

not until she had completely exhausted herself by her screams, and had sunk into a sort of torpor, interrupted only by low moans, that she could be taken from the fatal spot. A coroner's inquest sat in the vestry, and a sad tale of female levity, and of the weakness and libertinism of man came out. But the subject is too painful to dwell upon, and I gladly turn to pleasanter recollections.

We had a very fine party shortly afterwards, who arrived in two or three carriages. The bride was young and fair, but she held her head down, and seemed greatly agitated. It was very easy to perceive that her heart had not been consulted in the choice of a husband. The father, a tall, heavy-browed man, cast severe and threatening glances upon his trembling daughter; but the mother, though she seemed equally bent upon the match, interceded for a little cessation of hostilities, and when the shrieking girl asked to be allowed to walk for a moment with one friend in the church, in order to collect her scattered thoughts, leave was granted. As she passed out of the door she dropped her white satin reticule, and it clanked heavily against the steps—a sound not at all like that of a smelling bottle, and I must confess that my curiosity was strongly excited. I endeavoured to pick it up—but it before I could bend my arm, which is a little stiff with the rheumatism, she had whipped it off the ground, and down the aisle she went, leaning upon her companion's arm. This aisle is long and rather dark, terminating in a heavy oaken screen, which conceals the green baize door leading to the front parlor. She passed behind this screen and was seen no more. I thought it very odd, but it was not my place to speak, so I returned into the vestry room that I might not be questioned. Presently the bridegroom arrived, and an ill-favoured gentleman he was, with a fretful discontented countenance, and he began complaining of having been detained at home by some fool's message. After he had grumbled for a few minutes, the bride was called for—she was not to be found. The father stormed. "Is this a time," he exclaimed, "to play such childish tricks! she has hidden herself in some corner!" and away we all hastened in search of her. The church doors were all shut and locked, but as I passed up the gallery stairs I observed the bolts were withdrawn from that which led from the side aisle. I did not, however, feel compelled to publish this discovery, although I shrewdly suspected that the reticule which rung so loudly as it fell, contained a key; and so it proved. Some time was wasted in examining the organ loft, and indeed in every place in which a mouse might have been concealed. At last somebody hit upon the truth, and a little enquiry placed the elopement beyond a doubt. We learned that a carriage had been in waiting at a corner of the street opposite the church, and that a gentleman had been seen loitering under the portico, who, the instant that two ladies popped out, conducted them to his equipage, which moved leisurely away, while we were engaged in our unsuccessful search. Upon strict examination it came out that a pew opener had furnished the means of obtaining a false key. It would be impossible to describe the rage and dismay of the disappointed parties; the mother went off in hysterics, the bridegroom looked sorer than ever, the father raved and swore bitterly; and the clergyman, after vainly attempting to pacify him, read him a lecture upon his intemperate conduct. All those who were not related to the parties slunk quietly away, perhaps to have their laugh out; and I take shame to myself to say, that I could not help enjoying the scene so thoroughly unamiable did those persons appear with whom the fair bride was unfortunately connected. I was anxious about the young couple, and heard with great pleasure that they got safe to Scotland.

THE DRY ROT.

Dry rot is a most destructive and infectious disease in timber, by which its substance is gradually decayed and reduced to a state of powder, so that, all strength of the material being gone, the most fatal consequences, both as regards ships and houses ensue. The cause of this alarming decay in timber has been the subject of much investigation; but on the whole, little is generally known regarding either its origin or progress. It is most insidious in its advances, for the process of decomposition is often rapidly going on while the surface of the planks remains whole and unchanged. According to the best authorities on the subject, dry-rot appears to be commonly the result of improper seasoning, or of the natural juices of the tree not being thoroughly dried up by free exposure to currents of the atmosphere. It also arises from the timber being placed in contact with something damp by which the rot is propagated from plank to plank, as if by infection.

The following is the account given of the origin and nature of this disease in timber, by Mr Charles Waterton, in the Architectural Magazine for August.

"Dry rot is a misnomer. This disease in timber ought to be designated a decomposi-

tion of wood by its own internal juices, which have become vitiated for the want of a free circulation of air. If you rear a piece of timber, newly cut down, in an upright position in the open air, it will last for ages.—Put another piece of the same tree into a ship or into a house, where there is no access to the fresh air, and ere long it will be decomposed. But should you have painted the piece of wood which you placed in an upright position, it will not last long; because the paint having stopped up its pores, the incarcerated juices have become vitiated and have caused the wood to rot. Nine times in ten, wood is painted too soon. The upright unpainted posts in the houses of our ancestors, though exposed to the heats of summer, and the blasts of winter have lasted for centuries; because the pores of the wood were not closed by any external application of tar or paint, and thus the juices had an opportunity of drying up gradually.

