

QUEEN MARY'S HYMN.

Various translations of Queen Mary Stuart's Hymn have been produced as holiday tasks, and published within the last week by the St. James's Gazette, of London. The following is a favorite of Mr. Shipwith:

Great God, I have trusted In peril on Thee, Dear Jesus, Redeemer, Deliver Thou me, In my prison house groaning, I long but for Thee, Languishing, moaning, Bow'd down on bent knee, I adore Thee, I implore Thee, From my sins set me free.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSION.

SOME VERY STRANGE REVELATIONS.

The Langlais Contracts—The Drummond Railway Subsidy—Extraordinary Use of Public Monies.

The commission resumed its labors on Tuesday 19th.

Mr. Machin, assistant provincial treasurer, produced a letter from P. Lafrance, dated 5th November, 1890, informing Mr. Shehyn that the letter of credit for \$50,000, in favor of the Drummond County railway, had been discounted by La Banque Nationale and asking for payment as soon as the subsidies would be voted; also a letter from Mr. Shehyn to Mr. Mercier, asking what he was to do. The advance was made on the written promise of Premier Mercier. The warrant for the payment of the \$50,000 was issued on February 3, 1891, and the sum was drawn from an amount deposited in La Banque Nationale on the 1st. The \$50,000 was the proceeds of a loan made to the province by La Caisse d'Economie to pay the subsidy to the railway. Witness could not produce the cheque of the department in payment of the \$50,000, and the bank could not account for its whereabouts, although all the department's other cheques were returned to the bank.

Mr. Webb, cashier of the Union bank, deposed that his bank held claims against the Government of Quebec to the amount of \$13,594.13. The bank also holds two letters from the Provincial Treasurer pledging deposits by the Government to cover advances made.

TO CERTAIN RAILWAYS to which the late Government promised subsidies.

Mr. Dumoulin, cashier of La Banque du Peuple, produced a number of claims of his bank against the Government, amounting to \$6,425. One of these, dated 13th November, 1890, was payable to Mr. L. J. Demers as an advance on the printing of the correspondence of the Intendants of New France. This letter was not paid by Mr. Demers but by Mr. Ernest Paquet, who had discounted it for Mr. Demers. Witness did not know who had deposited the cheque for \$11,125 in favor of J. A. Langlais. Witness being asked to look into the accounts of Charles Langlais, Ernest Paquet and the other ex-ministers to see if about 18th February, 1891, such an amount had been placed to their credit, replied: "It is the business of the commission, very well; but if it is private business—"

Mr. Stuart—It has much bearing on the matter before the commission, for it will help to trace the money.

Witness would not comply before consulting the legal adviser of the bank, but on motion of Mr. Stuart he was ordered to do so.

THE DRUMMOND RAILWAY'S \$50,000

Mr. P. Lafrance, of La Banque Nationale, testified that a letter of credit for \$50,000, in favor of the Drummond County railway, had been brought to the bank as collateral security for a cheque bearing the names of P. Vallieres and Ernest Paquet. The proceeds of the letter of credit were used to meet the cheque. The money was paid to Mr. Ernest Paquet, who also endorsed the letter of credit. Witness could not say to whose order the Government cheque was payable. He was ordered to enquire at the bank. La Banque Nationale holds claims against the Government for \$26,251.

Mr. Machin procured the correspondence having reference to the payment of \$50,000 to the Drummond County railway, which included a letter from Mr. Desmarais, M.L.A., urging on Mr. Garneau the payment and requesting that the cheque be sent to him at St. Hyacinthe. Mr. Watts, M.L.A., joined him in the first part of his request.

At the afternoon session Mr. Lafrance continued his evidence. It was Ernest Paquet who signed the note paid out of Drummond County railway's letter of credit, and Mr. Vallieres was the endorser. The note was for \$12,938.39 and the railway received

THE BALANCE, \$25,000.

Mr. Dumoulin, recalled, said that the Langlais cheque of \$11,125 was to the credit of Mr. Ernest Paquet, who had drawn \$3,000 of it.

