

heat of battle to-morrow—risking his precious life, to do honour, or rather to satisfy the ambition of the woman he loves.

V.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The heat of the fray is over. Under D'Aurelle de Paladines an important sally was made, and so fierce an attack on the Prussians that it not only temporarily disconcerted their leaders, but spread alarm among the beleaguering troops. Night is creeping on, apparently willing to do her gentle share toward shrouding in darkness the horrid sights that the garish sun and the crisply, glittering snow have made too awfully apparent during the past ten hours.

For the time being truce is proclaimed—after a fashion. The great forts have not ceased sending out their getting of destruction, nor is there any relaxation in the preparation for further raids on the morrow. But that wild combat to which Victor had looked forward with such a spirit of ambitious enterprise has ceased. It has ended with the light of day, and how sad a day has it been for some of the bravest and best! Victor had rushed wildly into the thickest of the melee, he had steeled his heart with the bright thought of Pearl's steady gray eyes, and wished for nothing so much as the chance of proving himself undaunted. The ambitious intention was genuine and grand, but the carrying it out rash and reckless, and its results by no means such as the young hero had hoped for—nay, reckoned on. In lieu of the first step toward promotion his career has received a fatal blow at the very outset; for he now lies sick to death, faint and almost unconscious, with a deep home-thrust from a vengeful sabre in his breast.

At last the heavy rumble of the cross-protected ambulance smites on the ears of the wounded, who lie so wearily listening—listening. So they have lain for hours in the enforced lethargy of agonizing pain, numbed, crushed, unable to move—dying of cold or maddened to fever and suffering from its accompanying parching thirst.

Poor Victor is beyond the hearing of any promise of relief, when suddenly there comes upon him the feeling of a horrible wrench, as strong arms lift him. Then he feels himself cruelly jolted, every bruised muscle shaken, every nerve in his body terribly strained. Finally he loses consciousness as to feeling ill or well; in a death-like trance he lies, oblivious of all surroundings. Such a swoon, truly, is the greatest boon mother nature can bestow on worn-out, suffering humanity.

VI.

IN THE WARD.

How grateful is the hush, the absolute repose, that comes to those weary soldiers, when at last they find themselves laid at rest, in the neat beds provided for them by kindly Samaritans in the temporary hospital for the wounded and the dying. Gentle women watch over the helpless ones with unremitting patience and care; with hushed voice and quiet tread they go from one couch to another, offering comfort for the body and solace to mind of the wounded and the dying.

Victor lies at rest in one of the softest beds of the ward, set apart for dangerous patients, that is, for those whose lives are at stake. And this ward is established within the precincts of an ancient royal residence, and on its floor dainty satin slippers and handsome buckled shoes have danced many a stately minuet. That deadly sickness is on poor Victor still, but he is no longer faint, though he lies absolutely motionless. He now hears and heeds the various sounds about him, even as with wary eyes he notes those who pass to and fro, and sees vaguely the outlines of other sufferers as they lie stretched on their beds of pain to the right and left of him and away against the further windows.

Thus Victor watches listlessly enough with half-closed lids, and presently remarks, leaning over the bed opposite to his, the graceful outline of a woman's form, that in spite of the strange Sister of Mercy garb seems to him—homelike—familiar. He looks at the nurse with growing interest. If she would but turn her head. With growing attention he opens his eyes fully now. Oh, that he could really see that face! Set on such shoulders it surely must be fair! Could he raise his head just a little? He tries to do so, but, alas! the mere attempt has made him groan in a sudden spasm of agony. His cry of pain at once attracts the nurse; she turns swiftly and runs to his side. Their eyes meet, and into his comes a look of tenderness and intense longing as he sees the love of his life once again and whispers "Pearl."

But her outstretched hands fall by her side helpless, as she stifles the shriek that she can scarce repress.

What faint colour there was in her fair face leaves it now, and she looks as ghastly as he who lies before her, her hero, her betrothed, the true love of her proud young heart.

Oh! how low has that pride laid!

With all the strength that is in her, and it is great, she conquers her trembling, overwhelming agitation, and sinks quietly on her knees by Victor's side. She takes his weak hand in hers, and covers it with passionate kisses; she prays with all fervor to the Father in heaven to spare the life of this bravest and best-loved of his creatures. Then comes a sudden thought that prompts her to quick action. Help, immediate

help! Victor needs the best care and instant attention. Good advice can procure it for him, and this shall be done instantly!

So Pearl goes swiftly to seek the doctor in whom she has most faith, and who has already proved himself a kind and patient friend to all who suffer, and to her who tends them. The doctor comes. He has seen Victor before, and knows well that this is a helpless case. The kindly doctor meets the eyes of the young nurse with a wistful sadness that says more than words. This nurse has always shown an earnest devotion to the good cause, and has been unremitting in her care and attention to all the sufferers. But now there is more than ordinary anxiety in the poor girl's manner as she learns the fate of the handsome young soldier lying sick unto death before her. It is a keen feeling of personal agony that blanches poor Pearl's face, and sends that look of desperate entreaty into her eyes.