In 1827, on making some alterations in a passage, I put down, and painted a new plinth, made of the best, and apparently well-seasoned, foreign deal. The stone wall was faced with wood and laths; and the plaster was so well worked to the plinth, that it might be said to have been air tight. In about four months a yellow fungus was perceived to ooze out betwixt the bottom of the plinth and the laths; and on taking up the plinth, both it and the laths, and the ends of the upright pieces of wood to which the laths had been nailed, were found in as complete a state of decomposition as though they had been buried in a hotbed. Part of these materials exhibited the appearance of what is usually called dry-rot, and part was still moist, with fungus on it, sending forth a very disagreeable odour. A new plinth was immediately put down, and holes, one and a half inches in diameter, at every yard was bored through it. This admitted a free circulation of air; and to this day the wood is as sound and good as the day on which it was first put down. The same year, I reared up, in the end of a neglected and notoriously damp barn, a lot of newly felled larch poles; and I placed another lot of larch poles against the wall on the outside of the same barn. These are now good and well seasoned; those within became tainted, the first year, by what is called dry-rot, and were used for fire-wood.

If, then, you admit a free circulation of air to the timber which is used in a house (no difficult matter) and abstain from painting that timber till it be perfectly seasoned, you will never suffer from what is called dry-rot. And if the naval architect, by means of air holes in the gunwale of a vessel, which might be closed in bad weather, could admit a free circulation of air to the timbers, and if he would also abstain from painting, or doing with turpentine, &c., the outer parts of the vessel, till the wood had become sufficiently seasoned, he would not have to complain of dry-rot. I am of opinion, that if a vessel were to make three or four voyages before it was painted or done with turpentine, &c., its outer wood would suffer much less from the influence of the weather, than it usually suffers from its own internal juices, which cannot get vent on account of artificial applications to the pores. But still the timber would be subject to the depredation of the insect. To prevent this effectually, Mr Kyan's process must absolutely be adopted; and it must be adopted to secure wood from what is called dry-rot, in places where a free circulation of air cannot be introduced. I consider Mr Kyan's process perfectly unexceptionable. The long arrows which the Indians use in Guiana are very subject to be eaten by the worm. In 1812, I applied the solution of corrosive sublimate to a large quantity of these arrows. At this hour they are perfectly sound and show no appearance that the worm has ever tried to feed upon them.

HALIFAX, Nov. 2.

LATE FROM SPAIN.—We have been favoured with a Boston paper of the 27th instant, received by the Brig Cordelia, from which we extract the following later advices from Spain:—

DEFEAT OF DON CARLOS.—We learn from New York, that the ship Empress, at that port, from Malaga 29th September, reports that a despatch was received at Malaga, the day previous from Madrid, announcing the complete defeat of the Carlist army, consisting of 14,000 men, under the command of General Gomez, by the Queen's General Alaix, with the loss of several hundred killed, and 3000 prisoners. The engagement took place on the 21st September, but the name of the place is not given.

The news was confirmed by an extra courier from Madrid, who arrived a few hours before the Empress sailed. There were great rejoicings at Malaga on account of the victory.

PORTO RICO.—By an arrival at New York information has been received, stating that the Spanish Constitution of 1812 was declared throughout the Island. Its adoption had created general joy, and was regarded as an auspicious event by a great majority

of the Islanders. A different feeling may prevail in a few weeks. All political changes are subjects at the onset for rejoicing. Time alone can test them.

A gentleman informs us that on the 21st October, there were upwards of 60 American vessels waiting for cargoes of coals in the different harbours of Cape Breton.

On Thursday, the 6th instant, there was good sleighing at Cayuga Lake. The first frost that killed the vines was on the 28th and 31st August.

Last Monday morning, from eight to eleven o'clock, this city was visited by myriads of insects, being a very small kind of fly.—They were very troublesome to persons passing along the streets, by settling in great numbers on their clothes, and annoying them in the face. The air was very close during this phenomenon. A similar phenomenon was witnessed in our city at different periods of the following day. We observe that Bradford has been similarly visited for some days last week.—York Courier, October 7.

Either on Monday or Tuesday, large swarms of midges or minute winged insects, were met with in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, and we are informed all along the road from Liverpool to Wigan.—Ed. Liv. Mercury, Oct. 7.

