

The Mirror AND Colchester County Advertiser. SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1868.

"Tis infamy to die and not be missed." So says the poet, and who is there but feels that he spoke wisely and well. To die, to sink, to rot forgotten and uncared for, who covets such a grave. Who is there would wish when the mellow tints of life's evening is gathering about, he can only look back upon fond hopes and bright anticipations unrealized, brilliant opportunities lost forever—privileges without number neglected—in a word a life shamefully squandered; and can only look forward into the deep gloom of the hidden future, feeling that as soon as the last green sod is placed above his soulless clay, the few that reluctantly followed him to his last home, will turn away with utter indifference, thankful that their task is done; and the great surging world will move on, laughing, singing and rejoicing, as though he had never existed at all. Thus to fall, and thus to pass away, is not only undesirable, but is positively shameful, contemptible and sinful. That precious jewel, mind, should be summoned forth—its faculties employed, its energies skillfully and nobly directed.

There are a thousand calls for action, intelligent, virtuous men. The times demand an enlightened manhood. The great—the illustrious, and the good, are failing from amongst us day by day. To-day, nearly four million brave and manly hearts mourn the sad fate of the illustrious McGee, and call for vengeance upon the heads of his foul murderers. It will not be long in the nature of things, till the nation's eyes will dim with tears, because a Howe is no more. Come nearer home still.—The name of the late Hon. G. W. McLellan, is yet dear to many. Hon. A. G. W. Archibald is still a household word, and we to him who casts reproach thereon, or speaks too lightly of the forgotten dead.

Or turn we for a moment from the field of politics to ecclesiastical walks.—The venerable Spott—everybody's friend—is treading upon the border of the unseen land. "The Prince of Lecturers"—"the old man eloquent," is growing hoary.—The man of profound research, of vast classic lore, and of such eminent attainments in Theology and Biblical criticism, the Rev. Dr. Smith, has now about summed up his three score years and ten.—But time would fail us to speak of scores of others, who are perhaps equally worthy.

These have either gone, or are fast departing. Others are needed to fill their places. Shall they be wanting? Must our hoary sires go down to their graves without seeing any ready and willing to take their stand on life's high battlefield—to take up and prosecute the work in which they were engaged? Are there none ready to come to the front—to stand in the gap, and with willing hands and stout hearts press on the work? Young men of Colchester, what say you? The field is open before you; choose then your own course; but when once you have chosen, show the strength of your purpose, and your force of character by adhering with strict fidelity to that calling. This is the way to reach distinction—to attain to eminence. Remember that character is not formed in a single day. It requires months, and even years, to mould and give solidity to character.

But the question for the present is: How must those months and years be spent in order to embalm our names in undying memories? To give an answer to this question is comparatively an easy task, but to perform the work embodied in this answer is doubtless difficult. This very difficulty, however, is perhaps its crowning excellence; for it tests our strength of character and firmness of purpose, imparting solidity to the former, and giving a firm texture to the latter. Were it easy of accomplishment every person might attain distinction, until the temple of fame would be so crowded with such a host of names that personal identity would be in danger of being lost in indiscriminate confusion.

To give an answer to the question above we state, in the first place, that it generally requires years of patient, earnest, warm-hearted, self-denying toil. One huge wave of old ocean may sweep away a sand bank; but it is the constant battling of the billows that wears away the solid rock, leaving marks behind that may survive long ages. To get completely clear of the entangling of "self," and labor with disinterested benevolence for the good of our fellowman, without reference to climate, color, race, language or condition, is perhaps the highest mundane excellence. To pursue such a course steadily and perseveringly amid the shafts of ridicule, the taunts and jeers of the pseudo-proud, the slandering and back-biting of the unthinking multitude, the fierce opposition of foes, and the cold shoulders of those who call themselves friends, but cannot brook our infatuation, requires an inflexibility of will and purpose, a magnanimity of soul but rarely possessed.

