

# THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT.

scowling brows, flashing eyes, and brandished weapons. Their numbers had been increased by fresh arrivals from below, and about a dozen as picturesque looking bandits as Salvalor Rosa could have desired for the foreground of one of his wild mountain passes, were now hemming us, from the hatch by which we entered, as if to cut off our retreat. The faith's Jack Straw, too, had disappeared, and apparently left us to our fate.

Perfectly self-possessed, Meadows fixed his stern, unquailing eye upon them, and I kept close to him, and regarded him anxiously.—The villain's seemed yet to have some respect for the lion in their foils, and no small fear of his fangs; but it was evident they waited only for some bolder one to give the signal, to commence the onslaught. It was a serious business. Here we were, at midnight, in one of the vilest dens of Frankton, where murders are by no means uncommon; but slightly amazed, fatigued by our hard day's duty, and exhausted by want of food: out of reach of assistance surrounded by a ferocious band of ruffians, who were every moment getting more excited and furious; I confess for myself, I feel that I should have been much more comfortable snugly nestling in my hammock.

"Watch your chance to dash through, and spring down the hatch," said Meadows, in a low whisper.

"I am ready to follow your motions," I replied in the same tone.

At that moment, one of the Greeks immediately in front of us slunk behind his next companion, leaving a small break in the circle. Quick as thought, Meadows sprang through, overtaking another in his impetuosity, and followed close upon him. But what was our dismay at finding the trap door closed down.

We instantly gained the twilight wall of the building, and placing our backs firmly against it, waited the issue. A ferocious howl of mingled surprise and rage succeeded.

"There is no help for it," said Meadows, still perfectly cool; "let us sell ourselves dearly." A sudden and simultaneous rush interrupted him, and at the same moment we were both down and unarmed, my dirk being knocked out of my hand, to the middle of the apartment. A powerful Greek held me down, his knee was upon my breast, his eyes gleamed into mine with insane fury; a knife, clashing in one hand, while with the other he violently tore the stock from my neck. Closing my eyes with a shudder and an involuntary prayer, I expected the next moment to feel its keen edge across my windpipe, and the moment after to wake in another world.

A tumult and rattling of arms below, made the murder pause. The trap door was suddenly forced off, and a yelling shout arose, followed by a host of armed men, and cries of fright and astonishment from the ruffians above, and in another instant swords were clashing, blood was flowing, and the Greeks wildly flying in all directions for escape. Had I not been too bewildered with the scene, and overcome with my unlooked for reprieve from death, I should have admired its melodramatic effect.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM LATE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PAPERS.

**LABOUR TO MAKE A WATCH.**—Mr. Dent, in a lecture delivered before the London Royal Institute, made an allusion to the formation of a watch, and stated that it consists of nine hundred and ninety-two pieces; and that forty-three trades, and probably two hundred and fifteen persons, are employed in making one of these little machines. The iron of which the balance-spring is formed, is valued at something less than a farthing; this produces an ounce of steel, worth four and a half-pence, which is drawn into two thousand two hundred and fifty yards of steel wire, and represents in the market, thirteen pounds and three shillings; but still another process of hardening this originally farthing's worth of iron, renders it workable into seven thousand six hundred and fifty balance-springs, which will realize at the common price of two shillings and six-pence each, nine hundred and forty-six pounds and five shillings, or four thousand five hundred and fifty-two dollars, which is seventy-five thousand six hundred and eighty times its original value.

A NEW FEATURE.—Grimaldi was once hissed at Sadler's Wells, after singing his celebrated comic song of "Tippity-witchet," and he appealed to the audience. "He had nodded," he said, "frowned, winked, sneezed, choked, gaped, cried, grinned, grimaced, and hiccupped; he had done all that could be

done by brow, chin, cheeks, eyes, nose, and mouth, and what more did they want?" "Why, we want," yawned a languid voice from the pit, "we want a new feature!"

The statue of Lord Byron, by the eminent Danish sculptor, Thorwaldsen, has been denied admission into Westminster Abbey by the Dean of Winchester. The plea for refusal is the infidelity of his lordship's writings and the immorality of his life.

The office of writing on a newspaper, with a view to defraud the Post Office, is a misdemeanour, and may be punished by imprisonment and hard labour.

A new mode of slinging the knapsack is approved at the Horse Guards, and will be in orders the next supply.

The united services of nine men of the 79th Highlanders, who were lately discharged at Chatham, amounted to 298 years. They were all at the battle of Waterloo. This Regiment has at present only two officers and five men who had the honor of sharing the glories of that field.

We understand the Secretary at War will early next session, bring in a bill by which the British Militia are to be rendered an efficient force, and a complete nursery for the regular army, as well as a rural police, and that all recruiting parties at present employed are to be called in, which will add nearly five thousand men and officers to the present strength of the army.

