

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—St. Patrick's Day was very generally observed throughout the country. A petition is being got up at Kingston against the return of Sir John A. Macdonald; and in Toronto a petition has been signed against the return of Robert Wilkes, member for Toronto Centre. The St. James Hotel, Montreal, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning last.

Great excitement has been occasioned in Toronto by the Globe's article accusing Dodge of forgery. A criminal action of libel is to be brought by Mr. Dodge against George Brown in consequence. The by-law for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the Northern Colonization Railway has been voted by the County Council of Pontiac. In the Halifax Legislature the bill for the abolition of the Ballot Act has been passed by a large majority.

Some sixty or seventy convicts will shortly be removed from Kingston Penitentiary to the new Penitentiary at St. Vincent de Paul. The Legislature of Prince Edward Island has been dissolved, and a new election will take place. Nomination day has been fixed for the 25th March, and polling day on the 2nd April, the writs being returnable on the 19th April. The question to be submitted is the acceptance or non-acceptance of the terms of union proposed by the Dominion Government to the P. E. Island delegates at Ottawa. The canvass for the Quebec County election is actively going on. The return of the conservative candidates is looked upon by their supporters as certain.

UNITED STATES.—Small-pox has been raging fearfully at Salt Lake. It is complained that the religious prejudices of the people prevent them obtaining proper medical attendances.

Governor Dix has refused to pardon Foster. Oglethorpe, N. Y., has been visited by a serious fire. A medical commission has been appointed to enquire into the condition of George Francis Train, now in the Tombs. The New York Board of Health has caused an inspection to be made of the Tombs, the result of which is not yet known, but it is understood the building is declared unfit for habitation. The English detectives on the track of the Warren forgers arrived in New York last week. Thirty-one new steamships are being built by ocean lines running to New York, including eight by Pacific Mail, nine by the North German Lloyds, and six by the Hamburg American Packet Co. The missing Irish member of Parliament, W. Felix Munster, reported missing for some time, has turned up in New York alive and well.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The Hyde Park meeting in favour of Home Rule and Amnesty to imprisoned Fenians passed off quietly on Sunday afternoon. The John Bull says a match between the Duke of Edinburgh and a Russian Princess is on the tapis. The Atlantic cable of 1865 failed last week. Steps were immediately taken to repair the fault. The Gladstone Government were defeated on the 11th inst. on the Irish University Bill by a vote of 284 in favour of the Bill and 287 against it. The result of the vote caused intense excitement. The measure was opposed by all the Conservatives who carried along with them forty-seven Liberal votes. After the result of the vote had been announced the House adjourned until Thursday, the 15th. On that day, Mr. Gladstone having sent in his resignation, Mr. Disraeli was called upon to form a Cabinet. The announcement of the resignation of the Government was made in the evening and the House adjourned until Monday last. After a consultation with the leading members of the party Mr. Disraeli informed Her Majesty on Saturday that he could not incur the responsibility of forming a Government. On Sunday Mr. Gladstone had another interview with Her Majesty. By the latest despatches received it appears probable that Mr. Gladstone will resume the Premiership. In the House of Commons on Monday last he stated that he had received a communication from the Queen announcing that there was no prospect that the Opposition would form a new Government, and that he replied, placing his services at Her Majesty's disposal, and undertaking to consult with his colleagues, and they were now engaged in considering what steps they should take. Mr. Disraeli said he had informed the Queen that he was quite prepared to organize a new ministry, but could not undertake to carry on the Government with the present Parliament. The House then adjourned until Thursday. In the House of Lords, Earl Granville made a statement identical with that of Mr. Gladstone in the other Chamber, and the Duke of Richmond repeated Mr. Disraeli's explanations.

FRANCE.—The Assembly has adopted the constituent project reported by the Committee of Thirty. The vote stood 411 yeas to 234 nays. On Saturday last President Thiers and Count Von Arnim, the German Ambassador, signed a convention on the part of their respective Governments for the fifth milliard of francs of the war indemnity by instalments, the final payment to be made on the 5th September next, when all French territory occupied by the German troops, including Belfort, will be evacuated. Baring Brothers and the Rothschilds undertake the financial arrangement.

GERMANY.—The German Geographical Societies propose to send an expedition to explore the western part of Africa and supplement the discoveries of Dr. Livingstone. A considerable sum of money has been already raised to meet the expense of the undertaking. The German Parliament convened in Berlin on Wednesday week. His Majesty the Emperor William opened the session in person. In his speech from the Throne, His Majesty said he believed that the negotiations now in progress would result in the entire evacuation of France by German troops at an earlier day than had been heretofore expected.

ITALY.—The Duke d'Aosta (ex-King Amadeo) has been re-admitted to the rights of Italian citizenship, and has been appointed by the King Lieut.-General in the Italian army. Last week, on the anniversary of Mazzini's death, a deputation of Democrats attempted to visit the patriot's tomb, but the police refused them admission. For a time the greatest excitement prevailed and a riot was imminent; but the troops were called out and prevented disturbance.

SPAIN.—Senor Martos, the President of the Assembly, has resigned. The bill convoking a Constituent Cortes for the 1st May has been definitely sanctioned. The Assembly approved of the bill granting amnesty to offenders against the laws, and regulating the newspaper press in Porto Rico. It is reported that a reaction has set in among the Radicals in favour of the indivisible republic, as opposed to the Federal system. The Carlists have been defeated at Vera and near Pampelona.

PORTUGAL.—In the Cortes on Saturday the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that the Government would demand immediate satisfaction of Brazil for an outrage to the Portuguese flag. Portuguese journals say that at no time in the history of the country have such efforts been made to organize a Republican party as are now making.

SWITZERLAND.—Père Hyacinthe has begun to preach in Geneva with marked effect. His congregations are very large, and he is fast gaining adherents.

