

There it met with another than the tailor's family that night hunger bitten; and a starving dog, tempted by the appetizing steam, poked his shaggy head in at the door, and seeing the meat hanging in solitude made a rush at it, and breaking the worsted carried it off in triumph. The noise of this act quickly brought the tailor from his perch, just in time to see the brute running away with his supper. It was not a moment for hesitation, for life and death hung upon prompt and vigorous action. Seizing his crutch therefore, with a wild howl, he rushed after the beast, pursuing him into the depths of the surrounding darkness. Springing along without scarcely touching the ground, the poor fellow followed hard on the track of the thief. In the flickering light flowing forth from the confectioner's window he saw the hungry dog holding on to his prey; and thinking himself to be within reach of the creature he stopped, and taking aim hurled his crutch that he might fell it to the earth. But that night Fate was against the Irishman. His wooden supporter flew forth from his hand, but instead of hitting the dog it went smashing through the confectioner's window, and then glancing off struck the hat of Sir Harry Chillington.

"Och, murther! I'm kilt intirely! Dead, double dead it is that I am. Good people, take me off and bury me decent; for misfortune, as the ghost of my grandmother, follows me everywhere." In this manner shouting, as the effect of taking a false aim came more vividly before his mind, he at length threw himself on the ground, exclaiming, "The baste! the baste! 'Tis the fault of the baste intirely!" The condition of the supperless man quickly obtained for him sympathizers; while the baronet, not waiting to assist the wretched man, having recovered his hat, went off uttering bitter curses.

A few minutes placed him at the door of the house he was seeking, and on entering a tall, dark, cadaverous-looking man, who was sitting smoking a short pipe by an almost empty grate, without rising from his seat, nodded his head in token of recognition.

"Tom," said the baronet unceremoniously, "I require your services to-night."

"You want something, I daresay, or I shouldn't have seen your face."

Without regarding this gruff reply, Sir Harry proceeded, "I wish you to go with me to the Felkstone Arms."

"Something more in your way than mine, I'll wager."

"It may be in your way too. I have laid a wager of fifty guineas, and I wouldn't lose it for double the amount."

"Yes you would."

"I tell you that I would not."

"It would take a good deal to make you forego the chance of getting fifty guineas."

"It would mortify my pride beyond endurance to be beaten at last by a fellow from whom I have been winning all day."

"Bah! your pride, indeed; the pride you possess wouldn't remain long if your pocket could be filled by removing it."

"Wretch! have I not often saved you and yours from starvation?"

"Whew!" replied the dark man, and as he spoke he drew his hand across his throat, then looking at the grate as though talking to the cinders, he continued, "and you might be fitted with a halter did I choose."

On hearing this last sentence Sir Harry adopted a more conciliatory tone. There was a secret between him and the dark man that the world was in ignorance of.

"What is the use of all this talk?" continued the baronet; "will you serve me?"

"To do what?"

"I have, perhaps, foolishly, and under excitement, laid a wager of fifty guineas that I would produce a man who would eat a couple of ducks in a half hour."

"And who is to make himself a glutton that he may fill our purse?"

"Yourself, Tom."

"It cannot be done."

"It must be done!"

"You are too late, I have had my supper."

"Supper or none, you must do it."

"For what?"

"Five guineas."

"Five guineas out of fifty; that'll never pay."

"Ten guineas then! You know you have me at an advantage, or you wouldn't act thus."

"It isn't often that you are to be caught at such a point."

"Will you do it?"

"I shall fail."

"Try and the ten guineas are yours."

"But that I shall be glad to lay hold of the money, I wouldn't stir a single step to-night."

"Money rules the world," muttered the baronet, "I wouldn't care who made the laws, if I might but hold the purse strings."

Gathering up his long, hungry form, the dark man prepared to follow his leader. To look at his leanness, and his height, as he stretched himself to his full stature, there need not have been the least surprise had he eaten a whole flock of ducks, feathers and all. So thin and famine-stricken did he appear, that to afford him the opportunity to deposit within his person a couple of ducks, seemed rather an act of compassion, than one encouraging a disgusting feat.