The sugar manufacture from beet-root in France is stated to amount annually to 55,000 tons, or one-half of the entire consumption of the kingdom.

A pension has been granted to Mrs. James, the needy widow of the author of the "Naval History of Great Britain," and other works.—This is an act worthy the benevolence of the Crown.

Her Majesty Queen Adelaide on Monday visited the tomb beneath St. George's Chapel where repose the remains of William the Fourth. Her Majesty is daily expected at Marlborough House, preparatory to her departure for Malta.

The expedition of discovery to the North-West coast of Australia is a complete failure. Messrs. Gray and Lushington, who sailed from the Cape in October last with the design of penetrating into the north-west coast of New Holland into the interior, in a letter dated Cape Town, June 30, simply announce the failure of the expedition, and their intention of returning as soon as they can procure a passage homewards.—The hostility of the natives was the great impediment.

The crop of potatoes was never known to be so abundant as it is this year, in proof of which one person in Wiltshire last week actually gathered 184 from two roots.

Now that the Birmingham railway is completed, an individual may breakfast in London, dine in Birmingham, transact business and sup in the metropolis, in the course of the same day.

Few men in Congress can bring an argument to a point sooner than Dr. Duncan.—Penn. Examiner.

Few can sooner bring a gallon of whiskey to a pint.—Louisville Journal.

**LADIES IN DEMAND.**—They think they can do well in Iowa if they can get one lady to a cotillion. At a recent ball, given at a town called "Blue Ruin," (what's in a name?) there were fifty gentlemen present and six ladies. A punster at our side suggests that the name of the territory should be changed from Iowa (I-owe-her) to Ineida (I-need-her).—Bad.

"La Verité" is the title of a new daily journal in the French language, published at New York, by Messrs. Bethune & Grandjean.

**MOSCHETORES.**—The *Picayune* says that the moschetores thereabouts go in such dense droves, that if you run your fist into a crowd of them, the hole remains for more than a minute. That will do.

## LOWER CANADA.

From the Montreal Herald of Thursday last.

There are some grumblers who make it a rule never to be satisfied, and who, if all they want were given to them, would invent new subjects for grumbling about. This is peculiarly the case at present with the Volunteers of last year, who think that a good suit of winter clothes and half a dollar for a drill of a couple of hours one day in the week, is not enough to induce them to attend regularly. Last year they got nothing and drilled three times a week, enduring every hardship with pleasure, and anxious only for an opportunity to show their courage, their loyalty and

their discipline, but now, a great many say that they will not turn out except in case of an emergency, but should their services be necessary, and any fighting offered, they will shoulder muskets at once. This is not the language which ought to be used at the present period, when Sir John Colborne, whose means of information are most ample, has declared that the present danger is far greater than that of last winter, and he is consequently anxious to know how many men he can confidently depend on in case of need, but we would ask, how can he know the number except by the enlistment and the attendance at drill, and how can men be efficient soldiers who are ignorant of military discipline. All that was learned last winter will be forgotten, and if we are required to fight without more drilling, we should cut a pretty figure before an enemy.—It is true that a feeling of dissatisfaction exists regarding the apparent neglect of the Government, and the hopes of pay for last year not having been realized, but we ought to forget the past, for we know very well that it is not the fault of Sir John Colborne, but of that shabby, contemptible, truckling ministry, which at present misgoverns the British Empire. Every man ought so to act and feel as if the defence of the country depended on his own exertions, and we hope to hear no more grumblings and growlings of men against their officers when they themselves elected, and of officers against their superiors. Besides, it is an infringement of military discipline, tending to retard the improvement of a regiment, and ought to be discontinued, especially by officers, who must be aware that the effectiveness of a corps depends much more on its obedience to orders than on its physical force. With "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull together," we may laugh to scorn the insidious threats of foreigners and traitors, but if once the seeds of dissension are sown, or the spirit of dissatisfaction nurtured, among ourselves, we will become an easy prey to our persevering, cunning, and heartless enemies. In the words of the good old song, "let each aid the other," in strengthening the hands of Sir John Colborne at this critical juncture, and then, in the words of the same song, we will be prepared "to fight and to conquer again and again. Let every man enroll himself under his captain of last year, or choose any other under whom he would prefer serving, but let every man join some company or other, and not only join, but be regular in his drills. There were some people, possessed of considerable property too, who hung fire, as it is called, last year, singly toasting their toes at a bright fire, while their less prudent, but more loyal, fellow subjects, were doing the duty of soldiers both day and night, and who were getting their property protected without assisting to protect that of their neighbours. We will keep our eye on all such this year, that's certain.

## THE TRANSCRIPT.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 3RD NOV. 1838.

LATEST DATES.			
From London,	Sep. 27	From New York,	Oct. 27
From Edinburgh,	Sep. 28	From Halifax,	Oct. 22
From Paris,	Sep. 22	From Toronto,	Oct. 22

New York papers of Monday last are without any news of importance. The packet ship *Virginian*, Ist. ult. from Liverpool, was announced as being at hand.

