A GREAT CHURCH COUNCIL.

Opening of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Saratoga—The Westminster Confession on Trial.

SARATOGA, May 15.—The Presbyterian General Assembly was opened with prayer this morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Dr. Herrick Johnson of Chicago, the session being a praise and worship meeting. The regular business session began at 3 p.m. Nearly 2000 persons were in attendance at the opening.

This is probably the most important church court held since the Confession of Faith was adopted, for the tenets of Presbyterianism itself are on trial. The question of a revision of the Westminster Confession will be debated and voted upon. To guide the General Assembly the various Presbyteries have been asked to express their views on revision. Of the 208 Presbyteries reporting 133 have voted for revision, 69 voted against revision and 6 have declined to vote. Five Presbyteries failed to make any return to the questions, but these represent regions too remote, geographically or otherwise, to exert any particular influence on the result. The New York Presbytery, with the largest total vote, gives 64 for revision and 15 against, or a majority of 49, and the Brooklyn Presbytery's majority on that side is the same. The Presbytery of Huntingdon, Pa., gives 71 out of 73 votes against revision, which is the largest majority on either side. Grouped generally 3384 votes have been cast for and 2332 votes against revision. The Presbyteries favoring revision represent over 6000 ministers and more than 800,000 communicants.

So great is the importance of the conference that the Associated Press have furnished a verbatim report (which would occupy over a page of this paper) of the sermon delivered before the Assembly by the retiring moderator, Rev. William C. Roberts, D.D. In substance Dr. Roberts said:

Fathers and Brethren: The beloved church which you and I have the honor to represent is undergoing a severe ordeal. Her real and imaginary failings are diligently paraded in our secular as well as religious journals. Outsiders who know but little of her doctrines or polity are beginning to wonder how a church with standards so harsh and loveless could rise to power and influence in a community. Not a few of our own ministers and members are asking whether or not she really possesses all the powers and possibilities we have been in the habit of claiming for her. I avail myself of this opportunity to consider these and similar questions vital to her present standard and future growth. The text is recorded in Luke xii, 48: "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required."

In this passage are set forth two or three ethical principles of great importance. First, that all men are endowed with powers and possibilities to fulfil the end of their being. Second, that men's responsibilities are commensurate with the gifts bestowed and the opportunities afforded. Third, that all are responsible alike for the use they make of the favors received.

It would be an unwarranted assumption to claim that even the special privileges I shall mention are monopolised by the Presbyterian Church. The utmost I can allege is that she possesses them in larger measure than her sister churches. Among the special privileges I may mention: First, a government more in keeping with the teachings of Scripture than that of any other branch of the Church. Second, a clear-cut, strong and Scriptural creed. Third, championship in the cause of education. Fourth, superior missionary appliances. The other special privilege of the Presbyterian Church is her conceded wealth.

There are many obligations arising from these privileges. Our church is under obligation, in the first place, to develop all the possibilities of her Scriptural form of government. It is also the duty of our Church to exercise more than she has yet done her Presbyterial powers. It is the further duty of our Church to apply more liberal principles in a manner that will tend to bring about Christian union. It is the further duty of the Church to reap all the rich and varied fruits of her clear-cut creed. Calvinism produces the purest morality. Not only morality but Christian courage also is a legitimate offspring of Calvinism. Still another familiar fruit of Calvinism is strong individualism and consequent sense of personal responsibility. The Presbyterian Church is called upon to conserve in the future the educational institutions she has been largely the means of establishing and to add to their number as circumstances may demand. Our church must prosecute more vigorously than she has as yet done her missionary work at home and abroad.

The alarming condition of portions of our country calls for still greater vigilance and effort on the part of the Church. Even New England, which, in many respects, is the most favored part of our country, is even now threatened by a crushing avalanche from the North. Seven hundred and fifty thousand propagandists of the Romish Church have lately come down from Quebec with the words, "You go there to restore New England to its rightful owner," ringing in their ears. Do you doubt that those people will do all in their power to carry out the injunction of their archbishop? Can the most sagacious calculator of events tell what a body of zealots like these may do in the course of a generation? If the Protestant Church fails to do her duty the homes of the Puritans may, at no distant day, become the abodes of Canadian Catholics. The Middle States are threatened with a tidal wave of immigrants from Europe, the majority of whom would gladly wash away the old landmarks of Puritanism, if not those of all religion. The country is to-day standing aghast before the rising cloud of ignorance and immorality among the freedmen of the South, which threatens to overspread our political sky with gloom. The Northwest is trembling on the top of a volcano that may at any moment shake into pieces its proudest political and religious fabrics. The Southwest is groaning under the domination of Rome as it did when the territory formed a part of the old Mexican Republic. The Wasatch Mountains are holding to-day in their bosom a fetit pool that threatens to devastate the contiguous States and Territories. The Pacific Coast is seriously threatened with heathenism. Infidelity, intellectual and practical, is everywhere striving to overthrow our Protestant Christianity. It has its clubs, its platforms and its presses. It has the tongue of the orator and the ear of the populace. It is becoming every day more and more resolute, formidable and boastful. What, but Christ's Gospel, the power of God unto salvation, can meet such threatening evils?

