED in good order, by last trip of steamer Eastern City, from Boston, a supply of the following Goods:
GREEN APPLES, DRIED APPLES, Oranges, Lemons, Sugar Cured HAMS, ONIONS, CHEESE, and BUTTER.
Which will be sold by the Subscriber cheap for cash. ROBERT STEWART.
April 9, 1858.

New Books.
THE GENIUS OF CHRISTIANITY, by Viscount deChatenubriand;
St. John's Manual; a Guide to the Public Worship and Services of the Catholic Church;
A Vindication of Italy and the Papal States, from the Dublin Review;
John Mitchell's Great Lecture on Thomas Devin Reilly, delivered in the Tabernacle, N. York;
Hendrick Conscience's Tales, complete;
Nos. 1 to 4 of the Complete Works of Gerald Griffin—to be completed in 30 numbers;
Luck is Everything, by W. H. Maxwell;
Charles Lever's Works, 4 vols., octavo, cloth;
Love after Marriage by Caroline Lee Hentz
The Border Rover by Emerson Bennett;
The Rats of the Seine, by Paul Preston;
The Doomed Ship, by Harry Hazel;
Dow's Patent Sermons, new edition;
Reynolds' Complete Works;
Historical Magazine, and Notes and Queries for May, 1858;
Harper, Putnam, the Youths, Household Words New York National, Waverley, and Black wood for May;
The Testimony of the Rocks, by Hugh Miller.
☞ Latest "New York Ledger," &c.
May 8. B. O'BRIEN.

4 CASKS Olive OIL, 300 gallons;
8 bbls. TALLOW, 2,000 lbs.;
LONDON OAKUM.—10 tons London Oakum, or sale low.
One Wood Stock ANCHOR.—For sale by
August 7. JOHN WALKER.

GENTS. SHAWLS.—The Subscriber has received an assortment of Gentlemen's SHAWLS, of superior quality to those usually imported. Also, Gents' MUFFLERS, for sale at reasonable prices, by D. H. HALL,
Nov. 11. 41, King-street.

FRENCH PAPER HANGINGS.—Received per Steamer:—1 case superior French PAPER HANGINGS, all new styles.
☞ For Sale at cost and charges.
July 3 B. O'BRIEN.

NEW GOODS—per Lampedo:
The Subscribers have received by the above packet ship a part of their SPRING STOCK OF
Woollen and Cotton Goods.
—ALSO—
10 BRLS. Crushed SUGAR—(McFee's;)
1 Cask Potash STARCH;
Barrels Carbonate SODA;
2 Cases FISHING THREADS;
HARDWARE, &c. &c. &c.
For sale at the lowest Market rates, by
May 7. L. H. DEVEBER & SONS.

Flour, Pork, and Meal.
RECEIVED ex *Independence* from New York:—40 barrels extra Family FLOUR, (new); 30 bbls. CORN MEAL; 10 bbls. heavy Mess Pork, from Gardiner, Maine; 40 dozen Stone JUGS, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1½, ½, ¼ gallons.
JOHN MARVEN,
July 30. Ward street.

HARD COALS.—Landing ex *Napoleon*, from Philadelphia: 150 tons best Buckmountain COALS. For sale by
July 9. JOHN WALKER.

Spring Style of Hat for 1858
THE subscriber is manufacturing HATS of the above style, at 27, North side King street.
April 9. A. MAGEE.

REMOVAL.—The OFFICE of the WATER and SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS has been removed to Merritt's stone-front Building, No. 77, Prince William street, (up stairs,) last occupied by McGrath, Harding & Co.
☞ The Coupons of Interest on Commissioners' Debentures due 1st May, 1858, will be paid on presentation at the Commissioners' Office, as above, between the hours 10 a. m., and 2 p. m.
JOHN SEARS,
May 1, 1858. Chairman

GOOD CLOTHING,
THE BEST QUALITY, AND AT LOW PRICES.
he Cheapest and largest Stock of Ready-made
CLOTHING,
is at Granite Hall, No. 5, Dock-street.
Every article warranted to what it is represented or the money returned.
☞ GARMENTS made to measure at low prices, and in a superior manner.
May 29. THOS. R. JONES.

