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Evans sumendum est optimum. - Cic.

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Is there a Maelstrom?

This question is thus answered by a contemporary:

"Every school-boy of the last century has been taught to believe that there is a wonderful vortex on the coast of Norway, with an eddy several miles in diameter, and that ships, and even huge whales, were sometimes dragged within its terrible liquid coils and forever remained 'in ocean's awful depths.' A correspondent of the Scientific

Magazine has been informed by a European acquaintance that the maelstrom has no existence. A nautical and scientific commission went out and sailed around and all over where the maelstrom was said to be, but could not find it; the sea was as smooth where the whirlpool ought to be as any other part of the German ocean."

"We presume the above is correct. The latest geographers and gazetteers barely allude to the maelstrom. Colton, in his large atlas, gives the site upon his map, but does not allude to it in his description of Norway. Harper's Gazetteer, in his article on Norway, says that, 'among the numerous islands on the west coast there are violent and irregular currents, which render the coast navigation dangerous.' Among these is the celebrated Mael-Ström, or Meskenas-Ström, the danger from which has been greatly exaggerated, since it can, at nearly all times, be passed over even by boats. The romance of the maelstrom has been pretty effectually destroyed."

THE WESTERN FEVER.—The Steamer Admiral which left here on Monday morning for Boston, carried away a considerable number of persons belonging to St. John and elsewhere, destined for the "far West." We hear that several others are making preparations for the same route and destination. We would hope that the change improved their position; but looking upon what others have had to undergo who have gone before them, we fear they will be subject to disappointment. A great many of those who leave the Province heartily wish themselves back again when it is too late. We believe that there are worse places than New Brunswick under the sun, and those who go Westward will find that although the road to fortune may be attained by constant toil and industry, there is a great deal of risk after leaving home. A letter from the West, now before us, says that those who sojourn thither will find it "hard sledding for 4 or 5, perhaps 8 years, but perseverance in the West most always wins." The same may be said of any new country abounding with natural and other resources, and the same we can state without any hesitation and from personal experience will apply to New Brunswick.—*News.*

One Good Turn deserves another.

A tinker was traveling in a country town, and, having traversed many weary miles without finding anything to do, he stopped, weary and hungry, at a tavern. Here he got in conversation with a glazier, to whom he related his troubles. The latter sympathized with him deeply, and, telling him he should have a job before long, advised him to go on in to his dinner, and eat heartily. The tinker took advice, ate his fill, and, when he returned to the bar, he was overjoyed to hear that the landlord required his services, to mend a lot of pans and kettles which had suddenly sprung a leak.

The tinker at once fell to work, accomplished the task, was liberally rewarded, and started on his way rejoicing. Upon reaching the outside of the house, he found the glazier, who said—

"Well, you see, I told the truth. I procured you a job of work, and how do you think I accomplished it?"

"I am sure I cannot tell," replied the tinker.

"I will tell you," rejoined the glazier; "you said you were weary, hungry and penniless. I knew the landlord was well off, and doing a good business, so I watched the opportunity, and started a leak in every tin utensil I could get hold of."

The tinker, with many thanks and a heart full of gratitude, resumed his journey, but he had not proceeded many yards before he reached the village church, when a brilliant idea struck him. The glazier had befriended him, he would befriend the glazier. The church he thought could afford to bear a slight loss in a good cause, so taking a position where he could not be seen, he riddled every window in the edifice with stones, and then, highly elated with his exploit, he retraced his steps to notify the glazier he would speedily have a very important job. He met the glazier at the door of the tavern.

"Sir," said he, "I am happy to inform you that fortune has enabled me to secure the kindness I received from you an hour since."

"How so?" asked the glazier, pleasantly.

"I have broken every pane of glass in the church," answered the tinker, "and you will of course, be employed to put them in again."

The glazier's jaw fell, and his face assumed a blank expression, as he said in a tremulous tone—

"You don't mean that, do you?"

"Certainly," returned the tinker; "there isn't a whole pane of glass in the building. One good turn deserves another, you know."

"Yes," answered the glazier, in a tone of utter despair, "but you scoundrel you have ruined me, for I keep the church windows in repair by the year!"