The last task to which the Presbyterian Church is called upon to bend her energies is to instruct her members in the meaning of true stewardship and the use of money.

We are to-day a spectacle to men and angels. Our ministers and members all over the land are anxiously watching every word and act of this Assembly. Sister churches of every name are praying and hoping that our deliberations may be marked with the presence of the Divine Spirit. The Hierarchy of Rome that has always looked upon our Church as the power behind the throne of Protestant Christianity is hoping that the spirit of discord may confound our councils and deal a deadly blow at our growing influence. The daughters of the Philistines stand ready to rejoice at any mishap that may befall us, because they deem the Presbyterian Church the last stronghold of orthodoxy. The electric wires will carry not only our words and resolutions, but even the tone and temper of our discussions to the ends of the earth. Let nothing, therefore, be done through strife or vain-glory; let not pride of opinion lead any one to persist in pressing his personal preferences upon the whole Church; let no proposition be entertained that shall tend to disturb our peace or impede our progress in bringing the world to Christ.

Let us look for that kind of progress in the church that shall unfold into a blossom, and for a blossom that shall mature into a ripened fruit; for a past that shall give rise to a present and for a present that shall merge into a glorious future. Let us look for the principles of Christianity to so permeate our system of government that it shall ere long cause our national life to correspond with our best laws; for society to be such as to do away with the conflict now waging between labor and capital, and for the whole Church to be lifted up to that position where there shall be but one body, one spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, and through all and in us all.

Mr. Henry Graham, Wingham, writes: "I was in North Dakota last May and I took a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery with me, as I did not feel safe without it. While there a lady friend was suffering with Indigestion, Biliousness and Headache. I recommended the Vegetable Discovery to her and she tried it, and the result was that it did her so much good that I had to leave the balance of the bottle with her."

A RIOT AT FREELTON.

Disgraceful Row at the Trial of an Assault Case.

FREELTON, May 15.—There is considerable feeling in Freelton over the trial of the assault case of Brady v. Brady. The usually quiet village was the scene of a disgraceful row on Tuesday night and a repetition of the disturbance occurred last night. The first trouble took place when a number of the residents were returning from Hamilton, where they had a case before Police Magistrate Cahill. Bad language was used and the excitement ran so high that it was feared there would be a free fight. But nothing so serious as that occurred. The result of this disturbance was that summonses have been issued against Robert Stiffins, Dr. Metherell, J. Williams, Charles Lane, George Cook, James Hourigan, George Ross and Alexander Robinson, for acting in a disorderly manner. The case will come up at the Police Court here to-morrow afternoon.

While the residents were shocked at the row on Tuesday night it could not be compared with the disgraceful scene which took place last night in a room over Hourigan's driving shed, where Justices of the Peace Ross and Robinson held court to try an assault case brought by James Brady against John Brady. A motley crowd filled the little room. Some of the attendants had no respect for the dignity of the court and kept their hats on, while others smoked and hissed and groaned when anything occurred which did not meet with their approval. A. D. Cameron appeared for the defendant and he had to appeal to the court to prohibit outsiders from interfering in the case. The noise was so great that after hearing the evidence for the prosecution and a few witnesses for the defence the case was adjourned for a week. Lawyer Cameron and Constable Littlehales were afraid that they would be roughly handled by the excited farmers.

NO PROPRIETARY INTEREST.

That's What the City Solicitor Says of Toronto's Claim to Upper Canada College Grounds.

There were present at the meeting of the Parks and Gardens Committee yesterday Chairman Swait, Gillespie, McMullen, Hill, Lucas, Booth, G. S. Macdonald, Graham, Score, Lindsey, the Park Commissioner. The latter was instructed to report upon the application of Mr. Wilkinson of the People's Tabernacle for leave to preach Sundays in Queen's Park or have the use of the Pavilion on the same terms as the Canada Temperance League. Whenever the City Solicitor reports that that plot of ground known as "Carlton Park," in the northwestern section of the city, has been dedicated to the corporation, the committee will have it properly improved. Mr. Biggar reported that after a careful examination of the facts he failed to see that the city had any proprietary rights to the present Upper Canada College grounds.

The City Engineer could not see his way clear to construct asphalt sidewalks on both sides of Queen-street College-avenue, but presented the cost of the Warren-Scharff and Stewart granolithic kinds. The first named would cost $12,581 and the latter $16,850. Before any decisive action is taken the engineer is to be asked to estimate the cost of the Bryce asphalt. The solicitor was requested to report upon an application from the G.T.R. for one-fifth of an acre of High Park for its double track. The council will be asked to consent to the $10,000 bylaw for the Howard memorial. F. Edmunds, 829 King-street west, was given the contract for supplying sods for the parks at a fraction less than 4c. per square yard.

