THE CARLETON-PLACE HERALD.

THE WESTERN TRAIL.

HE HERO MAKES HIS BOW TO THE READER. It was night on the western prairies, and the stars were glowing silvery and soft in the azure arch. The gauzy spray of clouds sailing at intervals across the quiet heavens, obscured not the mild lustre of the moon, nor cast a shadow

A youth of slender figure, clad in garb befitting the hunter and backwoodsman, was Massachusetts. Many were veteran tr eminence, leaning gracefully upon his rifle, ticed in the arts and expedients of hunte which was of approved make and studied Thus far on their march all had gone

an army of eternal occupation, which the adventures worth relating when they might of finite man can never conquer; upon his right, prairies unfolded their scenery like an ged their shoulders, intimating very plain endless panorama, diversified by strips of timber, swamps of grass and shrubbery. At a short distance from the youth, the smoke of a They passed Fort Laramie with not in blazing fire arose in a misty column, forming numberless fantastic wreathes and phantom lant spirits of the younger men began to shapes. A solitary figure was stretched beside the burning fagots, sleeping as soundly, apparently, as if domiciled beneath a sheltering roof, and couched upon the softest bed. The youth approached the spot; at the sound of his footsteps the man sprang to his feet, casting quick, skins what they could do," boasting in n sharp glances around him. In a moment his sured terms of their ability to teach ther gaze was fastened upon the intruder, and he relaxed his guarded watchfulness. With his raven eyes he scanned the object that had excited his attention, with stronger indications of contempt than curiosity, or alarm. The youth

eams, or awakened his fears. The person to whom these words were addressed, smiled, and, turning his back partially toward the youth, replied rather sarcastically, that he seldom took the trouble to dream; as for fear, Ben Brion was a stranger to it, and had certainly seen nothing to excite such an emotion for a long time. He trusted he had too long been a sojourner in the west to be terrified at trifles. He then stroked his beard, shrugged his shoulders, and smiled again. The young man doubtless understood the stranger's meaning, but without appearing to notice it, added that if his company would not be considered particularly disagreeable by a realparticularly disagreeable, he would venture to the a seat by the fire, which seemed to him

very cheerful and inviting.
The individual who had styled himself Ben Brion, replied that he was at liberty to please better with his constitution than any accommodation he could offer. The youth answered to the effect that he was not fastidious; that a blazing fire would suffice for a night so serene and tranquil. He seated himself, placed his rifle on the ground beside him, and instead of turning his attention to Brion, resumed his study of the beavens with an abstracted air.

At that period there was much rivalry existing between the various organized fur companies which often led to the most lamentable results. The parties kept a jealous watch of each other. resorting to all the upmanly arts of low cunning to mislead, baffle and injure a rival enterprize. These wars of interest were in continual operation, ultimating not unfrequently in bloody recontres and terrible reprisals. Being in the employ of the American Fur Company, Brion, not unnaturally, began to feel suspicious of the youth, and query whether he was not in the employ of the adverse confederacy—a spy on his movements, perchance. This conjecture was not calculated to soften his prejudices, as may be imagined, because opposition was then raging with great bitterness, aggravated by mu-

Upon awakening in the morning, his first impulse was to look for the youth; but he was not there. Near the spot where the trapper had slept was a dead rattlesnake, which he must have killed before departing. He had left a mark of good will, Brion could not but confess. The serpent might have wounded him fatally while he slept, had not the friendly offices of the

youngster prevented such a catastrophe.

His simple morning meal despatched, he caught his horse (which had been side-lined, and allowed to feed upon the newly-grown grass at the distance of a hundred yards from his bivouac) and resumed his way in a western direction toward the Platte or Nebraska River. Three days passed without bringing any notable adventure to the sturdy mountaineer. On the afternoon of the fourth he saw a traveller ap- Buckeye was in the act of lighting the fa proaching, mounted upon a large sorrel horse, that had been heaped on the spot by the treatment of which were tisan's order, when a horseman was described to the spot of the not calculated to impress the observer with a approaching at a gallop. His hurried prought him quickly to the side of the mount

Buckeye-such was the rover's name-was in good spirits, and enlivened the way by his witticisms and strange tales.

Another serence evening followed. Unable to sleep, Brion left his hard couch to contemplate the starry beauties of the night, and muse upon the arduous duties upon which he was entering. The placid skies, the mellow light, the murmur of glistening waters, addressed his consciousness like pleasant voices. While yielding to the pleasant voices we have no right to meddle," was the immed the soething influences around him even covering. the soothing influences around him, and gazing dreamily at the varied aspects, Brion fancied he heard a slight movement in a group of young poplars at his right. Disciplined in a school of severest watchfulness, he was alive to sounds you. I found near me on awaking the n mandible to unpracticed ears. He advanced morning after your visit, a dead serpent of cautiously toward the spot whence the noise proceeded. He imagined, as he parted the branches of the trees, and stepped into the thicket, he caught a vague glance of an object in rapid motion beyond the bushes, deeper in the shadow. It might have been a human figure, or it might have been but the reflection of a cloud thrown transiently upon the open space.

