MINISTER FOSTER IS SICK

Tariff Talk and His Leader's Coldness Have Laid Him Up.

TOO ILL TO CONFER WITH FARMERS

Sir John Thompson's Reception at Montreal—An Audience That Displayed No Enthusiasm—The Issue Between the Parties.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—The only minister of the crown in the city to-day is the Hon. George E. Foster. Mr. Foster is sick. No one will be surprised that he is when it is said that he accompanied the premier to Montreal on Tuesday last, heard his leader's speech, and intended going to Cornwall next day to meet the farmers of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry to talk over the question of the tariff. When a man addresses another by saying "You make me sick," it does not necessarily mean that the man in question is desperately in need of a physician. So it is with Mr. Foster. His leader talked protection, spoke of revision of the whole tariff—not necessarily reduction; probably something might be reduced and probably something might be increased—wrestled with the Behring Sea question to show that the country ought to be satisfied, as he and Tupper were both satisfied; spurned the idea of a convention of Conservatives as long as he was able to imitate the Czar of all the Russias over the party; told his audience that the people were prosperous and didn't know of it, and concluded by stating that any man who would say in advance of the decision of the supreme court what he would do in regard to the Manitoba schools would simply be "a fool." Now, after all this, was there any wonder that Mr. Foster was too sick to go to Cornwall on the following day? The minister of finance was not only pitifully aware of the need of a new leader, but the thought passed over his mind of the old "chestnut combination" as a drawing card in its perambulations through the country in the palace car "Ottawa" prior to the last general elections. The old leader who headed that combination is no more. If the programme he offered the different audiences he met was not a very entertaining or edifying one, still there were always sufficient attractions by the flag-wavers to secure good houses. The magnetism of Sir John the first was alone sufficient to draw, while the freezing appearance of Sir John the third may always be relied upon to drive away. No one who knows the facts will blame Mr. Foster for getting sick; yes, sick of the whole business. At any rate he refused to go to Montreal to meet the Patrons of Industry of Glengarry, who had their war paint on, and the tariff reformers of Stormont, some of whom are after McCarthy, or the men of Dundas, for a revenue tariff, who, like Mr. Foster, are sick of the whole business and determined to cast their ballots for the people's Wilfrid.

A telegram was sent by some of the ministers to Cornwall from Montreal saying that Mr. Foster was too ill to go to Cornwall. That was quite true, for at that very moment, when the message was passing over the wires, Mr. Foster was well on his way to Ottawa. He got up early in the morning, took the first train away from his leader and the city of Montreal, but not to the factory town of Cornwall, which was selected for the purpose of meeting the farmers who were crying out against specific duties and demanding their abolition, as well as a reduction in ad. valorem duties. The pressure of the cotton and woollen mills in Cornwall was not even a sufficient guarantee of safety to entice Mr. Foster there after hearing his leader's speech, to meet the farmers of the united counties, who turned out to be in earnest in their demands. Dr. Bergin, M. P., Stormont, Mr. Ross, M. P., Dundas, and big Rory MacLennan, M. P. from Glengarry, all Tories, were present among these farmers, but their influence over them was gone. They wanted Foster, to tell him what they thought of the robber tariff; they wanted Foster, to distinctly tell him that there was no use of any more juggling with the tariff to dupe the farmer and to enrich the combines and monopolists; in short, they made up their minds that all specific duties would have to be swept away and a big reduction in ad. valorem duties. They refused to have anything to do with the comptrollers—Messrs. Wood and Wallace—whom they said were not responsible to them. So the answer came ticking over the wires that Mr. Foster was sick. It was enough to make a man more robust than the minister of finance sick. He was well enough physically to come to Ottawa, where he hastened to his home, and where he has been since quite well enough to attend to his duties when brought to him, but not well enough to see any one who wanted to know anything about the tariff. All the other ministers, except Bowell, Jones and Daly, are in Montreal waiting the arrival of Lord and Lady Aberdeen.