But such is the kind of life we must resolve to live if we would have our last resting-place

watered with the tears of unfeigned sorrow and regret, our names as household words handed down to posterity.

A life of ease, of self-indulgence and personal gratification, floating with the current, not daring to have an opinion upon any subject either political or ecclesiastical, will never secure for us respect while living nor kind remembrances when dead. We must up, and with noble intrepidity take our stand in society and before the world, set our hearts upon some high goal, and thankfully employing all the means that God and nature have furnished to our hands, press toward that mark with unflagging zeal, with unwavering constancy. It may be that even down to our latest moments the world may misunderstand us, reproaches and revilings may darken around our path; but fear not; the day will come when the stigma will be wiped away, our names honored, our memories blessed.

Some great and good men who lived centuries ago are only being appreciated now. They lived and thought in advance of their age, but their living, thinking and acting then bastened on the present improved state of matters. Let us go and do likewise, feeling assured that if we, with earnest purpose and true, warm, manly hearts, engage in life's conflict, setting our hearts on some high goal worthy of the ambition of virtuous manhood, pressing forward to the same with dauntless courage and unceasing energy, ever acknowledging the Power that rules on high, we will assuredly receive our reward—a memory fresh and flourishing for centuries, and an inheritance above.

The Abyssinian War.

Since the suppression of the great Indian Rebellion, the Abyssinian war is the most important warlike enterprise of the British people. ABYSSINIA is not a powerful country; its people are not united; its forces are not trained to European tactics, nor are its soldiers equipped with European arms. What renders the enterprise so serious is the difficulty of traversing the country and actually reaching the foe.

ABYSSINIA, as our readers are aware, is an extensive country in the east of Africa. Its arid borders verge on the Red Sea in the north-east. After traversing scores of miles of scorched and wildly drifting sands the traveller reaches the highlands that rise, terrace by terrace, till they reach the magnificent elevation of 6000 to 10,000 feet. Some of the mountain ranges equal the Alps in height and grandeur. The table-lands, fertile, lofty and temperate, are intersected by deep ravines and gorges, and wild passes that are difficult for Infantry, not to speak of Artillery and Cavalry. The capital of the country, Anko-bar, is far inland, and the British forces have had to march many a weary league before obtaining a trace of their foe.

The Abyssinians, although Africans, are not negroes. Most of them resemble the Arabs, and are evidently of Semitic origin. There are, however, three races in the country, all rather swarthy, none quite black. They are a brave people, and have managed to save their country for ages from conquest by the Mohammedans. They are nominally Christian since the fourth century, although their Christianity is decidedly corrupt, Pontius Pilate being reckoned among their saints.

Let us now trace as briefly as possible the story of the present war:

There are Europeans, some of them British citizens, in Abyssinia now nearly four years. Two of these are, or have been, British Consuls; the rest are missionaries and their families, chiefly German. Again and again have attempts been made to coax the Emperor Theodore to release these men and women, but in vain. He thought himself insulted and ill-used, and was resolved to be avenged on some persons belonging to Britain. His army in 1866 was estimated at 250,000 men. This is an enormous force if it could be properly welded together, kept up and disciplined. But it is not likely that his forces by this time amount to one fourth this number.

In 1866 the British Government sent a special embassy to Theodore under the leadership of Mr. Rassam and Dr. Blanc. These men were received with great honor, and for a time were treated with the utmost kindness and courtesy. All their requests seemed to be granted. The prisoners were to be released, and there was much rejoicing over the "amicable settlement of every difficulty." But there was deep treachery in the "camp." Theodore (in March, 1866) wanted a farewell interview. The embassy gladly accepted his invitation. The "interview" is thus described by Dr. Blanc in a narrative which is just published:

