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W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

MR. SUNNYSIDE'S STORY

(Continued.)

Before daylight next morning, M. Papplignol, his wife, Leblanc, and two other confederates, who happened to be in the villa at the time, were all safely lodged in the nearest police station.

The heart of Leblanc failed him before the day of trial; he turned evidence for the crown, and gratified an inquisitive public by revealing all that he knew of the history and antecedents of M. Papplignol. From this confession, it would appear that Leblanc's quondam patron and employer was born in London, of French parents, his father being a scene-painter at one of the theatres. Thrown on the world by the death of both parents, at the age of fourteen, the young Emile, with wits prematurely sharpened, and an inborn distaste for work, went rapidly to the bad; and before he had been his own master more than six months, was convicted of pocket-picking, and underwent a short term of imprisonment, with, to his great disgust, an accompaniment of hard labor. Thinking, after this experience, that a change of scene was desirable, he turned up next in the house of a relative in France, where he seems to have lived quietly and honestly for two or three years. But the taint was in his blood; he could not rest. He had heard much of Paris, and determined to see it; so he set off one night for the gay capital, taking with him all his uncle's hard earned savings. His career for the next twenty years was that of a man at war with society; living by his depredations; rich one day, a beggar the next; hunted from place to place; never feeling sure when he may lay down to rest that he might not be aroused by the tap of Justice on his shoulder. From Paris, he went to Marseille, thence to Lyon, and took in turn all the chief towns of France and Belgium, till finally finding both countries too hot to hold him any longer, he determined to return to the land of his birth. No sooner had he landed in England than he set to work, in conjunction with two French confederates and some London thieves, to organise an ingenious and audacious system of robbery, not of private houses, but of jewellers' shops. M Papplignol himself stood far too high in his profession to condescend to the merely mechanical part of the task; it was his duty to gather up, with laborious accuracy, the necessary details, only to be arrived at by frequent visits in the guise of a customer to the shop selected; to organise the whole affair; to arrange the part which each individual was to play in the little drama; to give his subordinates instructions, and leave them to do the rest; taking himself a minimum of risk, and the lion's share of the plunder. Two successful and highly lucrative robberies, following within a few weeks of each other, had already attested the soundness of M. Papplignol's method of working; and a third scheme was on the carpet, when his career was brought to a sudden and ignominious end.

To explain the sudden flight of the roguish fraternity from the villa, and their triumphant return the following morning, it is only necessary to state that M. Papplignol, who was an assiduous newspaper reader, finding in his evening edition an account of a cab-driver who had been examined that morning before a magistrate on suspicion of being concerned in the recent jewellery robberies, took the alarm, and resolved to decamp at once, never doubting that the man in question was the veritable cab-driver whom he had employed, and who was in reality a confederate. In the course of the evening, however, his emissaries brought him word that the man taken was an entire stranger to all of them, and that their own driver was still a free man.

I have nothing to add except that justice meted out due punishment to Papplignol and his gang, and, in a milder degree, to Madame also.

Laverock Villas were pulled down three summers ago, and a new street of glaring stuccoed houses built right across the site of them. The green fields have vanished for ever; and the whole district now forms one of those suburban elysiums, whither our toiling bees love to retire when their day's labor in the City is done.

A murmur of approbation filled the jury-room when Mr. Sunnyside had finished his narration.

'Well,' remarked Mr. Mooney, 'that must have been a good 'un, to have kept me awake from first to last as it did; the general effect of stories of any kind being to make me feel as if I was between the sheets. That certainly was a story and a half that was, was it not, Mr. Crasket?'

'Sir,' responded the iron merchant stiffly, 'if you mean that the narrative with which we have just been favored was half as long again as it ought to be, I sympathise with you deeply.'

'Why, goodness gracious, Mr. Crasket, you can't mean that,' expostulated Simperton; 'why, I wish it had been twice as long. I got so frightened with that 'ere Papplignol, that if you had given me nitre on a lump of sugar I couldn't have perspired more freely.'

'You are evidently not much acquainted with literature,' returned Mr. Crasket contemptuously; 'otherwise, you would know that Mr. Papplignol is a fictitious character, the offspring of Mr. Sunnyside's imagination: nay, rather he is merely a servile imitation of Mr. Wilkie Collins's *Count Fosco*.'

'Oh, indeed, sir!' said Mr. Simperton humbly. 'But still, how dreadful were the incidents; how terrible it must be to be locked up even for a few days and nights; and then that Mrs. Papplignol—why, she was more wicked than her husband.'

'All foreigners are bad, and foreign women worse,' remarked the iron merchant sententiously.

'Nay, Mr. Crasket, not so,' ejaculated Drumfich. 'It is neither courteous nor correct to speak so. I could tell you a true tale which would disprove that slander.'

'Pray tell us, Mr. Drumfich,' urged I, touched by the mild remonstrance of the insulted foreigner.

