Tight Binding

Death of Dr. Ferguson.—We cannot put on record the death of Dr. W. L. Ferguson without giving a word to the memory of one who in his five or six years residence in Woodstock gave evidence to those who became acquainted with him of so many of the essentials of the rare and noble combination,—true manhood, and whose future seemed so full of promise.—Our readers will recollect that Mr. Ferguson came to Woodstock as a druggist some eight or nine years since, and after remaining about five years sold out his establishment, and proceeded to carry out an intention which had long been present to him, of studying medicine. With this view he went first to the United States, and afterwards to England. Having obtained a diploma, and completed his studies, he returned to Woodstock, about a year since. It was then very evident to his friends that his constitution had received a severe shock. His health when he first left this place was far from good, and the constant and severe study through which he had passed had probably still further undermined it. After remaining here a short time he went to St. John, where he seemed to revive so much that his friends confidently anticipated that from a trip which he subsequently took to the Southern States he would return thoroughly recovered. Now, however, the news comes to us that he recently returned to St. John but to die.

Dr. Ferguson was a man of far more than ordinary intellect. Under a brusque and unprepossessing manner he had the heart and soul of a true man. The perseverance and steadiness of purpose with which he cherished and at length carried out the laudable intention of elevating himself to a most honorable and useful profession showed clearly the stuff of which he was made. Had he been spared to enter upon the active duties of that profession, he could not have failed to rise to a high and honorable position in it, and to have become a prominent and useful member of the community. To one who knew him and his history there is something inexpressibly sad in the thought of his being cut off at the very time at which he had overcome the most serious obstacles which had encumbered his path, and was about to enter, with every prospect of success and happiness, upon the practice of the profession which he had toiled and struggled to attain. Our country needs such men as Dr. Ferguson,—brave, stout-hearted, strong-headed, sincere, downright men. But he has gone to his rest; and we can do no more than offer to those who mourn in him the loss of even more than a friend the expression of our warmest sympathy.

TOWN TALK AND COUNTRY TOPICS.

Last week the Journal appeared for the first time in its existence without a line of editorial. Its conductor was absent in St. John, and for the first time no one was found to take his place. This is by way of explanation and apology to those to whom explanation an apology is due; and by way of reproach to—those who deserve it.

During the last fortnight the weather and the river have been struggling for the chief place in the attention of the public. The weather brought the river "down;" whereupon it got sulky, and, giving up all attempts to rise again, has been gradually creeping away to hide its shame. The total absence of rain during the spring led to the gradual melting of the snow under the heat of the sun, and prevented a freshet—at least, such a freshet as is needed. Consequently stream driving has been very indifferent, and most of the lumber in the small streams has not been got out. The probability is that we shall have what is known as a "June freshet," which will bring out a portion of the timber and logs, but for a great portion of them the prospect of reaching a market this season seems poor. Farmers have had a magnificent spring for work; but they, like the lumberman, are crying out for rain.—One or two dry, tantalizing showers are all that we have been blessed with.

Our Railway, we are happy to be able to say, is not yet defunct, as some have supposed or feared. On Monday, Messrs. Thomson, Buck and Garden, with two Canadian gentlemen, Messrs. Bradley and Morell, both, we believe, connected with the Grand Trunk of Canada, passed thro' here to Grand Falls. They there expect to meet some other gentlemen from Canada, when they will return through to Woodstock. We understand that a negotiation is on foot for the carrying of the Road on towards Canada.

Resignation of Mr. Connell.—It is, we believe, pretty well understood that the Hon. Charles Connell has resigned the office of Postmaster General, and his seat in the Executive. From the article from the *Religious Intelligencer* which we copy, without endorsing, it appears that he puts forward other grounds besides the refusal of the Government to issue the now famous five cent stamps. We prefer waiting until these grounds, and the circumstances of the case, so far as they can be ascertained, are made known, before making any comments upon this singular affair.

For the Woodstock Journal.

THE STAMP WITH A NEW PHASE;

OR, THE ARTFUL DODGER'S LATEST DODGE.

Scene.—Artful Dodger's *Office in Ligniumville*. Dodger *discovered seated alone at a table.*

Dodger, (*meditating*).—Well, when I took this office, a year and a half ago, I didn't think to leave it in this way. How Wordy and Mac will laugh! But let those laugh that win; I shall outwit the Government yet, and the opposition, too.—It is time my serjeants were here. I must open so much of my plans to them that they'll be able to assist me in carrying them out.

Enter Reef, Coats, Peripatesis, Scribble, Tartan, Consul.

Dodger.—Gentlemen, good evening, and welcome. Sit down; I want to consult with you about my present position.