SUICIDE IN NEW YORK.

A Toronto Barrister Makes Some Startling Statements as to Self-Destruction.

Editor World: I observed in The World of the 14th some statistics showing a large increase in the amount of suicides in the city of New York, and as I have had under contemplation for some time calling attention to the work of self-slaughter now going on in the United States, I take the present occasion as opportune. I must say in the first place that the statistics given, like statistics generally, when viewed only on the surface, are somewhat deceiving. It may be true that the figures given show, as stated, a condition of things that has never been equalled in the world, but the half, nay the fourth part, has not been told.

It needs no argument to convince those who are acquainted with American life that in that country the policy of concealing everything prejudicial to its interests as well as of private interests is studiously carried out.

Now the figures given show that 55 men above 15 years of age died by suicide in New York in the course of the first three months of the present year. The population is about 1,500,000 and statistics show that for every 10,000 persons in the United States there are 4396 above the age of 15 years, or of men say 2198. This multiplied by 150, the number of times 10,000, would give 329,700 men in New York city. As the whole death rate of New York is, I think, about 33 per 1000 annually, or about 49,500 persons, allowing for adults two-fifths of this number and dividing by two for males, we find the total deaths of men in a year to be say 4950, or for three months 1237, of which 55 were by suicide, or about one out of every 22½.

That this is a long way within the mark is evident from an examination of the figures published in The World. Assuming them to be correct as far as they go, the manner of the suicides being given, it would appear that not a single case of drowning is reckoned among the 55 cases, the "found drowned" which of course are a large number in the city of New York, evidently having been so returned to the city clerk's office. This alone would largely swell the number of suicides, possibly in the case of men to about 1 to 18 deaths.

However these facts may be, I have in my office, which any person may see, proof that cannot be controverted that in the State of New York as a whole for the past two years 1 man at least out of every 20 who have died has died by suicide, and evidence sufficient to warrant the statement that 1 man out of every 18 living in the United States will put an end to his own life within a few years.

I say nothing about the ratio of suicides amongst women, having no evidence. But according to the statistics that appeared in The World the ratio would seem to be as 1 to 3. As to the cause I will not now take up your space by considering it. The grand cause, however, is the general demoralisation of the people, which is enormously great. Having spent many years in that country I know whereof I speak. E. PENTON.

Toronto, May 15.

Coming Events.

Coming consumption is foreshadowed by a hacking cough, night sweats, pain in the chest, etc. Arrest its progress at once by taking Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam, which never fails to cure coughs, colds, bronchitis, hoarseness, etc., and even in confirmed consumption affords grateful relief.

THEY TURNED OUT STRONG

Did the Grenadiers, Notwithstanding their Three Nights of Theatricals.

Notwithstanding the threatening weather last night the Royal Grenadiers turned out 321 strong under command of Col. Dawson. The men marched direct to the asphalt pavement in Wellington-street, where an hour was spent in practising battalion movements. The ambulance corps occupied the time in separate drill and the band entertained a large gathering in Scott-street.

Owing to the men having been engaged three nights at their concerts the march was shorter than usual, the route being up Yonge to King and along King to the Armory. These regimental orders were read:

Detail for week ending May 24: Orderly officer, 2d Lieut. Maclennan; next for duty, 2d Lieut. Dixon; orderly sergeant, Sergt. Parkinson.

The first match of the Canadian Military Rifle League will take place to-morrow (Saturday). As the regiment has entered two teams of ten men each with four reserve men the members of these teams will attend at Garrison Commons in plain clothes at 1¼ o'clock. The reserve men will be permitted to fire at the same time at the match ranges and have an opportunity of competing for the badge which is offered by the league for the highest individual score in each team.

Arrangements have been nearly completed for the reproduction of the Grens' concert at Hamilton next Tuesday night.

Nothing definite has been decided upon in regard to the annual outing.

Why go limping and whining about your corns when a 25 cent bottle of Holloway's Corn Cure will remove them? Give it a trial and you will not regret it.

THE KENDALS AT THE GRAND.