'Pray, dont, sir!' exclaimed Crasket, almost with politeness: 'Sooner than trouble you to do anything of the sort, I will withdraw my observation.'

'Nay, sir,' said Drumfich firmly, 'but you cannot withdraw the effect it may have produced upon these gentlemen here. I am the only foreigner in this room; I owe it therefore to my fellow-countrywomen to relate the narrative in question.'

'Certainly,' observed I gravely, 'it is without doubt that he owes it to his fellow-countrywomen: let us have silence for

MR. DRUMFICH'S STORY.'

The date is 18—; the place Karlsruhe; the name of her who is no more was Anna Tannhauser. Karlsruhe, as you know, is the capital of the grand duchy of Baden; it stands in the plain of the Haardwald or Stag-forest; and it had its name from the Margrave Karl Wilhelm, who, in 1715, there built for himself a lodge, where he might rest from his hunting. Around that hunting-box, which gradually grew to the dimensions of a palace, rose little by little a town, whereof the houses were all at first of wood. Brick is daily displacing the wooden tenements; but in the early days of Karlsruhe, even the grand-ducal palace was of that humble material. It was in one of the old-fashioned wooden houses that Herr Karl Tannhauser and his two daughters lived; for Anna had an elder sister, Adelaida. Now, Adelaida was at this time eighteen years old. She resembled no particular heathen goddess; she had neither the large eyes of Here, nor the piercing eye of Athene, nor the laughing eyes of Aphrodite, but she had exactly the eyes that Herman von Adelmann liked. Her form put no one at all in mind of Hebe, but there was none that Hermann was better pleased to encircle in the waltz. Her feet were small, and so were her hands; the latter, moreover, had fingers like those of Eos; and such was the magic of their touch upon a pianoforte, that all Karlsruhe wondered. Besides, she dispensed the simple hospitality of her father's house with a grace that charmed the lucky guest; and she displayed towards her aged father himself a sweet commingling of deference and tenderness, that bore witness to her sense as well as to her affection. Her younger sister she preferred to herself—that was evident to all beholders; and her younger sister returned the preference. This should have been a happy family; and happy it was when Hermann von Adelmann wooed Adelaida. Hermann was of good family, and of tolerable fortune, and held an appointment in the grand-ducal household. Herr Tannhauser played first violin at the Karlsruhe theatre, and gave lessons in music and singing; but forasmuch as in Germany talent is considered by no means vulgar or ignoble, and music holds towards other professions much the same position that poetry holds towards prose, he was rather looked up to than looked down upon, and the well-born Hermann felt honored by his acquaintance. So Hermann and Adelaida met and loved. The secret of each had been made known to the other, and the moon had witnessed the plighting of their troth one happy night as they walked home from the forest a few weeks before the date of our story.

'But we must wait till dear Aennchen has made her debut,' Adelaida had said. 'The dear father, I know, will give his consent; but I cannot leave Aennchen till her trial is over.'

'And when,' Herman had replied, rather disconsolately, 'does your father intend to bring Aennchen out?'

'Certainly not for a year at least: you know, dear Hermann, she is only sixteen, and seventeen will be sufficiently early.'

Adelaida had prophesied rightly of her father; he gave his consent willingly, for he loved Hermann well; but, the marriage was to be delayed till Aennchen had made her grand debut at Vienna, or some other great capital. In six months she was to appear on the boards at Karlsruhe. Of her success there, Herr Tannhauser had no doubts, for already, in so small a city, her fame had gone abroad; and in six months after her appearance at Karlsruhe, she was to face the fashionable, critical, capricious audience of Vienna, or Paris, or London.

'Then, my son,' said he to Hermann, 'my Aennchen will know her fate; whether our sweet Blackbird is a match for the famous Nightingale, or whether she must retire altogether from the contest: then your marriage will be to us either the celebration of our success, or the consolation for our failure.'

Hermann was fain to acquiesce.

Anna Tannhauser, or, as her family affectionately called her, Aennchen, had from her earliest years been a marvel to all for her wonderful voice. Her mother had died some years before, but not without prophesying Aennchen's success, and, on her death-bed, she exacted from her husband a promise that he would spare no pains to make their little daughter the first songstress of Europe.

And truly Nature had been gracious to her.

