

# DEATH OF THE REV. DR. COOKE OF BELFAST.

The Rev. Dr. Cooke, the great Presbyterian Divine and Conservative leader, died on Sunday—as we learn from the *Northern Whig*—at the patriarchal age of 83 years. He was one of the ablest and most popular men in the Presbyterian Church, and up to the last hour of his life exercised great personal influence. At one period he was a formidable political power in Ulster. He was an eloquent and impressive speaker when in the full enjoyment of his faculties, and vindicated his principles with indomitable resolution. The Established Church has lost in him a generous ally, who, under all circumstances, made common cause with her, and by his unremitting efforts mitigated the jealousies with which his brother ministers were disposed to regard a dominant Church, and promoted a cordial sympathy on the part of the laity. He took a prominent part in some of the most remarkable demonstrations on behalf of the Church Establishment, and at the great Hillsborough meeting, in 1834, he was one of the principal speakers. At the Hillsborough meeting last year he was induced to come forward, but was the merest shadow of his former self, the fire of his oratory having burnt out, and the once erect and dignified form presenting a lamentable wreck. He seemed but a living mummy, and yet he hesitated not to attend, in order, with his last public breath to renew the profession of his early attachment to the Conservative cause. His benevolent and kindly disposition disarmed the hostility of many who strongly disapproved his political views, and won many personal friends. He was born in Londonderry, in 1784, and was educated at Glasgow. The University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of LL. D., in acknowledgment of his talents. He also had the degree of D. D. from an American college. He held a high position in the Belfast theological institution, and was the officer appointed by the Government to distribute the *Regium Dignum*.

## MRS. AUGUSTUS DICKENS.

### Facts Connected with Her Life.

Mr. Horace White, editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, who is now in New York, writes as follows to the *World*:

"I notice in your issue of this date a statement that Mrs. Augustus Dickens, who committed suicide in Chicago on Christmas eve, was not the widow of the deceased brother of Charles Dickens, but that the real Mrs. Augustus Dickens is living in London, and is supported by her brother-in-law, the eminent novelist. There are, I believe, three little children of the late Augustus Dickens living in Chicago, who now, in addition to their other misfortunes, are deprived of the loving care of their mother. The circumstance deterred me from telling what I knew, when my eye fell upon the telegram announcing the death of Mrs. Dickens. Since the essential facts in the case have become public without any agency of mine, I shall attempt to do justice to the living without disrespect to the dead, by giving you so much of the history of this case as has been communicated to me.

"Mr. Augustus Dickens was a brilliant scapegrace who abandoned his own wife in England and ran away to America with Miss Bertha Phillips, the daughter of an insurance agent in London—a young lady of many attractions and accomplishments. I have heard that after arriving at an interior town in Illinois, and having resided there a sufficient length of time, he procured a divorce from his wife and married Miss Phillips, but of this I have no personal knowledge. It is certain that she was thenceforward treated by her own parents as Mrs. Dickens, and that she received a small bequest in her father's will as 'Mrs. Bertha Phillips Dickens.' Nevertheless, the former Mrs. Dickens lives, and still lives, in London. She is now afflicted with blindness, and is supported by Charles Dickens.

"When Mr. Dickens visited this country last year, and received a large sum of money from his readings, a portion of which he bestowed in charity upon strangers, the press of Chicago, including the journal with which I am connected, commented upon the fact that he had done nothing for those who had the most obvious claims upon him, and of whose necessities he could not be ignorant. The Eastern press attributed these remarks to spite, because Mr. Dickens had not included Chicago in the list of cities in which he was to give his readings. I am sure there was no such feeling as this evoked at any time—certainly not in my own case. There was, however, an important misapprehension of facts. It is easy now to see why Mr. Dickens could not visit Chicago. If he had done so he must either recognize Mrs. Bertha Phillips Dickens, to the injury of the other Mrs. Dickens, or by his refusal to do so expose her to contumely. It is easy to see also why he contributed nothing to her support. A glimmering of the truth was given to the public in the London correspondence of the *Daily Advertiser*, but without the knowledge or privity of Mr. Dickens.

"These facts came to my knowledge through the kindness of a literary friend in London, a few days before Mr. Dickens's departure from this country. Much as I desired to repair the injury that had been done him, it was clearly impossible to do so without inflicting the greatest harm upon Mrs. Dickens. I understand that Charles Dickens has always been solicitous that the lady in question should receive no other injury from his family than she had already received; that he wished her well, and that he was willing to do, or to forbear doing, anything not inconsistent with his duties to the more afflicted wo-

man whom his brother Augustus had left in England.