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK "LIBERALS" FROM THE "LIBERAL" LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Lord Palmerston, in reply to Lord John Russell, said—

"But, Sir, my noble friend the member for the city of London is always disposed to follow in the footsteps of one for whom he feels respect and veneration, Mr. Fox, and having discovered a precedent in which Mr. Fox spoke of an appeal to the country as a 'penal dissolution' he says that a dissolution is to be considered as punishing the House of Commons for adopting a certain vote. (Cheers) But, Sir, that is a strange doctrine, if this House is to be rigidly considered as the true organ of public opinion—if members are supposed to be speaking here the sentiments of their constituencies. If they are only echoing the opinion of the country then those who think that their judgment is identical with the judgment of the country, so far from looking upon renewed intercourse with their constituents as a punishment (cheers and laughter), ought to regard it as a species of triumph. (Cheers) They ought to rejoice at the opportunity of going back to strengthen and support themselves in their antagonism to the Government by the recorded opinions of those who returned them to Parliament."

APPLICATION OF MANURE.—To get the greatest benefit from manure, it must be intimately mixed with the soil. It makes a much greater difference than most farmers suppose, whether the manure is cured in lumps and clods, or whether it is carefully spread and intermixed with the soil, as far as may be by ploughing and harrowing. The richest fertilizer is of no use to a plant unless first for *plant food*—so intermixed with the soil as to invite the roots, and so porous to act as to become soluble that the roots may take it up. Hundreds of experiments have shown that a small quantity of manure, thoroughly mixed with the soil—so as in fact to become a part of the soil itself—will produce an immediate and astonishing result.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A "PAT QUESTION."—In a jolly company, each one was to ask a question. If it was answered, the proposer paid a forfeit; or, if he could not answer it himself, he paid a forfeit. Pat's question was—(How the little ground squirrel dies his hole without showing any dirt about the entrance?) "When they all gave up, Pat said—'sure do you see, he begins at the other end of the hole.' One of the rest exclaimed—'But how does he get there?' "Ah!" said Pat, "that's your question; can you answer it yourself?"

AT A RECENT TRIAL IN WISCONSIN, the subject of controversy was a down-john of whiskey, which was ordered to be brought into court. The defendant was tried, and so was the whiskey—in other words, the whiskey was drunk, and so was the jury.

There is a village out West so healthy that people can't die there, but are obliged to go to the next town if they are tired of living; and there were two men who lived there to be "so old" that they did not know who they were and nobody could tell them.

A RICH CASE. Memphis is decidedly a great place in its way. A few days since a case was pending in the common law court of that city, in which a Mr. and Mrs. Helbing sued Phillip R. Bohlen for breach of marriage contract for failing to marry Mrs. Helbing when she was Miss Agnes Handwerker, and the jury have given the injured parties \$1,250 damages. The idea of Helbing suing Bohlen because he did not marry his wife, is certainly the richest thing of this fast age.

RUNNING OFF WITH A TELEGRAPH LINE. A locomotive between St. Louis and Springfield, a day or two ago, got attached to the wire of the telegraph line which a storm of wind had thrown down, and went away with it on its course, tearing down the poles for a distance of two miles, and keeping up a most tremendous crash and clatter, as one after another came tumbling down and were added to the queer retinue of the train.—The locomotive arrived in town in good time, and the engineer then first discovered that he had the lightning line behind him.

[From the Acadian Recorder.]

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN NEW-BRUNSWICK.

The New-Brunswick Government has wisely resolved to dissolve the House of Assembly and appeal to the country. Whether that appeal will meet with a favorable response, or not, we have no means of knowing. If the people, in making that response, are guided by a due appreciation of the acts of the Government and of the Opposition which has forced the Government to take this step, we can entertain no doubts as to its favorable character.

Having no personal acquaintance with the leading public men of that Province, and being entirely disinterested in their acts, we trust that our New Brunswick readers will give us credit for impartiality in any remarks we may make concerning the political movements in that quarter. A pretty close observation of those movements, for the last few years, convinces us that whatever weaknesses, or delinquencies may be chargeable to the present Cabinet—although we are not prepared to admit that any serious charges against it can be substantiated—New-Brunswick has nothing whatever to hope from a change which would oust it in favor of the leading members of the present Opposition. It is notorious that the existing Government has been reduced to its present straits by the defection of four or five members of the House of Assembly, who, less than a year ago, were elected as its supporters. At this distance from the scene of operations, we cannot pretend to say, as seems to be the general opinion with the Government party in New Brunswick, that these men were bribed by the Opposition leaders. It is a difficult thing to prove a case of bribery in such instances. It can only be proved by some one of the guilty parties turning "Queen's evidence." But if the members alluded to are not guilty of this low offence, their conduct appears scarcely less culpable.