"On entering we were surprised to see the large hall lined on both sides by Abyssinian officers in their gala dresses. The throne had been placed at the head of the hall, but was empty; and the large circular space around it was filled with the highest officers of the realm. We had only advanced a few stages, preceded by Ras Engedda (the Prime Minister), when he bowed and kissed the ground, we thought out of respect to the throne, but it was again on this, as on a more memorable occasion, a kiss that was the signal of a mean treachery. No sooner had the Ras prostrated himself than nine men, posted for the purpose, rushed upon each of us, and in less time than I can express it, our swords, belts and caps were cast to the ground, our uniforms torn, and the officers of the English mission, seized by the arm and neck, were dragged to the upper part of the hall, degraded and reviled before the whole of Theodore's courtiers and grandees. We were allowed to sit down; our captors sitting next to us. The Emperor did not appear, but questions were brought to us by the Ras, Cantiba Hailo (the Emperor's adopted father), Samuel, and the European workmen. The questions asked by His Majesty were, to say the least

childish. Why have you not brought the prisoners to me? Why have you given them firearms? Did you not come with a friendly letter from the Queen of England? Why have sent letters to the coast? and such like rubbish. Many of the highest officers several times expressed openly their approval of the answers—a rare proceeding in an Abyssinian Court. They evidently did not like, nor could they justify, the treacherous conduct of their master. Between the questions a paper was partially read, referring to His Majesty's pedigree. As it had nothing to do with our alleged crime I could not understand its purport, except that it was a certain weakness of this patrician to glory in his supposed ancestors."

The original prisoners, after their hopes had been excited to the highest pitch, were again put in chains and imprisoned more closely than ever. It became manifest to all that the Emperor intended entrapping and imprisoning the last embassy as well as the older ones, notwithstanding all his protestations of friendship and good-will. Towards the end of April the King arranged an interview with the prisoners. "The prisoners (says Dr. Blanc) were brought in; the Emperor bowed his head to the ground, and begged their pardon; they asked for him. The reconciliation effected, the Emperor dictated a letter for our Queen, and Mr. Flad was selected to convey it. The audience over, the prisoners were brought to our tents and their chains. We then all had our tents pitched in a large enclosure, fenced that very morning under His Majesty's supervision. We were once more all mixed, but this time all prisoners. Flad left; we expected that his mission would be unsuccessful, and that England, disgusted with so much treachery, would not condescend to treat further, but enforce her commands."

On the 25th of June there was another political trial, when several imperial messages were delivered, the Emperor himself not being present.

"The first and most important was: 'I have received a letter from Jerusalem, in which I am told that the Turks are making railways in the Soudan to attack my country conjointly with the English and French.' The second message was much to the same effect, only adding, that as Mr. Rassam must have seen the railway in construction, he ought to have informed His Majesty of it. The third question was: 'Is it not true that the Egyptian railway was built by the English?' Fourthly, did he not give a letter to Consul Cameron for him to deliver to the Queen of England, and did not the Consul return with out an answer? Altogether there were some seven or eight questions; but the others were insignificant, and I do not remember them. A few days before a Greek priest had arrived from the coast with a letter for His Majesty; whether these statements were in the misiva, or were merely a pretext invented by Theodore himself to give a reason for the ill-treatment he intended to inflict upon his innocent guests, it is impossible to say. The concluding message was: 'You must remain here; your arms His Majesty no longer trusts in your hands, but your property will be sent to you.'"

This treatment was only the prelude to their being sent to Magdala, where they have ever since remained prisoners and in fetters, which are thus described by Dr. Blanc:

"Our chains are composed of two large heavy rings, hampered on the legs above the ankles, riveted together with three short thick links; at full stretch the distance between the ankles is about a span."

After fourteen months passed in this state he adds:

"The chains are the worst; our legs and feet get thinner and thinner, and the pressure of the iron on the bare bone is very painful. To be able to walk from one house to another we are obliged to roll bandages under the chains; otherwise we could not move a step, so great is the pain."