With his rifle ready for instant use Brion moved forward. On the margin of the wood he paused forward. On the margin of the wood he paused and examined the locality. He was much surprized at finding and Indian hatchet sticking into a tree near him. He drew it forth; the handle was yet warm from the belt of its owner. A minute had not elapsed, obviously, since it had been hurled into the yielding bark. The mountaineer looked for a fresh trail, but was for some time unsuccessful, until going further from the tree, he found a spot where the grass was bent, as if pressed by a human foot. He followed the trail for a few rods, when it suddenly ceased; he could trace it no further.

Brion spoke with some warmth and boy quite low; for the youth, despite his slight ure and smooth face, had an air that in so strange manner commanded respect.

The stranger's horse at that moment snut the air with affright, trembled, reared and may a sidelong bound.

"Be quiet, Brave, be quiet, I see nothing fear," said his master soothingly.

he could trace it no further.

The partizan (the leaders of those enterprises were thus called) awaked the trapper and repartisan.

The parties mounted their horses, and

fire where they had anticipated passing disturbed night, was soon far behind. Before noon they overtook the band isting of about seventy-five men, ampl vided with pack horses anfi mules.

We cannot here make the reader acq with the various individuals of which th ng with meditative brow upon a gentle while some were fresh on the prairies, u Below him, at the base of the hill, the waters of Kansas River were flowing; while at his left the distant peaks of the Rocky Mountains were visible, towering in their stern, unchanging the stern without moldent or exciteme.

continued travel had already taken th starch of greenness out of them. Seeu smoothly things were proceeding, they less vigilant, ridiculed the precautions of wishing for an opportunity to "show the ty. Buckeye, who continued with the heard all this bravado in silence, feeling inclined to feed their vanity than to rebul

One morning, one of those who had advanced and begging pardon for the intrusion, expressed a hope that he had not disturbed his oudest in his threats, and had sneered the nightly cautions of Brion was missed Believing that he would soon ret in measiness was felt on his account; bi making his appearance, several of his his lifeless body was found a few rods fr encampment. It had no wound-no mortal injury visible to casual eyes; y animating spirit had gone! The thou braggatts at first were shocked, supposin comrade had met his death by violence, I covering no external hurt, they changed ninds, and concluded he had died a la

Buckeye.

A young Missourian, by the name of ley, replied that he supposed appoplexy be thus called.

in which the body was decently interred earth was smoothed, and a fire built of a spot to prevent the resting place of the remains from being disturbed by the naturing the day's march there was considered to the man's diseas, Brion, Buckeye, and a few others, stud

avoided the topic.

The next camp was chosen with park care, and unwonted precautions were

dark, therefore favorable for repose; a care stance of which the weary adventurers avi themselves by sleeping soudly to a later length aroused them, and added:

"Billy Minten is gone!"

"Gone where?" asked Headley.

"Where we're all going, my men-to great nation of the dead!" he answered, sad Brion's men now gathered about the ren of the unfortunate young man, seeking vi for the wound that sped him hence. Evide mortally, nor had moved a limb thereafter expressing no dread or horror, or conscious of suffering; and the ghastliness of death not written upon any of the features.

ments, and all traces of the grave obliterate The stranger gradually drew near, and the parties with proper formality saluted, and extended the hand of friendship. Many such meetings transpire on the wide praries of the discount of the bivouac-fire on the banks of the Kanzas.

"Good morning, messieurs," he said, with "Yes, it is a very good morning, should like it better were it less cloudy,"

"I confess, good youth, that your reason has the savor of truth. And I am now remin that I am probably under some obligation

fear," said his master soothingly.

"We have just buried a comrade here; the scent of death that terrifies him," said

ARLETON-PLACE, CANADA WEST, JANUARY 31, 1856.

"If I was to speak the truth like an honest

man, as is becoming to me and all others, I a severer check than it ever did, Mons should assert cofidently that the two men had Mariot." foul play. I'm aware how it'll seem to them that don't know what I do, and never heard the name of Redpath."

