

**SCOTCH DYE WORKS.**

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The following paragraph requires careful reading:—

BAROUM, June 15.—A boat containing five Russian soldiers last night met a strange boat manned by twelve pirates. The officer in command of the soldiers ordered the pirates to stop and allow the soldiers' boat to run alongside of them. The pirates answered by firing a volley from their rifles at the soldiers, killing four of them. The pirates then escaped, and the two surviving soldiers pulled ashore and gave the alarm. A boat manned by four soldiers then went in pursuit of the pirates and managed to overhaul them. Again the pirates fired, killing two and wounding the two remaining of the four Russian troopers sent in pursuit of their boat.

The wounded Russians managed to pull ashore and gave an account of their experiences. The result was that a third boat, this time better manned, was sent after the pirates. The latter made good their escape. A Russian gunboat has been sent in pursuit.

At first we were inclined to credit the newspaper men with a mistake; but second thoughts altered our opinion. Just consider the position; the Russians are a great nation,—nothing if not brave. On sighting a boat with 12 Black Sea pirates on board, the five Russians at once gave chase, and four were killed at the first volley. Nevertheless two regained the shore, and forthwith another boat containing four soldiers was despatched to capture the reckless brigands. By a lucky fluke, only two were killed this time; possibly the same two escaped again. It is remarkable that one of the survivors was not ordered out in a skiff to complete the capture, but somehow or another the officials decided to send a gun-boat. This is the only inconsistent part of the narrative.

We are quite prepared to accept the rest as it stands. It seems quite natural that the officials who sent a crew of 4 to capture the pirates who had killed 4 out of the first crew of five should enter in their report that 4 out of 5 men were killed and the other two escaped. We apologize to the *Fredericton Gleaner* for having mistrusted their reporter's accuracy even for an instant.

The following clippings are from a new exchange,—*Gall's Weekly News Letter*, from Kingston, Jamaica. We quote the first because it may have some local interest, and the other two because they have a certain humour of their own:—

Two young ladies returning from Church last Sunday evening were discussing "Jack's" letter in the *Montreal Gazette*, republished a short time ago. "What did he mean by saying Mr. Dimock performed a tremendous amount of 'Clerical' work during the Exhibition?" asked one. "Well, judging from the number of young ladies constantly in and around that gentleman's office, he

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must have meant that Mr. Dimock had been hearing a good many confessions," was the happy answer.

It is rumoured that the Jamaica Club is about to add a Chaplain to its staff, if they can get a parson whom the members will regard as worldly enough disposed to honour the membership. They think a Chaplain will sanctify their proceedings exceedingly, and place them above the reach of censure. Poker, for instance, will no longer be call Poker; it will be known as Holy Poker, which a member can either play or swear by; a swizzle on a tray with a cigar and matches will be called a Bright Little Service; and a deal of cards will be called a Dispensation. Hereafter the Parish Church Magazine promises to be extra interesting if the new mission is properly reported.

Mr. Justice Jones, sat in Spanish Town the other day, and in answer to a question put by the clerk, de prisoner said, 'Yes, sah, I tuck the chicken, I was gwine to make some chicken-pic, and I tuck the cook book and read de directshuns, and hit says, 'Take one chicken,' Hit don't say buy one chicken or borrow one chicken, but it says take one chicken. Hit don't say whose chicken ter take, so I jess tuck de first one I could lay my hans' on. I followed de directshuns, sah, in de book.'

Judge Jones has sent this case up for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

Some anonymous poet has been singing of the day when—

"The world shall be delivered
From the clash of magazines:
When the inkpot shall 'vered
Into countless smithereens;
When there stands a muzzled stripling
'Mute, beside a muzzled bore;
When the Rudyard's cease from Kipling,
And the Haggards Ride no more!"

And at the same time the rumours of Kipling's probably fatal illness are handed from paper to paper, and give a sort of pathos to the lines. It will be a sad thing indeed, if the most-talked-of of living writers, and the pet of society, were to drop off in his youth; but we are loth to believe these reports. There is no doubt that Kipling showed signs of consumption long ago, and will probably develop them again, but there is as yet no real foundation for the statement that he is already dying, and we hope before long to receive better news.

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