At five years old she would wander with her mother or her nurse in the forest, and imitate the notes of birds till all who heard her marvelled at her. The feathered *prime donne* themselves would peer down from branch and twig, toss up their beaks amazed, ruffle their plumage offended, and finally, feeling upon their mettle, pour forth matchless carols. At ten years old, she could sing from note, and her natural shake was perfect; and as she grew in years, she grew not only in vocal excellence, but in those external charms without which it is doubtful whether Calliope herself would win favor from certain audiences. Yet she was not beautiful, she was not even pretty; but a high pure soul beamed through her face; the *pose* of her head was elegance itself; the hair was golden-tinted; her figure would have vexed Atalanta, and her arms would have angered Here. Her voice was the common care and common anxiety of Herr Tannhauser and Adelaida; he attended laboriously to its culture, she to its rest and preservation. 'Aennchen,' she would remonstrate, 'you really must not sing any more,' when a too complimentary visitor would have had her repeat for the third time some difficult passage; for, as has been said, the fame of Aennchen's voice had gone forth into all Karlsruhe, and the inhabitants called her *die Amsel*, or the Blackbird; and of the many who visited Herr Tannhauser, three quarters, one might say (who cared to be on the right side of truth), came solely to hear the Blackbird warble. They inquired earnestly after the health of the old gentleman, with one eye on the piano, and they combined their questions as to the well being of the two sisters with a request to be informed what part Fraulein Anna was studying at present, and with a hope that they might not be allowed to interrupt their performance; for Adelaida of course accompanied her sister.—But the person most interested (to judge from appearances) in Aennchen's progress was Hermann von Adelmann. He was always present to turn over the leaves; he applauded with the voice of Stentor; and took umbrage at the least whisper of failure. Had they no good singers, he asked, at the Karlsruhe theatre? Why, it was notorious that some of the best singers ever heard had come from there. Herr Tannhauser recollected several who had achieved European reputations; and yet none of them, by universal consent, could sing like Aennchen. Bah! failure was an impossibility.

And so six months glided by; Herr Tannhauser toiling assiduously, Aennchen practising hopefully, Adelaida aiding sisterly, and Hermann abetting loverly. At last the eventful night arrived when Aennchen was to make her first appearance before the blazing footlights, face the inquisitive stare (paid for at the door) of hundreds of curious eyes, hear unmoved the envious whispers of her scenic sisterhood, and bear unruffled all the fuss of the querulous, nervous manager. But her father gazed fondly up from the orchestra; Adelaida and Hermann whispered courage from the side scenes; and here and there amongst the audience a well-known face smiled cordial sympathy. The grand duke and the whole court were there; and the opera was the *Sonnambula*. Suffice it to say, Aennchen was more than successful; boquets fell thick from the grand ducal and other boxes; the whole house rose in a mass, and there was a triumphant shout of '*Es lebe die Amsel!*' (The Blackbird for ever!)

There was joy that night in the little wooden house at the corner of Friedrichstrasse.

(Continued on Second Page.)

☞ General Dumont, member of Congress from Indiana, is the father of nineteen children, ten of whom came into the world in couples.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 5, 1864.

THE ASPECT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

The frantic efforts made by the opposition organs to prop each other up in the belief that the Ministry is "doomed," about to be hurled into the "Erebus of oblivion," "as good as dead," &c., &c., is really amusing. Yesterday we were told that Mr. Dickson would be called upon to offer himself as a sacrifice on the altar of his party in order that the Solicitor General might secure a seat, and behold, today—so fast does one story crowd upon the heels of its predecessors—we are coolly informed that Mr. Richards has resigned in abject despair. At one moment the veracious organs declare that in the immaculate ranks of the opposition there is not to be found, even with the closest sifting, another renegade O'Halloran or treacherous Sicotte, and yet, in the very next breath, a fear is implied that the blandishments of the premier may prove too strong for some stray adherents of Her Majesty's most loyal and virtuous Opposition. The pet organs of Mr. Cartier rejoice in the prospect of the immediate return to power of the plucky *wee* Frenchman, but alas some of the less thick-skinned journalists clamor for a "new set," in the well-grounded belief that the country will never submit to the rule of the corrupt and unprincipled triumverate that in the fat days of yore bled the public chest and borrowed money to fill up the vacuum, which, figuratively speaking, has always been held in as much abhorrence by the gentlemen who are now in opposition as by dame Nature herself. There is a marked want of cohesion in the ideas promulgated by the various mouth-pieces of that model body, the Opposition. Like a great many people in the ordinary relations of life, they are wondrous wise with regard to the business affairs of their neighbors, but reticent, if not completely at sea, when attention is turned to their own plans and prospects. Mr. J. S. McDonald is dubbed a "buyer and lier,"—he is set down as guilty of practicing "villainous blandishments," and so on, but in case of a change of Ministers, are we promised anything more politically pure than a repetition of the misrule of the halcyon days of Cartier the plucky, and his noble coadjutors, assisted, it may be, by the eloquence of one who was so recently one of the most rankling thorns in their side? Oh, no! That is quite another thing. Is the country told that the old Ministry, which could never agree upon a rational Militia law, should be called in to place the country in a state of defence against any set of Philistines that may come upon us with intent to devour the fat of the land? No such thing. There is not the slightest attempt made to do other than cram down willing throats assertions which, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, have not the slightest foundation in fact. The simple fact is, that all the hue and cry made by these gentlemen is because they belong to the *outs*.—That is a word of terrible import to them. For eight long years they waxed fat on the milk and honey of government favor, and to be driven from the flesh pots renders them ferocious. We sincerely trust that they will be kept out for many a long day to come, and that they may have an opportunity of admiring the extravagant and burthensome political ideas of the great Powers of the earth without having a chance of ingrafting them on Canada.

