

last hour in seeming lethargy. Heavily, and with a painful expression, he raised himself upon his elbow. "Moscoso," he said, "Moscoso, art thou near me!—my eyes wax dim and it will soon be over. Art thou, for I would speak with thee?"

"Noble De Soto. I am beside thee," he replied, "say on: I hear and mark thee!"

"Give me thy hand!" Then, as he received it, he raised it slowly on high, and continued in clear and unflinching tones, though evidently with an effort.—"True friend and follower, by this right hand that has so often fought beside my own; by this right hand I do adjure thee, to observe and to obey these my last mandates."

"Shall I swear it?" cried the stern warrior whom he addressed in tone and voice rendered thick and husky by the violence of his excitement. "Shall I swear it?"

"Swear not, Moscoso! leave oaths to paltry burghers, and to cringing vassals—but pledge me the unblemished honor of a Castilian noble—so shall I die in peace!"

"By the unblemished honor of a Castilian noble: as I am a born hidalgo, and belted knight, I promise thee in spirit and in truth, in deed, and word, and thought to do thy bidding!"

"Then by this token," and he drew a massive ring from his own wasted hand, and placed it on the wasted finger of Moscoso, "then by this token do I name thee my successor; thee, the leader of the host, and Captain General of Spain! Sound trumpets; heralds make proclamation!" A moment or two elapsed, and the wild flourish of the trumpets was heard without, and the sonorous voices of the heralds making proclamation; they ceased, but there was no shout of triumph, or applause.

"Ha, by St. Jago!" cried the dying chief, Ha, by St. Jago, but this must not be: 'tis ominous and evil! Go forth then Jasca, and bid them sound again, and let my people shout for thee, their loyal leader."

It was done, and a gleam of triumphant satisfaction shot across his hollow features. He spoke again but it was with a feeble voice.

"I am going," he said, "I am going whence there is no return! Now mark me; by your plighted word, I do command you, battle no farther; strife with the fates no farther; for the fates are adverse! Conquer not thou this region; for I have conquered it, and it is mine! mine, mine, though dying. Mine it shall be though dead! March to the coast as best ye may, build ye such vessels as may bear ye from the main, and save this remnant of my people! Wilt thou do this—as thou hast pledged thyself to do it, noble Moscoso?"

"By all my hopes, I will?"

"Me, then, me shall ye bury thus! Not with womanish tears, not with vile sorrow, but with the rejoicing anthem, with the blare of the trumpet, and the strong music of the drum. Ye shall sheath me in my mail, with my helmet on my head and my spur on my heel! With my sword in my hand shall ye bury me; and with a banner of Castile for my standard! In the depths of the river—of my river shall ye bury me; with lighted torch and volleyed musketry at the mid hour of night! For am I not a conqueror; a conqueror of a world; a conqueror with none to brave my arm, or to gamsay my bidding? Where, where is the man, savage or civilized, Christian or heathen, Indian or Spaniard, who hath defied Hernan de Soto, and not perished from the earth? Death is upon me: death from the Lord of earth and heaven! To him I submit me; but to mortal, never!"

Even as he spoke, a warder entered the lower doorway and whispered a brief message to Moscoso. Slight as were the sounds, and dim as hanged the senses of De Soto, he marked the entrance of the soldier, and eagerly enquired the purport of the news!

"A messenger," was the reply, "an Indian runner from the Natchez."

Admit him, he bears submission; admit him, so shall I die with triumph in my heart. The Indian entered; a man of stern features; and of well nigh giant stature. His head shaven to the chivalrous scalp lock, was dotted with the plumes of the war eagle mingled with the feathers of gayer hue, his throat was circled by a necklace, strung from the claws of the grizzly bear & cougar, so artfully mingled with tufts of human hair; his lineaments were covered with the black war paint; in one hand he bore the crimson war pipe, and in the other the well known emblem of Indian hostility, a handful of shafts bound in the skin of a rattlesnake. With a noiseless step he crossed the chamber he flung the deadly gift upon the death bed of De Soto; he raised the red pipe to his lips; he puffed the smoke; and then in the accents of his native tongue, bore to the Spaniards the defiance of his tribe, concluding his speech with the oft heard and unforgettable cadence of the war hoop!

As the dying leader caught the raised tones of the Indian's war, his eye had lightened and his brow

contracted into a writhing form! He knew the import of his speech, by the modulations of his voice, his lips quivered; his chest heaved; his hands clutched the thin coverlid, as though they were grappling to the lance and rapier. The wild notes of the war hoop rang through his ears; and in death, death itself the ruling passion was prevalent, manifestly terribly, prevalent.

He sprang to his feet, his form dilating, and features flashing with all the energy of life; "St. Jago," he shouted "for Spain, for Spain! Soto and victory," with an impotent effort to strike, he fell flat upon his face, at the foot of the Indian who had provoked his dying indignation.

They raised him, but a flood of gore had gushed from his eyes, mouth, and ears; he had burst some one of the larger vessels, and was already lifeless ere he struck the ground.