But bad as is the treatment of Mr. Rassam and his companions it is as nothing when compared with what Consul Cameron, Mr. Kerans, and the missionaries Stern and Rosenthal had undergone for more than two years previously. They had fetters not only on the feet, but on the hands likewise, the barbarous character of which was at the time described by the miserable captives themselves in their letters to their friends. As long ago as July 14, 1865, Mr. Kerans wrote: "I am now a year and six months in prison, with chains of 20 lbs weight on the legs, and lately the right hand has been attached to the feet. You cannot imagine what fearful sufferings I have to go through every day." About the same time Mr. Stern said: "This art of tormenting, which is ascribed to the wise King of Israel, is a most cruel invention, particularly when, as in our case, the fetters are so short that one is actually bent double, and unable to move about by day, or to stretch one's weary limbs by night;" and Mr. Rosenthal, whilst corroborating Mr. Stern's statement by saying: "Hand and foot irons were put on us in such a manner that we could not stand upright," added: "My fetters were of a specially cruel construction. Usually the manacles are separated by two or three links of chain; mine, however, constantly kept my feet within one-eighth of an inch close together; and when I desired to move I was obliged to crawl on both hands and feet." Surely it is not too soon that the British nation is resolved to put an end to such atrocities.

We cannot say much for the Christianity of a country in which cruelty such as this could be so perseveringly persisted in towards innocent men. In view of these well authenticated facts we may credit the horrible stories that reach us from time to time of the atrocious cruelty of Theodore. Dr. Blanc concludes his deeply interesting narrative with the following words:

"Strangers in a strange land, victims of a faithless savage, though all may appear dark and dreary we will not despond, but trust in Him who abandons not the innocent, but can and will deliver in time of trouble. We have also full confidence that our difficult position will call forth the sympathies of our Queen and country, and that before many months honor and justice will prevail over cruelty and treachery."

The British army have advanced far into the interior of the country, and we are in hourly expectation of hearing that they have succeeded in their noble and chivalrous enterprise by delivering the captives and punishing the cruel tyrant.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

—The first steamer of the season from Charlottetown, P. E. I., arrived at Pictou on the 27th ult.

—Don't forget Mr Williams' Penny Readings at the Cobequid Hall on Tuesday evening next.

—We are requested to state that a public meeting will be held in the Court House this evening, (Saturday) at 8 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of giving all parties interested in the Common an opportunity of expressing their views.

—We direct the attention of our lady readers to the advertisement of Miss Vincent in another column.

—We are indebted to Miss Katzman, of the Provincial Book Store, Halifax, and G. E. Morton & Co., for files of late English American, and Canadian papers.

—The steamer Carlotta arrived at Halifax on Monday last from Portland with twenty-eight passengers, two thousand barrels of flour and a general cargo.

—The Rev. H. B. McKay of River John, in a letter to the Eastern Chronicle, cautions the public against the imposition of a man calling himself John McKenzie, who is now going through the eastern part of the country soliciting charity, and representing himself to belong to half a dozen different denominations as may be most convenient.

—It was rumored in the city, yesterday, that Government had found complete proof of a Fenian organization in Montreal; that 40 members had decided to take Mr. Megee's life; and that, having drawn lots as to who would undertake the deed, the choice had fallen upon Whelan. Of course this is merely street news, and we do not know upon what foundation their truth is based.—M. Witness.

The Cape Breton News states that owing to short crops last year, and a long, hard winter, the small farmers in the Island, are very poorly off this spring for fodder, provisions, and seed. The same paper states that the county members, Messrs Ferguson and White have purchased, and had shipped at Halifax, 2000 bushels of seed oats, and have ordered a further supply from P. E. Island, consisting of a like quantity of oats, and half a bid quantity of potatoes.

—The evidence in the Ottawa murder case continues very interesting, and the developments are growing more important. Eggleston, Whelan's employer, has also been arrested for his connection with the Fenian order. Henry Murphy, one of the batch of prisoners from Montreal, does not deny being a Fenian. This man was secretary of Mr. Devlin's committee in the recent election. Doody was Fenian head centre in Montreal, and Callahan, the printer, was secretary. Thomas Murphy and Michael Enright are also proved to be members of the brotherhood. The guard at the jail where the prisoners are confined is very strong and all possible precautions are being taken to ensure their safe custody.