"It only remains to add that Mrs. Bertha Phillips Dickens (whom I never saw) bore an unblemished reputation at Chicago. Upon the decease of her husband she was left destitute, with three infant children to support and educate. She was faithful to those whom God committed to her care. Her noble struggle with poverty was alleviated in a great degree by the kind-hearted gentlemen of the land department of the Illinois Central Railway, of which Mr. Augustus Dickens had been an employee; and it is safe to assume that her deaf children will not come to want. It appears to me that Mrs. Dickens died of a broken heart, and that no contributions of money from Charles Dickens, or the people of Chicago, could have healed her wound."

—The following is an extract from a pastoral letter of Dr. Cox, Protestant Bishop of Western New York: "When I see the tawdry fashion, the costly vulgarity and the wicked extravagance of the times, I feel sure that thousands of American women are strangers to the first laws of refinement, simplicity in manners and attire. When I see that thousands of American women read the most shameful romances and the most degrading newspapers; frequent the vilest dramatic entertainments and join in dances too shocking to be named among Christians; I feel that Christian matrons are becoming too few, and that civilized heathenism is returning to the fields we have wrested from the Indians. When I read daily, of the most ungodly divorces, and of crimes against social purity and against human life itself, which are too gross to be mentioned more particularly, I feel that too many of our country women are without God in the world, and that radical reforms are necessary in the system of education on which the young women of America are dependent for their training."

CAVALRY SCHOOL.—We understand that an independent Cavalry School has been formed by a few of our Volunteer officers, wishing to perfect themselves in this branch of the service. They purpose drilling on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and will muster at the Victoria Armory for their first foot drill to-day at three o'clock. An opportunity will then be given any member of the Volunteer force who may wish to join. This school will afford our mounted infantry and staff officers a favourable chance to perfect themselves in riding, and we have no doubt many will take advantage of it. The rules and regulations will be made known by the officer in command, at their first meeting.—*Montreal Gazette*, 4th.

NEW SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—The new Suspension Bridge, which spans the Niagara River, a short distance below the Niagara Falls, was open to the public on Saturday the 2nd inst. Four horse carriages and teams loaded with stone passed over it. In the completion of this work much interest was felt in this locality. The bridge is suspended at a height of 190 feet above the surface of the river; the depth of the anchor piles below the surface of the ground is 18 feet; and the length of the anchor chains under the ground is 30 feet. The anchors are set in solid rock on the Canadian side, and in masonry on the American side. The width of the roadway between the parapets is ten feet; depth of side truss 6½ feet; and height of parapet above floor 4½ feet. The bridge is supported by two cables, composed of seven wire ropes, each of which contain respectively 133 No. 9 wires. The aggregate breaking strain of the cables being 1,680 tons net—making the total supporting strength of the cables and stays 3,000 tons. It is the longest span in the world—1,268 feet.

—The seat in the French Legislative Chamber, rendered vacant by the death of Berryer, has been offered to M. de Lesseps, the founder and president of the Isthmus of Suez Canal Company. M. Lesseps has, however, declined the offer, on the same ground that he declined, four years ago, being elected to the Council General of the Indre, namely, the necessity of devoting all his time and energy to the completion of the great work in which he has been so long engaged. If elected deputy for Marseilles, he must neglect either the interests of his constituents or those of the company, and for the present the latter has his preference.

—A bookseller in a Connecticut town has a novel way of advertising. Last week he had a ballot box in his store, in which all comers were invited to drop a vote for whoever they considered the handsomest young woman in town. The box was opened on Saturday evening, and it was found that Miss Julia Beach had the highest number of votes, when she was presented by the bookseller with a handsome quarto album, bound in Turkey morocco. This week a vote is taken to decide what gentleman over thirty years of age, is the best citizen, and the lucky man receiving the highest number of votes will receive a like present.

—It appears that Mr. G. F. Train, before starting for America, left a little bill for England to settle. Mr. Train claims £100,000 from the Irish Government for illegal arrests, £20,000 damages from the Ebbow Vale Company, and £10,000 from Mr. J. McHenry. He has further served a notice on the corporations proposing to lay down street railways, that as the original patentee he stands up for all his rights. Although extremely ill-used formerly by England, he only asks a royalty of £500 for every mile of street railway laid down; this, on 2,000 miles, would bring him a million sterling, which, in addition to his other claims, and a million set down against the Grand Trunk Union Pacific Railway, the *Pall Mall Gazette* hopes he will make his mind easy as far as money matters are concerned.

## A SISTER OF ONE OF THE RENO VICTIMS ON THE WARPATH.

From the Chicago Post, Dec. 26.