The press of Ontario and Quebec has generally noticed the speech of Sir John Thompson in Montreal, and the most friendly of these papers have had to admit that his two hours' oration was an apology for the government. They furthermore say that the absence of enthusiasm was very apparent. Although those surrounding the premier on the platform worked hard by rising to their feet and waving their handkerchiefs when the premier rose to speak, the crowd refused to obey the call. They were willing to listen patiently, but they refused to enthuse. If the late Sir John Macdonald had but shook his head and said nothing before such an audience they would have yelled enough to make the rafters shake.

This was the first occasion for Sir John Thompson to address a Montreal audience as premier of Canada. He could not have secured a better place than that city wherein to preach the doctrines of protection. Montreal and Toronto are liable to always cling to high taxation. That they do so is sufficient proof of the injury it works against the masses. Then if the premier could not work up better enthusiasm than he did in that city, what may be expected from the agricultural districts?

It is a bad omen for the government that while only three or four thousand people could be gathered to hear him and his colleagues in Montreal, that very same day, despite the unfavorable weather for an outdoor meeting, between 8,000 and 10,000 people turned out to see and hear Wilfrid Laurier at Leamington, a country district in Western Ontario. The figures are not mine; they are taken from Conservative as well as Liberal newspapers.

Sir John Thompson is a better speaker than was Sir John Macdonald, but as he lacks the ability to attract the sympathies of an audience, Conservatives are commencing to say that they are losing ground because of the personal defects of the premier rather than the obnoxious nature of the policy which he is asked to advocate and defend. Sir John Macdonald had the knack of convincing the people against their will, but he could not have kept on doing so. Indeed, it is easily remembered that before the last election the premier apparently cast aside the cruel policy of the N. P., knowing it could not be any longer used as a drawing card, and paraded himself as desirous of obtaining reciprocity with the United States. How can the present premier expect to succeed when he lays plainly and in all its ugliness before his audience that hideous policy which his predecessor most carefully tried to hide as much as possible by the presentation of side issues and what was wholly immaterial to the discussion.

However, if the members of the government are satisfied Liberals ought not to complain, and the premier tells his Conservative followers that they are not going to be consulted at all—we need no convention, were his words.

At any rate, while the apprehension was entertained in some quarters that the premier would have coquetted with a tariff for revenue only, thereby donning himself the clothes of his political opponents, it is pleasant to all parties concerned that he has not done so, but has chosen his battle cry carefully. Indeed, it will be the first campaign since 1878 that the Canadian electors will be called on to decide squarely between two issues. Sir John says that the feature of the tariff will be protection; Mr. Laurier says that the Liberals will not halt until every vestige of protection is wiped away. There can be no misunderstanding between the parties any longer, for the premier has declared that, "popular or unpopular," protection will be adhered to. British Columbia has been voting long enough for something for the province and never getting it, so that she ought now to take a decided stand for that policy which would benefit her most.

SLABTOWN.

General Dispatches.

London, Sept. 23.—The recent death of a woman at Gorton, county of Lancaster, from a suspicious disease, was to-day pronounced by the authorities to have resulted from Asiatic cholera.

Barcelona, Sept. 23.—The police here raided the Anarchist club to-day, and seized two dozen petards and several large packages of tracts and placards. All the members found in the building were arrested.

Montevideo, Sept. 22.—News received here yesterday is not as favorable to the cause of the revolutionists as heretofore. The rebel squadron, of which the Republica is the flagship, which sailed for the south intending to bombard Santos, Porte Alegre and Rio Grande do Sul, has been defeated. When they arrived off Santos the guns of the Republica and Pallas were trained on the city. The land forces were awaiting the attack and the shore artillery replied with vigor. The fight was kept up for two hours, when the rebel fleet hoisted anchor and sailed southward. Desertions from the ranks of the revolutionists are daily reported. The federal troops in Rio Grande do Sul have abandoned the siege of the city of San Eugenio, which they found was too strongly defended to attack with any hope of success. There was considerable skirmishing but no decisive results. Two thousand federals, under command of General Pena, were encamped near Batista, intending to attack San Eugenio, which was defended by 600 Castilhistas, commanded by General Tigre.