"Oh! save him, save him, doctor, for his poor mother's sake!" she cries with uplifted hands, while tears course freely over her cheeks. "Is it really too late? Cannot you send for her, my poor mother, my dear mother?" asks Victor feebly.

There is no answer. And the invalid fully understands the import of this ominous silence.

"Ah!" he presently says, with a long-drawn sigh. "Then it is too late, all too late, I feel it now. Kiss me, my beautiful love. I wished to live for you, and now I am dying—dying for you!"

"My glorious hero!" cries Pearl, the ring of passionate despair trembling in her sweet voice; "do not say it, do not think it. Live, Victor! you must live, you shall live, for your mother's sake, for poor Inez, for your own heart-broken, miserable Pearl."

"Ay, and will," he cries, and with a superhuman effort raises himself and lifts the arm that is not maimed and puts it up to her neck. With a sudden revulsion from agony to hope, she folds him close to her warm throbbing bosom, and kisses his hair, his brow, his lips passionately, as though she would fill him with the vigorous current of her warm life's blood.

"My darling," she cries, "Oh! say it again! You will live, live to forgive me, to bless your poor mother, live to be mine—mine."

"I will live to bless you, my beautiful Pearl, but as to forgiving you, sweetheart, what can there be to forgive? I have loved you, I love you now, and shall—and shall."

The words came slowly, brokenly. His life's blood and breath are both failing him.

"Pearl," he whispers, "my darling, kiss me." Then, more faintly still, "My proud love—my beautiful love—and shall—forever."

His hand holds hers closely, and his head falls heavily on her bosom.

Pearl's pride, her hero and her hope in life—are dead.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The House met on Thursday, the 18th February, at 3 p.m. The first business disposed of was the election of a Speaker. Sir John A. Macdonald moved that the Hon. Joseph Goderic Blanchet, the member for Levis, take the chair in this capacity. Mr. Blanchet, he said, had had a long course of Parliamentary experience, and had presided for eight years as Speaker over the Legislature of his native province.

Hon. Mr. Tilley seconded the motion. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie expressed surprise at the nomination. The usual practice, he believed, was that the previous Speaker should be recalled until something should occur to make him retire from public life. He had certainly expected that Mr. Anglin would have been re-elected. He would, however, propose no amendment, feeling it his duty to afford the Speaker every support consistent with a due regard for Parliamentary proceedings.

Mr. Patrick, the clerk, then declared Mr. Blanchet duly elected.

The Speaker elect thanked the House for the honor conferred upon him, and stated that in presiding over the deliberations of this assembly he would act with the strictest impartiality, according to the laws of Parliament and the will of the House.

Sir John A. Macdonald added a few words of congratulation, and the House, on his motion, adjourned at 3.25.

The State Dinner at Rideau Hall in the evening was a very grand affair. Dinner was over at 9 o'clock, when the guests invited to Her Royal Highness "at home" arrived. The Princess wore a rich black satin dress, handsomely trimmed, with jet and fringe head-dress, ornaments, diamonds, Orders of Victoria and Albert, Indian and Cobourg. Lady Sophia McNamara wore a black *poult de soie* dress, handsomely trimmed with gauze, and head-dress of diamonds, and the Hon. Mrs. R. Moreton also wore a black *poult de soie* dress, trimmed with *moiré* silk and jet.

Friday, February 14.—Parliament was opened to-day with the usual ceremonies, at 3 o'clock, this afternoon, and the scene in the Senate Chamber was a brilliant one. The crush was something fearful, and several ladies fainted.

The affair was the most brilliant ever seen within the walls of the Senate Chamber.

H. R. Highness Princess Louise occupied a seat on the dais, and was dressed in mourning, with diamond ornaments.

She was loudly cheered as she drove up to the buildings, and the Governor-General arrived shortly after.

The usual message was delivered by Black Rod, and the Commons proceeded to the Senate Chamber, where the customary speech from the Throne was delivered.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In meeting the Parliament of Canada for the first time, I desire to express the gratification I feel at being selected by Her Majesty for the high and important office I now fill, and to assure you of the great satisfaction with which I now seek your aid and co-operation. In acknowledging with profound gratitude the reception which has been accorded to myself as Her Majesty's representative, I am also commanded by the Queen to convey through you to the people of Canada her thanks for the loyal, generous and kindly manner in which they have welcomed Her daughter.

CANADA AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The contribution of Canadian products and manufactures to the great national exhibition at Paris last year attracted much attention, and it is believed will have a beneficial effect on the trade of the Dominion with Europe. I congratulate you on the success which must in no small degree be attributable to the kind and unceasing exertions of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as President of the British section. The report of the Canadian Commissioners will be laid before you when received.

THE FISHERY AWARD.

I am pleased to inform you that the amount awarded for the fishery claims under the Washington Treaty has been paid by the United States, and that Her Majesty's Government has arranged with Canada and Newfoundland for their respective shares of the award. The papers on the subject shall be submitted to you.

