

DISTRESS IN LONDON.

The English correspondent of a Canadian journal relates the following pathetic tale in connection with the distress from hunger and cold which prevailed to such an extent in London during the present winter. He says:—The distress in East London is decreasing; Christian charity and mild weather have relaxed the fierce reign of starvation from hunger and cold. Yet there are many thousands still in woful want; and tragic stories enough reach the public ear. A poor hunger-bitten woman leaped into the Thames last week, driven mad by prolonged starvation and perpetual defeat in the sore battle of life; and yet the poor soul did not surrender till she had fought the battle as hard and as long as she was able. Her husband had been for about six months at work as a general dealer, but his shop was a wheelbarrow, and his earnings 6s. a week, the business was not too "general" I fear. Anyway he stuck to it anxiously for an honest living—in all the weathers, often all day long without food, and paying out of the 6s. weekly receipts his general business, 1s. 8d. rent for a bare room in which his wife and four children huddled, and 1s. 3d. rent per week, besides, for the wheelbarrow. He wanted to keep honest, and also to keep out of the workhouse; and his poor wife, to help him, took to sewing slopshirts at a penny each. Sometimes, by a great stroke of luck, she got a fine shirt for some young "bleed" to wear at the opera, and had 2d. for the additional labor the rich ruffian entailed. Of course, out of such enormous profits, she had to find her own needles and thread. For weeks the honest couple tried this work, living quietly and uprightly before God and man—and living, when they could get it, on bread. They never tasted meat, by any chance; but sometimes procured a little dripping to improve the bread.—Often they earned nothing, and then they eat nothing; and the wretched wife, thinking more of the children than herself, would say to the eldest, "Oh, my Polly, ain't it dreadful, we have got nothing again to eat to-day." And the girl added, at the Coroner's inquest, that the father, going out once more to earn a half-penny or two in these gold-paved London streets, would soothe her with "cheer up, dear lass, there will be better luck some other day." And so, always turning their backs on begging, or the workhouse, they tried and tried, till the broken-hearted woman broke her needles, tottered with feverish, insane steps out of the house to the bridge parapets, and took a mad plunge to the water that has settled so many an aching heart, as it stilled hers. The jury looked at the thin, spent body, and found that the drowning was the result of insanity produced by distress. I cannot but think the recording angel met the poor, rash spirit with as compassionate a message, at the end of that dark leap into the Thames.

Letter from one of the Abyssinia Captives.

Mrs. Stern has received the following letter from her husband, dated Magdala, December 23.—My dear Charlotte. The imbecile proceedings of Menelik, the absence of all intelligence from the coast, and the distressing conjectures about the advent of the King have not added to the assurance and comfort which we felt on the first news of the approach of our hoped-for deliverers; these and a variety of minor disappointments imparted a sadness and gloom to the mind which invests with its sombre hues our present and future prospects. On Friday, the 13th inst., tidings, however, reached us which caused our hearts and nerves to quiver with ecstatic delight. England has at length determined to show that she has not only the means and the power, but the will also to chastise an unreasonable and cruel barbarian, who, in his vanity, imagines that forbearance is weakness, and magnanimity cowardice. The invading force, we hear, is strong enough, not only to conquer every province in Abyssinia, down to the utmost limits of the Galla country, but it will also carry terror and dismay to the remotest corners of Africa. All those illusions about the forbidding aspect of this land which fanciful speculators have so profusely indulged will vanish like a vision of the night so soon as the troops leave the parched and feverish plains around the coast. The difference between the climate of interior Abyssinia and the West Coast of Africa is as great as between an oven in the capital of England and the airy hall of an English nobleman in the country. The atmosphere is in every respect bracing and salubrious; the vegetation exuberant, but not, as in the lowlands, rank and steaming; and the scenery chequered and picturesque and most lovely. Our friends, the lovers of the sparkling and not incalculating, need not, I can assure them, fear an inveterate drinking of the pure fluid, or be sparing in their libations from the rivers and springs of Ethiopia, which, if not superior, are at least equal to those in Europe. The guinea-worm, that agonising and disgusting disease, is as little known on the mountains and plateaux here as on the banks of the Thames. We have the tape-worm, a discomfort which every foreigner can avoid, if he does not, hyena like, riot in reeking collops of raw beef. Four expected liberators who come from the sunny climate of India can appreciate a little frost, they will be enraptured with Magdala and the adjacent Provinces. Ever since our second captivity on this rock which is lower than Galla and Wadala Plains, we have regularly had our fires, morning and evening, and if we were deprived of the cheering blaze, it would, next to our iron chains, be one of our greatest hardships. We yearn, yearn most intensely, to hear the sound of the bugle and the roll of the English drum. Our garrison, if the tyrant is not here, will not offer much resistance to the British legions when they see their glittering arms and witness their noble martial bearing. I hope and pray that the British lion will forestall the Abyssinian tiger, for should that savage anticipate him, we shall have a boisterous funeral of the old and a tempestuous entrance into the new year. The King is at present three days' journey from here, but with his gigantic toys which he calls cannons, it will take him at least a month to reach the Magdala. If he accomplishes this object it will be one of his most triumphant feats. He is literally encompassed by myriads of insurgents. Unfortunately, they all dread the big mouths of his harmless artillery. I wish that Abyssinia had never heard of such inventions as guns. The temper of our captor has not improved. He has of late adopted a new and most cruel method of execution. Formerly he used to burn his numerous victims in their

