

It was during this epoch that Charles La Croix, a young man of good family, was named to the captaincy of a company in a regiment stationed in Provence. His appointment was peculiarly disagreeable to the officers of that regiment because they were all extremely attached to their first Lieutenant; they had joined unanimously in recommending him to the convention for the vacant company, which to say the truth, he well merited by the services he had rendered to his country; services, of which his scars afforded abundant testimonials. The officers espoused his cause with more than common eagerness, and it was determined to make mutually short work with the new intruder.

La Croix presented himself at the colonel's house, wholly unconscious of the persecution that awaited him. The colonel had need of all his prejudice against the new comer, to enable him to persist in the resolution he had formed of rejecting him very coldly; he was a noble-looking youth of two and twenty, whose handsome manly countenance was rendered extremely prepossessing by a blend of expression of frankness, bravery and benevolence. He presented himself to his colonel with a mixture of modesty and self-respect in his air, which shook for a moment the gentleman's resolution; but the entrance of the other officers, who had heard of the arrival of the new comer, and who on some pretence or other, flocked in to behold him, recalled it to his mind.

"I hope sir," said he, in an austere tone, "you will pay proper attention to the duties of your command; and that you will not attempt to introduce into my regiment the vices of Paris." "Colonel," replied the young man with an ingenuous blush, "I trust that you will have reason to be satisfied with me. I shall endeavour to follow the example of my comrades, and I hope my efforts to gain their regard will obtain for me the benefit of their advice, which I am certain I must, from my inexperience, have great need of." "Sir," replied the colonel roughly, "you would have acted more wisely, if you had acquired the experience you must be so much in want of before you took upon yourself the command of a company. It is more than indiscreet in a boy who has hardly quitted school, to put himself over the heads of brave and experienced men. Look at your first lieutenant, and judge how painful it must be to him to see himself commanded by one of your age, by a mere novice in a profession of which he is a thorough master."

"I feel all the truth of your observations," replied La Croix, in a modest but firm tone; "but do me the justice, sir, to believe that I am not here by my own choice. I would gladly have contented myself with an inferior rank, but my patron thought it beneath him to solicit anything beneath a captaincy. If, however, colonel you find my inexperience renders me unfit for the duties of my post, I shall certainly resign it."

The colonel turned his back upon him without reply.—La Croix then addressed himself to Valmont, the first Lieutenant, and begged him to present him to his brother officers. "You are old enough to introduce yourself, sir," was the answer, delivered in the most disobliging tone.—It brought a blush of anger to his face, but recollecting himself, and perceiving no friendly expression in any countenance round him, he bowed and retired.

Next day, according to the usual custom, he called upon each of the officers. They expected this visit, and they took their measures accordingly. He had the mortification to hear them tell their servants, one after the other, in a tone evidently meant for his ear, that they were not at home. They met him at the parade with insolent or averted looks; no one returned his civilities, or even answered his questions. If at the coffee-house he proposed to one of them a game of billiards, he was refused, and directly afterwards, another was accepted, without the slightest apology being made. In short, they sent him completely to Coventry; or rather, they did still more, they evinced the most determined resolution to quarrel with him if possible.

For some time La Croix endured this treatment in silence, but to judge from the expression of his countenance, not without feeling any severe mortification.

particularly when one day a stranger, who was playing billiards with Valmont at the coffee-house, asked his opinion on a doubtful point of the game, and just as he was about to give it, Valmont interrupted him by exclaiming, "I protest against that gentleman's opinion in any thing that concerns me." "And for what reason?" asked a young ensign, who thought he now saw the moment to force La Croix to fight. "Because," replied the Lieutenant scornfully, "I like him not." At these words, La Croix fixed his eyes upon Valmont with an expression of fierceness, which was immediately succeeded by a look of sorrow. He was evidently on the point of breaking out; but constraining himself by a strong effort, he quitted the coffee-house without speaking, and from that day entered it no more.

"O the poltroon!" said Valmont looking after him, "there's no provoking him to draw his sword!" "It is singularly coldly; he was a noble-looking youth of two and twenty, whose handsome manly countenance was rendered extremely prepossessing by a blend of expression of frankness, bravery and benevolence." "How, no coward! a fellow that puts up with every insult is no coward? you are a fool." "No faith I do not; and if you had seen his look when you told him so plumply that you did not like him, you would agree with me that he must be brave at bottom." Valmont replied by only a look of incredulity, and the conversation dropped.

Although the amiable manners of La Croix had failed to conciliate the minds of his comrades, they gained him the good will of all the gentry of the town, to whom his situation and the respectability of his birth and connections introduced him. Among those who had shown him particular marks of attention was General Bellegrade, a veteran officer who had known his father, and who invited him to consider his house as his own. This acquaintance was particularly agreeable to the young man. The General had an amiable wife and two charming daughters, with whom he soon domesticated himself; and they on their part were so well pleased with him, that the veteran said to him one day, with the frankness of a soldier, "we look upon you already as one of ourselves."

These words delighted La Croix, on whom the charms of Eugenie, the second daughter, had made a very strong impression. He opened his heart to the General, and had the satisfaction to hear that if he could make himself agreeable to the lady, he had nothing to fear from her parents, the consent of his own being understood.

The notice taken of La Croix, by the gentry of the town, and above all, the consideration which he enjoyed in the Bellegrade family, were a fresh cause of irritation to his enemies; he was, however, so punctual in the discharge of his duties and so much on his guard, that some weeks elapsed without their being able to draw him into a quarrel; at last an opportunity presented itself.

(See last Page.)