The late Government of New Brunswick certainly has not, upon any grounds, many claims upon the gratitude of the people.—On the other hand, the leading points of their policy were deserving of the unqualified disapproval of the people, and did, in fact, meet with the execration of a large majority of the electors, at the general election of last Summer. Owing mainly to their own mismanagement, they had brought the Province to the verge of insolvency.—In the face of this fact, and whilst incurring enormous debts, in proportion to the available means of the Province, for the construction of railways, they did not hesitate to pass a law which, whilst of the most tyrannical character, and the most demoralizing tendency, closed up one of the principal sources of revenue, and would, if unrepented, have soon hurried the Province into inextricable difficulties and complete bankruptcy. Without looking any further into their public conduct, men who could act thus recklessly should be regarded with the strongest suspicion; but when we look into their subsequent acts, suspicion must give place to feelings still less creditable to the object of them. The Prohibitory Liquor Law was the immediate cause of the overthrow of the Fisher Cabinet, the formation of the present one, and the Dissolution of 1856; but it was not by any means the only cause. "Run or no Run?" as it was popularly put, was the question most prominently kept before the people at the last General Election; and it now pleases the Opposition members to pretend that it was the only one, and that now, since that was disposed of, the country should come to the support of the members of the Fisher Government, as if the specially obnoxious law had never been passed, and as if all their other acts were exquisite samples of good statesmanship. Well, suppose it had been the only question before the country, could the people of New Brunswick, with any pretensions as rational beings, place their confidence in men who had written such an enactment upon their statute book under such circumstances which so deeply aggravated its evil tendencies—an enactment which they (the people) had already so mistakenly condemned? Can they do so, now that the question is brought directly home to them? If they can, they must certainly have attained a most lamentable degree of stultification; for since the people last Summer pronounced judgment upon the respective merits of the late and the present Government, the members who composed the former have done nothing to win their confidence, whilst the latter had done nothing to forfeit it.

The conduct of most members of the Opposition has been consistency disreputable ever since the dissolution of 1856. At the election which followed that event, a few, a very few candidates had the manliness to defend their whole previous conduct in supporting the Government. They were, for

the most part, indignantly rejected by the electors. Whatever may be thought of the statesmanship of such men, they are entitled to our respect for that manliness which bears such a striking contrast with the dodging by which many others, who were as deeply implicated in the wrong as they were, managed to regain their seats. These men could be becomingly severe on the Prohibitory Liquor Law which many of them had assisted in carrying. That was necessary to obtain their seats. The people, whilst hearing their discourse so vehemently upon that topic, to the exclusion of the financial blunders and railway puerilities of the Fisher & Tilley Administration, never even dreamed that those members, on reaching the House, would treat the Prohibitory Law as a mere pendency—at most, a matter of secondary importance, or that they could so soon rank themselves under the leadership of those who imposed that enormity upon the country. Yet this is what many of them have done, whilst endeavouring by feeble efforts in the quibbling and hair splitting line, to show that there is some consistency in their conduct. Several of these men were elected as party candidates in opposition to candidates of the old Government party.

We should be sorry to say that, in consequence of this, they were bound to adhere, through good and evil report, to the leaders of the party which put them in.—But what has the party ridiculously arrogating to itself the name of "Liberal" done to improve its character since the last election? What has the Chandler and Gray Cabinet done to forfeit its good name? Nothing. Amidst all the badgering which the members of the existing Government have endured during the session just ended, and all the abuse which has been heaped upon them by the Opposition press, we look in vain for any more serious charge than that they are carrying out the railway policy originated by their predecessors, the very men who now assail them for doing so.

Were the men who now constitute the Opposition actuated by any public-spirited motives, they would give the new Government a fair trial. They have not had it; yet the partial trial which they have undergone is, for anything we can see to the contrary, highly creditable to them. They have prosecuted the public works which they had in hand, with a degree of spirit never evinced by the late Government. Although we have ourselves made objections to the details of some of their schemes, it is undeniable that they have shown a determination both to govern and legislate in a liberal and progressive spirit. Time might, for aught we know to the contrary, show them to be no longer worthy of public confidence. It has not done so yet. There is in reality but one objection to their remaining in power. The leaders of the Opposition clique want their places. This is quite obvious from the whole tone of the Opposition, both in the House and out of it. We have narrowly watched the proceedings of the House since its last opening, as reported for the St. John press; and whatever may be the merits, or demerits of the Government, we must say that a more factious and contemptible clique than that which constituted the Opposition, never existed in any legislative body; a more unmanly, indecent, and utterly shameless system of obstructiveness, characterized by incessant vulgar badgering and abuse of the Government and mulish opposition to every thing that emanated from it, never disgraced the proceedings of any combination calling itself a political party. The leading men of that clique have not scrupled to avow that it was their determination to keep up this factious opposition to every measure brought in by the Government, no matter what its real merits. It is to be hoped that such bull-ringing politicians with a due appreciation, if there be any, of no political principle at stake—the people of New Brunswick can, at the coming elections, bring such men as these into power, they are richly deserving of the contempt of their fellow colonists.