There is a man living not far from Danville, Va., who, when the war closed, finding himself without a horse, a mule, or even an old steer, hatched up his milk cow and made a good cow of her. He fed the cow high, and she not only plowed his land, but gave him milk for his table.

A man in Charleston, S. C., after retiring for the night heard a bird outside his window sing and seem to say, "you've set your house on fire." He got up, and sure enough the roof was all ablaze. Such a bird must be handy to have about the house.

THE GREAT HALIFAX FAIR.—Arrangements are progressing rapidly in connection with the great Provincial Exhibition to be held in October. The Prize List has aroused the energies of our farmers and manufacturers, and we hear from various parts of the country of efforts now in progress for the effective representation of our industries. The Committee have secured, for exhibition purposes, the Drill Building and Governor's Field, and arrangements are in progress for securing other necessary premises. Several gentlemen of the Committee have carefully surveyed the proposed fields and building, and at next meeting plans will be submitted of the proposed erections, and a general scheme of arrangements for carrying out the Exhibition.—Journal of Education.

—A Yankee having told an Englishman that he shot, on one particular occasion, 999 snipe, his interlocutor asked him why he did not make it a thousand at once. "No," said he; "it's not likely I'm going to be a lie for one snipe. Whereupon the Englishman, determined not to be outdone, began to tell a story of a man having swum from Liverpool to Boston. "Did you see him your self?" "Why, yes of course I did; I was coming across, and our vessel passed him a mile out of Boston harbor." Well, I'm glad you saw him, stranger, say yer witness that I did it. That was me!"

—A number of new witnesses in the murder case, named Enright, Murphy, Inglis, and Faulkner, have arrived at Ottawa from Montreal. Inglis states that last year he frequently saw Whelan with a revolver, and heard him use violent threats against Mr. Megee. On the election of Mr. Megee to Parliament, Whelan was heard to say that he would never take his seat, or if he did he would not long hold it. Faulkner testifies to Whelan's intense desire for Mr. Megee's defeat, and has also heard his violent denunciations of the deceased.

We learn that an amendment has been authorized by the Postmaster General in respect to the rate of postage to be charged on newspapers coming in from the United States addressed to regular subscribers in Canada. The instructions issued on the 1st of April, constituted this rate at two cents each paper.—the amendment reduces the rate to one cent. This reduction will also apply to American papers sent to regular subscribers by news-dealers in the Dominion. In fact the position of this class of papers reverts to what it was before the 1st of April. Transient American newspapers coming in from the States will continue to be liable on delivery to a charge of two cents.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

London, April 24.—Advices from Abyssinia are to April 2nd. The British army had made further advance, and the next day would move on to Basha River. The Abyssinian Chief, Woggoroot, was re-arrested. He had broken peace with the British, and refuses transit through his territory for their supplies. Gen. Napier intends to punish him on his return from Magdala. The news from other quarters is not so late as Gen. Napier's last despatch.

OTTAWA, April 25.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. F. Jones' motion to reduce the number of salaried ministers to nine was withdrawn. Several bills passed a stage. The bill to provide for Mr. Megee's family was read a third time and passed. Detective Cullen overheard in the cells a conversation between Whelan and Doyle. Whelan told Doyle the whole story of the murder of Mr. Megee. He rested his hopes of escape on a Fenian Jury. The whole account is published, and causes a great sensation. Doyle has been committed for trial as an accessory before the fact. Buckley is also implicated.

Nearly all the members of the Senate and House of Commons have subscribed five dollars each to the fund for discharging Mr. Megee's liabilities. Sanford Fleming has returned from his Intercolonial Railway exploration. He reports that he has discovered a more favorable passage over the mountains on the central route.