St. John Coffee House.
The Subscriber would inform his friends and the public that he has taken the commodious building in Church Street, formerly known as the "Hibernia Hotel," which he has refitted and opened under the name of the ST. JOHN COFFEE HOUSE, where he will keep constantly on hand every delicacy of the season. Prime OYSTERS served up in every style required.
Meals at all hours.—Dinner from 12 to 3 o'clock, consisting of Roast Beef, Corned Beef, Boiled Ham, Boiled Salmon, Bass, Baked Fish, Fried Fish, Lamb add Green Peas, &c. For Breakfast, Broiled Steak, Veal Cutlets, Mutton Chops, Roast and Fried Tripe, Lambs' Fries, &c. Supper from 5 to 10 o'clock.
☞ Free Lunch from 11 to 12 o'clock every day. The Choicest LIQUORS & FANCY DRINKS always on hand. J. KENNEY,
July 15 Proprietor

THE above Company are now prepared to Manufacture from Woodstock Iron SHIPS KNEES and STRAPS, Machine SHAFTING, and CHAINS Ships' ANCORS, &c. and solicit the patronage of the Public to sustain them in this branch of Domestic Manufacture.
☞ Orders received and every information given on application to
T. E. G. TISDALE, *President.*

NOTICE.
RECEIVED per "Athenais"—Two Case London HATS, a superior article, made expressly for this Market; also, Children's HATS in great variety. Expected per steamer from Boston—A large Stock of Leghorn and Panama HATS, all of which will be sold Wholesale or Retail, at low prices for Cash or approved paper.
27 North side King street. A. MAGEE.
St. John, May 1.

GREEN WINDOW SHADES.—Just received at the New Paper Store—200 Green SHADES 25, 33, 36, 40 inches wide.
GEO. NIXON,
April 30. 104 Prince William street

REMOVAL.—The Office of the subscriber is removed to the building occupied by Messrs. L. H. Deveber & Sons, 38 Prince Wm. street.
May 7. PETER STUBS,
Barrister, Notary Public, Patent Agency

HEALTH OR SICKNESS!
CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM.
HOLLOWAY'S PILLS
The blood furnishes the material of every bone, muscle, gland and fibre in the human frame. When pure, it secures Health to every organ it necessarily produces disease. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS operate directly upon the elements of the stream of life, neutralizing the principle of disease, and thus radically curing the malady, whether located in the nerves, the stomach, the liver, the bowels, the muscles, the skin, the brain, or any other part of the system.
USED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are equally efficacious in complaints common to the whole human race and in disorders peculiar to certain climates and localities.
ALARMING DISORDERS.
Dyspepsia, and derangement of the liver, the source of infirmity and suffering, and the cause of innumerable deaths, yield to these curatives, in all cases, however aggravated, acting as a mild purgative, alterative and tonic; they relieve the bowels, purify the fluids, and invigorate the system and the constitution at the same time.
GENERAL WEAKNESS—NERVOUS COMPLAINTS.
When all stimulants fail, the renovating and bracing properties of these Pills give firmness to the shaking nerves and enfeebled muscles of the victim of general debility.
DELICATE FEMALES.
All irregularities and ailments incident to the delicate and sensitive organs of the sex are removed or prevented by a few doses of these mild, but infallible alteratives. No mother who regards her own or her children's health should if to have them within her reach.
SCIENTIFIC ENDORSEMENTS.
The London "Lancet," the London "Medical Review," and the most eminent of the faculty in Great Britain, France and Germany, have eulogized the Pills and their inventor.