An Elegant Reception and an Elegant Performance—The Boy Wonder—Other Theatrical Matters.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal have every reason to be proud of the reception given to them at the Grand Opera House on their reappearance last evening. The play was "Impulse," given for the first time in Toronto. It is a strongly-built play, dealing with human nature in its various phases, and with several clear-cut characters that served fully to develop the strength of the excellent company with which the Kendals have surrounded themselves. The cast was as follows:

Captain Crichton	W. H. Kendal
Sir Henry Aukland	A. M. Denison
Col. Macdonald	T. H. Wenman
Victor de Reil	John Glendinning
Parker	Seymour Hicks
Graham	H. Deane
Walter	Mr. Hartley
Mrs. Macdonald	Miss Violet Vanbrugh
Miss Kilmore	Miss Fanny Coleman
Mrs. Birkett	Miss Claire Pauncefoot
Mrs. Beresford	Mrs. Kendal

Mr. Kendal has a part that fits him like a glove, something after the style of Captain Lacey in "Bootle's Baby"—a great-hearted sympathetic creature, blundering occasionally in speech but never actuated by a wrong motive. He well deserved the plaudits he received. Mrs. Kendal is provided with a genteel comedy part—a woman of the world who can see the mistakes of others and do her best to cover them up for the sake of harmony. But the Kendals are closely pressed by the support, Messrs. Wenman and Glendenning, with Miss Violet Vanbrugh, being specially prominent, the lady and the first-named gentleman being deservedly the recipients of curtain calls. Miss Fannie Coleman also shines in a comedy part.

To-night the Kendals produce "The Ironmaster," the English adaptation of "Claire, or the Forgemaster."

Grand Music at the Metropolitan.

With no artist could admiration have been deeper, emotion more keen, or applause more significant of enthusiastic appreciation of the immense talent displayed than the welcome accorded Master Blatchford-Kavanagh at the Metropolitan Church last evening. The plaudits were both warm and vehement, so thoroughly impressed and completely carried away were the audience. Young Kavanagh repeated "Angels Ever Bright and Fair" (by request), and also sang "The Marvellous Works" and "Inflammatus," in which he was ably assisted by the choir. Organ solos by Mr. A. S. Vogt, "Abide With Me" by Mr. Baguley, a duet by Miss Ella Patterson and Miss Mortimer and "Protect Us Through the Coming Night," Miss Mortimer, Miss Flint, Mr. Stouffer and Mr. Baguley, served to complete an interesting program. As this will positively be Master Kavanagh's last appearance in Toronto the committee have arranged for one extra concert to be given in the Pavilion to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The program will be a secular one. The plan for this concert opens this morning at Nordheimer's at 10 o'clock and numbered checks will be given out from 8 a.m. The same prices will be charged for tickets, but the entire house will be reserved.

Gilmore Once More.

As already announced Gilmore's Band have been engaged by the Philharmonic Society for four concerts in the Pavilion on June 4 and 5. Gilmore has some superb vocalists with him and has made a special arrangement allowing two Toronto vocalists to sing with the band. Programs may be obtained at the music stores. Subscription lists are open at Nordheimer's, Sucklings' and Mason & Risch's. Subscribers will get their seats ahead of the public in the order allotted by a ballot.

The Hand Bell Ringers.

Songs, recitations, violin and piano solos, selections by the Toronto Hand Bell Ringers and a characteristically happy address from Rev. W. F. Wilson, the chairman, afforded a treat to those who attended the concert under the auspices of L.O.L. No. 857, in Victoria Hall last evening. The soloists were Misses Morell and Rolston and W. E. Ramsay and E. J. Woods. The Harris Bros. gave violin solos, J. C. Beattie recited and the Rosedale Quartet sweetly gave "The Bell Song."

Kate Pursell Next Week.

Kate Pursell will present her great frontier drama, "Queen of the Plains," at Jacobs & Sparrow's all next week. The play has met with great success this season. The New York Telegram says: "Kate Pursell, a clever actress and a very handsome lady, has in 'Queen of the Plains' a play that we predict will prove a money-maker. It is full of life and action, the comedy scenes are unusually strong and the situations very telling. Her company is an evenly-balanced and competent one and work with a smoothness that is pleasing."

Other Amusement Matters.

The Toronto Minstrels had a splendid rehearsal last night for their performances, which take place at the Academy of Music on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31. Another rehearsal takes place to-morrow night at the Y.M.C.A. Hall.

To-night, matinee to-morrow and to-morrow night will close the successful week at the Academy of Music of "The Two Sisters."

The Philharmonic concert tickets continue to sell well at Nordheimer's for the Wagner evening on Tuesday next. There are some good 75c. seats still to be had.

An enjoyable concert was given last night in Murray's Hall, Queen-street west, in aid of the building fund of Bonar Presbyterian Church. Miss B. Willmot sang with much feeling. Messrs. Wilson Brothers, the Scotch hand-bell ringers, gave several selections and K. W. Barton gave a violin solo which was well received. The West End Orchestra also came in for a fair share of applause. J. W. Bengough entertained the audience with chalk-talk.

How Dyspepsia is Cured.

I suffered from dyspepsia and was weak and miserable with what the doctor said was nervous debility. Seeing Burdock Blood Bitters advertised I tried it, and after taking three bottles feel perfectly restored to health.

MRS. J. H. SNIDER, Kleinburg, Ont.