The youth turned an eager, searching look on "Stop, my friend," he said, "and allow me to interrupt you by asking, who is Red-

"Ask anything you please, sir—ask what makes the grass grow, or the heart beat, or the sun shine? Such questions might be commonthat we must take "Who knows that better than I? doubt very proper; but answering them is an-

that the partizan had detected the direction of his eyes, he appeared disconcerted, and instantly turned his attention another way. The pany?" with emphasis on the word "ruin." mountaineer was sagacious and quick to observe, and the circumstance slight as it was, gical resources are exhausted." did not mpass unoted. A train of novel ideas began thereupon to whirl through his brain; he seemed trying to work out some kind of a problem without being able to find the proper data from which to start. Buckeye contrived to touch him on the arm, giving him a warning look that said, "Cap'n, I'm very suspicious of

But a change had come over the partisanthe signs of the trapper were unheeded; he rode on singularly taciturn and reflective.
"Look, comrade, there's a horseman away

yonder, and he's making signals!" exclaimed Buckeye, pointing toward the mountains. "I thank you for your company, brave worth. We knights of the rifle and trap. Adieu, messieurs, laugh at law."

With a neigh of joy, Brave recognized the signals to go, and sprang away with a force that made the ground tremble. "A spy," cried the trapper vehemently.
"Say but the word, cap'n, and I'll foller and

bring the young scamp back ?" "Do no such thing," said Brion, earnestly. "And what you propose is impracticable. See how he rides! Ah, my friend, you might as well chase the wind!" Buckeye gazed after the black horse and his rider with both vexation energy. and admiration-vexed he hardly knew for what and admiring because of the swiftness of the steed. He shook his wise head dubiously, wondering how such a silken sort of a lad got so far from home, and what he was good for. Small hands and feet, a slight frame, neatly "You have told me nothing fitting garments, a smooth and comely face, "Leave the ways and ne

" It is worth knowin'." "I should like to hear it?"

"But to-day I wont tell you. Do you know it isn't a lucky day to tell a secret? You don't of course. I see it by your expression."
"You excite my curiosity, much. When shall I have your confidence?"

"To-morrow, like enough; we shall see. But but I'll stroll into your camp before the moon is

The trapper urged Flash to a gallop, and bounded along the almost interminable reach of prairie. His stout figure was soon but a mere speck between the plain and the horizon, still growing less and less to the eyes that followed

BELLMAR AND MARIOT APPEAR. IT is needful that we make a retrogade move of our story may be more orderly and intellig-

able to those so obliging as to follow us in rovings in the distant West. Ambrose Bellmar and Pierre Mariot were residents of Westport, and partners in the fur trade, annually sending forth a brigade of trappers. The first was an elderly man, the father with deta of a daughter who had attained to seventeen years, as well as to a degree of beauty exceedingly rare, save in the pages of romance. Pierre burden. Mariot was the son of Jules Mariot, Monsieur The Bellmar's late partner deceased. The young

"Entirely alone," replied Bellmar.

"We must ruin the American Fur Com-

"You are just as far from the question, Monsieur Mariot. You do not inform me how this is to be accomplished."

terrible was in Mariot's mind; she knew by the tones of his voice. "We must keep the penalties of the n view," quoth Bellmar, wriggling in

worth. We will employ instruments that "What was that?" asked Pierre.

"Nothing; go on; you would, you say, em- Brion. oloy savages—at least, you mean so to be un-"Yes; our enemies—they who take from

me my business, are my enemies—must be awed shocked, stunned, scattered, and the survivors driven from the trapping grounds like trembling Mariot pronounced these words with startling energy, stamping angrily upon the floor.

"There is much evil in that man," thought

"I have told you all." " Foundre!" exclaimed Bellmar, impatiently.

"You have told me nothing!" will have naught to regret."

"I shrink from losing my invested capital!" retorted Mariot, in a hard dry tone in which self

"It would grieve me to be obliged to withdraw my capital, and dissolve the old and here is the rear of your lazy fellows, and the very first man is that conceited coxcomb, "It would be a sad blow to a man of my

very first man is that conceited coxcomb, "It would be a sad blow to a man of my Headley! I can't tolerate him, so I'll leave you years, wanting as I do, your youthfulness and " Will you abandon this to me " Nous verrons !"

"Delay will baffle my purpose; accede at " Doubtless." " Perhaps go yourself?"

" It is pos " And it will cost ?" " A thousand dollars." " So much ?" " The benefits will be tenfold. That company

with details. You consent?"
"You will be careful of human life? Blood

man had been admitted to the house of "Bellmar & Mariot," partly on account of the friendship that Belmar had entertained for his father, and partly because he did not wish the latter's funds withdrawn from the enterprise at a time fund funds withdrawn from the enterprise at a time funds withdrawn funds withdrawn from the enterprise at a time funds withdrawn from the enterprise at a time funds withdrawn funds withdrawn funds withdra funds withdrawn from the enterprise at a time when there was a heavy pressure in the money market. M. Bellmar might have had other schemes in his mind, of which we may presently speak.