It is stated that Captain Whitney, of the steamer Great Britain, has informed the proprietors of steamers in Upper Canada, that in consequence of private meetings being held at Oswego, in favour of the rebels, it will not be prudent for them to allow their vessels to land at that port. The Niagara Chronicle states, that a gentleman had passed through that place the other day on his way to Toronto for the purpose of laying before the Lieut.-Governor certain documents illustrative of the present position and future plans of the "patriots and sympathisers." It appears that a "patriotic" joint stock bank has been formed in shares of fifty dollars each, for the purpose of raising the ways and means to sustain their military operations. Enlistment and organization are still continued on a large scale, and simultaneous attacks are intended to be made at different points of the frontier. The signal for the commencement of these attacks was to be given by Bill Johnson and his comrades seizing the steam-boat Great Britain; but as that boat is now laid up for the winter, some other signal will be necessary.

A General Order has been issued from the office of the Adjutant General of Militia in Upper Canada, announcing that His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, has received certain information that an extensive conspiracy has been formed by numerous unprincipled and rapacious inhabitants of the neighbouring friendly States, with a view to force that Province the dominion of the said conspirators, and to visit the loyal inhabitants with lawless war, plunder, and devastation; and that it is His Excellency's intention forthwith to issue orders calling out a portion of the Militia of the Province.

## DEPARTURE OF THE EARL OF DURHAM.

Thursday last, being the day appointed for the embarkation of the Earl of Durham, on his return to England, the St. George's and Caledonian Societies, agreeably to previous arrangements, met at the Albion Hotel at one o'clock, and proceeded to the residence of the Governor General, with the splendid banners of their respective Societies, and headed by the band of the Quebec Royal Volunteer Artillery, playing appropriate airs. Immediately afterwards, Lieutenant General Sir John Colborne, Commander of the Forces, with the Heads of the different Departments, and a brilliant staff arrived. At two o'clock His Excellency the Earl of Durham, the Countess of Durham, family and suite left the Bishop's Palace in their carriages. In the carriage with His Lordship were Lieut. General Sir John Colborne, Major General Sir James Macdonald, and Charles Buller, Esq. His Excellency's Chief Secretary. Guards of Honor were stationed opposite His Lordship's residence and on the Queen's wharf, and the streets were lined by the Brigade of Guards. His Excellency was cordially cheered on his way down, but the contentions of the assembled thousands showed how deeply they grieved his early departure. The usual salute was fired from the Citadel on the barge with the Noble Earl leaving the wharf, and returned from the *Inconstant* on His Excellency getting on board. The members of the St. George's Society then proceeded in procession to the steamer *Canada*, which they had engaged for the purpose of escorting His Lordship a short distance down the river, and on reaching the *Inconstant* they gave His Excellency three hearty cheers. His Lordship came forward to the gang-way and bowed repeatedly. On the ship getting under-way signals were hoisted at the mizen top-mast, and Sir John Colborne was sworn in as Administrator of the Government, which was announced by a salute from the Citadel. The wind was light at west, and the *Canada* took the *Inconstant* in tow, and was joined shortly after by the *Islanders Merchant*. About an hour after starting it was discovered that one of the rooms of the ship was on fire, occasioned by the negligence of one of His Excellency's servants, who was stowing away the baggage, and had dropped a lighted taper. The fire was fortunately got under in a few minutes by the prompt exertions of the officers and men on board, without doing much damage. On arriving at Patrick's Hole the *Inconstant* was cast off by the steamers, and she immediately came to anchor, the wind having veered round to east. Previous to leaving the frigate, the steamers went round her stern, when those on board gave His Excellency a farewell cheer in the most enthusiastic manner, the band playing "God save the Queen," "Rule Britannia," "Auld Lang Syne," and "Hearts of Oak." Lieut. Balfour, of the *Inconstant*, came on board the *Canada* with a message from the Governor General to the President of the St. George's Society, conveying the high sense which His Excellency entertained of the honour done him, and to inform those on board that the lateness of the hour alone prevented His Excellency from coming in person and returning his heartfelt thanks. Mr. Kemble, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, in the absence of the President, made a suitable reply, and proposed as a toast "Captain Pring and the officers of the *Inconstant*," which was drunk with three times three. Lieut. Balfour returned thanks, and proposed "the Citizens of Quebec." He then returned to the frigate, and the steamers bore up for the port, and arrived at half-past seven o'clock.

The St. George's Society had provided an elegant collation on board the *Canada*, and after the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair, and drank with all the honours. On the health of the Governor General being proposed, the cheering was most deafening and enthusiastic, and lasted for several minutes. In the course