HOW THEY DONE UP THE RAILWAYS

Dishonest Grain Shippers Have Been Checkmated at Last—A Loss of $20,000 Per Month on Transportation.

Grain shippers in Toronto and other points in Ontario have for a year or more past pointed out to the railroads that they were subjected to much loss through inability to compete with certain dishonest shippers who are in the habit of underbilling weights. So extensive did the frauds become that Toronto shippers aroused the railroads to put in track scales at various shipping points along the line, but this was found to be impracticable. Orders have now been issued by the traffic managers of the C.P.R. and G.T.R. to the agents of the respective lines to refuse to accept any more grain in bulk for track delivery.

A great many shippers have been in the habit of returning weights of from 25 to 33 per cent. less than the actual amount loaded in the cars, and it is impossible for the railroad companies to check this except by sending all grain through their elevators.

Local grain dealers who were interviewed yesterday express themselves highly satisfied with this order, as the fraudulent practice has become so extensive that it has curtailed honest traders carrying on their operations. It is obvious that if considerable quantities of traffic are hauled for nothing under fraudulent declarations, those who resort to the practice have a material advantage in effecting sales over their competitors.

In the past the railways accepted the bills of lading on the shippers' assurances, but since commencing their investigations find that there have been serious discrepancies. Cars specified in the bills of lading as containing 200 or 300 bushels actually contained 400 bushels. This underbilling enabled the shipper to sell at the same price per bushel as he bought, for the free hauling was a good profit in itself. The railways estimate their loss, it is said, at as much as $20,000 a month this spring by this process.

The brightest flowers must fade, but young lives endangered by severe coughs and colds may be preserved by Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. Croup, whooping cough, bronchitis, in short all affections of the throat and lungs, are relieved by this sterling preparation, which also remedies rheumatic pains, sores, bruises, piles, kidney difficulty, and is most economic.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Enthusiastic Reception to His Royal Highness in China and Japan.

His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, who recently relinquished the command of the army in the Bombay District, is now en route to Canada, where he served as an officer in the Rifle Brigade. He arrived at Hong Kong March 31. The citizens of all races and nations turned out to welcome him, and the greeting that His Royal Highness received was enthusiastic. The following is the opening paragraph of the address presented to him on behalf of the citizens of Hong Kong:

Less than 50 years ago Hong Kong was a desolate and almost unknown island with a scanty population of poor fishermen scattered along its shores. To-day it is an important portion of the empire, with a varied population of over 200,000 souls; it is one of the busy centres of the commercial life of the world, receiving each year into its capacious harbor millions of tons of shipping of all nations; it is a valuable military position on the frontier of the empire and a great naval station. Such as it is, it had its origin in the early years of Her Majesty's reign; it has received its charter as a colony from her hands; it has risen to its present position under her auspices; its capital city is known by her name; it owes to her beneficent government its first foundation, its growth and its prosperity, and to Her Most Gracious Majesty it has always been most loyal and devoted.

A letter from Yokohama, Japan, to The Victoria (B.C.) Times, under date of April 17, says:

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught arrived here per special Peninsular and Oriental T.N. Company's steamship Ancona on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, 15th inst., and landed under salutes from the German, French and Russian war vessels in the harbor. Before proceeding to the fort and to Tokyo, where they have taken up their temporary residence at Her Majesty's Legation, they were presented with an address of welcome by the British community. It is still uncertain whether Their Royal Highnesses will be pleased to accept the ball it was proposed to give in honor of their visit, as they will have so little time. They leave for Nikko in a day or two, returning towards the end of the month to meet the Emperor and Empress, now absent from the capital on a visit to Kioto, the ancient capital. They sail from here by the Abyssinia on Thursday, May 8, for Vancouver.

His Highness in Toronto.

Chairman Dodds called his Reception Committee together yesterday. There were present: Ald. McMullen, Peter Macdonald, Denison, Small, Lucas, Swait, Score, Gillespie, George Verral, Graham, Mayor Clarke. The chairman explained that he had received information that the Duke of Connaught and suite would only be able to spend one day in the city and all arrangements to be made must have this in view. His Highness would probably arrive somewhere between June 2 and June 4. He will be met at the North Toronto Station of the C.P. and escorted to the Queen's Hotel, where a suite of rooms has been engaged. After lunch he will be driven to the Pavilion and there presented with an address.

The Royal Canadian Yacht Club, after the city proceedings are over, desire to take him to their club-house on the island to show him the harbor and pay him other fitting attentions.

In the evening he will dine at Government House, and will there be asked to attend the ball to be given by the Victoria Club. On the day following his arrival he will visit the Falls, not returning to the city.

A discussion took place on the question of illuminating Spadina-avenue and other leading streets on May 30, but as this is under the control of the Carnival Executive Committee nothing was done. Before the Duke's arrival the chairman will be notified whether he will accept addresses other than the civic one.

