

The Quebec Argus.

We watch o'er all—and note the things we see.

[VOL. I.]

QUEBEC, WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 1841

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THE QUEBEC ARGUS.

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For the Quebec Argus. THE INFANTICIDE.

A fragment.

They led her out to die a death of shame
Before assembled thousands,—and the form
Whose beauty would have graced a regal throne.
Now stood debased before a vulgar crowd
Of idle gazers,—and whose murmurs fraught
With exultation, quail'd and sank at once
In a drear silence, as a thing so fair
Stepp'd forth upon the balcony of death,
To meet her awful doom.

Her face was pale,
But not with fearful shrinking from her fate;
For the firm bearing of her bright, dark eye
Look'd calmly on the appalling scene around,
Unblench'd and still unbending in its glance.
Her sunny hair droop'd fair and softly down,
Part resting on her bosom, and the rest
In silken tresses wreath'd her sable dress,
Strange contrast to its darkness;—and her arms,
Those beautiful arms which held within their clasp
The bliss of heaven, were pinion'd to her side;
But kindly hands had loosely fix'd the bond
Of the white, scarf-like fetter, and her hand
Moved gently for a moment—as it seem'd
To call attention from the eager throng
Which press'd around the scaffold;—and the tones
Of her young voice of sweetness fall so soft
On every listening ear, its music won
At once upon the soul, and tears were seen
Fast streaming down o'er many a rugged cheek
At speech like this from one so sadly fair
Her accents were cut brief—

"My babe" she said,
"Died by no act of mine: and she who dies,
As now I perish here, to save from shame
The father of my child, could never raise
A ruthless hand against its infant breath—
I am not guilty—be the guilt upon
The heart which work'd a rajah now complete!"
She ceas'd—and then a wild, low, shuddering groan
Came from the multitude—but there was one
More wild and piercing than the rest, which rose
So near to the poor victim—Why that start?
And her dilating eye, which gave its gaze
In search of some known object, that each orb
Grew full almost to bursting—so intense
Its glance at last became.

A shriek, at length,
That seem'd to bear a soul upon its sound,
Broke from her compress'd lip—and then a rush
Of her heart's crimson life so flooded forth
From her sweet mouth upon that awful cry,
That ere its echo had been lost in air,
Her spirit had departed.

Quebec, Decr. 1841.

BITS AND BITES.

ENVY.

Vice of the paltry heart,—wherever seen,
How true thy index of a soul that's mean;
No smile can hide thee, no smooth speech conceal
Each poor and baffled effort made to steal
Value from worth it ne'er may hope to share,
And rankles on in pitiful despair!
Test of a grovelling spirit, proof how low
The festering malice of man's heart can go—
Mark you the venom'd glance, and rapid sneer
Which ever mark of Envy's presence near;
The piling, chuckle, and the bastard wit,
In vain essaying still some "lucky hit"
Some base abortion of a fetid brain—
To find it sink to its own filth again.

Quebec Decr.

brewing and cooking, and she sat down and took drop of the good creature, and united with her husband in pronouncing it some of the very best. The morning came. All from the father and mother down to the wee bit of a lad were busily employed. The men, the oxen, arrived. Some of the hardest and stoutest handspikes were prepared, and soon they fell to, and with tales and shouts and laughter the work went on.—Many a jest was heard, and many a sneer was given, and many an oath was sworn, as the cold water society came under review. The wife was engaged in preparing the best food they could provide for the occasion. The father took the lead in drawing and rolling up the logs, while his boy of ten years of age acted as grog-bos on the occasion. To him it belonged to carry the bottle, and at stated intervals to hand out the whiskey: The occasions were not very few, nor far between, and as often as they occurred, he was told to remember himself, nor did he forget the intimation. The fumes of the whiskey began to affect the nerves of the poor boy. He acted strangely as he handled the glass; which called for the noisy laugh and the boisterous cheer from the somewhat excited men. At length Willie staggered towards the house, and fell near the threshold, completely dumb. The work brought to a close, the good wife announced that the meal was ready, but ere they partook of it, requested that as there was no room in the house, Willie might be taken and laid on the barn floor. The drunken boy was taken to the barn; they sat down around the table, after which drink and songs and quarrels closed the day. As the night drew on they began to separate. It was soon perceived that few had altogether escaped the influence of the maddening draught. The family left alone, and the younger children put to bed,—another glass was taken until reason was completely prostrated, and both father and mother sunk helpless and drunken on the bed. At midnight, the elder boy heard Willie screaming in the barn: unable to arouse his parents, and afraid to go to the affrighted boy himself he left Willie to his screams, and betook himself to his slumbers. The day had dawned, and the sun was gilding the eastern sky when the father was seen opening the barn door. He found Willie, exhausted—unable to look or to speak, and apparently lifeless. Medical aid was immediately sought, but the nearest doctor was six miles from the spot, and before he arrived the boy had breathed his last—a victim to Whiskey at the Logging Bee.—Canada Inquirer.