THE FINANCES.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Finance Minister is keeping up the credit of the country. He has remitted £305,000 stg. to England to pay in full the interest on Provincial debentures to January last, and a further sum of £35,000 on the Provincial debt to the English creditors. $800,000, also, it seems, has been paid to anticipate debentures not yet due. It is only by such prompt action as this that our credit can be raised, and the financial position of the country established upon a sound basis. The retrenchment policy of the present Government is already making itself felt, and when the financial statement is brought before the House, which we are assured will be in the first week of the ensuing session, we may hope to see a more satisfactory state of things than has been hoped for for many years past.

UNDRE DRAINING.

To thee xclusion of several other articles, we, to-day, by special request, publish an article on Farm Drainage from the able pen of Prof. Buckland, of Toronto. The lessons it contains may be of eminent service to many of our readers throughout the County of Huron, the more especially as the subject is beginning to attract a considerable amount of attention in the older settlements.

☞ BLACKWOOD for January is before us. The contents are deeply interesting. The article on Capt. Speke's discoveries in Central Africa is worth the price of the book. Maga. may be found at this office.

THE VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.

According to announcement previously given, the Goderich Volunteers were inspected on Wednesday evening last by Col. Grant, commanding the Royal Canadian Rifles. It having been decided to inspect the Companies separately, the Rifles, headed by their Drum and Fife Band, which, by the way, will soon be quite an acquisition, marched into the Drill Room at 6 o'clock, P. M. The Company numbered about 40, including officers. After having carefully scrutinised the appearance of the men and their accoutrements the inspecting Colonel stepped aside and Capt. Seymour proceeded to put the corps through the various exercises and evolutions, which were performed in a very creditable manner. The wheeling by subdivisions and sections, as well as the marching, was excellent. Without attempting any very elaborate description of the manner in which either corps acquitted itself, we will give the exact words of the veteran Colonel himself, whose opinion in such matters is entitled to great weight. After the officers had discharged their various duties the Colonel advanced and said that he was highly pleased with the soldierlike appearance of the Huron Rifles, and equally so with the steady manner in which they marched and went through the various portions of their drill. Their performance was creditable to their officers and themselves, and he had no hesitation in stating that they were everything that could be expected of Volunteers. He regretted on this account that their number was a few short of the strength required by the recent Government regulation as to Companies competing for prizes. The state of the arms and accoutrements also afforded the Col. much gratification, it being impossible to have them in a higher state of order.

Capt. Seymour thanked the Colonel for this expression of his good opinion, and the Rifles took their departure.

The Artillery Company marched in about seven o'clock, every man belonging to it, we understand, being at his post.—The personal appearance of the men, their arms, &c., having been examined, Capt. Ross took command and displayed the efficiency of his corps in the various evolutions proper upon such an occasion. It is needless for us to say more than that the men never behaved better or made a finer appearance. The bayonet exercise, at the conclusion, which we never had the pleasure of witnessing before, was really beautiful. The Colonel, when the exercises terminated, expressed himself exceedingly gratified with the appearance of the company, its proficiency in drill and soldierly bearing generally. He said that he neither expected nor desired to see anything better in the shape of a Volunteer Company. Since the commencement of his tour of inspection he had seen no better corps, and he had no hope of seeing anything equal to it. He hoped the men, as far as their avocations would admit of it, would pay strict attention to drill, so that they might lose none of the proficiency they had attained, with regard to which he could hardly say too much.

Capt. Ross, on behalf of the company, thanked the Colonel for the commendation he had been pleased to bestow, after which three cheers were given for the Volunteers of Goderich, three for Sergeant McLean, three for the Rifles, and the same for Capt. Seymour, when the Room was speedily cleared, everyone being well satisfied with the result of the evening's proceedings.

Before concluding, we may be allowed to say that our Volunteers are largely indebted to the zealous labors of Sergeant McLean and Captains Seymour and Ross, for the proud position they have attained.

We understand that Col Grant and the officers of the several corps, with a few of the more prominent civilians of the town, dined together at the Maitland, after the inspection.

☞ The siege of Charleston has been virtually abandoned, and the hot-bed of secession will have a breathing spell.

☞ The Americans have ordered the stoppage of a drove of cattle from their border to Canada, over the Suspension Bridge, on the somewhat extraordinary ground that they were *munitions of war*.

☞ A great explosion of gunpowder took place on the Mersey, at Liverpool, on the 12th ult. A vessel lying in the river and having 11½ tons of powder on board took fire accidently and blew up with aterrific report. The shock was felt throughout the whole city and did a great deal of damage to property.

ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that Mr. Henry Macabe, employed in the stores department at the Great Western Railway station here, met with a serious accident yesterday afternoon. It appears that a number of the employees were engaged in moving some heavy iron plates, when one of them fell on Mr. Macabe's left leg, fracturing the thigh bone. He was removed to his residence, and the necessary medical assistance immediately procured.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

☞ A Washington correspondent says that the President's call for 500,000 men is construed as indicating a conviction that the tug of war is to come in the approaching campaign. Large veteran re-enlistments, filling up the former call, have something to do with it.

FARM DRAINAGE.

BY PROF. G. W. BUCKLAND.

The subject of farm drainage is one that of late years has occupied so large a place in the public mind that its principles and advantages may now be considered, to a very considerable extent at least, as being generally understood and appreciated. It must be known, in the present day, to every practical farmer of ordinary enterprise and intelligence, that by draining land is made not only dryer but warmer—more easily and therefore more cheaply worked—affording an earlier and better seed bed, and producing, accordingly, an earlier and more productive harvest. In well drained land cultivation can be more deeply effected by a smaller amount of motive power than under opposite conditions—manures act with greater vigor and certainty—and plants pass through a season of drouth comparatively unharmed. It may not have occurred to such as are inexperienced in these matters, that well drained and deeply cultivated land is actually more moist in summer, however dry the weather, than undrained—a circumstance readily explained by the increased capability of soils so treated to absorb moisture from the air, and the increased force of capillary attraction in bringing moisture from below to the roots of plants, which are thus enabled to extend more freely and widely in search of food. Every case of good drainage will more or less illustrate the principle herein laid down. I will refer to one coming within my experience in this country. A few years since I had to lay out and superintend some draining in the park attached to this University. The soil is a sandy loam of unequal thickness, resting on a deep bed of tenacious clay. In the spring and fall the surface was very wet, producing coarse and inferior grasses, some of them of a decidedly aquatic character. But in summer the surface got exceedingly dry and hard, and the scanty herbage became perfectly parched. In this condition it was drained, and afterwards subsoiled eighteen inches deep. The average depth of the drains—made of pipe tiles—was four feet, at a uniform distance of twenty four feet. Many that saw this operation in progress during the summer pronounced it useless, if not a positively injurious work, quite unnecessary; and could only tend to make land dryer that was already too dry. About one hundred acres were sown with different kinds of grass seed the following spring, for permanent pasture. Persons inexperienced in these matters will often express astonishment on being told that, while draining makes land dryer during the greater part of the year, in the heat of summer it causes it to be more moist. I have frequently directed the attention of such people to our park, where the line of each drain may be distinctly traced—particularly in seasons of drouth—by the greenness and luxuriance of the grass for two or three feet wide, as compared with the parts more remote.

It was not my intention in commencing the writing of this article to descend to any details relative to the advantages of draining, as it may fairly be assumed that the generality of the readers of so widely circulated a paper as the ARGUS must be more or less acquainted with them—my principal object being to point out, or perhaps rather suggest such methods of draining as are adapted to the wants and means of farmers in a new country.

It may safely be asserted that a judicious system of draining—modified, of course, to meet varying wants and conditions—occupies a foremost rank among the means of improving the agriculture of the North American continent. This will be regarded as an indisputable or self-evident proposition by all that are acquainted with its terms, its science and practice show that it is physically impossible for the generality of soils in the temperate zone to reach this maximum productiveness without efficient underdraining. It is, therefore, a question of great moment, coming home to the understanding and pockets of every farmer desirous of advancing the practice of his pursuit, how this indispensable operation can be best performed in a new and extensive country, where population is sparse, the value of agricultural productions low, and wages high.

In attempting a brief answer to this question, it may be observed that no *system* of draining, however admirably it may be found to answer in older countries, can be followed, with profit, on the greater portion of this continent. The British system—usually designated "*thorough* draining," that is, the constructing of drains at small, uniform distances throughout the extent of a field, irrespective of variations of soils as to wetness, density, &c.,—can only be practiced, profitably, on an old farm, contiguous to great centres of population, where the value of land and its productions are high, and where the natural stamination of the soil has gradually been seriously reduced by a long series of imperfect cultivation and over-cropping. In such situations the modern English systems may, with certain modifications required by local conditions, be advantageously adopted. I have seen a few instances of this in Canada, and I have read of others in the Eastern States.—Mr. Johnston, of Geneva, N.Y., for example, among the foremost, I am clearly of opinion, after several years' observation and experience on this side the Lake, that, as a general thing, we do not require to make drains so near together as is found requisite in the British Islands. New soils are always more porous than such as have been long cultivated; and the duration and intensity of our frosts are attended by great mechanical changes in their texture, opening them up to atmospheric influences, whereby they are more easily worked, and a better and warmer seed-bed becomes more effectually prepared in the spring. We require drains to be made deep—say, if the outfall will admit, three or four feet, at least; and they may, in commencing, be placed forty or fifty feet apart; and should the ground be subsequently found not uniformly dry, the remedy may be readily applied by inserting a new drain in each interval.