Holloway's Pills are the best remedy known in the world for the following diseases:

Asthma	Female Complaints	Piles
Bowel Complaints	Headaches	Stone and Gravel
Coughs	Indigestion	Secondary
Colds	Influenza	Symptoms
Chest Diseases	Inflamation	Venereal Affections
Costiveness	Inward Weakness	Worms, of all kinds.
Dyspepsia	Liver Complaints	
Diarrhœa		
Dropsy		
Debility		
Fever and Ague	Lowness of spirits	

Sold at the Manufactories of Professor HOLLOWAY, 80, Maiden Lane, New York, and 244 Strand, (near Temple Barr, London,) by all respectable Druggists and Dealers in Medicines throughout the United States and the civilized World, in boxes at 25 cents, 62½ cents, and 1$ each.
☞ There is a considerable saving by taking the larger sizes.
N. B—Directions for the guidance of patients in every disorder are affixed to each Box.
S. L. TILLEY, *Provincial Agent*, No. 2 King-st St. John, N. B; A. Cay & Son, Fredericton; W. T. Baird, Woodstock; Alex. Lockhart, Quaco; James Beck, Bend of Petitcodiac; O. K. Sayre, Dorchester; John Bell, Shediac; John Lewis, Hillsborough; John Curry, Canning; and Jas. G. White Belleisle.

6, 49, Germain-Street.
JAMES LYTON,
Tailor and Draper.
WOULD invite the attention of his friends and customers to his present Stock of Goods, which has been completed by recent arrivals per ships *John Duncan*, *Middleton*, and *Courier*, consisting of West of England CLOTHS, FUR BEAVERS, VELVET CLOTHS, PATENT BEAVERS, BALTIC and EXTRA PILOT CLOTHS; WAISTCOATINGS, in Berlin, Silk and Velvets. TROUSERINGS in endless variety,—these goods he can recommend as being superior to any yet seen in this Market, and in making them up no care shall be spared to sustain the preference he has hitherto received.
To the Officers of H. M. Army.
J. L. would beg to state that having been for years employed in the CUTTING DEPARTMENT of *HART'S Military Tailors*, 26 Pall Mall, he is prepared to execute in a superior style all orders with which he may be entrusted.
St. John, Oct. 31, 1856.

SEE HERE.
ON and after Wednesday the 8th instant, the Subscriber intends to run a DAILY COACH for the accommodation of the Public between the Nine Mile Station and Sussex Vale; leaving the Nine Mile station on the arrival of the two o'clock train, for Sussex Vale, *EVERY DAY*, arriving the same evening at Sussex, and leaving Sussex the following mornings at 6 a. m., to meet the 2 p. m. train. A covered Coach, good Horses, and a careful driver always in attendance.
PETER B. LYON.
Hampton, sept 7.

To Farmers, Travelers, & Citizens
THE Subscriber has refitted and renovated his Hotel to meet the Spring business, and where Travellers will find every comfort desired. He returns thanks for the very liberal share of patronage which has been awarded to him, and assures his numerous customers that every effort will be made as heretofore, to benefit.
His House is No. 15, Charlotte street, and reference is respectfully asked of former visitors.
Experienced Grooms always in attendance to see that Horses are properly attended to.
May 22. WM. YOUNG.

S. K. FOSTER & SON.
FAMILY SHOE STORE,
FOSTER'S CORNER, GERMAIN STREET
LADIES' Cloth Felt Cashmere and Prunell BOOTS;
Ladies' White Satin and Satteen BOOTS and SLIPPERS;
Ladies' White, Black and Bronze Kid Slippers;
Misses' Cloth, Kid, Morocco, Enamelled Calf and Goat BOOTS and SHOES;
Girls' Feet Boots and Over Boots;
Ladies' Fine Dress SLIPPERS, of every sort;
Childrens' Cloth and Felt BOOTS;
Childrens' Leather Boots and Shoes, of every description and quality;
Gentlemen's Youths' and Boys' BOOTS and Shoes, of every sort required;
Rubber Boots and Shoes;
For Sale Wholesale Retail.
October 22. S. K. FOSTER & SON.