London, Sept. 22.—George Perkins, a self-styled American barrister, son of Judge Perkins, was charged in the Bow street police court to-day with obtaining goods by false pretenses from Foster & Co., printers, and another firm. In the former case Perkins said the goods were for Lord Compton. He was remanded pending Lord Compton's appearance in court. Perkins is also charged with stealing title deeds relating to property in California owned by one Thompson, which he sent to America.

Brest, Sept. 22.—Reports made to the authorities at Brest to-day show there were eight deaths from cholera yesterday.

London, Sept. 22.—One of the eight miners who were imprisoned in the Dolcoath mine, Cornwall, by the collapse on Wednesday of a portion of the shaft, has been rescued. When taken out the man was found to be in good physical condition. He is entirely ignorant of the fate of his comrades.

London, Sept. 23.—Snow fell heavily in the north of England this morning. It was severe in Westmoreland, where it attained a depth of four inches.

World's Fair Grounds, Chicago, Sept. 22.—A serious accident occurred yesterday on the moveable sidewalk which extends the length of the Casino steamboat. A plank came in contact with the under part of the machinery and the section of the sidewalk was torn from its fastenings. The seats became derailed and slipped over, throwing over 200 people violently on the pier. The small elevation of the sidewalk proved a safeguard against any loss of life, but many of the passengers, men, wome nand children, were severely bruised and cut. A few were removed to the hospital by the ambulance corps. The employees on the pier and sidewalk kept the people cool and prevented a panic.

San Francisco, Sept. 23.—Arrangements were completed yesterday by which all transportation companies west of Chicago have agreed upon freight rates for exhibits to the midwinter fair. The rates are 33 1-3 per cent lower than the regular freight rates and include return exhibits to exhibition point.

San Francisco, Sept. 23.—The jury in the case of Harry Thorn, charged with the murder of Frank Northey, reported yesterday morning that they were unable to agree and were discharged. They stood on the last ballot 7 for acquittal and 5 for murder.

Grafton, W. V., Sept. 23.—The trial of the Rev. J. T. Chenowith before the Methodist conference on charges of immorality closed suddenly yesterday. Chenowith's counsel announced in open conference that their client desired to withdraw from the ministry and membership of the Methodist church. This was granted. Chenowith was formerly a presiding elder of the church and one of the most eloquent and distinguished ministers in this part of the country. He was charged with sustaining improper relations with Miss Jennie Loud.

FAMOUS GRETNA GREEN.

A Place, Folk and History Wierdly Fascinating.

ORIGIN OF THIS NOTORIOUS PLACE

The First "Bishop of Gretna"—His Uncanny Successors—Gretna Marriages Still in Vogue—A Grotesque Ceremony

(From our own Correspondent.)

Gretna, Scotland, Sept. 7, 1893.—Tramping in many portions of every shire of Scotland, where I have not found beauty or grandeur of scenery, there has always been winsome antiquarian, historic or personal interest. Only one spot has proven repulsive, squalid and forlorn to such a degree that its very beggarliness is startling, its venality ferocious, and its miserable folk and history so uncanny and infamous, that place, folk and history are wierdly fascinating alone for their woebegone, vicious and outrageous character. Such a place, such a folk and such a history remain in the ancient noted, and still notorious, Scottish court of Hymen, Gretna Green.

In what may be termed the scandalous romantic literature of Britain no other place has occupied such scandalous and even world-wide notoriety. It has for nearly 150 years trailed through every form of romance and story; infested every manner of newspaper travesty; burdened much of the popular ballad and rhyme; obtruded itself into noble as well as lowly society; stalked across stage in tragedy and comedy; engaged the pen of as great a poet and satirist as Tom Hood in his well-known elegy to David Laing, the closing lines of which are:

Had I command, thou should'st have gone thy ways
In chaise and pair—and lain in Pere la Chaise!—

and it has even entered without reverence the presence of grave chancellors to pursue its course of dishonor and disquiet in the highest courts of the three kingdoms. In fact, in the entire English-speaking world the name of Gretna Green and the notion of Gretna Green marriages are as familiar to all classes as is the commonest nursery rhyme.