The Duke at the Capital.

OTTAWA, May 15.—The program for the reception of the Duke, who is to visit Ottawa June 5, has been arranged, as follows: The Duke will arrive from Montreal by special train at 12½ o'clock. He will be received at the C.P.R. station by a guard of honor and escorted to the Senate Chamber, where he will be presented with a civic address by Mayor Erratt. His Highness will lunch with the Premier at Earnscliffe, leaving for Montreal at 4 o'clock.

THE DEADLY KEROSENE LAMP.

Mrs. Morton, of Hamilton, Fatally Burnt—A Brace of Ambitious City Weddings—Two Serious Accidents.

HAMILTON, May 15.—A terrible accident occurred last evening in Kelly-street, resulting in the fatal burning of an aged woman named Mrs. Morton. She was living alone at 93 Kelly-street, and how the accident occurred is difficult to say, as she was alone in the house at the time. It appears, however, that Sydney Brenton, who lives in the adjacent house, heard Mrs. Morton screaming and rushed into the house to her assistance. He found her wrapt in flames, and the shattered fragments of a kerosene lamp lying about told too well the cause of the horrible accident. Mr. Brenton immediately realised the situation and by wrapping his coat and other clothes about her succeeded in smothering the flames, but the unfortunate woman was terribly burned. Dr. Wallace was summoned and on examining her found that her hands, arm, shoulder, back and head had been burned. Her hair was singed off and her right hand was so charred that the skin and nails came off like a glove. Edward Morton of the Crompton Corset Company, Toronto, is a son of the unfortunate woman and came here this morning on learning of the accident.

John Beicker of Guelph was seeing the elephant yesterday. While in one of the saloons, he made the acquaintance of a sociable individual, who invited him to the mountain-top "to view the landscape o'er." Beicker accompanied his new-found friend to the neighborhood of the asylum, and the twain seated themselves upon the steps to rest awhile. All of a sudden Beicker's companion dealt him a blow on the side of the head, and demanded that he yield up what treasure he possessed. The ruffian no doubt would have proceeded to extremes had not some persons come up the steps at that moment, which caused him to take to his heels.

Charles A. Dickson of Thessalon, publisher of The Algoma Advocate, and Miss Elizabeth Morton were married at the residence of the bride's mother in this city last night, Rev. Mungo Fraser officiating.

A quiet wedding occurred to-day at the residence of the Misses Cook, mountain brow. Miss Alice Cook was married to Rev. James Milne, B.A., of Mansewood, Halton County.

Miss Coleman of Toronto, whom the Hospital Committee engaged as lady superintendent for the Hamilton Hospital, will leave this city next week for Saginaw, Mich., where she has accepted the position of lady superintendent in the hospital there.

United States Consul Monaghan will have his office in the old Canada Life building.

J. Lynwood Palmer, a young English artist only out from England about two months, was thrown from his horse yesterday afternoon, breaking his shoulder blade.

An 8-year-old lad named Peter Davies was riding a horse last night when the animal bolted, caught a hind leg on a wire and fell, crushing the boy's leg and striking his head violently against the ground. A blood vessel in the boy's head was broken but hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Harry Mansfield was sent to the Central Prison this morning for two months for housebreaking in Ancaster, and Christopher Donegan, his chum, for three months.

School Board Contracts.

At the meeting of the Public School Board last night Aikenhead & Crombie were given the contract for new spring latches at $7.90 per dozen and R. Verral & Co. the contract for sodding at 10c. per yard, and 1c. per yard for loam. M. Parkinson, assistant master of Ryerson school, was promoted to the principalship of Dewson-street, and W. L. Groves was given Mr. Parkinson's old position. The Canadian Fire Protection Company will supply 50 fire extinguishers at $10 each.

Great Housefurnishing Sale.

Messrs. Charles M. Henderson & Co. will sell, commencing on Tuesday afternoon, May 20, and following afternoons, the entire retail stock of the E. & C. Gurney Company, No. 91 Yonge-street. This sale offers a grand opportunity to parties furnishing, as the stock is large, well assorted and will be sold without the least reserve. See advertisement in another column.

Caswell, Massey & Co.'s Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil, with Pepsin and Quinine, is recognized as the best preparation known. Prescribed by the leading physicians. W. A. Dyer & Co., Montreal.

THE MILL MYSTERY

"Constance, I would not have you think he was an absolutely perfect man. He was too sensitively organized for that. A touch, a look that was not in harmony with his thoughts, would make him turn pale at times, and I have seen him put to such suffering by petty physical causes, that I have sometimes wondered where his great soul got its strength to carry him through the exigencies of his somewhat trying calling. But whatever his weaknesses—and they were very few,—he was conscientious in the extreme, and suffered agony where other men would be affected but slightly. You can imagine his joy, then, over this unexpected end of his long pain; and remembering that it is only a month previous to the day set apart by us for the marriage, ask yourself whether he would be likely to seek any means of death, let alone such a horrible and lonesome one as that which has robbed us of him to-day!"