But it may be said, and to some extent justly, that draining in the manner above indicated, however well suited to older and wealthier sections, is altogether impracticable, and if it were practicable, it would be unprofitable in newer settlements; and it is to this point in particular I wish to draw the reader's attention. To urge farmers, situated at considerable distances from the centres of dense populations, to commence an improvement, the completion of which would cost at least from twenty to thirty or more dollars an acre—as much it may be as the market value of the land—would be simply absurd. The cost of all sound territorial improvements must bear a just proportion to the money value of the results obtained. Besides, it is impossible, except by an enormous expenditure of labor and capital to bring land in a state of nature or of partial improvement, into a highly productive and finished condition in a short space of time. Prairie land will of course more readily admit of this than such as heavily timbered; but in either case it will be found far more easy and profitable to allow a series of years for the ameliorating forces of nature, such as alternations of heat and cold, sunshine and rain, to aid the farmer in the exercise of his skill and industry in causing "the wilderness to blossom as the rose."

In draining, then, an artifice which only belong to old cleared farms and wealthy agriculturists; and is it wholly beyond the reach of the new settler? The true answer is a negative. Draining either on or beneath the surface ought to commence as soon as a clearance has been made. No absolute system of doing to the work can be laid down particularly at this stage; the new settler will have to make himself acquainted with the physical geography of his farm; if such a phrase is admissible, before he decides on any extensive operations. He will carefully observe the nature and variations of the soil and subsoil, the inclination of the surface, and the character and position of the underlying rocks; and particularly the natural drainage and outfall of the farm, that he may be able to commence with certainty and advantage the improvement of any particular part, with an enlightened reference to the whole. The first and most obvious thing to do is the improvement of the natural drainage, where necessary. A little attention and labor in this way will often be productive of most valuable results, and constitute, as it were a firm, basis for future and more refined operations. Cutting through a few rods of obstruction in a creek, or making a few scores of open ditch, will frequently relieve a number of acres of the most fertile land from the effects of freshets in spring and fall, prevent stagnant water, and greatly promote the salubrity of the local climate. After surface drainage has been attended to, effected by the spade or the plough, under or covered drains follow in the natural order of improvement. And here I would remark for the encouragement of farmers in the more remote districts that such may be accomplished without expensive materials and implements. People are so much accustomed in present day to associate with the execution of drainage, special and costly tools, spirit levels, pipes or tiles, that the backwoodsmen or needy farmer is apt to conclude that this important means of agricultural improvement is wholly placed beyond his reach, and belongs only to the more advanced stages of the art of culture.—Whereas, the truth is, a good spade, wielded by a strong arm, under the guidance of a thinking head, with some boughs, old rails, or boards, so put together as to form a conduit, a practical eye, in most cases, being sufficient to decide on the sufficiency of the inclination or fall of the drain, are all that is really essential in commencing the practice of draining, under the circumstances assumed. As time rolls on, stumps will decay and the surface improve, and the farmer's means increase; and he can adopt, by degrees, those rules and refinements which observation and experience, aided by the teachings of modern science in older and wealthier communities, have of late years discovered and applied.

About twelve years ago I went over a partially cleared farm of 800 acres, situated in Central Canada, which had been abandoned on account of freshets and stagnant water. A sturdy English laborer, with a family of strong and willing boys, and some hundred sovereigns brought from the old country, took hold of it, and with some aid from his neighbors, after the manner of a "bee," he soon got rid of the pent up water by removing the obstructions in the natrual courses of the drainage, and making some considerable extent of ditches. The changes produced by these simple operations were the talk and astonishment of the whole country side. Without a single rod of covered drain till within the last three years, that farm is now one of the most productive in the Province.

It must not be supposed that the drains made of old rails, cedar poles, or boards nailed together, are either imperfect in their operation or of necessarily short duration.—Much of course will depend upon the nature of the soil, depth of drain, and other circumstances; but it may be maintained that drains when properly made even of perishable materials, especially in stiff soils, will generally continue effective for a number of years. I know drains on the heavier clay lands of England, made of heath (heather) or even ropes of straw, closely packed on the bottom, only an inch or two wide, and the clay tightly rammed over, that have continued to discharge water freely for a quarter of a century. The materials will of course perish in a much less period, but the aperture, formed by the packing of the clay, will often keep open for a long time, thereby sustaining the necessary functions of the drain. In making deep drains, however, the labor of which is necessarily costly, it is the best economy to employ the most durable material that is available. Stones answer admirably when properly used; but tiles or pipes, when they can be procured near the spot at moderate rates, say seven or eight dollars a thousand of two inches diameter and a foot long, are decidedly to be prefered for durability, effectiveness and economy to anything else. But from what has already been advanced it will be seen that an advantageous commencement may be made in draining where such materials are not, at present available.