Pierre entered keenly into the rivalry of the trade, with fewer conscientous scruples than his predecessor. To the senior partner's credit be it written that he had more of that which men is willain as he had proved himself. He was meditating crime—scheming the ruin of others—planning deeds of blood—drawing her father into the vortex of his evil mind. Ah, Mariot, your last virtue and your last chance faded from the heart of Mignon that morning. She scorned, she despised you, when you left the house, full of dark devices for the overthrow of your brother man!

NEW MISFORTUNES BEFALL BRION'S BAND. . IT has been stated that Brion observed that restless, insatiate spirit of gain, which led him on step by step, encouraged by Pierre, to many acts that he feared would trouble him on his death-bed. The new fur company had injured his business; there had been a perceptible decline in his income since its organization. Such a state of things alarmed his cupidity, stimulating him to devise means to checkmate his competition. It seemed him to devise means to checkmate his competi- smooth as the surface of a mirror. It seemed into his coffers. Strategy he had always en- pear sufficiently tight; and while noticing the couraged and rewarded, when successful among his employees; but since the new association had secured the services of Ben Brion as leader With the point of his knife he drew out the was a fool to post, but I will be obeyed!"

my horse and my own will to guide me, and I am happy. Human authority galls me, or rather would gall me, were I to submit to it. O I never could be a slave after having breathed the air of freedom in a country reaching from To this end are all the exertions of all their never to see and provided by nature with appear. "By means that may perchance startle sea to sea, and provided by nature with enough presses directed with a zeal and harmony they to supply the simple necessities of man."
"You discourse like one to the wilderness

born and bred," said the partisan. "That is true. I was born on the border, and have been a rover since a boy. The ways of civilized life in great cities, and busy towns, hair.

do not please such as I. The noise of machiners, and the Public Defences of the country—and how artificial ties of modern usages, repel me and chmpletely the former was emasculated of its artificialities of modern usages, repel me and chmpletely the former was emasculated of its make me more in my manner of life," added most objectionable features through the de-

latter asked. "Yes, of a large body." "Of what nation?" "The most hostile and most dangerous - the

"Which way did the trail tend?" "Off in that direction to our left." "Consequently, to avoid them-" "You must keep close to the mounta

The partisan did not immediately reply; he reflected. "That would seem like rushing into danger. The Blackfeet are wont to lie in wait in yon-

Three of the refractory spirits reluctantly turned and sullenly rode toward the brigade, which was about two miles in the rear, while which was about two miles in the rear, Headley and two others obstinately kept on

Brion, in a voice free from anger or harshness ley, biting his nether lip with vexation.

The partisan's frank and manly face grew

In dia secure the services of Ben Brion as leader of the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary art would fail; therefore something of the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary art would fail; therefore something of the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary art would fail; therefore something of the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the trapping operations, he was aware that ordinary and the properation of the kinds of the properation of the properati is the decomposition of the same of the sa

"Yes," said Brion.
"To relieve you from any suspicion that you may feel, I will inform you that I am not in the employ of any fur company, nor attached to a brigade of trappers."

"A free trapper?"

"Thank fortune, yes. I want my liberty. I should not feel like a man if I were under another's control. Give me the mountains and other's control. raries, and lakes and rivers, with nothing but untold thousands of pound of the public money display on no other subject; all are eager for a share of the spoils, and intent to verify the prophecy—"Where the carcase is, there shall

termination of the Opposition. One of the provisions was that our peolep were to provide the funds by a parmanent grant for the expenses of the hybrid force to be raised, whilst the appropriation of those funds was to be withdrawn from the control of our own Legislature. Again, arms, accourtements, and the other paraphernalia of war—with clothing, and an army of tailors to keep it in repair—where to be army of tailors to keep it in repair—where to be provided at an expence of some couple of hundreds of thousands of pounds. But all these fine projects were remorselessly knocked on the head by the Opposition, and the affair dwindled down into a little more than an empty pageant; a Volunteer force consisting of some five thousand officers and men—rather costly, it is true, thirty or forty thousand pounds a year being wasted on it, but still comparatively innocuous. Through their resistance to these wicked schemes the rouges, we are informed had the "Clercy Reserves Commissioners to distribute" "I know it; but it would appear from the supreme misfortune of losing the confidence of "the revenue of each year, among the ministers

"I know it; but it would appear from the direction of the trail, that they have changed their tactics."
"That is a very reasonable conclusion," said Brion. "To-morrow I must think about changing our course."
"It would be prudent; but a man of experience like you, needs no advice."
"Here are my men," said the partisan, as they came up with the rear of that band. "Make yourself at home with them."