Yet you will not find a score of people either in America or Britain who can tell you, any more than they can give you the origin of the commonest nursery rhyme, what originally really made the place famous or infamous, the conditions continuing in its notoriety, whether these conditions have been removed, or whether Gretna Green itself is a real place with geographical limitations, or an interesting myth growing out of the vagaries and witticisms of marital literature. Illustrative of this was the indignant assertion made to me a short time since by a most eminent clergyman of Glasgow that Gretna Green marriages were abolished by law a half century ago, and that probably not a hundred couples were ever married at Gretna as alleged by popular tradition! On the contrary, nearer 10,000 couples have been married at Gretna Green; Gretna Green marriages of the olden sort, with very slight modification are constantly being "solemnized" at the present time; and, as I shall show, I hold a certificate of marriage of my own, issued by the present "bishop of Gretna," William Laing, postman.

No single clear and concise account can be found in the books comprising the conditions and incidents leading to the establishment of the ancient notorious marriage Mecca of Gretna. Its origin primarily was due to the rigors of English marital law about the middle of the 18th century. Ancient English law held that marriage was legal by civil contract in the presence of two witnesses, rendering the services of the priest merely a matter of sentiment or religion. Decisions under this law, influenced by powerful ecclesiasticism, led to serious legal entanglements. A civil contract marriage was legal—to a degree. In the matter of descent of real property to the offspring of such marriage it was held to be invalid. Rebellion against the inexorability of the clergy influence in the courts, rather than the law itself, resulted in the clandestine marriages celebrated by unprincipled clerics in orders, known as "Fleet marriages," and their consequent scandals, a century and a quarter ago in London. To end this was passed the English marriage act of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke in 1754. This prohibited all clandestine and so-called "irregular" or civil-contract marriages, and made it compulsory on all English subjects, except Quakers and Jews, to be married according to the rites of the church of England.

So unjust a measure was certain to meet with evasion. Opportunity for this was found in the necessarily unchangeable rule in the English courts that any marriage validly performed in the country in which it had been contracted must be held valid for all purposes in England. Rebellious spirits and secretly panting hearts naturally turned toward the nearest country offering relief. This one was Scotland. At the time of the reformation Scotland as well as England refused to accept the provision of the council of Trent, which rendered the solemnization of marriage by a priest necessary. Scotland's ancient marriage law was the same as that of ancient England. From time immemorial all that has been requisite for a valid marriage in Scotland has been an interchange of real and actual consent, constituting at the time given an undeniable intention and determination to enter the relation of husband and wife, with either incontestable written evidences of that fact, or evidences of witnesses before whom the same is declared. This was ancient Scottish law. It was Scottish law when Gretna Green began to acquire notoriety as a marriage resort for runaway English couples. And it is Scottish law to-day.

There has never been in Scotland, nor is there to-day, any bar to this form of marriage save that of public sentiment. The people of Scotland, including a large portion of the clergy, ever sturdily withstood the enactment of laws by the Scottish parliament which might annul this form of marriage, or tend to cloud heirship under it. Strictest conditions of registration have always been imposed and Scottish law has always prescribed certain ceremonials for celebration of regular marriages, such as the publication of bans and the officiating by a clergyman. But the "irregular" marriage by witnessed civil contract has never been successfully assailed, and has never been subject to but one slight modification. Through deference to English appeals for a check upon the "Gretna" and "Coldstream" marriages of English people—for the border village of Coldstream in Berwickshire once possessed almost as unenviable a reputation as Gretna—in 1856, by permission of Scottish representatives, an act was passed by the British parliament imposing the condition upon Scottish civil-contract marriages that one of the contracting parties shall have been a resident of Scotland for a period of 21 days immediately preceding such marriage.