despatch he has abandoned in disgust as unbecoming a Theodorus, now, grave offenders he pins down with an iron tent-pole, and thus allows them to perish; while those whose crime is of a lesser magnitude he stretches on the hard ground, and then drives his clumsy ammunition wagons across their gory and writhing bodies till they are crushed, mangled, and reduced to an undistinguishable mass. I fear that his European workmen curse the day when they entered the great Negus's service, and made him instruments which he has not applied to maintain order and peace in the dominions which he once ruled, but on the contrary, to torture and torment the unhappy people. There are numbers in Abyssinia who, like ourselves long for the arrival of the English, who, as they justly anticipate, will quell rebellion and restore peace, security, and law to a reft and bleeding country. God grant that their expectations be not doomed to disappointment! England has done, and is still doing, under the good providence of a covenant-keeping God, much for the progress of civilization and true religion throughout the universe; and if she is in 1868 as generous to untraded Africa as she was not many years ago, she may from the Alpine heights of Ethiopia proclaim an act of emancipation to this enslaved continent, which to the very verge of time will cause the sable sons and daughters of Ham to call her blessed. Should anything happen to us (which God defend) no blame can be attached to those who were sent to procure our release, as they have exerted themselves to the utmost to ensure our safety. With kindest regards to all who interest themselves in us, I am, &c., H. A. STERN.

General Moresweather on sending the above to Mrs. Stern, says:—"We are most anxious to push on as you may suppose, and everything is done to promote that object, but owing to the unfortunate scarcity of provisions this year, brought about by such swarms of locusts and want of rain, in addition to the internal state of the country, it is necessary to make sure of a good stock of supplies before final onward movement can be made. Once that is done there will be no further check, and we shall soon be in the neighborhood of Magdala. Meanwhile we hope Goharye will keep Theodorus in check, to prevent his reaching the captives before we come to their rescue.—January 13."

PREJUDICE.—An agent has been canvassing in Nova Scotia for the *New Dominion Monthly*, and he writes to the publishers that he can make but little progress on account of the bitter antagonism that exists towards Confederation and everything Canadian. This is extreme and foolish bitterness, as the magazine was not in existence when Confederation was accomplished.

**New Advertisements.**  
**GRAND MILITARY CONCERT!**

BY THE KIND PERMISSION OF COLONEL B. JENNYS, C. B., and Officers of the 13th HUSSARS

UNRIVALLED BAND of the Regiment will give a PROMENADE CONCERT IN THE DRILL SHED, GUELPH, On Tuesday Ev'ng, March 10,

SEVERAL AMATEURS OF Guelph, have kindly consented, to assist on the occasion. Price of Admission: Reserved seats, 50c; Body of Hall, 25c. Tickets to be had of the Officers of the Battalion and at the door. For further particulars see Programmes. Guelph, March 2, 1868. daw 14

**TOWN HALL, GUELPH. MASON'S DRAMATIC COMP'Y For THREE NIGHTS ONLY**

NEW and Magnificent Scenery. Presenting an entire change of Programme each evening. **ON MONDAY EV'G, MARCH 2,** will be presented for the first time here, **TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM.**

**Grand Army & Navy Dance, MR. HARRY LAMFEE.** Concluding with the Farce of **MR. AND MRS. PETER WHITE.** Doors open at 7:30; Curtain rise at 8 o'clock. Admission 25 cents; Reserved 50 cents. See daily programme. Guelph, Feb. 28, 1868. d 5

**St. Patrick's Society OF GUELPH.** 1868. 1868.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Society will be held in the **ANCO-AMERICAN HOTEL, ON Thursday Ev'g, 5th Inst.,** AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. By Order, DENIS NUNAN, Sec'y. Guelph, March 2, 1868. d 4

S. FALCONBRIDGE, ESQ., Treasurer, In Account with the Township of Puslinch, for the year ending the 31st December, 1867.

Table with columns Dr. and Cr. listing financial transactions for the Township of Puslinch in 1867, including amounts for taxes, salaries, and other expenses.

Audited and found correct according to the Treasurer's books, Puslinch, 24th February, 1868. PETER GRANT, THOMAS ELLIS, Auditors.

Sheep Fund for the Year 1867.

Table with columns Dr. and Cr. listing sheep fund transactions for 1867, including amounts for sheep, dog tax, and other related costs.