With these words he spurred forward, and was soon in advance of the foremost of the party, mounting every eminence, crossing every brook, and examining the ground where it was soft enough to yield to the pressure of human feet. While thus actively engaged in reconnoitering, his thoughts were not wholly engrossed with his employment; they wandered back to Westport, to linger about the spot where he had seen Mignon. The clattering of horses feet recalled his mind to the rough region of reality where his corporeal substance was.

"You see we have overtaken you, captain," said a voice."

said a voice.

Brion raised his eyes and perceived several of the more thoughtless young men of his band, of whom Headley was the leading spirit.

"This is imprudent," exclaimed Brion, very sharply. "You had orders not to leave the main body."

"And why is it imprudent?" and analysis of the more thoughtless are also as the Poles as under from the project that we believe to be now uppermost in Ministerial thoughts. No member of the Opposition during the last Session, that we are aware of, ever took an objection to the rendering and took an objection to the rendering and the constitutional arm of the constitution of the sharply. "You had orders not to leave the main body."

"And why is it imprudent?" asked Headley haughtily, for he liked not the tones of command which the partisan assumed.

"It is imprudent in the first place, because you had my orders to remain with the brigade, and in the next, for the reason that a party of Blackfeet are lurking in ?he vicinity," said the mountineer, firmly.

"O, is that all?" exclaimed Headley, with a derisive laugh, in which his companions joined.

"That is sufficient; I order you to return instantly," rejoined Brion, with a dignified and authoritive air.

"Are we then under martial discipline?" asked Hedley, angrily.

"You are under my orders, and when I abuse my power, there will be time enough to

We shall not at present enlarge on this theme. Should the Ministry execute the intention which we have little doubt they now entertain, we trust they will meet with such an opposition, both within and without the walls of the Legislative Chambers, as will effectually not only put a stop to this, but to all the other mischiefs they are ready to perpetrate.—

THE COMMUTATION FRAUD.

man whose services we tried to secure ?"

"Yes, the disagreeable news has reached to me. I perceive that our business will receive a severer check than it ever did, Monsieur Mariot."

"Acan you doubt it! Something must be done," said Fierre.

"Ma foi! we have not ceased to do something ever since these unbucky rival companies existed. What new expedient remains?"

"This is a point to be settled by us, and without a shall better, than I? It is for that very reason that we must take measures be laded.

"Who knows that better, than I? It is for that very reason that we must take measures be laded.

"We are quite alone, I suppose?" Mariot at deed.

"My annee," said Brion.

"My annee," said the tailroad cheek beek problem to show that their military the the contineant the better than the better than the defence in

with a member of the Government on the subject of Commutation, I stated that we had only received £112 10s in the year 1853; "yet, for reasons which I mentioned, we would be treated—in our apprehension—unfairly, if—
"compelled to commute at that sum. And these reasons it was my business to press at every "succeeding interview, with members of the Government. Had I, or any of us, been disposed to conceal the fact, it could not have been done. It was perfectly known to "the Government, and was, as the "Globe" says "—officially stated in the printed Public Ac-

This is an important admission. While it may, in the eyes of some moralists, relieve the commuting clergy from the charge of "solemn" falsehood, it shows that the Government were fully aware of the false pretence that any minister had ever received an "annual stipend" of ster had ever received an "annual stipend" of \$150, and that they wilfully violated the Act, and gave away \$100,000 of the public money to make capital with a religious body. But does Dr. Cook suppose that he or his colleagues can escape the charge of fraud and even falsehood, by such a quibble as the follow-

direction of the trail, that they have changed their tactics."

"That is a very reasonable conclusion," said

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"That is a very reasonable conclusion," said

"The revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, anong the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of each year, and the finisher confidence of the revenue of the

were entitled to more, though they never re-

command might be vested," is to fly in the face alike of common sense and of experience. How little control the people of Canada have over their own government, the events of the last few years and daily experience testify—and what influence these same people would have over the sbirri,— the hired myrmidons—of such a government as we now enjoy, it needs not the warning voice of the past history of this country to reveal.

We shall not at present enlarge on this theme. Should the Ministry execute the intention which we have little doubt they now

Thus it seems that not only were the "annual stipends" received by the clergy disregarded, but the sum annually paid to the Church by Government was also set aside as of no moment of calculation. The conscientious leaders in this bold assault upon the public treasury, demanded payment upon a hypothetical case! They said the interest of the Clergy Reserves fund in the