TO SWEETEN RANDED BUTTER.—An agriculturist, near Brussels, in Europe, has succeeded in removing the bad smell and disagreeable taste of butter by beating or mixing it with chloride of lime. This operation is extremely simple and practicable for all. It consists in beating the butter in a sufficient quantity of water, into which have been mixed twenty-five or thirty drops of chloride of lime to two pounds of butter. After having brought all parts in contact with the water, it may be left for an hour or two; afterwards withdrawn and washed anew in fresh water. The chloride of lime used, having nothing injurious in it, can safely be increased; but after having verified the experiment, it was found that twenty-five or thirty drops to two and a half pounds of butter were sufficient.

THE SEEDS.

In the thousands of wandering, uncared for, needy little children who travel the streets and alleys of our great cities, are the germs of the criminal and vicious men and women whose adult years plague society, and divert much of the force of our civilization from the direct line or its progress, to wasteful and tedious conflicts with disorder. Character ripens with rank energy in the midst of rage, hunger, filth, vicious example. The marvel of a good woman, educated in the gutters and on the pavements of a metropolis, may exist; but there is a nearly deadly certainty that such schooling will, in every instance, graduate a villain and mature a cur.

The harvesting by the galleys and the penitentiary of this annual crop of vicious population, may go on for centuries. The product of the industry of Justice may be trebled or quadrupled. What boots it? The seed is left blowing about. Time scatters broadly into the rich soil of the crowded thoroughfares of great cities. Every year ripens it and gives yearly a new crop of criminals to prey upon property and assail life.

The best social economy is to care parentally for the children without homes, and by the influence of education and association, to give valuable citizens to the State whom else she would be at the trouble and cost of punishing and reforming.—[*Alb. Eve. Jour.*]

All flat Seeds should be sown edgewise, for if laid flat on the ground they are apt to rot; and if this misfortune does not befall them, they do not germinate so readily. This accounts for failures amongst gourds, melons and cucumbers.

BEANS.—The prettiest way for a man who cultivates but little land, to raise his own dry beans for next winter's use, is not to plant bush kinds by themselves, for this will require too much land, as the product is small—but to raise white pole beans. The common ear-leaf beans are excellent for this purpose. Strike out a dozen circles on the ground as large as a cartwheel. Put a wheelbarrow load of manure into it, and spade it up with the earth. Drop the seeds in the circle, on the outer edge of the hill, say six inches apart. Then insert eight or ten poles just within the circle, at equal distances from each other, and tie the tops of the whole together forming a cone. Cover up the seed and wait the result. Each of these hills will yield you a peck or half a bushel of dry beans next fall, which, if you have but half a dozen such hills, will give you perhaps half a dozen bushels. This will be enough for your purpose. By this course but a little land is occupied. Pole beans yield much more abundantly than bush beans and occupy air, whilst the latter must have the surface of the earth. If you wish to produce your own dry beans, reader, try this system the present season.

HOME-MADE BEER.—Take one gill of good hop-yeast, two teaspoonsful of brown sugar, half a teaspoonful of soda, do. of acid, eight drops of the essence of sassafras, the same of winter-green, and four of the essence of spruce; beat it well together; then pour on two quarts of cold water, and you will have a good, healthy, cheap drink, for sick or well folks. The way I make my yeast: boil a handful of hops in two quarts of water half an hour; strain off the water, and stir in the flour while hot, add one tablespoonful of brown sugar, and a teaspoonful of ginger, and when milk warm add half a pint of good yeast.

COLD WEATHER.—On the 6th instant, a heavy snow storm was experienced in the South Western States, which has caused injury to the crops. At Louisville snow fell to the depth of three inches, and much damage was apprehended to the corn crop, while it was feared that the fruit crop would be entirely destroyed.

The Tobacco crops of Kentucky and Tennessee have been very seriously injured by the cold and bad weather.

ROMANTIC ESCAPE.—A man named Thomas Webb was passing the evening in company with a widow and her two daughters, in Leopold, Indiana, recently when a Dr. Christian, impelled by jealousy, rushed into the room, and stabbed the unoffending man with a bowie knife. A substance wrapped in a paper in a vest pocket, prevented the knife from doing its deadly work; and miraculously it is, it must be said the "substance" was a plug of tobacco.

Sir John Richardson, at a recent meeting of the Geographical Society, stated that a small fish resembling a carp, had been found in a tank, in the Dead Sea, and near the supposed site of Sodom.