The Montreal Herald has published a list of some of the appointments made under the Judiciary and Registration Bills. We have reason to believe that the speculations of our contemporary will be found ultimately to be pretty correct, though in two or three instances errors have crept in. At the present moment, it is needless to refer to these mistakes, because in the course of a few hours the information will, no doubt, have reached the public in an authentic shape. Neither is it necessary that we should refer to the feeling which has dictated several of these appointments. It is not to be expected that all of them will give satisfaction, though we are willing to believe that against the majority no objection is to be urged:—

- Mr. Dowling, Registrar for Montreal.
- Mr. Montizambert, Do. Quebec.
- Mr. Panet, Do. Dorchester and Portneuf.
- Mr. DeHertel, Do. Lake of Two Mountains.
- Mr. James Holmes, Do. St. Hyacinthe.
- Mr. W. K. M'Cord, Judge for Sydenham and Two Mountains.
- Mr. D. Mondelet, Judge for Montreal.
- Mr. Morin, Do. Kamouraska.
- Mr. F. A. Quesnel, Do. Berthier.
- Mr. Power, Do. Quebec.

Four Judgeships are still in abeyance, and it is supposed that they will be filled up by the following members of the bar—

- Mr. DeBleury, For Terrebonne and Leinster.
- Mr. J. S. M'Cord, St. John and Missisquoi.
- Mr. Driscoll, Q. C., St. Charles and St. Hyacinthe.
- Mr. H. Guy, Beauharnois.
- Mr. Leclerc, the present Stipendiary Magistrate at St. Hyacinthe, to replace, Mr. Driscoll as Police Magistrate in this city.
- Mr. Charles Mondelet to be *Ministre d'Instruction Publique* for the Province, with a number of Deputies.
- Mr. Turcotte, M. P. P. for St. Maurice, to be Translator for the Province.

The following is a list of the Clerks to the Judges whose appointments have been sanctioned:—

- Mr. Rossiter, For Berthier.
- Mr. Ryan, Nicolet.
- Mr. McGillis, St. John.
- Mr. Fiset, Quebec.
- Messrs. Monk & Morogh, Montreal.
- Mr. Amie Lafontaine, Sydenham.
- Mr. E. Jones, Two Mountains.
- Mr. Bowen, Sherbrooke.

- Mr. John Godard, St. Charles.
- Mr. Botham, Missisquoi.
- Mr. Dunbar Ross, Kamouraska.
- Mr. Delorimier, Leinster.
- Mr. John Platt, Beauharnois.
- Mr. Amiot, St. Thomas.

Subscriptions, orders for Advertising, and Communications, (post paid) will be also received for THE QUEBEC ARGUS by Mr. PETER DELGOUR, No. 3, St. John Street, Upper Town.

THE QUEBEC ARGUS. QUEBEC, 22ND DECEMBER 1841.

Being sorely straitened for time, and the press waiting on us, we have presumed to borrow from the summary of a cotemporary, a few of the leading and more important items of news received by the latest American papers.

New York papers of the 13th and from Boston and Albany of the 15th were received this morning.

The United States Congress had not completed the organization of its Committees on the 11th inst. The Grogan papers were laid before Congress by the Executive. He was liberated before any application was received from the United States Government.

The Report of the Secretary of War was also laid before Congress. It gives the amount of the Army at 10,634 men—about 3000 of whom are employed in Florida. It recommends an increase of two Regiments, and of the naval force on the lakes; fortifications on the northern frontier, floating batteries &c. at the seaports, and the use of the Railroads, Canals &c. for concentrating troops and materials when needful.

We observe that it recommends the immediate completion of the Military road to Forts Fairfield and Kent, in what is called "our acknowledged territory in the State of Maine," and also the completing of Fort Brady commanding the communication with Lake Superior.

About fourteen millions of dollars have recently been expended on Fortifications, &c., and nine millions more are recommended.

O. Q. Gazette.

THE PROPOSED CELEBRATION.—It would seem that a strong feeling of dissatisfaction is widely prevalent in our community, in reference to the resolutions adopted at the Meeting of Saturday last, as to the fashion of celebrating the birth of an heir to the British Crown. The Addresses of course no one can object to; but the proposed dinner at Payne's, and the collection to be made for the poor, seem alike to be not in much or general favor—the one as being a sort of selfish and exclusive mode of feeling happy on the occasion, and the other not at all approved of, in the particular form of its intended appropriation.

A ball and supper is proposed by some to be substituted for the dinner; others again, stand up for roasting an ox or two, and tapping a few hogsheads of brown stout, to "make merry heart withal," and finishing off with a general illumination at night. Perhaps, the better plan would be, if possible, to combine the whole, leaving out the dinner affair. Instead of the collection being doled out to the poor in the way proposed, let the proceeds be applied to the purchase of a fine fat ox, and a few puncheons of beer. Roast the animal whole on the ice of the St. Charles river, on the morning of New Year's day—the more appropriate, from being a day of general festivity and recreation; and this wholesale culinary process of itself will, from its novelty here, be an attraction as well as an amusement for the public to witness. Let the poor feel the substantial benefit, under due regulation, of this first stage of the business of the celebration. The ball and supper can also take place in the due course of things. Let permission be given to all who are pleased, or able so to do, to illuminate, and all public buildings to be lighted up on the occasion—and we hope the thing will be done handsomely and well, and that in addition to the other fare ups, there will be no lack of blazing tar-barrels on the ice in front of the city.