Received per Steamer America, at the
N. American Clothing Store,
Sears' Brick Building, King Street,
A SPLENDID assortment of Broad CLOTHS; Cassimeres; Doeskins; Tweeds; &c.; will be made up to order in the most Fashionable style, at the shortest notice.
May 9. R. HUNTER.

GRANITE HALL,
5 DOCK STREET.
SPRING and Summer OVER COATS, in Plain Sack, and Raglan Styles.
Good material Fashionable cut, and well made.
April 3, 1858. THOS. R. JONES.

Poetry.

WINTER.

Pile up the fire! the winter wind
Although its nip, is not unkind;
And dark mid-winter days can bring
As many pleasures as the spring.

If not the flow'ret budding fair,
And mild effulgence of the air,
They give the glow of indoor mirth,
And social comfort round the hearth.

Pile up the fire! When storms are rude,
We feel the joy of gratitude;
And thankful for the good possess'd
Have welcomes for the poorest guest.

The gloomy winter—who is he?
I never saw him on the lea,
I never met him on my path,
Or told old stories of his wrath.

The winter is a friend of mine,
His step is light his eyeballs shine;
His cheek is ruddy as the morn,
He carols like the lark in corn.

His tread is brisk upon the snows—
His pulses gallop as he goes;
He hath a smile upon his lips,
With songs, and welcome, jests and quips.

A charitable soul is he,
His heart is large, his hands are free;
He brings the beggar to his door,
And feeds the needy from his store.

A friend of every living thing,
Old Winter—sire of youthful Spring—
The glooms upon his brow that dwell
Are glories when we know them well.

'Tis he that feeds the April buds,
'Tis he that clothes the Summer woods;
'Tis he makes plump the Autumn grain,
And loads with wealth the creaking wain.

Pile up the fire! and ere he go
Our blessings on his head shall flow—
The hale old Winter, bleak and sore,
The friend and father of the year.

Miscellaneous.

Success.—Every man must patiently abide his time. He must wait, not in listless idleness, not in useless pastime, not in querulous dejection; but in constant, steady and cheerful endeavor; always willing, fulfilling, and accomplishing his task; that when the occasion comes he may be equal to the occasion. The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, without a thought of fame. If it comes at all, it will come because it is deserved, not because it is sought after. It is very indiscrete and troublesome ambition which cares so much about fame; about what the world says of us; to be always working in the face of others for approval; to be always anxious about the effect of what we do or say; to be always shouting, to hear the echoes of our own voice.—*Longfellow.*

FUNNY FINANCIAL OPERATION: $5,000 IN GOLD TURNED INTO COPPER.—In the Supreme Court at Boston a very funny Bank suit now attracts attention. The parties are the Market vs. the Granite Bank of Boston. This curious case grows out of a remarkable occurrence in the year 1826. A bag, supposed to contain $5,000 in gold, had passed through sundry banks in State street without suspicion, until at last, at the Exchange, it was weighed, found deficient, and opened, when, instead of gold, a bag of cents was brought to light. The Exchange at once sent it back to the Market, from whom it was received. The Market redeemed it and sent it to the Granite, from whom, as they allege, it came to them.—This, however, the Granite denied, and hence the suit of the Market to recover.—Where the transmutation took place was never discovered. Four prominent lawyers are engaged in the case.

COMET IN FRANCE.—The old vine growers of France recollect that the comet of 1811 was followed by an excellent vintage, and the comet of 1858 has brought about they say, a similar result. It is now reported that a comet would be welcomed every year in the wine districts.

"My native city has treated me badly," said a drunken vagabond, "but I love her still." "Probably," replied a gentleman, "her still is all you do love."