Liverpool, April 25, p.m.—Cotton closed firm and more active. Breadstuffs quiet. Beef declined to 120s. Pork dull. Lard firm. Naval Stores dull. Petroleum firm and unchanged. Other articles unchanged. Later advices from Japan report that the Teikon had absconded. The trial of the Fenians charged with the Clerkenwell explosion continued. The evidence for the Government closed yesterday.

New York, April 25.—The boiler of a steam saw mill exploded in Chicago yesterday, killing eight workmen, and wounding three others.

London, April 24 (midnight).—Startling intelligence has been received from Australia. Prince Alfred, who is visiting Sydney was shot and dangerously wounded by an unknown person. The would-be assassin, who was said to be a Fenian, was promptly arrested. The Prince, according to last accounts, was slowly recovering.

In the House of Commons this evening Lord Stanley, in reply to a question, admitted that the Emperor of Russia had made secret proposals to the British Government in regard to the Cretan difficulty, but which, without the consent of the Czar, could not properly be made public. The plain solution of the reply is that proceedings looking to the independence of Crete, which the Sublime Porte will not concede without compulsion, is a policy which it is impossible for Great Britain to pursue.

Dublin, April 24.—The Prince of Wales embarked for England to-day. Before sailing he gave a dinner on board the Royal Yacht. There were about forty present. The utmost good feeling prevailed.

LATEST.

OTTAWA, April 28.—Chamberlain's bill for reducing indemnity to members from \$600 to \$450 defeated by 83 to 47. The Nova Scotia members voted with the Government against the bill.

On the third reading of the bill to enable Banks throughout the Dominion to use Government notes an amendment moved requiring more complete monthly returns from the Banks was lost on a division of 60 to 63. Bill read a third time.

The following bills were read a third time and passed. Act respecting Currency; Act organizing Department of Marine and Fisheries; Act organizing Department of Inland Revenue.

A resolution has been adopted authorizing Governor General to impose duty not exceeding 20 per cent on foreign reprint of British copyrights, to be paid by parties holding the same.

Sir John A. McDonald stated that the Government would be prepared to announce amount of license to be paid by American fishermen on arrival of next mail.

London, April 27.—Details of the Abyssinian news report that the enemies' works were carried after vigorous resistance. Theodore lost during the engagement sixty men killed and two hundred wounded. The English had fifteen rank and file wounded, after the works were completely carried. Theodore was found dead by the English soldiers. He had been shot through the head. Some say he was killed during one of the battles; others incline to the opinion that he committed suicide when he found the fortunes of the day against him. The King's body was recognized by the British captives when released.

Theodore's two sons were taken prisoners, and all European prisoners set free. The interior of the fort of Magdala presenting with barbaric splendor. The British troops plundered it at once. The men found four royal crowns made of solid gold, twenty thousand in silver, and a thousands of silver plates, several lots very rich jewels, and a number of other articles of great value. Gen. Napier took by his victory the 28 large guns used against him, five thousand stand of small arms, ten thousand swords, ten thousand spears, and many other articles of war.

The British captives will start for home on the 24th April.

General Napier's army will reorganize, fall in and return to India and England at once.

The weather is delightfully favorable for the crops. The Abyssinian news imparts better feeling in financial circles, and money easier.

London, April 27 (etc).—Great joy prevails throughout the nation on the glorious news from British troops in Abyssinia, and the safety of Prince Alfred. To-day has been observed as a sort of impromptu holiday. At the stock exchange to-day national hymns were sung, and enthusiastic cheers for the Queen given. The press and people everywhere are exultant. Still later advices have been received from Sydney, Australia, to-day. Farrell, who attempted to assassinate Prince Alfred, was indicted, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

London, April 28, 2 a.m.—Both Houses of Parliament, without a dissenting voice, voted an address to the Queen upon the recent attempt to assassinate Prince Alfred at Sydney, expressing the sympathy of the British nation with the Royal Family in the untoward state which has filled them with sorrow, and the country with horror, and hope that the Prince may soon be established to health.

The trial of the Fenians charged with the Clerkenwell explosion closed to-day. Barrett was convicted; all the others were acquitted.