Audited and found correct according to the Treasurer's books. PETER GRANT, THOMAS ELLIS, Auditors. Puslinch, 24th February, 1868. Weekly Advertiser to copy once.

NUTS, ORANGES, LEMONS.

The Fruit Depot. 5,000 COCOA NUTS, 100 Boxes ORANGES, 50 Boxes LEMONS. For sale to the trade at very low prices for cash. OYSTERS on hand all the year round at city prices. **HUGH WALKER,** Wholesale and retail Fruit and Oyster-dealer, Wyncham-st., Guelph. Guelph, 27th February, 1868. dw

**The Silver Nuisance.** We, the undersigned, having experienced the great evils and losses to all parties resulting from the redundancy of silver; knowing that several of the Cities and Towns in the Dominion have taken steps to drive a portion of it out of circulation, and feeling convinced that the faithful carrying out of the undermentioned pledges will cause silver to be replaced with bankable funds, to the great benefit and convenience of the community, hereby agree to the following regulations: 1st. To sell silver, only, for shipment out of the Dominion. 2nd. Not to purchase any silver, either in this, or any other market. 3rd. To refuse our assistance or discount to any person proven to have converted any portion of such discount or assistance into silver. 4th. To publish in our daily newspapers the offer of any of the "Guelph Bank Notes" for silver with discount.

**A. B. PETRIE** CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. **APOTHECARIES' HALL** Market Square, Guelph. Guelph, 24th Feb. 1868. wd

**NOTICE.** MR. CHAS. CRUNDY who has been my book-keeper for several years in Guelph, is authorized to collect all debts due to me, and to grant receipts in my name for all payments that may be paid to him on my account. Also, to adjust and pay any accounts due by me. OFFICE: In the store of Messrs. John M. Bond & Co., Corner of Wynham and Cork Sts. HENRY MULHOLLAND Guelph, 27th January, 1868

**MONTHLY NURSE.** An English married lady would be willing to go out as a monthly nurse, or to attend an invalid. Enquire at the Mercury office, 24th March-st., Guelph, 30th Feb. 1868. d

MERCURY PRINTING HOUSE!

MACDONNELL STREET, GUELPH. CHEAP, NEAT AND TASTY PRINTING! FOR THE CHEAPEST AND BEST Book and Job Printing Go to the Mercury Printing House, Macdonnell-st. **MCLAGAN & INNES** HAVE spared neither labor nor expense in fitting up their extensive premises on Macdonnell-st. (East of the Golden Lion), with EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT requisite to the successful carrying on of one of the largest Printing Houses in the Dominion.

OUR JOB DEPARTMENT

We have supplied with the most ELÉGANT and THE NEWEST STYLES OF TYPE AND THE LATEST AND MOST IMPROVED JOB PRESSES!

Enabling us to turn out specimens of work justly considered models of Typographical Beauty. IN NEW PRESSES we have Machines from all the celebrated makers, such as Hoe's Railway Cylinder Press, Hoe's Hand Press, Gordon's celebrated Segment Job Press, and Gordon's Card and Bill Head Press.

A novelty, and acknowledged to be the NE PLUS ULTRA of Treadle Presses. In addition to the above valuable and highly improved Printing Machines, we have a very large and complete assortment of **BOOK & JOB TYPE** Comprising every known Style, Size and Variety, and are constantly receiving from Type Foundries in Great Britain and the United States such new and useful, Plain and Ornamental Types, as correct taste and enlightened experience may dictate, and are therefore prepared to execute all orders entrusted to us.

From the Finest and most Delicate Card to the Attractive and Mammoth Poster. MORE PROMPTLY, NEATLY, AND AT CHEAPER RATES!

Business can be done by any other establishment in the County. Being practical Printers of lengthened experience, and having a thorough knowledge of the wants of the community of this section, employing none but **The very Best of Workmen!** AND USING THE BEST OF MATERIAL.

We are in a position to turn out work in **THE HIGHEST STYLE OF THE ART!** And at such Prices as set competition completely at defiance.

**We can Supply on the Shortest Notice:** BUSINESS CARDS, BLANK AND TAG CARDS, NOTE AND LETTER HEADINGS, CIRCULARS and BILL HEADS, PROGRAMMES, BALL TICKETS, PAMPHLETS, RECEIPTS, LAW BLANKS, BRIEFS, CATALOGUES, BILLS OF FARE, POSTERS, HAND BILLS, LABELS, BY-LAWS, CHARTERS, CERTIFICATES, CONSTITUTIONS, AND ALL KINDS AND STYLES OF **LETTER PRESS PRINTING!**

**ORDERS BY MAIL.** Orders from any part of the country will receive prompt attention, and as soon as executed will be forwarded by the earliest possible conveyance. **Orders Solicited, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.** **MCLAGAN & INNES,** Mercury Buildings Macdonnell-st., Guelph. Guelph, 21st February, 1868.