They all seat themselves. Scribble *takes out his pencil and note book.*

Dodger.—You needn't take notes.

Consul. (*whispering to* Reef). He prefers to have his speeches written out afterwards.

Dodger.—You all know that I have resigned the P.M.G. and my seat in the Government.

Peripatesis.—Yes; just so; but we can't understand it.

Consul.—How could you do it? I'm dreadful afeard you've made a mistake.

Dodger.—Not at all; I know what I'm about. They positively refused to issue the stamps, and treated me disrespectfully besides.

Reef.—Of course as a man of honor, you couldn't remain in office after such a refusal and such treatment.

Dodger.—You are entirely mistaken, I could have remained in if I had pleased; and if the Government had a prospect of two or three years' more tenure of office I should still have been P.M.G. The manner in which I should take the insult depended, of course, on other circumstances, in no way connected with it.

Consul.—Wouldn't it have been a little disgraceful to have swallowed the insult, and remained in?

Dodger.—*Disgrace* is a word made to frighten children and fools. The question which presented itself to me was, Will it pay? With the Government safe for two years more it would have paid, and I should have remained.

Coats.—But this affair of the Stamps is going to do you a great injury. To resign on that point, when you are so clearly in the wrong——

Dodger.—Is precisely what I have not done. Do you take me to be such a fool? I have taken other grounds, d'ye see, and treat this stamp affair as very insignificant, and only the immediate occasion of that which must have necessarily soon taken place.

Peripatesis.—Ah! just so. I begin to see something.

Scribble.—I noticed an article in the *Orthodoxical Chronicler* of last week which gave me an idea——

Consul.—Did it? Some people would say that it's the first one you ever had.

Scribble, (*angrily*).—What do you mean I'd like you to know that——

Consul.—Bah! hold your tongue, and let's get on.

Dodger.—My plan, the details of which you must assist me to carry out, is this. I shall put it forth to the country that I have resigned, not on account of the paltry matter of the stamps, but on very important grounds. We must drown this sad stamp affair by belittling it, and at the same time putting forward something which will serve our purpose in other ways. I shall tell the people that I have resigned because I could no longer remain in a Government which *neglected the interests of the noble County of Carleton*—which has sanctioned serious Railway extravagances—and done other things which I need not mention now.

Reef, (*with a puzzled look*).—But why do you wish to leave the Government at all?

Dodger, (*in a low tone*).—I'm looking out ahead; they can't live much longer!

They all sink back in their chairs, and stare at the Dodger *and each other. A long silence.*

Reef, (*nervously*).—What! the Liberals!—the—the—the—do you really think so? What will become—my—my—office——

Peripatesis.—And mine, too.

Dodger.—O you're safe enough, Peripatesis.

Reef.—But I'm not. The Tories declare that they won't leave me in.

Coats.—But is there no chance of beating them at the next general election?

Scribble.—Why, of course there is. The cry of "Liberalism" will rally the people of the Province around our banner once more.

Dodger.—Don't cheat yourself with that notion. It will be drowned with the cry of THE RAILWAY! A MILLION AND A QUARTER for an' Oyster Railroad—two hundred and fifty thousand to educate an engineer—an enquiry by a committee of the People's representatives stultified by every indirect means which the Government dare use—statements calculated and seemingly intended to grossly mislead the public put forth by the Railway Board and Government as fair and reliable—suspicions of gigantic blunders haunting the public mind—a Road which it was stated by the highest authority would be completed for six thousand a mile costing TWELVE thousand—taxation to the amount of seventy-five thousand a year to pay the interest on the cost of construction of a Road which will not pay its working expenses—every man, woman and child in New Brunswick taxed one dollar and a quarter a year towards paying that interest, and not one penny of this money to remain in the country. What strength is there in the worn-out cry of *Liberalism* that it can stand up before such a tornado as this?

Scribble.—But Tilley proved time after time last session that the Conservatives were as much responsible for this Road as the Liberals.

Dodger.—He may go on proving it once every hour of a life as long as Methusaleh's; it won't mend the matter a bit. In the first place, although the Conservatives are partly responsible for the *project*, they're not, and cannot be, responsible for the *execution*. Very little of the Road was made under their management; and the portion actually constructed by the Chandler Gray Government, the section from Moncton to Shediac, is the most cheaply built part of the Road. But even if they were responsible, you can't make the people see it. The present Government and Railway Board have to take the blame. I tell you, the Liberals are for a time gone irredeemably. And when the ship is in danger of sinking you know the duty of the *Rats!*

Reef.—I see it all now; but what'll become of my——

Dodger.—Never mind that question at present. The first thing to be done is to provide the means for our general safety; we must not go down with the sinking ship.