In our peculiar and homely fashion of viewing these things, we confess ourselves to be strongly inclined to stand up for the Ox roasting and the illumination, both being more within the means of a general participation, and of a character peculiarly adapted to stamp the event, to be thus commemorated, on the minds of the rising generation. Besides, have not such doings, upon similar occasions of joy and congratulation, been the privileged custom, from time immemorial, with our fore fathers beyond the Atlantic.—Therefore, with such as it were—we will venture the term—hallowed precedent before us, let "decision give the pulse to action" and one and all stand upon the ticket for the roasted Ox and an illumination, not omitting the aforesaid ball and supper—all to come off on the approaching New Year's Day and night.—We will further observe, in regard to our suggestion—as we once heard a Yankee political lecturer observe, in summing the opinions of his auditors—Let all those who second our motion keep standing, and those against it not take the trouble to sit down.

We shall issue our next number on Friday—Saturday being Christmas day, and a holiday with the people in our choice.

Please Pay the Printer.—Our proprietor has requested us to drop a gentle hint of this kind, in the way of a friendly and admonitory notice, to such of our subscribers as, according to our conditions of publication, are in arrears; and we confidently trust that this, our present fugitive mention of the thing, to the purpose of the good man's wishes, will not be without its proper effect, in attracting their attention and ready compliance to his benefit. Our country subscribers are particularly requested to be on the "qui vive" in this respect.

Without "the sinews of war" being available to us, or, in other words, prompt payment on the part of our subscribing patrons, all the good things we take the pains either to concoct or select for their edification and entertainment will come to nought, and weigh as dust in the scale of our best efforts and wishes to convey instruction and pleasure to our readers. Without a due forthcoming of that same "needful" on the part of our friends, to help us to meet the manifold serious expences of a newspaper establishment, you might as well expect a soldier to shoot without powder, a parson preach without a text, an auctioneer take bids from the man in the moon, or a score other and similar apposite figures of comparison, which may be readily and pertly brought to bear on such a miserable and melancholy state of things. Therefore, like good souls as ye are, we hope you will not, regarding the preface to our present paragraph, follow the usual custom of Middies and Mates, and such like sea-going fry, who, when summoned from their snug hammocks to the middle watch, make it a point of honour, in consideration of the good of the service, to stand a "second call."

The examination of the children of the Quebec infant school, will take place on Friday the 24th instant, at one o'clock.

All friends to the Institution are requested to attend.

For the Quebec Argus. THE FADING OF THE WOODS.

Splendour is on the bough!
The withering leaves fall fast;
Yet wilder beauty crowns the forest now,
Than through the summer past.
A more resplendent blaze
Of rich and radiant hues,
Gleams through the autumn haze,
Than mid the summer dews.
So is it nature loves
In all her power to part;
So with her passing splendour moves
The severing human hearts.
Calmly through pleasant years
We love some kindred mind;
But 'tis only through our parting tears
Its full delights we find.
Then, how in form and face,
In every art and tone,
Beams forth the tenderness and grace
That melt us, and are flown.

To the Editor of the Quebec Argus.

Sir,—As it frequently happens that unpleasant and, at times, serious collision takes place between vehicles driving both in the city, and on the roads around it, from not strictly on either part, when they meet, following some established and particular rule, or understood law, in such matters—and the chances of such collision being greater in the winter than at any other season, I think it would be of great benefit to the driving portion of the community, if some clearly defined and positive regulation to this effect was duly devised, and enforced by the proper authorities. True, there is some odd sort of a traditional and shadowy enactment of the sort quoted and referred to, directing people, in case of meeting on a contrary line of drive, to take the right hand side, yet even with this misty rule of guidance, it would appear very few, comparatively, seem, or care indeed in seeming to be acquainted. The law in England, as I am informed, directs the left hand side to be taken in all cases of rencontre, such as I have alluded to—and there is good sound sense in this; inasmuch as the driver thus obtains the advantage of having the possible point of contact immediately under his eye; while, by a contrary rule, and such as we suppose to be the law in this country, he is deprived of, to his manifest inconvenience, and frequent serious risk.

As new men are now in authority, and busy in getting up new measures, and new codes, as a matter of course, are in the process of manufacture, perhaps some good Samaritan in the crowd, of law makers, may submit, for due consideration, the small matter of my humble suggestion; which, if realized, so as to become the expressed law of the land, will assuredly be an item of comfort and security, appreciated by all whom business or pleasure places on a

I am sure that I am much surprised with my new lodgings

Book list of 9 1/2 is over. Luncheon at 12 1/2 2