Miss Laura Reno, the sister of the victims of the New Albany assassination, who was in the city yesterday, is described by those well acquainted with her as a young lady of great beauty and accomplishments. It is also said that she possesses a large part of the brains of the family, which, added to an inflexible will and an intense desire for revenge, will sooner or later bring ruin or death upon some of the murderers of her brothers. At their funeral at Seymour, a few days ago, the attendance was quite large, and among other persons a resident of Seymour, whose name we have forgotten, dropped in. He had scarcely made his appearance before Miss Reno rose from her seat, and walking across the room fiercely told him that was no place for him, that she recognised in him one of the murderers of her brother, and if he did not leave immediately it would be the worse for him. The fellow slunk out of the house like a whipped cur, frightened almost to death. Unless a great mistake has been made in the estimation of Laura Reno's character, the Jackson county regulators will find that the oath of revenge she took over the dead body of Frank Reno was no mere empty threat to be forgotten in an hour, but a promise of terrible meaning.

—Major General Hope Gibbons succeeds to the Colonelcy of the 13th Hussars.

—Alaska cost the United States nearly two cents an acre.

—A British naval officer is to be appointed Superintendent of the Persian navy.

—An apostle of Mormonism in Denmark writes to Brigham Young that there are five thousand members of the Mormon Church in that country.

—In consequence of the prodigious forgeries of Russian bank notes, the authorities have determined to make every bank official personally responsible for every false note he may have taken from customers.

—An Ohio gentleman is ambitious to furnish the towns and cities of America with motive power, obtained from compressed air. He proposes to distribute his power through ordinary service pipes, as gas and water are distributed, with a meter for each consumer.

AN ANCIENT SLEIGH.—On the 17th ult., an old couple celebrated their golden wedding, at Augusta, Me., and one of the incidents of the occasion was the appearance of the aged pair in the identical sleigh, that they had done their courting in fifty years before!

—A benevolent citizen of Brunswick, Germany, supplies blankets to the poor during the winter months. They are stamped to prevent their being pawned or sold, and are returned in May of every year. The system has been in operation six years, and not a blanket has been lost.

—It has been distinctly and officially notified to Queen Isabella that she cannot be received at the French Court with royal honours. If she chooses to reside in Paris, her ex-Majesty must understand she can only do so as Madame Isabella de Bourbon, and in fact be considered a private individual.

—The Russian method of serving tea is finding favour in some circles of "upper tenor." The tea is made in the ordinary way, but is drunk out of large tumblers, without cream or sugar, and with a slice of lemon in it. It may be taken hot or cold, but the latter is generally preferred.

—A noted Chinese bandit and black-mailer, Liushan-man, has been captured in Shanghai. He will be punished by being put into a box of such a shape that he can neither lie down, sit, nor stand; his head and hands will protrude, and he will be left exposed to sun, wind and rain, until he dies of exhaustion or starvation.

—A school teacher near Chattanooga, Tenn., was assaulted some days ago for having whipped one of his pupils, and in the affray that ensued four persons, including the school teacher, were killed, the only person in the party who escaped unhurt being the school-boy who originated the trouble.

—Ten years ago Jacques Carstadt murdered a handsome Italian girl in New Orleans. By a legal quibble he escaped punishment. A few days ago he died raving mad at the phantom of a fleshless skeleton, which he had seen always at his side by day, or on his pillow at night.

—Tennyson recently visited Paris, where he was received by a Committee of the Association of French Authors. On the evening of the second day after his arrival the Authors' Association gave a soiree in his honour, at which Paul Féval read his new translation of "Enoch Arden," and Louis Ratisbonne, the translator of Longfellow's poems, presented a golden laurel wreath to Tennyson.

—An old gentleman was recently waiting for the cars in the depot of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, when, looking over the great building, he exclaimed, "Only think of it! But a little thirty years ago, I was offered eighty acres of land, on part of which this depot is now built, for a sorrel horse and saddle, and I was fool enough to keep the sorrel."

LIGHTHOUSES FOR THE ST. JOHN.—The St. John *Telegraph* says that the matter having been brought under the notice of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, he ordered examination to be made, and that the Lighthouse Inspector, Mr. Harly, has reported in favour of placing beacons at or near Boar's Head, Brandy Point, Oak Point, Vanward's, "No Man's Friend," and at the Oromocto Shoals.