Peripatesis.—But will the vessel which has run her down take you up, and not leave you to drown?

Dodger, (*in a significant tone*).—We can, perhaps, make ourselves useful to the officers. I have been taking soundings already.

Peripatesis.—Just so; I feel a strong concern in the welfare of the young ideas of this country, and should not care about losing a position in which I could aid them in shooting.

Tartan.—But about this County? you don't stand so well here as you did once. That Bridge, and other things

Dodger.—Well, I may have lost some supporters, but I've made almost all the rest Justices of the Peace. There must be nearly enough magistrates of my own making to give me a majority. As for the Bridge—don't you see that one of the strongest grounds for my resignation is the injustice which has been done to this section of the country!

Consul.—But do you thing you can fool the people again?

Dodger.—Just as surely as that I sit here. The people love to be fooled, if it is done in the proper way.

Scribble.—Yes; Butler, in his *Hudibras*, says,

"Surely the pleasure is as great
In being cheated as to cheat.

Peripatesis.—The sentiment may be Butler's—I don't know anything about that; but it strikes me, Scribble, that the *grammar* is worthy of being yours.

Reef.—Will you try your hand at the Captain about that Bridge again?

Dodger.—I'm afraid he's a gone case; but I can safely defy him. Tribune, too, and Parvanissimus, are offish. Forensicus is flirting with the Independents, & setting up for himself, forsooth. But I'll manage them all.

Consul, (*to himself.*)—If you can't the devil needn't try—that's a fact.

Coats.—But after all if the Conservatives return a majority the next general election can you make anything out of them?

Dodger.—What I have done once I may again. I've never failed yet. I know precisely what game they'll play. Some of them will most decidedly object to having anything to do with me; others will be willing to use me; but, mark my words, I'll use them. Now, gentlemen, I've given you a glimpse of our plans, which you are to aid me in carrying out. Good night to you all. We must save the country!

Exeunt Omnes.

The Queen is expected to make a short sit to Balmoral this month.

The Political Flurry.—Last week gave the rumor which was then current of the contemplated resignation of the Hon. Charles Connell from the Postmaster Generalship of New Brunswick. We regret to announce that such an event will in all probability take place at a very early day—if indeed His Excellency has not *already* had returned to him the Seals of this office. Rumors are now current that Mr. Connell has been for some time dissatisfied with some of his colleagues in the Executive—certain expenditures and other things have not had his concurrence while he also considers that the interest of certain portions of the inhabitants on the St. John river have been overlooked, & large sums of money injudiciously appropriated to roads and bridges in connection with the Railway. Mr. C.'s success as a business man in his own affairs, is a pretty good evidence of his correct business habits and his abilities as a financier; and it is pretty certain that he would be likely to detect any lavish expenditures or unnecessary appropriation of the public funds.

It is said that the present *flurry* about the postage stamps has only brought things to a crisis, and hastened an event which would probably have occurred any way at some future time. We regret in common with every true friend of the present Administration that these misunderstandings should take place, resulting in such serious detriment to the public service; and from what has come to our knowledge we can not see why they have been allowed to occur, or why for so trifling an affair so important a Department should be deprived of a most efficient, careful and industrious officer.

That Mr. Connell's independence and decision in resigning his office—especially when *all* the circumstances therewith come to be known—will meet the approval of a large portion of his friends and the friends of the Government, can scarcely be doubted; while the opposition will, of course, embrace any advantages which may arise therefrom, and combinations may be formed, highly detrimental in future to the present Executive.—*Religious Intelligencer*

The Subscribers, a committee appointed to collect subscriptions in aid of the poor who were sufferers by the late fire in Woodstock—Report,—

That they have collected the sum of £103—which have been disposed of as follows:

On 24th ult., forwarded to the Mayor of Woodstock,	£36	0	0
On 26th, forwarded per steamer Tobique, 14 brls. Flour, 1 cask Molasses, 12 brls. Corn Meal, 1 box Tea, costing in all,	41	10	0
Balance Cash forwarded this day to the Mayor of Woodstock,	26	10	0
	£103	0	0

JOHN W. CUDLIP, C. H. FAIRWEATHER, } *Committee.*

His Worship, the Mayor, City St. John.

Provincial Appointments.—Daniel Morrison to be Inspector of Schools, in the stead of John Campbell, Esquire, resigned.

Charles Biscoff, Esquire, of London, Jos. Cunard, of Liverpool, to be Commissioners under 23d Victoria, Chapter 26.