The writer in offering these simple observations, founded on somewhat extensive experience both in England and Canada, is anxious that there should not be any misconstruction as to their intent and meaning. Nothing would be further from his thoughts than to depreciate the advantages derived from the thorough and most approved system of draining, so successfully practiced in the present day among wealthy and advancing agriculturists on both sides of the Atlantic. These draining operations are often conducted upon an extensive scale, so as to comprise the advantages of a division of labor, and, in some cases, the application of machinery, and even steam, as a motive power. Some considerable acquaintance with the nature and composition of soils, and the stratification and inclination of the subjacent rocks, the causes of wetness, the theory and action of springs &c. is now required in them who are intrusted in carrying out the most approved methods of draining, with reference to efficiency, permanency and profit.

In speaking of underdraining, there is some little risk in the present day that another and simpler kind may be overlooked, viz; surface or furrow draining. There are but few situations in which the latter can altogether be dispensed with. It is true that land thoroughly underdrained requires but few open furrows, still some will be found advantageous when judiciously allocated. In arable land that is undulating or hilly, a few surface drains made across the inclination of the field will prevent during heavy rains the water from washing down the finer and more valuable portions of the higher ground to the lower levels, and thus preventing a permanent injury of the soil. In these northern latitudes the frost is usually so intense as to freeze the ground to a great depth, particularly when not covered with snow; and one often sees stagnant water lying in spring on flat or hollow surfaces, although the ground may be underdrained, it takes some time before the frost is sufficiently out to allow the water from the melting of snow, &c., to find a ready exit into the subjacent drains. In all such cases an open furrow, made by the plough and finished by the spade, will be found to answer a good purpose.

In bringing these hastily written remarks to a close, the writer, as a friend to the advancement of human happiness, and therefore of the American people, as members of the great fraternity of nations, may be allowed the privilege of further observing, that the amount of treasure, to say nothing of human life, which has already been wasted in carrying on a war, over which all true patriots must weep and one common humanity shudder, would go far to drain effectually the farming lands of every State in the Union; a result that would be fraught with unfold blessings, not only to the American nation, but to the worldat large! His worst wish is that "swords may be speedily beaten into plow-shares," and that unity, peace and prosperity may be re-established upon sure and lasting foundations.

Arrival of the America.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—The steamer America, from Bremen *via* Southampton on the 20th of January, has arrived.

£300,000 sterling specie has been sent by the Bank of England to France. A project, for the better regulation of the Romania, will be submitted to the powers who signed the treaty of Paris.

The *Diritta* had been seized for publishing Garibaldi's address announcing the formation of a committee to promote Italian union.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

Berlin jounals assert that Denmark is ready to participate in the conference proposed by England provided France will. Prince Charles leaves Berlin on the 20th with his staff. 32,000 Prussian troops had been despatched to Holstein via Hanover, who would cross the Eibe without halting. The Austrian troops for Schleswig were forwarded on the 20th by special train, carrying 1,000 men each *via* Berlin. It is asserted that the Austrian Lower House refuses the ten millions credit demanded by the government for the expenses of the occupation of Schleswig.

La France asserts that Prussia's and Austria's first act will be to order Prince Augustenberg to quit Holstein. The Danes are engaged breaking up ice in the Schler. The *Weiner Zeitung* says, if the small states had foreseen that the great powers intended to uphold the London treaty under all circumstances, they would have voted for occupation at the outset.

The 'Dagbladet' says:—Denmark cannot comply with the Austrian and Prussian ultimatum. What happens depends on eventualities in Europe and Germany. In case of war the German armies require four weeks to collect necessary strength. By then the Danish army will be larger than ever and fortified with with works able to hold in check an enemy twice as strong. The Austrian force at Schleswig will hardly number 20,000.

The Princess of Wales was so far recovered that no further bulletins were issued. The infant prince was quite well. It was stated that the English squadron will be ordered to Hellgoland.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 19.—Breadstuffs tending upwards. Flour quiet and steady. Wheat advanced 1d to 2d under the warlike aspect. Corn firmer; mixed 30s 6d. Provisions steady. Lard steady from 42s 6d to 43s. Tallow dull. Ashes quiet and steady.

KIEL, Jan 20.—It is reported that the Saxons and Hanoverians are to be withdrawn from their positions in Holstein and concentrated in Altona, in order to allow free passage for Austrian and Prussian troops.

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—Prussian and Austrian troops march without delay into Schleswig. Marshal Von Wrangel commands the Prussian forces.

HAMBURG, Jan. 19th.—Prince Carl, brother of the King of Denmark, has arrived from Schleswig. He left the country after refusing to take the oath of allegiance to his brother. One brigade of Danish infantry was transferred lately from Schleswig to Flensburg. All battalions of Schleswigers and Holsteiners are to be distributed among Danish regiments. The first Prussian troops are expected here to day. The Austrian troops quartered here leave for Schleswig.

STUTGARD, Jan. 20.—The Chamber of Deputies to day resolved to placed the army of Wirtembergh on a war footing, and place a certain number of troops at the immediate disposal of the Confederation.