## GLADSTONE'S TRIALS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS.

The *London Examiner* says: After six and thirty years spent in Parliament, Mr. Gladstone has at length achieved the highest honour in the State. He is first Minister of the Crown and leader of the first assembly in the world. Many have been the delays and disappointments; many the thwartings and tantalizations which he has had to bear. It were idle flattery to say that all these trials of his faith and patience have been for his good, or for the good of country. We own that we do not so read the lesson of life. We neither think suffering has always a sublimating tendency, nor that prosperity always hardens the heart. The effect of both depends very much upon temperament and upon the time. Vexation wastes and wears the best energies of life; and the finer edge of the blade, the more readily it is notched and turned. How much sooner Mr. Gladstone would have reached the goal of his ambition had his grandmother been a Duchess, or had he been an eldest son inheriting broad lands and vast investments, like the late Sir Robert Peel, one need not pause to calculate. Sir Robert put himself at as high a mental and moral value as the blindest of his flatterers; and yet he candidly confessed that he could never have gained the leadership of his party but for the rare odds which fortune gave him. With the solitary exception, indeed, of the outgoing Premier, there is no instance in our history, since the revolution, of a man with moderate fortune, and without high connections, attaining, and being able, for even one session, to retain the first post in Parliamentary life; for Canning, the brother-in-law of the Duke of Portland, was hardly a case in point; and he broke his heart in the attempt. But the cup of triumph is now full, even to overflowing. The statesman has seen the desire of his soul realized probably beyond his most sanguine expectations. He is not only the popular idol of the hour, but a greatly extended constituency have given him a majority almost without precedent in order to enable him to carry into legislative effect the promises he has made of a regenerate policy for Ireland.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. C. J. S. BETHUNE.—On New Year's eve the congregation at Trinity Church, Port Credit, presented their pastor, the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, M.A., with a handsome buggy, as a token of their esteem and regard. Trinity Church, which was erected, in a great measure, by the exertions of the Incumbent, is a neat little wooden edifice, built last winter, and opened for divine service on the 20th of February last. Being entirely free from debt, it was consecrated by the Bishop of Toronto last June. Well-attended services are now held in it every Sunday evening. About the beginning of December, when the snow first came, Mr. Bethune was presented by one of his Church Wardens, Mr. John Wilson, Sydenham, with a beautiful cutter, a most seasonable and acceptable present. The offerings on Christmas day, in this mission, amounted to the handsome sum of \$63.45, of which amount the congregation at Springfield contributed \$50.

LIFE IN PARIS.—It is noticed that the Parisians are changing in appearances. They are undersized and pale. They have too little fresh air. A Paris savant, Dr. LeRoy, says that, in spite of the solicitude manifested by the Government toward the hygienic welfare of all classes, in spite of the new plantations, the new boulevards, and open squares, the amount of carbonic acid produced by the pulmonary emanations of two millions of human beings, each of whom daily exhales 219 grammes of oxide of carbon, is something frightful. To this noxious vapour must be added that produced by the gas manufactories, &c., &c. It may be added that the consumption of alcohol has exactly doubled since the year 1825. As to tobacco, in 1832 it produced a tax of 28,000,000fr.; while in 1862 the consumption of tobacco brought into the Government a sum of 180,000,000fr. In 1852, 200,000,000 cigars were smoked in Paris, whereas, in 1867, the number increased to 761,625,000.

—The St. Catharines *Journal* states that the price paid for the mills, warehouses and wharf of Mr. Thomas R. Merritt, Esq., by Messrs. Norris & Neelon was in the vicinity of \$100,000. The purchase makes the firm of N. & N. the most extensive mill owners as they were previously the most extensive ship owners in Ontario. They now own five grist mills, four of which are in operation, four or five propellers and tugs, and about one dozen sailing vessels. The firm, besides being engaged in the shipping and milling business, are also heavy operators in timber and lumber, having hundreds of men and horses employed in different parts of the country in hewing down forests. The rise of this firm has been most extraordinary, and proves that industry and integrity will make their mark in this Canada, as well as elsewhere. Twenty-five years ago both parties were hands before the mast—now in wealth and extent of business they rank second to few in America.

GOLD IN SCOTLAND.—The discovery of gold has been announced in Sutherlandshire, and a scientific examination has shown that this and other precious metals exist in Kildonan. In the sixteenth century bullion for Scotch coinage was found in that neighbourhood, and part of the present Scotch Crown was made from the gold from the same place.

ANNIVERSARY OF EMANCIPATION IN THE U. S.—There was a gathering at Boston on New Year's Day to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the emancipation of the slaves in the United States. The attendance was not great.

—In Louisville the other day, a young man put his hand in his pocket in order to find the key to his store and give it to his partner; when the latter supposed he was feeling for a pistol; drew his own, and shot him dead. A nice country to live in!