In other words, any civil contract marriage in Scotland for hundreds of years has been and now is a valid one; the requisites for marriage at Gretna to-day are precisely the same as they always were, with the exception of subsequent registration, and the trifling condition of brief residence of one of the contracting parties; and within the past 23 years the present "bishop of Gretna" has married between 900 and 1,000 couples, chiefly runaway English men and women, or nearly one-tenth of the entire number so married at Gretna Green since its first "scandalous marriage" on record. It is almost as much resorted to at present for "irregular" marriage ceremony as it was a hundred years ago, though the fine color and great clamor of the old coaching days, when old Carlisle and Glasgow road resounded with ringing hoofs and the shouts of pursuers and pursued, are eliminated by the railways; and every mail to Gretna Green brings "Bishop" Laing letters of eager inquiry, one of which is truly copied, barring the signature, in the following:

Keighley, Eng., Aug. 28, 1893.

Dear Sir:

Would you kindly inform me what length of residence is necessary in Scotland for parties going to be married by you at Gretna? Does it require both bride and bridegroom to be a certain length in Scotland, or only the Bride?

Do you require any certificate as to the residence in Scotland? If so, from from whom should it be? From the minister, Solicitor, or registar? What time of day do you require parties to be there for marriage? Are you to be readily found on any day? Do you marry Sunday? What is your fee? The parties I write for are respectable people, but not able to pay a high fee—say from one to two pounds. An early reply will very much oblige.

P. S.—If we come you will know me by my carrying a stick with a carved head. Also by a bit of green in my hat-band, It is possible the bride may not have hardly anything on, as she will have to cut stick to participate. How will we know you?

Gretna was originally chosen as an objective point of safety for both flying debtors and runaway couples from England solely on account of its favorable location. The great olden coach roads of England, still its finest highways—the eastern one coming north through Leeds, York, Borroughbridge, Catterick and ancient Bowes, the scene of Dickens' Dotheboys Hall in "Nicholas Nickleby," and thence over dreard Stanemoor, and the western one leading from Liverpool through Lancashire and the northwestern English shires—joined at the City of Carlisle the single broad stone highway passed over the Esk and Sark rivers, between which lay the historic "Debatable Land," into Scotland. It should be borne in mind that the distance from Carlisle to Gretna, just beyond the Sark, is only about 12 miles; that Gretna was the first coach relay station north of Carlisle; that the Sark stream was the unquestioned boundary line between England and Scotland; and that whatever legal or moral vexations lurk in the "Debatable Land" between the Esk and the Sark, whenever debtors or lovers, flying from the inexorable harassment of English statute, once crossed the middle of the Sark, they were instantly safe from pursuers beneath the ever-welcoming aegis of Scottish law.

Though Gretna had been a favorite haven of safety for absconding debtors from the middle of the seventeenth century, its first "irregular" marriage of which there is record did not occur until 1771, seventeen years subsequent to the passage of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke's hated English Marriage Act; but the circumstances of this affair were so interesting and so widely heralded that Gretna Green at once became Hymen's metropolis for hunted, haunted, runaway lovers. This first marriage, was of John Edgar, St. Mary's Parish, and Jean Scott of the Parish of Hetherel, both of the adjoining English county of Cumberland. Tradition has it that these two, instead of coming by coach-and-four over the post-route from Carlisle, escaped their opposing relatives by boat across the Solway Firth. They were upset by a storm and a fierce incoming tide, whose violence drowned one of their pursuers and caused the others to abandon the chase. The couple themselves barely escaped with their lives; and bedraggled in brine and sand, they finally made their way on foot from the shoreside village of Brewhouses to Gretna, where they were married by Joseph Paisley, who for this sort of thing became the most notorious man of his time in Scotland, as well as the most execrated single individual known to the annals of English social anathema.