On reaching the inn, the number of such as had sunk beneath the influence of punch, was greater than when Sir Harry left the room. Some, however, who were anxious to see the

disgusting sight, had kept themselves in possession of a little consciousness, and gazed vaguely on what was passing before them. He who had laid the wager was sober, and looked vindictively on the two as they entered the parlour.

The ducks being placed upon the table, the lean man began to play his part on them with a degree of spirit by no means flattering to the character of the supper he had boasted of having taken; and from his manner it appeared that a long time must have passed away since he had taken anything half so inviting within his person. Limb after limb of the feathered victim was dissected and picked clean. One of the ducks had disappeared, and he had commenced an attack on the other. But he had not proceeded far with the second, when he gave evident signs of failing energy.

"I cannot manage it," he whispered to his supporter, who sat opposite to him at the table, watching the process of eating as eagerly as though his life depended on it.

"What does he say?" demanded the other side.

"He wishes to know if there is any pudding," replied Sir Harry adroitly.

"Good!" whispered Tom; and the joke seemed to afford fresh zest to his effort.

Knowing the circumstances of the lean man, the baronet rattled the ten guineas in the palm of his hand; for he knew how his champion would esteem the chink of gold, and he sought to make a stimulant of its music. It was a race for wealth both with the gourmand and his supporter; and as the last vestige of the lump of poultry disappeared, the bitter taunts of Sir Harry irritated his opponent to madness.

On finishing his task, the eating machine, whose feat appears at this date truly sickening, and creates a surprise at the want of delicacy with gentlemen of the past, was treated and petted by the company as though his doings were worthy of praise.

"Gentleman, the wager is mine," said the baronet, with a look of triumph that stung his opponent to the quick.

"And much good may it do you," replied his adversary, now fairly enraged.

"That is my concern," he responded, as he took the fifty guineas, short of the ten which he handed over to the glutton.

"It will help to start in life the poor fellow your daughter has selected to become her husband," taunted the defeated man.

"Wretch!" exclaimed the baronet springing to his feet, "dare you mention the name of my child in this company?"

"Why should you be angry on being told what everybody is acquainted with?"

"I demand an explanation and an apology," roared out the baronet furiously, "or you know my terms."

"Nonsense!" shouted the fuddled men.

"I have said the word," he replied.

"Rubbish!" cried out the voice of an old toper, the sound of which was as the grating of a knotty iron hinge; "Charles Freeman is a good fellow, he is one of nature's gentlemen."

"Gentlemen," said Sir Harry, now half guessing the cause of annoyance, "am I to consider your conduct in selecting a subject I am utterly ignorant of to taunt me with, as being the result of a studied conspiracy, because the sickle goddess has chosen me as her favourite for the day? On my honour I knew nothing of the meaning of your remarks."

"It is this, then," replied the old toper, "a certain pretty young lady living at the Priory has, and very naturally too, fallen in love with a smart young fellow by the name of Charles Freeman."

"Beast!" furiously burst forth the baronet, and the working of his features told that the most demoniacal passions were active in his mind.

"Asses!" returned he of the rusty voice sarcastically, "and if Sir Harry Chillington does not wish to be kicked in his turn, he shouldn't associate with them."

"But for your ago I would rend you in pieces," shouted Sir Harry, now maddened beyond restraint. The row had now become general; blows were being freely exchanged; and in the fracas the table was upturned, and the fragments of the punch bowl lay scattered on the floor.

Being taunted beyond all endurance by the whole company, the baronet left the room, cursing and swearing, and as he did so reminded his opponent that he would hear from him again. This threat raised a shout of laughter among them; for they all knew him to have too great a regard for the safety of his own person to proceed beyond the limit of threatening words. The effect of the row upon the company was the demand for another bowl of punch, and the debris being removed, they sat down to make another effort to destroy their reason.

Such were the good old times. Who wishes for their return? The present age may be too demure, too earnest in the matter of health getting; the shrine of Mammon may have its adamant steps leading to the altar worn by the worshippers of that god ascending to pour out before him the libation of a life of peace and happiness; but who would go back to the period when oaths and drunkenness formed the embellishments of polite society?