Lewis Burns, Esquire, to be Commissioner of Alms House and Work House of the City and County of Saint John.

Honorable J. M. Johnson, Richard Sutton, Esquire, and William J. Frazer, Esq., to be Justices of the Common Pleas for the County of Northumberland.

Colonial Securities.—By the English Mail on Thursday evening, we learn that Canadian Six per cents are one point lower, the others remaining nearly the same as before, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia bonds both having slightly declined. New Brunswick 6 per cents, 107 1-2 to 108 1-2, and Nova Scotia 107 to 108.

From Boston papers received last night we learn that the Republican Convention, now in session at Chicago, is making progress. Seward, Lincoln, and Fessenden are the prominent candidates. Lincoln is gaining ground while Seward is said to be losing. Fessenden stock holds good.—Horace Greely is in attendance and creates quite a sensation. Some shrewd observers say that the success of Seward is certain. There are six slaves States represented in the Convention. The result will be known in a few days.—*Globe.*

It is a very long time indeed since the country stood so much in need of rain as at present. A splendid seed time certainly, and we hope the farmers have take advantage of it; but the grass particularly begins to feel the want of sufficient moisture. It is indeed a trying time for those whose hay and other winter feed is now getting scarce, for the cattle have not as yet had anything in the shape of green crop to refresh them.

The fires in the woods have been committing a good deal of destruction in various directions, but nothing of a very serious nature. On Sunday afternoon Mr. Humphrey's mills were in great danger, but by the exertions of a number of town's people, and others who went to assist, very little injury (if any) was done. Some railway fencing was burnt, and several of the bridges were threatened, although they have all escaped so far. A few hours warm rain would be of incalculable benefit.—*Morning News.*

The sale of the stud horses lately purchased and imported for the Province by Mr. McMonagle, took place on Friday.—There was a large attendance of spectators. The first horse offered was a gray "Messenger," said to have cost £125. He was sold to Mr. McMonagle for £55. A Black Hawk Morgan, the favourite of the lot, bought at £150, was sold to Mr. Beckwith for the York Agricultural Society at £105. A horse bought in Canada at £150 sold for £70. A fourth we believe was sold at a lower price. Many spoke very slightingly of the horses, and few, if any, pretended to think much of them as a whole.—*Freeman.*

A Man and his Wife Robbing Henroosts.—*A new use for Hoop Skirts.*—A man named William Mills, who with his wife, have been suspected of being the perpetrators of a number of fowl robberies in the vicinity of Brooklyn, N. Y. were stopped while riding home one night last week by some officers who were on the watch for them. The officers proceeded to search the wagon, but to their surprise, the only occupant of the wagon apparently were Mills and his wife. The officers were about to leave when a clucking noise, proceeding from under Mrs. Mill's ample skirt, caused them to look in that quarter, when no less than fourteen sprightly looking chickens were found. Mills and his wife were taken into custody.

The Boston *Post* in noticing the arrival in that city of the pugilist Morrissey says—"Morrissey brought over the identical colors worn by Sayers in the fight, and they are on exhibition at the 'Arbor,' 18 Howard street. The 'kerchief bears some of the battle stains of the fray. It is said that a large crowd of indignant 'roughs' is all ready in New York to give Mr. Morrissey a severe pummelling when he shows himself, as a reward for his conduct to Heenan, and in revenge, probably, for losing their money. They were to have waited upon him at the steamer's wharf, but misapprehended the time of his arrival.

The Atlantic Telegraph.—The Atlantic Telegraph Company have dispatched Captain Kell, who left on the 7th for St. John's, Newfoundland, *via* Halifax, for the purpose of making a further attempt to bring their cable into working order.—His first business, before ascertaining whether it tests perfectly between Newfoundland and Ireland, will be to lift nearly 50 miles of cable and take it ashore, which will enable him to convey the end to Newperlican, a place in Trinity Bay, more than 50 miles from the original landing station. The object of this is to obtain a more suitable locality for the landing and to lessen the distance to be telegraphed through, which is considered of great importance. Captain Kell will return as as soon as he has ascertained that all is right on the Atlantic side, and then continue operations at Valencia, which it is expected will commence about the end of June next.

The Circulars report the stock of Timber and Deals as very light in Liverpool, there being no Timber and only 3,000 standard of Deals in first hands, the whole stock being estimated at 12,500 standards. Spruce Deals ex "Empire," from St. John, sold at £8 15s., average £9, and the cargo of the "American Union," from St. John averaged £8 19s. The price of deals ex "Yorick," reached as high as £9 12s 6d The change of Tariff alone keeps prices so low, and affects the price of deals more then that of timber.