A PROFITABLE FLOGGING.—I had one just flogging. When I was about thirteen, I went to a shoemaker, and begged him to take me as his apprentice. He being an honest man, immediately took me to Bowyer, who got into a great rage, knocked me down, and even pushed Crispin rudely out of the room. Bowyer asked me why I made myself such a fool. To which I answered, that I had a great desire to be a shoemaker, and that I hated the thought of being a clergyman. "Why so?" said he. "Because, to tell you the truth, Sir" said I, "I am an infidel!" For this without ado, Bowyer flogged me—wisely, as I think—soundly, as I know. Any whining or sermonizing would have gratified my vanity and confirmed me in my absurdity; as it was, I was laughed at, and got heartily ashamed of my folly. —*Coleridge.*

LEGISLATIVE LOG ROLLING.—The phrase is drawn from the clearing of the forest land in a new country. The settler could himself cut down the trees, and cut them into lengths or logs. The next step is to roll them into heaps for burning, and that he could not do without help; so he called his neighbors to help him roll, and when they had rolling, he helped them. This was aptly applied to legislative action for the passage of laws for local measures. Vote for my bill and I will vote for yours. The phrase was probably western; it is certainly more than forty years old.

A CAUTION TO WOMEN.—It is currently reported that the various State Legislatures about to commence their sessions will be urged by a strong corps of lobby men, to re-enact a law introduced in the English Parliament in 1770, which ran as follows:

"That all women of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether virgins, wives or widows, that shall, from and after such act, impose upon seduce, and betray into matrimony, any of his majesty's male subjects by the arts, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high heeled shoes, bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft, sorcery, and like misdemeanors, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and voide."

SLEEP.—Women require more sleep than men, and farmers less than those engaged in any other occupation. Editors, reporters, printers, and telegraph operators, need no sleep at all. Lawyers can sleep as much as they choose, and thus keep out of mischief. Clergymen can sleep twenty hours, and put their parish to sleep once a week.

NINE O'CLOCK;
—OR,—
THE LAST GIRONDIN BANQUET.

The night of the 30th of June, 1793, is memorable in the prison annals of Paris, as the last night in confinement of the leaders of the famous Girondin party in the French Revolution. On the morning of the 31st, the twenty-one deputies who represented the department of the Gironde, were guillotined, to make way for Robespierre and the Reign of Terror.

With these men fell the last revolutionists of that period who shrank from founding a republic on massacre; who recoiled from substituting for a monarchy of corruption, a monarchy of bloodshed. The elements of their defeat lay as much in themselves, as in the events of their time. They were not, as a party, true to their own convictions; they temporized; they fatally attempted to take a middle course amid the terrible emergencies of a terrible epoch, and they fell—fell before worse men, because those men were in earnest.

Condemned to die, the Girondins submitted nobly to their fate; their great glory was the glory of their deaths. The speech of one of them on hearing his sentence pronounced, was a prophecy of the future, fulfilled to the letter.

"I die," he said to the Jacobin judges, the creatures of Robespierre, who tried him, "I die at a time when the people have lost their reason; you will die on the day when they recover it." Valaze was the only member of the condemned party who displayed a momentary weakness; he stabbed himself on hearing his sentence pronounced. But the blow was not mortal—he died on the scaffold, and died bravely with the rest.

On the night of the 30th, the Girondins held their famous banquet in the prison; celebrated, with the ferocious stoicism of the time, their last social meeting before the morning on which they were to die. Other men, besides the twenty-one, were present at this supper of the condemned. They were prisoners who held Girondin opinions, but whose names were not illustrious enough for history to preserve. Though sentenced to confinement, they were not sentenced to death. Some of their number, who had protested most boldly against the condemnation of the deputies, were ordered to witness the execution on the morrow, as a timely example to terrify them into submission. More than this, Robespierre and his colleagues did not, as yet, venture to attempt; the Reign of Terror was a cautious reign at starting.