Mr. Stuart asked how the money had been distributed, but witness refused to answer until ordered to do so. Witness said that the balance of the money had been withdrawn about the 12th of February, apparently without a cheque, and he could not say to whom it had gone. At that date there had been nothing deposited to the credit of Charles Langlais, who authorized witness to produce his account if the commission demanded it. Mr. Dumoulin had an account at the bank, which he would produce. He would see whether Mr. Vallieres had, about February 16, 1891, deposited any considerable amount to the order of Mr. Paquet or any of ex-ministers.

Ernest Gagnon was examined as to the payment of \$800 to G. H. Deschenes.

The latter had written to Mr. Garneau asking for a contract to supply wood and got a contract for 40,000 feet. This wood had never been delivered. Witness also read a letter from Mr. Deschenes asking an advance of \$300 and naming J. A. Langlais as security. Of this \$300 was paid, but

THE BALANCE DID NOT APPEAR to have been, according to the record. Mr. Deschenes had written to the department to say that he had not the wood on hand.

Napoleon Lavoie was then called, but did not appear, and it was decided to hold a night session in order to let the commissioners go to Montreal by the night train, as it had been decided to adjourn till Saturday morning, when the commission will meet in Montreal.

The commission resumed its session at 7.30 p.m. in order to receive the testimony of Napoleon Lavoie, agent of the St. Roch's branch of La Banque du Peuple, the gentleman who refused previously to tell to whom the cheque of \$11,000 had been paid, this cheque being part of the proceeds of the first letter of credit of \$30,000 given to Mr. Langlais. It was also intended to take the evidence of Mr. Dumoulin, manager of the Lower Town branch of the bank, as to what became of the \$30,000 letter of credit of Vallieres, cashed with him. In both particulars the commissioners were disappointed, for Lavoie did not put in appearance and Dumoulin could not give the information desired, because Philippe Vallieres had

WITHDRAWN ALL HIS CHEQUES about January 11, just about the time the commission was appointed.

Mr. Dumoulin was called first. He said that the \$5,000 referred to in the afternoon had not been placed to the account of Mr. Charles Langlais or any of the then ministers. Mr. Paquet had withdrawn all his cheques before he started for Europe. Witness could not tell to whose order Mr. Vallieres had deposited his cheques as he had since withdrawn them. He had no personal knowledge that payments had been made by Mr. Vallieres to any of the persons mentioned.

Napoleon Lavoie was then called but did not appear.

SOME SINGULAR DEALINGS.

The Royal Commission met on Thursday and some more interesting evidence was elicited as to the peculiar methods of financing of the late Government. Mr. Lavoie, manager of the St. Roch's branch of La Banque du Peuple, swore that Langlais' dealings with his bank had no bearing on the stationary scandal. Witness showed the commissioners a copy of Langlais' account at the bank. It appears that Langlais had a large amount on deposit, but as he always drew cheques payable to his own order the recipients could not be traced. Personally witness had no knowledge to whom any of Mr. Langlais' payments were made.

Philip Vallieres testified that he had no dealings with Mr. Garneau about the furniture for the Montreal Court House. All business was done through Mr. Mercier. He did not remember talking to any one else on the subject. Witness was asked to produce the estimate of the price of the furniture, but declined to do it and would simply show it to the commissioners. As he did not have it with him he was ordered to go for it. He seemed

TO BE ANNOYED, but he was given to understand that the commission would treat him as any other witness.

J. C. Chapais swore that he was the author of the little book "Le Sylviculteur Illustré," which Langlais sold to the Government for \$25,000. The witness sold the plates to Langlais for \$1,000.

Mr. Machin deposed that the cheque for \$25,500, subsidy to the Baie des Chateaux railway, was paid to the order of J. C. Langlais and Honore Mercier and bears their endorsement. The amount was

PLACED TO MERCER'S CREDIT in La Banque du Peuple.

Hon. F. Lafrance left the court as Mr. Machin proceeded to give his evidence.

The \$2,112 subsidy to Temiscouata railway, paid May 8, 1890, was a land grant converted into cash.

Mr. Vallieres here returned and Judge Mathieu asked that his examination be continued. The witness handed the judge his list of furniture to be supplied to the Montreal Court House, which he objected to having made public, but Judge Mathieu gave it to the clerk with instructions to read it aloud. At least two-thirds of the articles ordered had no prices fixed. As Mr. Vallieres had stated prior to producing the paper that the prices were agreed upon with Mr. Lesage, the deputy commissioner, the words,

"NO PRICE"

after each item caused considerable amusement. After much hesitation Vallieres admitted that the list just produced was not the one which he had received from the department prior to the date of the letter of credit for \$80,000. He was ordered to produce the original list.