"No!" I burst out, for she waited for my reply. "A thousand times, no, no, no!"

"He has not been so well lately, and I have not seen as much of him as usual; but that is because he had some literary work he wished to finish before the wedding day. Ah, it will never be finished now! and our wedding-day is to-day! and the bride is almost ready. But!" she suddenly exclaimed, "I must not go yet—not till you have said again that he was no suicide. Tell me," she vehemently continued—"tell me from your soul that you believe he is not answerable for his death!"

"I do!" I rejoined, alarmed and touched at once by the fire in her cheek and eye.

"And that," she went, "you will hold to this opinion in the face of all opposition! That, whatever attack men may make upon his memory, you will uphold his honor and declare his innoconce! Say you will be my deputy in this, and I will love you even in my cold grave, and bless you as perhaps only those who see the face of the Father can bless!"

"Ada!" I murmured, "Ada!"

"You will do this, will you not?" she persisted. "I can die knowing I can trust you as I would myself."

I took her cold hand in mine and promised though I felt how feeble would be any power of mine to stop the tide of public opinion if once it set in any definite direction.

"He had no enemies," she whispered; "but I would sooner believe he had, than that he sought this fearful spot of his own accord."

And seemingly satisfied to have dropped this seed in my breast, she tremblingly arose and going for her writing-desk, brought it back and laid it on the lounge by her side. "Go for Mrs. Gannon," she said.

Mrs. Gannon was our neighbor in the next room, a widow who earned her livelihood by nursing the sick; and I was only too glad to have her with me at this time, for my poor Ada's face was growing more and more deathly, and I began to fear she had but prophesied the truth when she said this was her wedding day.

I was detained only a few minntes, but when I came back with Mr. Gannon, I found my room-mate writing.

"Come!" said she, in a voice so calm, my companion started and hastily looked at her face for confirmation of the fears I had expressed; "I want you both to witness my signature."

With one last effort of strength she wrote her name, and then handed the pen to Mrs. Gannon, who took it without a word.

"It is my will," she faintly smiled, watching me as I added my name at the bottom. "We have had to do without lawyers, but I don't think there will be any one to dispute my last wishes." And taking the paper in her hand, she glanced hastily at it, then folded it, and handed it back to me with a look that made my heart leap with uncontrollable emotion. "I can trust you," she said, and fell softly back on the pillow.

"You had better go for Dr. Farnham," whispered Mrs. Gannon in my ear, with an ominous shake of her head.

And though I felt it to be futile, I hastened to comply.

But Dr. Farnham was out, attending to a very urgent case, I was told; and so, to my growing astonishment and dismay, were Dr. Spaulding and Dr. Perry. I was therefore obliged to come back alone, which I did with what speed I could; for I begrudged every moment spent away from the side of one I had so lately learned to love, and must so soon lose.

Mrs. Gannon met me at the door, and with a strange look, drew me in and pointed towards the bed. There lay Ada, white as the driven snow, with closed eyes, whose faintly trembling lids alone betokened that she was not yet fled to the land of quiet shadows. At her side was a picture of the man she loved, and on her breast lay a bunch of withered roses I could easily believe had been his last gift. It was a vision of perfect peace, and I could not but contrast it with what my imagination told me must have been the frenzied anguish of that other death.

My approach, though light, disturbed her. Opening her eyes, she gave me one long, long look. Then, as if satisfied, she softly closed them again, breathed a little sigh, and in another moment was no more.

CHAPTER IV.

THE POLLARDS.

There' something in his soul,
O'er which his melancholy sits on brood.
—HAMLET.

Fearful as the experiences of this day had been, they were not yet at an end, for me. Indeed, the most remarkable were to come. As I sat in this room of death—it was not far from midnight—I suddenly heard voices at the door, and Mrs. Gannon came with Dr. Farnham.

"It is very extraordinary," I heard him mutter as he crossed the threshold. "One dying and another dead, and both struck down by the same cause."

I could not imagine what he meant, so I looked at him with some amazement. But he did not seem to heed me. Going straight to the bed, he gazed silently at Ada's pure features, with what I could not but consider a troubled glance. Then turning quickly to Mrs. Gannon, he said, in his somewhat brusque way:

"All is over here; you can therefore leave. I have a patient who demands your instant care."

"But——" she began.

"I have come on purpose for you," he put in authoritatively. "It is an urgent case; do not keep me waiting."

"But, sir," she persisted, "It is impossible. I am expected early in the morning at Scott's Corners, and was just going to bed when you came in, in order to get a little sleep before taking the train."

"Dr. Perry's case?"

"Yes."

He frowned, and I am not sure but what he uttered a mild oath. At all events, he seemed very much put out.