On leaving the inn, Sir Harry took his way to the Priory; it was his intention to walk home; and with every step he took the vision of the plebeian Charles Freeman haunted his imagination. Bitterly did he curse the folly of his daughter, neither did he refrain from cruelly

reflecting on the commercial origin of her dead mother, to whom he attributed the meanness of spirit which permitted her to condescend to regard the groundling he had that evening been taunted with.

Had it been the lot of Charles Freeman at that hour to have crossed the path of the baronet, possibly in the heat of passion he might have made short work of getting rid of him; but as such an accident did not occur, the future perplexed him.

As Sir Harry pursued his way homeward, a deep gloom succeeded the wild excitement which had before been vaulting through his brain. Deeper the darkness fell upon his soul, neither could the brisk pace with which he walked force it from him. At length a thought cruel and inhuman flashed on his brain with lightning speed; for a moment he poised it in the balance of possibility, and then striking his fist upon his broad chest, he exclaimed, "I have it! and if what they tell me is true, and she refuses to listen to reason, I'll do it, and that will end the matter."

(To be continued.)

## THE GLEANER.

THE phosphate mines at Ottawa are being worked this winter.

THE Pope has sent the golden rose to the new Queen of Spain.

THE Empress Eugénie inherits \$150,000 a year from her mother.

A FRESH egg has a limelike surface; stale eggs are glossy and smooth of shell.

DR. SHELTON is mentioned as the next Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

THE ex-Empress Eugénie has inherited a fortune of about £30,000 a year from her mother.

THERE are now over fifty-two lodges in Ontario of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

150 cattle are slaughtered in Montreal every week by a firm engaged in making fluid beef for export.

THE coloured citizens of New York now have a weekly journal devoted to the interests of their race.

CANADA has a Roman Catholic population of 1,546,840, with 23 bishops, 1,529 priests, and 1,617 churches.

YARMOUTH, N.S., lost 30 ships and 99 lives in 1879, and now owns 276 vessels with a total tonnage of 144,354.

A WOMAN'S rights journal *La Donna*, has been established at Bologna, under the editorship of two ladies.

THE Pope is making overtures to the Sultan to have rules laid down to serve as the basis of ecclesiastical rights in Turkey.

THE Bishop of Manchester's marriage with Miss Duncan of Bath, takes place next month, after an engagement of a quarter of a century.

At a late meeting of the Mansion House Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Committee it was stated that the subscriptions amounted to about £10,000.

CETEWAYO is making earnest efforts to acquire a knowledge of reading and writing, and under Captain Poole's tuition he is making steady progress.

It has been determined to hold an International Exhibition at Rome in 1882, an important feature being the recent applications of science to general industry.

SCOTLAND Yard, the centre of the police force of London, is to be visited by a deputation from Japan, anxious to learn the English system of crime detection and punishment.

ONE of the sons of the late Charles Dickens, Francis J. Dickens, is an inspector in the Canadian North-West Mounted Police, and is stationed at Fort Walsh.

GOOD accounts are now being received of Mr. Spurgeon's health which is at length beginning to mend under the influence of the beautiful weather at Mentone.

A STATUE of Earl Russell will be placed in the House of Lords. It will be six feet six inches high, and will represent his Lordship in his usual attitude when addressing the House.

HANLAN is having a shell constructed for sculling on the ice. It will be run on skates, and the sculls will be furnished with spikes. He expects to be able to make a mile in three minutes.

THE Governor-General has extended an invitation to the Scotch Foot Ball Team, who are coming to Canada next spring to visit the Capital, and play the first match on Rideau Hall grounds.

MR. PLIMSOLL has intimated his intention of striving hard next session to put an end to the loading of grain in bulk—a great source of danger to ships—as he did to legislate against overloading.

MR. ALEXANDER FORREST'S expedition across the north-western portion of the Australian continent has been successful, and the discovery of many millions of acres of pastoral land is reported.

THE Pope has declined immediately to canonise Pius IX., but has approved of facts being collected bearing on a claim which must, he says, be considered deliberately and dispassionately.

HER Royal Highness Princess Louise is expected to arrive at the capital on the 1st of February. His Excellency the Governor-General will leave on the 26th or 27th inst., for Halifax, to meet the Princess.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S Church, New Edinburgh, has received a handsome New Year's gift in the shape of a chime of bells from Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. They were sent from England.