THE CATTLE TRADE.

The important and rapidly increasing trade between Canada and England in live cattle has been seriously threatened by the appearance, in various parts of the United States, of pleuropneumonia. In order to prevent the contagion from spreading to Canada, and the consequent interruption of the trade, I have caused an order to be issued under "The Animal Contagious Diseases Act, 1869," prohibiting the importation or introduction into the Dominion of American cattle for a short period. It is hoped that the disease will be, ere long, extinguished in the United States, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed. Your attention will be invited to an amendment of the act I have just referred to.

TRADE WITH FRANCE AND SPAIN.

My Government has commenced negotiations with Her Majesty's sanction for the development of the trade of Canada with France and Spain, and with their respective colonies. I hope to be able to lay before you the result of these negotiations during the present session.

THE CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.

It is the purpose of my Government to press forth the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian Pacific Railway and to meet the reasonable expectations of British Columbia. In carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country. Communication by rail has been effected between Manitoba and the United States' system of railways, by the junction at St. Vincent of the Pembina branch of our railway with the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. That portion of the main line which extends from English River to Keewatin is now being placed under contract and will be energetically pushed to completion, in order to secure as rapidly as possible the connection between Lake Superior and the great North-west.

STAMPS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

A bill for the amendment and consolidation of the act relating to stamps shall be submitted for your consideration, as well as a measure amending the act relating to weights and measures.

THE CENSUS.

The decennial census must be taken in 1881. I think it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present session, in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible. In connection with the subject it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

NEW MEASURES.

A bill will be laid before you for the re-arrangement of some of the departments of the Government, also measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion lands, to the mounted police and to the post office department, and also for the amendment in some particulars of the laws relating to Indians.

ORDNANCE AND ADMIRALTY LANDS.

A measure will also be submitted to you for the vesting in Her Majesty for the use of the Dominion of certain ordnance and admiralty lands in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

THE ESTIMATES.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The estimates of the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been

prepared with as much regard to economy, as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

THE DEFICIT.

I regret that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the consolidated revenue. You will, I doubt not, agree with me in the opinion that it is not desirable that our finances should longer remain in this condition. By the application of the strictest economy to the public expenditure, and by the readjustment of the tariff, with the view of increasing the revenue, and at the same time of developing and encouraging the various industries of Canada, you will, I trust, be enabled to restore the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, and to aid in removing the commercial and financial depression which unhappily continues to exist. I have directed that the public accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

INSURANCE.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Parliament has recognized the importance of providing for the safe deposit of the surplus earnings of the people by arranging for their being placed with the Government at a fair rate of interest. It may be well for you to consider how far it is practicable to give a like security and encouragement to persons who may desire, by an insurance upon their lives, to make provision for those dependent upon them.

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be given to the important subjects I have alluded to, and to the general interests of the country.

On the return of the Commons to their Chamber,

Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a bill relative to the administration of the oaths of office.

Mr. Speaker said he had received several judgments in trials relative to certain elections. He laid upon the table the report of the Library of Parliament. He stated that he had asked that the ancient privileges of Parliament be granted to members, and His Excellency had graciously granted them.

Sir John A. Macdonald moved that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Carried.

Sir John A. Macdonald moved that a select committee be appointed to trike the Standing Committees.

The House adjourned.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

TOM TAYLOR, who is one of the few English critics who dare speak freely of Henry Irving's faults, which, though few, are glaring, alludes to them as follows: "It can not be necessary that a man should go on with this heartless vivisection of lines and sentences, cutting off verbs from their nouns, substantives from their adjectives, antecedents from their relatives, and prepositions from the words they govern; that he should make 'God' rhyme to 'mad,' or 'ghost' to 'lost,' with a host of other tricks of pronunciation just as outrageous. It is with tricks of movement as of speech. Are there not drill sergeants and dancing masters for the one, as well as professors of phonetics for the other?"

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy, for the speedy and permanent cure of consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, with full direction for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Powers' Block, Rochester, N.Y.

A CARD.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, Bible House, New York City.

NOTICE TO LADIES.

The undersigned begs respectfully to inform the ladies of the city and country that they will find at his Retail Store, 196 St. Lawrence Main Street, the choicest assortment of Ostrich and Vulture Feathers, of all shades; also, Feathers of all descriptions repaired with the greatest care. Feathers dyed as per sample, on shortest delay. Gloves cleaned and dyed black only. J. H. LEBLANC. Works: 547 Craig St.

It is valueless to a woman to be young unless pretty, or to be pretty unless young. If you want a first-class shrunken Flannel Shirt, send for samples and card for self-measurement, to TREBLE'S, 8 King Street E., Hamilton, Ont.

JEALOUSY is the worst of all evils, yet the one that is the least pitied by those who cause it. The only perfect Fitting Shirt made in Canada is made by TREBLE, of Hamilton. Send for samples and cards for self-measurement. Six A Number One Shirts for \$12.