GROWTH OF VEGETABLES—Farmers and Gardeners, may preserve the purity of their seeds as well as the flavour of their fruits, by attending to a few rules, such as the following:

- Never plant Gourds near your Squashes, or you will make them bitter.
- Never plant Squashes with your Pumpkins, or you will make them watery, hard, skinned and tasteless.
- Never plant different kinds of seed cabbage near one another or you will have a mixture.
- Never plant seed Cabbage near seed Turnips, or both will be spoiled.
- Never plant good red beet near white seed beet, or you will have neither red nor white.
- Never plant different kinds of seed radishes near one another.
- As a general rule never plant near one another any vegetables that resemble each other in many respects.

(From the Greenock Intelligencer, March 23.)

The commissioners to inquire into our system of military punishments, have given in their report, and we regret to state that it is favourable to the continu-

ing the disgusting and barbarous way of flogging in the army. There is, indeed, a recommendation added that corporal punishment should be restored to as seldom as possible; but we are convinced that the country will be satisfied with nothing short of the total abolition of a system of torture which is revolting to the feelings of every good man and can only be regarded as a relic of the barbarous practices of rude and unenlightened times. We have perused the report with attention, and we have found nothing in it to convince us of the alleged impracticability of disposing with the use of the lash without impairing the discipline of the army. The commissioners contend that our regiments being raised not by conscription, but by voluntary enlistment, are generally composed of recruits taken from the lowest, most ignorant and dissolute portion of the population, and that the officers require to be invested with the power of inflicting corporal punishment on such men, as these are of too gross a nature to be influenced by higher motives, than the fear of bodily pain. We cannot, however, bring ourselves to think so meanly of a British soldier, as to believe that, like the dog on the horse, he can only be made to do his duty by the application of the lash; and we have not the smallest doubt that, were a proper system adopted, the discipline of the army might be as effectually maintained as at present, without the aid of a mode of punishment so cruel and so degrading as that of flogging.

SPAIN.—The following are extracts from the *Memorial des Pyrenees* of the 8th inst. :—

"We have before us a *bando* published by Cabrera on the subject of the execution of his aged mother, who was shot by the direction of General Noguera, on the express order of Mina. We abstain from repeating the imprecations of rage and vengeance uttered by this chief in his decree, but it will be seen by the following articles that he is unwilling to remain behind hand in atrocity, and that the civil war assumes a character of barbarity unknown even among the savage tribes of Africa:—

Article 2.—In consequence of the present declaration, all individuals who shall be made prisoners shall be shot.

Art. 3.—The following persons shall be immediately shot by way of reprisals for the assassination of my innocent mother, viz. the wife of Colonel Don Manuel Fonileras, Commander of Jhélva, the Senoras Cita Toss, Mariana Guardia, Francisca Urquesa, and thirty others, who shall undergo the same punishment, for the explanation of the death of the most worthy and the best of mothers.

Art. 4.—I will, henceforth continue to avenge in the same manner the death of each victim, upon the families of the chiefs who commit similar acts.

The Pope has addressed a long allocution to the secret consistory held on the 1st Feb. He complains bitterly of the suppression of the Spanish monasteries, and says "with grief and reluctance, that the cries and complaints of the apostolic voice have availed nothing." His Holiness declares all the late proceedings of the Spanish Government, with regard to ecclesiastical affairs, null and void.

RUSSIA.—Letters to Berlin, from St Petersburg, state that Lord Durham is much liked in the Russian capital, and continues to enjoy the regard of the Emperor, which renders the situation of an Ambassador at that Court very easy.—Her Majesty, the Empress of Russia, is indisposed, having it is said, had a miscarriage. She news has greatly afflicted the Royal Family. However, according to the latest accounts, her Majesty was recovering, and it was hoped that no bad consequences would ensue. The Emperor has granted large sums for the families of the persons who perished in the fire at the Theatre.

FRANCE.—The Paris Papers say that Marshal Clausel is expected at Paris in the early part of next month, to defend the budget for Algiers. The French Government proposes it is said, to form a summer camp at Rocroy. Count Marbot with the Marquis Maison, son of the Minister of War, is expected at that place, to select a position for 24,000 men

and 300 porses. Whether the Minister be daunted or not, by a position which is said to be on their plan, of postponing the Five per Cents, till next year, we do not know, but they are now said with less confidence on the subject. The Chamber was engaged on Friday in a project for a supplementary Polish and Italian refugees, and £20,000 in addition to the previously voted, was a majority.

We are happy to see Ireland improving. The appointed to enquire into the poor in that country in favour of a system is intended either to assist the able bodied country, or to assist the Colonies, where the ed and will be rewarded. subject naturally induces us to rev very patriotic scheme which progress for cultivating the of Ireland, some account of be found in our advertising of There are, it is calculated, five of acres of such lands capable reclaimed, in which case profi employment would be given to thousands. The Society which undertaken this most important work, contains names among the Irish affording the best guarantee for the success of In order that their means dered more extensively usef ety do not promise to purch obtain long leases of the un soil, which of course they will cheap rate, and thus have li except for labour. Even drit progress of the work, a period to the pernicious practice of existing farms; and I ultima the new land comes into culti pressure of the demand will ably relaxed, and rack rent to.

THE STAR.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11,

From the Newfoundland Patriot.

PROROGUATION OF LEGISLATURE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Yesterday afternoon, o'clock, His Excellency Governor, attended as usual down to the Court-house appearance, he was cheered by the multitude at the gate until he had passed to the Council Chamber having taken his seat throne, and having comm attendance of the Comm Excellency read the following

SPEECH

Mr President, and Members of the Council,

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen House of Assembly, I am happy that the Providence enables me to relieve from the duties of a protracted session.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen House of Assembly,

I thank you for the which shall be duly and carefully administered. As I am ready informed you that under circumstances of emergency, I shall not again the present House of Assembly I embrace this occasion of sing my best wishes for your and happiness. Whether