At this time, Gretna, perhaps a half mile from the Sark along the highway towards Glasgow, comprised not more than a half dozen houses. There were simply a few rude buildings clustered about an old thatched kirk and the olden farmstead of Meg's-hill. The farmstead was the laird of the land's residence. There were also the little manse behind the kirk and a vile little shop in which the fellow Paisley—not a blacksmith as all Gretna literature has it—sold tea, tobacco and snuff as well as smuggled whiskey to the "muckle right sort." The exploiting of the Edgar-Scott marriage; Paisley's defiance of English and Scotch authorities and his cunning in securing the highest Scottish legal advice, enabling him to settle the form of procedure according to law by attesting marriages simply as a witness; with the consequent establishing of the absolute legality of these marriages and the universal notoriety thus given; completed the essentials for the acquainting every soul in England with the extraordinary opportunities offered for evading English law. Paisley became the self-constituted "Bishop of Gretna;" and the Maxwell residence was transformed into a commodious inn.

This hostelry proving inadequate for accommodation, Sir William Maxwell, the laird, built an entire village in the half mile distance between Gretna and the Sark, which he called Springfield, and which included two inns, the King's Arms and Maxwell's Arms; and these by the beginning of the present century became the most noted posting establishment in the two kingdoms. From Paisley's marriage of the Cumberland couple it is computed that this "irregular" marriage traffic brought annually to Gretna and Springfield twenty thousand pounds in fees; expenses of those who pursued runaway couples; outlays of barristers who visited the places to establish proof of marriage; other barristers who came for clients who hoped to find lack of proof; from the curious who were attracted by the extraordinary character of the place; and from the general recklessness and extravagance on every hand where marriage fees from runaway English common folk, gentry and nobility ranged from five to one hundred guineas, as they did, with any amount of the "yellow stuff" for hordes of "witnesses," handy men and satraps who lived permanently at the inns, filled the rude cottages or swarmed like harpies about the then busy stable yards.

The present hereditary line of "Bishops of Gretna" was established just before the death of John Paisley, who, a mass of fat and corruption, "went his ways" in 1814. He was a terrible drinker of Cognac, and his advancing age with his physical joys and afflictions compelled him to delegate his office to other and younger hands in the person of David Laing, an Ulster Irish pack-peddlar. His wife was Paisley's granddaughter, and besides, he possessed so hard a character and fists that none disputed the legitimacy of the succession. He died in 1827. The third "bishop" was his son, Simon Laing, who fattened upon the increasing traffic until 1856, when something of a check was given Gretna Green marriages by the passage of the act before alluded to requiring one of the contracting parties to have Scottish residence for 21 days immediately preceding marriage. This Simon Laing died in 1871. The fourth and resent "Bishop of Gretna" is William Laing, Her Majesty's postman at Springfield and Gretna, a little mite of an old man 71 years of age, weazened, shriveled and canny; uniting all the bibulous prowess of his predecessors with an appalling cunning of the lowest order; a tiny ogre in blue and red when on his official rounds as postman; a vicious and ruminative "Grandfather Smallweed," when "officiating" or mumbling over his oaken chest of records in his tiny, tumble down cottage beside the impetuous Sark.

The old moss-grown Gretna kirk is still standing, surrounded by crumbling headstones of Gretna "bishops" and other worthies, at the northern end of the long, dreary street. The King's Arms and the Maxwell Arms, midway to the Sark, are ruinous and decayed, and remain but filthy dens where drunken hinds and brawling tramps hold common orgy. The straggling street is overgrown with rank grass and weeds. Old women with bloodless faces and barbaric bairns with dirty faces leer and hoot at you as you pass. Down at the edge of the brae forming the last vestige of Scottish land beside the Sark, in the third cottage from the stream, live William Laing and his half imbecile old wife; the latter now deaf for more than forty years and with a pinched white face whiter than the trembling white frills of her "mutch" cap upon her poor, palsied head.