Mr. Machin again took the stand and filed the papers concerning the payment of \$7,762 to the Drummond County railway. The cheque was paid June 16, 1890, and the receipt was dated June 16, 1890, to Joseph Boivin, brother-in-law of the ex-Premier. Attached to the warrant was a telegram from Mr. Desmarais, M.L.A., asking that the cheque be sent to him at once; also an endorsement of Mr. Verret, by order of Mr. Mercier, that it should be given to Mr. Boivin.

The warrant for \$1,000, paid to the Montreal and Ottawa railway on February 14, 1891, was acquired by Honore Mercier, who personally received the cheque for deposit in the Union bank to Paquet's credit. The warrant dated September 5, 1890, for \$5,000 to the Drummond County Railway, was also acquired by Honore Mercier and deposited in the St. Hyacinthe bank to the

CREDIT OF "ELECTION ACCOUNT."

Joseph Boivin swore that he drew the cheque at Mr. Desmarais' request and sent it to the member for St. Hyacinthe. Mr. Verret, provincial auditor, was asked by Judge Mathieu for certain explanations of the mode of payments by the Government and stated that he was not informed of the many letters of credit and knew nothing of them till they were presented for payment. The witness verified Mr. Machin's statement

as to the warrant for the \$5,000 having been paid to Mr. Boivin. Mr. Verret said he acted upon orders of Hon. Mr. Shehyn.

Mr. Grenier said there were no orders in council for any of the amounts mentioned in the proclamation which formed the subject of the present enquiry.

A rule for contempt of court was issued against Mr. Vallieres, as he did not turn up at noon, as he promised.

A sworn medical certificate was produced showing that J. A. Langlais was too ill to appear.

The commission adjourned to sit again at Montreal on the 29th inst.

AN EARLY MARTYR.

The Story of St. Agnes—The Wool of the Archbishop's Palliums.

Last Thursday was the feast of St. Agnes, the virgin and martyr, who was only thirteen years old at the time of her death. She was a Roman maid, rich and beautiful, who lived in the fourth century. Many young noblemen sought her in marriage. But she was a Christian and she had consecrated her virginity to Christ. When she rejected the addresses of her suitors, they denounced her to the governor as a Christian, to be which was a crime according to the edicts of Diocletian. She was taken to court. The judge at first coaxed her to give up her faith. She refused. Then he made use of threats. Still she was firm. Next, he had a fire lighted, a rack prepared, and hooks and pincers set out before her eyes; grim executioners surrounded her; no friend was near. She remained undaunted. With steady voice, she announced her readiness to suffer torture for the sake of Christ. But her youth was to procure for her one last chance. The judge was reluctant to put a child to death. He had her taken before the idols, and directed that she should offer incense to them. She would not consent, and when the executioners, out of pity, tried to make her take some of the grains and put them into the fire, she resisted them so that, says St. Ambrose, she "could by no means be compelled to move her hand, except to make the Sign of the Cross." The judge, then, incensed at her persistence, ordered her to be taken where she would be deprived of her purity. Several men attempted to injure her innocence, but as they approached her they were seized with awe. Only one of them touched her, and he was struck blind to the ground. His companions picked him up, and St. Agnes, taking pity on him, begged the Lord to restore him his sight, whereupon he was cured and went his way. The governor, finding that the girl remained constant, condemned her to be beheaded. She rejoiced at the sentence. "She went to the place of execution," says St. Ambrose, "more cheerfully than others go to their wedding." She knelt down and the executioner cut off her head with one blow of the sword. St. Jerome says that the tongues and pens of all nations are employed in the praises of this saint, who overcame both the cruelty of the tyrant and the tenderness of her age, and crowned the glory of chastity with that of martyrdom. She is looked upon as a special patroness of purity, with the Blessed Virgin and St. Thecla. Her body was buried a short distance from Rome, and there, in the time of Constantine, a church was built under her invocation. In it her relics are preserved. Every year, on her feast, two lambs are blessed in it at High Mass, which are then carried to the Pope, by whom they are again blessed; after which they are sent to the nuns of St. Laurence's in Lanisperna, who shear them and from their wool make the palliums which the Pope sends to newly appointed archbishops as an emblem of meekness and purity, and a sign of their official authority. Agnes in Latin means a lamb, and like a lamb, the holy maid was in her innocence. And now she is one of the legions of virgins who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth in the new Jerusalem.—Catholic Columbian.