The following is an extract from a letter dated,

ST. JOHN, (N. B.) Oct. 29.

"I am sorry to acquaint you of the loss of the Royal Tiger. Captain Reed arrived this morning. On the passage between this Port and Portland, the steam was not sufficient to propel the boat. Captain Reed thought it advisable to come to anchor on the Isle of Holt, in order to have the boiler washed out; which having been done, they proceeded on their voyage, when in a few minutes a fire was discovered near the boiler. The number of passengers was 70, 32 of whom perished. The confusion was very great, owing to the deck being occupied by the animals belonging to the menagerie lately at Halifax. The elephant was the only one saved, as he, after being somewhat burnt, swam to the shore. All this happened within four miles of the land, on Tuesday the 25th inst., on which day the weather was excessively boisterous."

THE STAR.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 1833.

The Grand Jury having been again summoned on Monday last, to attend the Northern Circuit Court held in this Town, the hon. Judge BRENTON delivered the following address:—

Mr Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury:—

Having been under the necessity of again assembling you, there will be submitted for your consideration the circumstances of an affray alleged to have taken place on the Carbonar road on Tuesday week last, between some persons returning from the election at Harbor Grace;—the Solicitor Gen. is prepared to lay before you an Indictment charging one or more of these parties with a breach of the peace. If, after a due consideration of the facts which will be in evidence before you, you shall come to the conclusion that the public peace has been broken in a way to make it desirable that the violators of it should be put upon their trial, you will of course find a true bill against them. On the other hand, should you be of opinion that no serious breach of the peace was intended, and that for any injury which the party complaining has received he can obtain full redress by a civil action, you may use your discretion in leaving him, if you so think proper, to that remedy, and return the bill against him not found.

Although, Gentlemen, there is no other case to which I have now to call your attention, as one likely to come before you during the present Session, it would, indeed, be a great dereliction of duty on my part, were I to omit noticing the extraordinary events of the late election, and which must become the subject of future

investigation, before this or some other Court of this Island. The depositions that have been led before me, I deeply regret to say afford abundant proof of flagrant breaches of the peace at the period of that election, when the public peace was greatly endangered—the lives of many of His Majesty's peaceable and unoffending subjects placed in serious jeopardy, and the whole Community thrown into a state of terror and alarm, from which it has hardly yet recovered. The excitement produced by a contested election not unfrequently leads to scenes of violence and disorder which, (being unpremeditated and arising from some sudden provocation,) the actors in them after they are over, seldom fail to regret and deplore; but with every allowance for the angry feelings thus raised by the rivalry of contending parties, and for the excesses occasioned by them, I am persuaded, that in no other part of His Majesty's widely extended dominions would such savage acts of wanton barbarity—such open breaches of the public peace, and so daring a violation of the Law have occurred, as characterized the proceedings of the late election.

From information, the truth of which I cannot doubt, (for it is under oath,) I have reason to believe that this community must have been for three days at the mercy of an infuriate mob whose domination was complete, and whose reign of terror has scarcely yet subsided. Can the deluded and misguided men who were so actively engaged in their disgraceful outrages; can those who encouraged, arrayed, and marshalled them for the occasion; or, can those who had it in their power, by their influence over them to restrain them, can they be ignorant of the consequences which must inevitably result from such lawless acts, or from the unhappily, it should still continue? I have been told, but I am unwilling to credit it; that, so great is the dismay and apprehension still prevailing amongst all classes here, that many of those who were so cruelly and shamefully ill used on Tuesday last, are afraid to come forward and point out the authors of the injuries they have received, (although well known to them,) lest they should suffer farther violence from the vengeance of those they might accuse; but for their encouragement, I will undertake to assure them, that these fears are altogether groundless: the arm of the Law is sufficiently strong, and, is already uplifted to protect them.—It can, and most assuredly will reach those daring disturbers of the public tranquility who relying upon their numbers and fancied strength, and the terror they have inspired, vainly hope to escape the punishment which awaits, and will, ere long, overtake them. It is in order to set before you, Gentlemen, your indispensable duty of aiding in thus maintaining the supremacy of the Law and vindicating its insulted authority; objects, so essential for the preservation of your lives and properties, that I am now addressing you upon this all important subject.

From the depositions which have already been taken before the Magistrates, some of those considered as the ringleaders in the revolting scenes of Tuesday week last, have been so clearly identified, that warrants will be immediately issued for their apprehension, in order that they may be bound over to appear before this or some other Court of this Island, to take their trial for the offences charged against them. It has been said,

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