The supper-table of the prison was spread; the twenty-one of their number stamped already with the seal of death, were congregated at the last Girondin banquet; toast followed toast; the *Marseillaise* was sung; the desperate triumph of the feast was rising fast to its climax, when a new and ominous subject of conversation was started at the lower end of the table, and spread electrically, almost in a moment, to the top.

This subject, (by whom originated no one know,) was simply a question as to the hour in the morning at which the execution was to take place. Every one of the prisoners appeared to be in ignorance on this point; and the gaolers either could not, or would not, enlighten them. Until the cart for the condemned rolled into the prison-yard, not one of the Girondins could tell whether he was to be called out to the guillotine soon after sunrise, or not till near noon.

This uncertainty was made a topic for discussion, or for jesting on all sides. It was eagerly seized on a pretext for raising to the highest pitch the ghastly animation and hilarity of the evening. In some quarters, the recognized hour of former executions was quoted as a precedent sure to be followed by the executioners of the morrow; in others, it was asserted that Robespierre and his party would purposely depart from established customs in this, as in previous instances. Dozens of wild schemes were suggested for guessing the hour by fortune telling rules on the cards; bets were offered and accepted among the prisoners who were not condemned to death, and witnessed in stoical mockery by the prisoners who were. Jests were exchanged about early-rising and hurried toilets; in short, every man contributed an assertion, a contradiction, or a witticism to keep up a new topic of conversation—with one solitary exception. That exception was the Girondin, Duprat, one of the deputies who was sentenced to die by the guillotine.

He was a younger man than the majority of his brethren, and was personally remarkable by his handsome, melancholy face, and his reserved yet gentle manners. Throughout the evening he had spoken but rarely; there was something of the silence and serenity of a martyr in his demeanor. That he feared death as little as any of his companions, was plainly visible in his bright, steady eye; in his unchanging complexion; in his firm, calm voice, when he occasionally addressed those who happened to be near him. But he was evidently out of place at the banquet; his temperament was reflective—his disposition serious; feasts were at no time a sphere in which he was calculated to shine.

His taciturnity, while the hour of execution was under discussion, had separated him from most of those with whom he sat, at the lower end of the table. They edged up towards the top, where the conversation was most general and most animated. One of his friends, however, still kept his place by Duprat's side, and thus questioned him anxiously, but in low tones, on the cause of his immovable silence: "Are you the only man of the company, Duprat, who has neither guess nor joke to make about the time of the execution?"

"I never joke, Marigny," was the answer, given with a slight smile which had something of the sarcastic in it; "and as for guessing at the time of the execution, I never guess at things which I *know*."

"Know! You know the hour of the execution! Then why not communicate your knowledge to your friends around you?"

"Because not one of them would believe what I said."

"But, surely, you could prove it. Somebody must have told you."

"Nobody has told me."

"You have seen some private letter, then; or you have managed to get sight of the execution order; or—"

"Spare your conjectures, Marigny. I have not read, so I have not been told, what is the hour at which we are to die to-morrow."

"Then how on earth can you possibly know it?"

'I do *not* know when the execution will begin, or when it will end. I only know that it will be *going on* at nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Out of the twenty one who are to suffer death, one will be guillotined exactly at that hour. Whether he will be the first whose head falls, or the last, I cannot tell.'

'And pray who may this man be, who is to die exactly at nine o'clock? Of course, prophetically knowing so much, you know that!'

'I *do* know it. I am the man whose death by the guillotine will take place exactly at the hour I have mentioned.'

'You said just now, Duprat, that you never joked. Do you expect me to believe that what you have just spoken is spoken in earnest?'

'I repeat that I never joke; and I answer that I expect you to believe me. I know the hour at which my death will take place to-morrow, just as certainly as I know the fact of my own existence to night.'

'But how? My dear friend, can you really lay claim to supernatural intuition, in this eighteenth century of the world—in this renowned Age of Reason?'