I immediately drew near.

"Oh, sir," I cried, "if you would have confidence in me. I am not unused to the work, and——"

His stare frightened me, it was so searching and so keen.

"Who are you?" he asked.

I told him, and Mrs. Gannon put in a word for me. I was reliable, she said, and if too much experience was not wanted, would do better than such and such a one—naming certain persons, probably neighbors.

But the doctor's steady look told me he relied more on his own judgment than on anything she or I could say.

"Can you hold your tongue?" he asked.

I started. Who would not have done so?

"I see that you can," he muttered, and glanced down at my dress. "When can you be ready?" he inquired. "You may be wanted for days, and it may be only for hours."

"Will ten minutes be soon enough?" I asked.

A smile difficult to fathom crossed his firm lip.

"I will give you fifteen," he said, and turned towards the door. But on the threshold he paused and looked back. "You have not asked who or what your patient is," he grimly suggested.

"No," I answered shortly.

"Well," said he, "It is Mrs. Pollard, and she is going to die."

Mrs. Pollard! Mrs. Gannon and I involuntarily turned and looked at each other.

"Mrs. Pollard!" repeated the good nurse, wonderingly. "I did not know she was sick."

"She was n't this noon. It is a sudden attack. Apoplexy we call it. She fell at the news of Mr. Barrows' death."

And with this parting shot, he went out and closed the door behind him.

I sank, just a little bit weakened, on the lounge, then rose with renewed vigor. "The work has fallen into the right hands," thought I. "Ada would wish me to leave her for such a task as this."

And yet I was troubled. For though this sudden prostration of Mrs. Pollard, on the hearing of her young pastor's sorrowful death, seemed to betoken a nature of more than ordinary sensibility, I had always heard that she was a hard woman, with an eye of steel and a heart that could only be reached through selfish interests. But then she was the magnate of the place, the beginning and end of the aristocracy of S——; and when is not such a one open to calumny? I was determined to reserve my judgement.

In the fifteen minutes allotted me, I was ready. Suitable arrangements had already been made for the removal of my poor Ada's body to the house that held her lover. For the pathos of the situation had touched all hearts, and her wish to be laid in the same grave with him met with no opposition. I could therefore leave with a clear conscience; Mrs. Gannon promising to do all that was necessary, even if she were obliged to take a later train than she had expected to.

Dr. Farnham was in the parlor waiting for me, and uttered a grunt of satisfaction as he saw me enter, fully equipped.

"Come; this is business," he said, and led the way at once to his carriage.

We did not speak for the first block. He seemed meditating, and I was summoning up courage for the ordeal before me. For, now that we were started, I began to feel a certain inward trembling not to be entirely accounted for by the fact that I was going into a strange house to nurse a woman of whom report did not speak any too kindly. Nor did the lateness of the hour, and the desolate aspect of the unlighted streets tend greatly to reassure me.

Indeed, something of the weird and uncanny seemed to mingle with the whole situation, and I found myself dreading our approach to the house, which from its old-time air and secluded position had always worn for me an aspect of gloomy reserve, that made it even in the daylight, a spot of somewhat fearful interest.

Dr. Farnham, who may have suspected my agitation, though he gave no token of doing so, suddenly spoke up.

"It is only right to tell you," he said, "that I should never have accepted the service of an inexperienced girl like you, if any thing was necessary but watchfulness and discretion. Mrs. Pollard lies unconscious, and all you will have to do is to sit at her side and wait for the first dawning of returning reason. It may come at any moment, and it may never come at all. She is a very sick woman."

"I understand," I murmured, plucking up heart, at what did not seem so very difficult a task.

"Her sons will be within call; so will I. By daybreak we hope to have her daughter from Newport with her. You do not know Mrs. Harrington?"

I shook my head. Who was I, that I should know these grand folks? And yet —— But I promised I would say nothing about days now so completely obliterated.

"She will not be much of an assistance," he muttered. "But it is right she should come—quite right."

I remembered that I had heard that Mrs. Pollard's daughter was a great beauty, and that she had made a five match; which, said of Mrs. Pollard's daughter, must have meant a great deal. I, however, said nothing only listened in a vague hope of hearing more, for my curiosity was aroused in a strange way about these people, and nothing which the good doctor could have said about them would have come amiss at this time.

But our drive had been too rapid, and we were too near the house for him to think of anything but turning into the gateway with the necessary caution. For the night was unusually dark, and it was difficult to tell just where the gate-posts were. We, however, entered without accident, and in another moment a gleam of light greeted us from the distant porch.

"They are expecting us," he said, and touched up his horse. We flew up the gravelled road, and before I could still the sudden heart-beat that attacked me at sight of the grim row of cedars which surrounded the house, we were hurrying up between the two huge lion rampant that flanked the steps, to where a servant stood holding open the door.

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	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	
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