There is just one room in this cottage, and that not twelve feet square. The street door is at the side of the house front. Behind this is a recess and a bed. A back door opens upon a little, walled kail-yard. Opposite the bed is a wide fireplace where food is cooked upon and against a peat fire as in ancient times. Opening upon the street is one window, wide and low. Underneath this stands a deal table, and beneath the table is a stout oaken, iron-bound chest. This contains the records of nearly ten thousand Gretna marriages. They are worth more than their weight in gold. The old man hugs the delusion that he will some time get their weight in gold. He never permits man or woman to set eyes upon these records, save for gold, and then only in a fever of fright lest harm shall come to these hoarded, silent witnesses, or from suspicion that some plot against him for their possession is in progress. I accomplished my own purpose of inspection only after many visits; after yielding to many of his direct demands for drink; and after downright bribery. Then, by impugning his high office, railing at his assumption of semi-priestly powers, and contemptuously denying that marriages were now being performed by him, I so stung his episcopal dignity that he produced the registers of the nearly one thousand couples he had himself married and also excitedly proffered, if there was "siller ahint it," to illustrate the ceremonial then and there, with myself for the bridegroom and his teetering, tottering old guidwife, Elizabeth Laing, as bride.

The old man, half wild with liquor and indignation, slapped his horn-bowed spectacles upon his nose, grasped a soiled Bible with one hand from the table, and with the other clutched his poor old spouse from her chair and whirled her upon her feet before him.

"Stan' oop! Stan' oop t'gither!" he almost shouted. "Clap hans t'gither," was his next command. We joined hands and the little old ogre proceeded.

"Ar' ye a single mon? Ye answer aye, ye ken."

I answered aye.

"Ar' ye a single wumman? Spak oop, noo!" he yelled at the trembling yet pitifully smiling old guidwife beside me. "Ye answer aye."

She gurgled and cackled assent.

"D'ye ken ony reason why ye shouldna tak' this wumman to be yer lawfu' wedded wife? Ye gie inta that, ye ken;" he said impatiently, and I answered "No."

"D'ye ken," this to his wife, "ony reason why ye shouldna tak' this mon tae be yer lawfu' wedded mon? Spak oop, noo, ye auld boho! Gie in tae that!"

She gurgled and cackled afain.

"Ye baith gie in tae a' o' that?"

We both assented.

"Then," said the old wretch, savagely and triumphantly, "ye've bund yersels mon an' wife afore thae wutnesses, an'," he added in an ugly undertone, as he seated himself from habit at the table to fill out our marriage certificate, "the deil tak' baith o' ye!"

This is what I got as evidence of the grotesque ceremony:

KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND.
County of Dumfries,
Parish of Gretna.

THESE ARE TO CERTIFY, to all to Whom They May Concern: That Edgar L. Wakeman, from the City and County of New York, U.S., and Elizabeth Laing from the Parish of Gretna, in the County of Dumfries, being now both here present and having declared to me that they are both Single Persons, have now been Married after the manner of the Laws of Scotland.

As witness our hands at Gretna this 17th day of [illegible] 1890.

Witnesses: William Laing.

Whenever I am in Scotland I always run down here to Gretna to look in upon the couple to whom I sustain such peculiar certified relations. And I am not quite sure that this one "irregular" marriage at Gretna has not done some good. For when I sit with the pitiful old pair at their tiny deal table, munching oaten bannocks and sipping steaming tea, I sometimes fancy that in the second childhood that is now upon them, my own tender courtesies to deaf and palsied Elizabeth Laing, perhaps through re-awakened jealous fires in her testy consort, have sometimes softened and subdued the erst marital rigors of William Laing, postman, and "Bishop" of grewsome Gretna Green.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

KILLED BY DYNAMITE.

Crushing Arguments Used by Union Seamen to Convince Opponents.

San Francisco, Sept. 23.—One of the most fiendish deeds in the criminal history of the city was perpetrated here to-night. Shortly after midnight a dynamite bomb was exploded in a water front boarding house filled with non-union sailors, resulting in the instant death of three inmates and the probable fatal injury of seven more, while many sustained less serious injuries. The terrific explosion occurred in a house on Main street, between Howard and Folsom, kept by John Curtain. The house was filled with non-union sailors, and it was Curtain's custom to secure berths for his patrons on ships employing non-union men. In this way he naturally incurred the enmity of the sailors' union.