The London 'Times' of the 21st has a report that Denmark has offered to suspend the obnoxious constitution and address. It such an offer has really been made it will for a time avert the imminent danger of war.

Troubles Ahead!

The *World's* special.—Washington, Feb. 1st.—It is rumored, in high official circles, that we are upon the eve of war with France. Mr. Seward is said to have pursued a course towards the French Government, concerning the Florida, Rappahannock and the rams known to be building in France for the rebels, as to elicit a reply from the French Foreign Minister, in accordance with which the United States must either abandon its pretensions, or go to war to maintain them. Mr. Ewarts was, it is stated, instructed to demand of France the surrender of the belligerent rights accorded to the rebels, and it is certain there is some serious difficulty with the French Cabinet, which talarms all but Mr. Seward. He, in view of the almost certainty of war in Europe, takes the highest possible ground towards France. This may be taken for what it is worth.

PRISONERS ESCAPED FROM SARNIA GAOL.—We are informed that yesterday morning, (Sunday, Jan. 31st,) about 7 o clock, some eight or ten prisoners escaped from the Sarnia gaol, under the following circumstances:—The jailor, Mr. Robertson, was taking breakfast to the prisoners, and had entered one of the cells, in which were confined two convicts, when he was suddenly struck on the back of head, with a stick of cordwood, which knocked him senseless. They immediately took possession of the keys and liberated the other prisoners. While making their exit, the servant girl gave the alarm, when the billet of wood was again brought into requisition, and she received a blow in the face, which stunned her. Having nothing to impede their course, they made good use of their opportunity, and succeeded in escaping. They are supposed to have taken to the "bush;" but up to this time only one of them has been recaptured. In the hurry of flight, two of the cells were forgotten, or a clear sweep would have been effected in Sarnia gaol.—*London Advertiser.*

SUDDEN AND MELANCHOLY DEATH.—A young lad, named Dennis Kinsley, about 17 years of age, a native of this town, but who has recently been in the American army, arrived here at about 2 o'clock on Friday morning, having deserted. He applied at Mr. Michael Kimmitt's, who keeps a saloon or tavern near the canal bridge, for admission, but for some cause was refused, when taking off his coat and boots, and making a pillow of the former, he laid down on the platform in front of the house, where he was found on Friday morning in a semi-conscious state, and was ordered away, but was afterwards taken into the house, where he lingered until the afternoon, when death ended his misery. It is supposed his system had been weakened by exposure and want, and that he died from some affection of the brain. His brother, who works in town, did not learn of the poor fellow's condition until about five minutes before his death.—*St. Catherines Journal.*

A paper remarks that it is cruelly cold up the mountains; but no wonder, for they have no thermometer up there, so it gets as cold as it pleases. This is a good companion for the story of the heat in the South, where water can be boiled until it is red hot.

Important Discovery.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* writes that a curious and interesting discovery has just been made in the Department of State, locating upon the boundary line between the State of Minnesota and the British Provinces.—From time immemorial, all the maps that have come before the public have represented the dividing line as barely touching the infinot southern extremity of the Lake of the Woods, and then passing directly to the westward. A recent investigation of the maps and treaty touching this matter have brought to light the fact that the boundary line, after reaching the lake, passed through one half of its centre, thence westward up an extensive bay or arm, then directly south again until it reaches the main meridian, and then continued to the west. The upshot of the story is, that Minnesota has a big lump of territory land which she did not know belonged to her, and she has full command of the Lake of the Woods.

A REMARKABLE HOAX.—A singular hoax was played upon the Missouri Legislature recently, Mr. Wolfe of Platte county, a member of the house, having gone home, a dispatch was received by one of his fellow members, announcing his death. The dispatch bore the name of a prominent gentleman and no doubt was entertained of its genuineness. Accordingly the announcement was formally made in the House and Senate.—The customary eulogies were pronounced and resolutions adopted, and both branches of the Legislature adjourned—the House having previously ordered the hall in which it sits to be draped in mourning. This occurred on Thursday the 21st instant. Judge what the surprise of the members must have been when, on Saturday afternoon—two days later—Mr. Wolfe in his own proper person entered the chamber and took his seat.—The funeral hangings of the room were soon removed and the members were equally prompt in tearing off the crape which they had resolved to wear for the period of thirty days. Of course Mr. Wolfe was much gratified to see and read of the estimation in which he was held, but he was still better pleased with the consciousness of his continued existence. Nothing has transpired with reference to the author of the hoax.

FEARFUL SHARK ACCIDENT.—A letter dated Aspinwall, January 8th, gives the following of the death of a seaman belonging to the West India Royal mail steamship Solent, which arrived at this port on the 3rd and remained on the 8th:—A sailor going ashore on a hawser from the bow of the royal mail packet Solent, was seized by a shark which took of one of the sailor's legs at the first bite, the next attack the man lost his left arm near the sho