A MIRACULOUS CURE.

The following appeared in a recent issue of the Toronto Daily Mail: ST. ANN'S SHRINE. To the Editor of the Mail, Sir,—As I lay bedridden through chronic muscular rheumatism, and had lost the power of my right arm by atrophy, I was unable to perform manual labor for several years.

A copy of your valuable Mail providentially fell into my hands with a picture of walking sticks and crutches left by pilgrims who professed to have been cured through the intercession of St. Ann. That night, encouraged by the pictures of sticks and crutches, and in spite of your scepticism, I went to St. Ann's shrine in spirit, and thank God I walked a ha'e man.

For twenty years I did not use my right arm; for four years I did not cut my own firewood. I was cartooned publicly by Cameron of Goderich with my hump back and walking sticks. Through the blessings of God and the prayers of the blessed St. Ann, I am well, and at the age of seventy will saw wood or do any other sort of unskilled labor with any man of forty in Goderich.

Thanks to the Mail for directing my attention to the Divine Healer; and having no further need of my walking sticks and crutches, I send a bundle of them to the editor of the Mail as a New Year's gift.

In proof of my veracity, I refer to Mayor Butler, and Rev. J. E. Howell, M. Y. McLean, and F. G. Neelin, Seaforth. Yours, etc., DANIEL MORAN. Goderich, Dec. 29.

Mrs. G. M. Young, 1 Sully Street, Grove Street, Liverpool, Eng., writes that the contents of one bottle of St. Jacobs Oil cured her of lumbago after she had given up all hopes of ever being better.

FOR THE TRUE WITNESS, ESTO PERPETUA.

I love your name. We've need of Truth, And blessed be they who spread it, For Error's way is broad, forsooth, And many they who tread it.

D. McK. MACARTHUR.

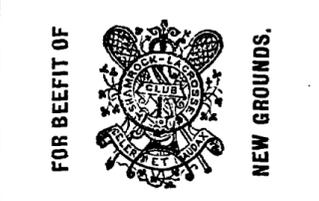
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The Brotherless Girl.

The girl without a brother is especially to be pitied, writes Ruth Ashmore in the Ladies' Home Journal. She is the girl who is never certain of getting the pleasures of life unless she is very attractive. Of course, she has no brother who she is certain will take her everywhere; she is apt to get a little bit vain, for she has no brother to tell her, as only a brother will, of her faults and mistakes. It is only the somewhat doubtful tact of a brother announces, "I wouldn't walk up street with you in that frock," and the girl whose brother says this to her may be certain that he is only expressing the opinion of other girl's brothers. He may not do it in the most gentle way but he does tell the truth, and if you ask why paying a visit to another girl is more desirable than to one you know, he will sit down and look at you, and then he will say: "Well, you see, it is just this way: From time you get there she is a nice girl who gives you a pleasant welcome and yet doesn't gush over you. She is entertaining, and yet she has a fashion of putting down nasty gossip or silly talk among whoever is there. She is a restful sort of girl, she is not always wanting to do something that tire you half to death and where the game isn't worth the candle, and when she says good-bye to you, you feel certain that she will be glad to see you another time, but that she doesn't look upon you as the one and only man in the world;" that is the kind of a description that the brotherless girl can't get. Then she doesn't hear of men that a fellow would rather not have his sister go with. Probably the wisest course for her to pursue is for her to choose as her most intimate friend a girl who has a wise brother; then she can reap the benefit of his counsel.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF Montreal, Superior Court, Dame Marie Egan, of the City and District of Montreal, wife common as to PROPERTY of John Andrew Peard, of the same place, plumber, herein to duly authorize to enter an Affidavit Plaintiff and the said John Andrew Peard, Defendant, and I hereby given that the Plaintiff has this day instituted an action for separation and to property against the said Defendant. Montreal, 2nd December, 1891. MOORMACK, DUQUESNE & MURPHY, Attorneys for Plaintiff.