Less than a week ago his place was entered by a crowd of union men led by a man named John Terrell. Curtain was threatened, and upon leaving his house the men told him he had only a short time to live.

To-night all the inmates had retired as usual, and the house was quiet when the explosion occurred, shaking the city for blocks. The entire front of the boarding house was torn away, carrying the front of an adjacent structure with it. Men were thrown from their beds across the street. A large hole was blown through the sidewalk into the basement, into which numbers of men were thrown. Main street was filled with the debris, among which were the dead and dying. An ambulance was quickly on the scene, and, taking three severely wounded, started for the hospital, but one of the men died before it was reached. As the work of rescue progressed it was found that several men had had limbs torn from their bodies. So far two dead bodies have been taken from the ruins and seven severely injured.

Two of the dead are Brick McGinnis and George Holmes. John Terrell was arrested in a neighboring lodging house and placed in prison. The police are looking for seven other union sailors whom they suspect of being implicated in the plot.

CANADIAN DISPATCHES.

The News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs.

John Elliott, aged 73, an old resident of North Oxford, is dead.

Fire completely destroyed the commercial block in Southampton.

The infant daughter of Hon. J. A. Ouimet died at Ottawa on Friday.

James McMurray, a resident of the Stayner section for the past 40 years, is dead, aged 83.

James Wells, 42, was arrested in Toronto, charged with seducing Jessie Hammond, a 17 year old girl.

Isaac Hodgins, one of the pioneer settlers of Brant county, is dead. He was aged 80 and was a '37 veteran.

The deposits in the postoffice savings bank during August amounted to $721,311, and the withdrawals to $525,109.

The fire at Sillery, near Quebec, destroyed two grocery stores and twelve dwelling houses. Loss, $25,000; insurance, small.

Major Horace Wickstead, of Ottawa, stumbled while walking on the street in Toronto and broke his leg. The major, who is aged 82, was taken to the hospital.

The promoters of the proposed smelting works in Hamilton have applied for a charter of incorporation. The stock is placed at $1,000,000 in shares of $100 each.

In accordance with the suggestion of Major-General Herbert, the proposed Sons of England rifle brigade in Toronto will be changed to garrison artillery. The recruit list already shows a total of 250.

A fire broke out in Glencoe which for a time threatened to destroy the business portion of the town. It was got under control, however, after having destroyed the town hall and lockup and a number of stables and barns.

The Montreal Board of Trade banquet on the 27th promises to be a big affair. Applications for tickets have been received from representatives of boards of trade in the United States, while representatives will be present from Ontario and Manitoba.

A sensation has been created in Anglican church circles in Toronto by the discovery that some person or persons had entered St. Thomas and St. Luke's churches and destroyed the candles and turned the crosses upside down. The ministers of the desecrated churches are inclined to ritualistic practices.

During a terrible storm the American barges Yanka and Bahama were driven ashore near Fisherman's Bay, eight miles south of Port Elgin. The crews were landed safely. The schooner Kolfage, which was loaded with stone at the Fishing Islands, is reported lost with all hands.

The Bank of Montreal has issued a writ against the estate of the late [illegible] Gibbs, of New York, for $18,[illegible], on a promissory note. Gibbs, who died in New York a few days ago, was formerly a grain merchant at Toronto, but failed in business removed to New York, married a Toronto lady, and went on the stage.

Nothing very definite is known in Toronto of Hull Bros., [illegible] is known to have been for some time [illegible] barrassed, and efforts were made to negotiate a compromise with their creditors when the crash came. Hull Bros. (Company) [illegible] which [illegible] solicitor, [illegible] two weeks ago, [illegible] ment to the effect that they did not [illegible] to close a compromise by his employers [illegible] days. [illegible] and his brother [illegible] brother-in-law [illegible] Aid. Bizer defended the union. Mr. [illegible] was a gentleman, and that fact [illegible]

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