The sun had even now sunk beneath the horizon, and ere the preparations for his funeral had been completed, it was already midnight. Five hundred torches of the resinous pine tree flashed with their crimson reflections on the turbid water, as the barks glided over its surface, bearing the warrior to his last home.

A train of cowed priests, with pix, and crucifix, and steaming censor, floated in the van, making the vaulted woods echo the high notes of the Te Deum, chanted in lieu of the mournful Miserere over the mortal part of that ill-fated warrior.

But as the canoe came onward in which the corpse was placed; seated erect, as he had ordered it, with the good sword in the dead hand, the polished helmet glancing above the sunken features, and the gay banner of Castile floating like a mantle from the shoulders; the pealing notes of the trumpet, and the roll of the battle drum, and the Spanish war cry—"St. Jago for De Soto and for Spain"—and the crash of the volleying aquobuses might be heard, startling the wild beasts, and the wilder Indians of the forest for leagues around.

There was a deep pause; a deep, deep pause, a sullen splash, and every torch was extinguished. The discoverer of the Mississippi slept beneath the waters. He had crossed a large part of the Continent in search of gold, but found nothing so remarkable as his burial place.

To His Excellency Major General Sir COLIN CAMPBELL, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieut. Governor, and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE ADDRESS OF HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL  
May it please your Excellency—

His Majesty's Council have been ready during the present Session, to enter into the full consideration of that part of your Excellency's Speech, at the opening of the Session, and your Excellency's Message which had reference to the Union of King's College and Dalhousie College, in compliance with the Despatch of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated April 30, 1835.

The Council supposed that their attention would be particularly drawn to this subject, by some proceedings of the House of Assembly; but they find by the Journals of that House, that after consideration of the subject for several days, it was Resolved, that the House do not further proceed therein the present Session.

This determination by the House of Assembly, might apologize for the Council's abstaining from any notice of the subject; but they have thought it more respectful to Your Excellency, and to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to enter into a full consideration of it.

The result of that consideration upon every Member of the Council, is a firm conviction, that an union of those Colleges, which was attempted more than twelve years ago by the Governors of the Colleges, and then found impracticable, is equally impracticable now:—that the advantages to be derived from the union would be doubtful—that the injury inflicted by any violent interference with the Constitution of either, would be severely felt; and that any alienation of the property of either, without the unanimous desire of its Governors, would be unjust.

The Council feel the delicacy of their situ-

ation, in giving an opinion which appears to militate against the desire of His Majesty's Secretary of State; but they beg permission most respectfully to state, that they have ventured to express this opinion, under a full persuasion that the Despatch from Downing Street was written under a misapprehension.

It was evidently supposed by His Majesty's Secretary of State, that the union of the Colleges had been the subject of much controversy in the Province, and was earnestly desired by the Legislature, and by a large portion of the people of Nova Scotia; and that the surrender of the Charter of King's College was equally desired, as the first necessary step for the accomplishment of the union. The Council beg to assure Your Excellency that such surrender was never spoken of, or as far as they know, even thought of, until suggested by the above Despatch. The union of the Colleges, though brought to the notice of the House of Assembly in 1830, by Sir Peregrine Maitland was never made the subject of full consideration in that House, or in the Council, until the present Session; and any controversy respecting it is totally unknown in Nova Scotia.

While the claims of the Pictou Academy were the subject of yearly discussion, they were the subject also of yearly controversy; and the advocates of that Institution often objected to the Constitution of King's College, and successively urged the Legislative Grant to that College, as a reason for making a similar grant to the Pictou Academy. The same plea has also been successfully urged for procuring Legislative aid to the Baptist Academy at Horton.

The Council are aware that, for a short period, several Statutes of King's College were justly objectionable, and especially the Statute which confined the Instructions to the Children of Members of the Established Church, by unwisely requiring subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles by every Student when he entered the College.

This Statute, however, was not in operation three years; it was annulled by the Patron, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1806, since which period the Education of the College has been alike open to persons of all Religious Denominations; although there was a Statute then in existence (which however was not enforced) that prohibited the Students from attending any other place of Worship than the Church of England. In the year 1827, other restrictions were removed, and since that period all the honours of the University have been equally open with the exception of Degrees in Divinity. Provision was also made in the same year, for permitting Students under the control of the President, to attend such places of Religious Worship as their Parents or Guardians might desire.

The removal of these restrictions has not yet removed all the prejudice which their existence created: and although the benefits conferred upon this and the neighbouring Provinces, by the King's College, during forty-eight years, have been great and valuable, they would certainly have been more extensive, if the restrictions had never been imposed.

As the removal of these impediments becomes more generally known, and more duly appreciated, there is good reason to hope, that their former inconvenience will be no longer remembered to the prejudice of the Institution. But if the large and respectable bodies of Christians in Nova Scotia, who do not belong to the Established Church shall still be unwilling to send their Children for the instruction and the honors which are now open to them at Windsor, the Council are unanimously of opinion, that it will be much more expedient, as well as more just, to attempt the Establishment of another Seminary, than to interfere with the Pro-