'No two men, Marigny, understand that word supernatural, exactly in the same sense; you and I differ about its meaning, or, in other words, differ about the real distinction between the doubtful and the true. We will not discuss the subject: I wish to be understood, at the outset, as laying claim to no superior intuitions whatever; but I tell you at the same time, that even in this Age of Reason, I have reason for what I have said. My father and my brother both died at nine o'clock in the morning, and were both warned, very strangely, of their deaths. I am the last of my family—I was warned last night, as they were warned—and shall die by the guillotine, as they died in their beds, at that fatal hour of nine.'

'But, Duprat, why have I never heard of this before? As your oldest, and, I am sure your dearest friend, I thought you had long since trusted me with all your secrets.'

'And you shall know this secret: I only kept it from you till the time when I could be certain that my death would substantiate my words to the very letter. Come! you are as bad supper-company as I am; let us slip away from the table unperceived, while our friends are all engaged in conversation. Yonder end of the hall is dark and quiet—we can speak there uninterruptedly, for some hours to come.'

He led the way from the supper-table, followed by Marigny. Arrived at one of the darkest and most retired corner of the great hall of the gloomy prison, Duprat spoke again:

'I believe, Marigny,' he said, 'that you are one of those who have been ordered by our tyrants to witness my execution, and the execution of my brethren, as a warning spectacle for an enemy to the Jacobin cause?'

'My dear friend! it is too true; I am ordered to witness the butchery, which I cannot prevent: our last awful parting will be at the foot of the scaffold. I am among the victims who are spared—mercilessly spared—for a little while yet.'

'Say the martyrs! We die as martyrs, calmly, hopefully, innocently. When I am placed under the guillotine to-morrow morning, listen, my friend, for the striking of the church clocks; listen for the hour while you look your last on me. Until that time, suspend your judgment on the strange chapter of family history which I am now about to relate.'

Marigny took his friend's hand, and promised compliance with the request. Duprat then began as follows:

'You knew my brother Alfred, when he was quite a youth, and you knew something of what people flippantly termed, the eccentricities of his character. He was three years my junior; but, from childhood, he showed far less of a child's innate levity than his elder brother. He was noted for his seriousness and thoughtfulness, as a boy; showed little inclination for a boy's usual lessons, and less still for a boy's usual recreations; in short, he was considered by everybody (my father included) as deficient in intellect; as a vacant dreamer, and an inveterate idler, whom it was hopeless to improve. Our tutor tried to lead him to various studies, and tried in vain. It was the same when the cultivation of his mind was given up, and the cultivation of his body was next attempted. The fencing-master could make nothing of him; and the dancing master after the first three lessons, resigned in despair. Seeing that it was useless to set others to teach him, my father made a virtue of necessity, and left him, if he chose to teach himself.

'To the astonishment of every one, he had not been long consigned to his own guidance, when he was discovered in the library, reading every old treatise on astrology which he could lay his hands on. He had rejected all useful knowledge for the most obsolete of obsolete sciences—the old, abandoned delusion of divination by the stars! My father laughed heartily over the strange study to which his idle son had at last applied himself, but made no attempt to oppose his new caprice, and sarcastically presented him with a new telescope on his next birthday. I should remind you here, of what you may perhaps have forgotten, that my father was a philosopher of the Voltaire school, who believed that the summit of human wisdom was to arrive at the power of sneering at all enthusiasms, doubting of all truths. Apart from his philosophy, he was a kind-hearted, clever man, of quick rather than profound intelligence. He could see nothing in my brother's new occupation, but the evidence of a new idleness, a fresh caprice which would be abandoned in a few months. My father was not the man to appreciate those yearnings towards the poetical and spiritual, which were part of Alfred's temperament, and which gave to his peculiar studies of the stars and their influences a certain charm altogether unconnected with the more practical attractions of scientific investigation.

'This idle caprice of my brother's, as my father insisted on terming it, had lasted more than a twelvemonth, when there occurred the first of a