ALBERT Victor and George, sons of the Prince of Wales, now on Her Majesty's steamer *Bacchante* at Barbadoes, will be at Halifax about the 1st prox., when the Princess Louise will arrive from England.

It is possible that the Queen will go to Italy in March on a short visit to the Crown Princess of Germany, but the carrying out of the idea will depend on Her Majesty's health, the weather, and the state of public affairs.

IN the Queen's New Year's gifts to the poor of Windsor and Clewer 3,300 lbs. of beef, in joints of from 3lb. to 7lb. each, were distributed among 800 persons, and 1,200 cwt. of coal were likewise distributed in quantities of 1 to 3 cwt.

AN Irish Club has been organized in London. It is completely and essentially Hibernian, from the president and secretary down to the hall porter and chief cook. One novel feature of this congenial home is that it is purely non-political.

THE Emperor William went about Berlin before Christmas buying presents for his trusted friends and servants. Day after day his carriage stood waiting for him before the fashionable shops in which his elderly majesty was rummaging.

THE preparations which are being made for the celebration of the anniversary of St. Jean Baptiste Society on the approaching 24th of June in Quebec are of a grandeur which will eclipse anything ever held as yet in the ancient capital.

A MEMORIAL of the late Princess Alice has been commissioned by the Grand Duke of Hesse-similar to the recumbent figure intended for erection at the mausoleum in Windsor for the Queen. It is intended for the tomb at Darmstadt.

THE Russian Synod have, it is stated, in pursuance of orders from the Czar, caused a manifesto to be read in the churches of the western and central provinces in which the revolutionary party are solemnly consigned to eternal punishment.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA writes to his friends that he will go to Florida at once, and thence to the West Coast of South America, taking Lima and Valparaiso on his way, then run to Rio de Janeiro, and so home. His trip will last till the end of March.

A COMPANY will apply to Parliament next session for the necessary powers to bring sea water to London, and to supply it to every household at a trifle less cost than is now paid for the intermittent supply of fresh water which the Metropolitan Companies deal out.

ABBREVIATIONS in letter-writing, such as ye for the, after the old style of Queen Anne's time, are in vogue in London fashionable circles. With the revival of Queen Anne art and decoration, Queen Anne spelling is certainly in good form.

LORD Beaconsfield will have completed six years of continuous Premiership on the 20th of February. Lord Palmerston's total was nine years and upwards. Lord Melbourne was Prime Minister for six years and two months. Lord Liverpool held the same office from 1812 to 1827.

SIGNOR Dario Mazzei, shorthand stenographer to the Italian Senate, has, it is said, invented a machine which will reproduce a speech in the ordinary printed characters as rapidly as it is spoken, a word of several syllables being recorded by a single touch of the keys.

RICHARD WAGNER will spend the winter in Naples, and as soon as warm weather comes will go to the little French watering-place of Saint Euzat on the coast of Brittany, where he will make his home at a villa belonging to Judith Gautier, the well-known writer and a daughter of Théophile Gautier.

M. HENRI SAY, the wealthy French banker, who, with his family, is making a tour of the world in his steam yacht *Henriette*, which was sometime since disabled, has decided to have built in Baltimore a new steam yacht, to cost \$200,000. The yacht will be completed about the first of August, and until that time M. Say will remain in the United States.

THE Royal baton of beef—which, with the boar's head and game and woodcock pies, decorated Her Majesty's sideboard at Osborne on Christmas Day—was cut from a fine shorthorn ox, bred and fed upon the Prince Consort's model farm at Frogmore. The baton weighed upwards of 300 lbs., was roasted before the great kitchen fire at Windsor Castle, and when cold was sent two days after to the Isle of Wight.

QUEEN VICTORIA is said to have a long memory for persons and faces. Her whole thoughts now seem centred in her soldiers, especially in those who have been wounded in her service, and in looking over paintings of subjects in the recent wars she knows and remembers the names of all those soldiers—even privates—on whom she has conferred the Victoria Cross or other honors, at once picking them out in the painting, and asking after them by name.