TURKEY.—A new Ministry has been formed. Mexico.—The Mexican Government refused to accede to the demand of the British authorities for payment of damages in consequence of the raid of Yucatan Indians on the territory of Honduras. An insurrection was feared, and the religious troubles were reviving. A revolution is imminent at Oaxaca. General Porfirio Diaz has been elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mexico. He becomes President of the Republic in case a vacancy occurs.

CUBA.—It is rumoured that General Caballos will shortly be replaced by a General who will act in accordance with opinions corresponding with those entertained by the present Government of Spain. A sanguinary episode in the Cuban insurrection is the reported summary execution, prompted by revenge, of a rebel chieftain who was well known as a poet and a journalist.

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THE NEW MAGDALEN.

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

SECOND SCENE.—Mablethorpe House.

CHAPTER XXIII.—(Continued.)

"Do you mean to insult me, Lady Janet?" "Certainly not. I mean to ask you a question."

"Your question is an insult." "My question is a kindness; if you will only understand it as it is intended, I don't complain of your not understanding it. I don't even hold you responsible for any one of the many breaches of good manners which you have committed since you have been in this room. I was honestly anxious to be of some service to you, and you have repelled my advances. I am sorry. Let us drop the subject."

Expressing herself with the most perfect temper in those terms, Lady Janet resumed the arrangement of her papers, and became unconscious once more of the presence of any second person in the room.

Grace opened her lips to reply with the utmost intemperance of an angry woman, and, thinking better of it, controlled herself. It was plainly useless to take the violent way with Lady Janet Roy. Her age and her social position were enough of themselves to repel any violence. She evidently knew that, and trusted to it. Grace resolved to meet the enemy on the neutral ground of politeness, as the most promising ground that she could occupy under present circumstances.

"If I have said anything hasty, I beg to apologise to your ladyship," she began. "May I ask if your only object in sending for me was to inquire into my pecuniary affairs, with a view to assisting me?"

"That," said Lady Janet, "was my only object."

"You had nothing to say to me on the subject of Mercy Merrick?"

"Nothing whatever. I am weary of hearing of Mercy Merrick. Have you any more questions to ask me?"

"I have one more."

"Yes?"

"I wish to ask your ladyship whether you propose to recognize me, in the presence of your household, as the late Colonel Roseberry's daughter?"

"I have already recognized you as a lady in embarrassed circumstances, who has peculiar claims on my consideration and forbearance. If you wish me to repeat those words in the presence of the servants (absurd as it is) I am ready to comply with your request."

Grace's temper began to get the better of her prudent resolutions.

"Lady Janet," she said, "this won't do. I must request you to express yourself plainly.

You talk of my peculiar claims on your forbearance. What claims do you mean?"

"It will be painful to both of us if we enter into details," replied Lady Janet. "Pray don't let us enter into details."

"I insist on it, madam."

"Pray don't insist on it."

Grace was deaf to remonstrance.

"I ask you in plain words," she went on, "do you acknowledge that you have been deceived by an adventuress who has personated me? Do you mean to restore me to my proper place in this house?"

Lady Janet returned to the arrangement of her papers.

"Does your ladyship refuse to listen to me?"

Lady Janet looked up from her papers as blandly as ever.

"If you persist in returning to your delusion," she said, "you will oblige me to persist in returning to my papers."

"What is my delusion, if you please?"

"Your delusion is expressed in the questions you have just put to me. Your delusion constitutes your peculiar claim on my forbearance. Nothing you can say or do will shake my forbearance. When I first found you in the dining-room, I acted most improperly; I lost my temper. I did worse; I was foolish enough and imprudent enough to send for a police-officer. I owe you every possible atonement (afflicted as you are) for treating you in that cruel manner. I offered you the use of my boudoir as part of my atonement. I sent for you in the hope that you would allow me to assist you, as part of my atonement. You may behave rudely to me, you may speak in the most abusive terms of my adopted daughter; I will submit to anything, as part of my atonement. So long as you abstain from speaking on one painful subject, I will listen to you with the greatest pleasure. Whenever you return to that subject I shall return to my papers."

Grace looked at Lady Janet with an evil smile. "I begin to understand your ladyship," she said. "You are ashamed to acknowledge that you have been grossly imposed upon. Your only alternative, of course, is to ignore everything that has happened. Pray count on my forbearance. I am not at all offended—I am merely amused. It is not every day that a lady of high rank exhibits herself in such a position as yours to an obscure woman like me. Your humane consideration for me dates, I presume, from the time when your adopted daughter set you the example, by ordering the police officer out of the room?"

Lady Janet's composure was proof even against this assault on it. She gravely accepted Grace's inquiry as a question addressed to her in perfect good faith.

"I am not at all surprised," she replied, "to find that my adopted daughter's interference has exposed her to misrepresentation. She ought to have remonstrated with me privately before she interfered. But she has one fault—she is too impulsive. I have never, in all my experience, met with such a warm-hearted person as she is. Always too considerate of others; always too forgetful of herself! The mere appearance of the police-officer placed you in a situation to appeal to her compassion, and her impulses carried her away as usual. My fault! All my fault!"

Grace changed her tone once more. She was quick enough to discern that Lady Janet was a match for her with her own weapons.

"We have had enough of this," she said. "It is time to be serious. Your adopted daughter (as you call her) is Mercy Merrick—and you know it."

Lady Janet returned to her papers.

"I am Grace Roseberry, whose name she has stolen,—and you know that."

Lady Janet went on with her papers.

Grace got up from her chair.

"I accept your silence, Lady Janet," she said, "as an acknowledgment of your deliberate resolution to suppress the truth. You are evidently determined to receive the adventures as the true woman; and you don't scruple to face the consequences of that proceeding by pretending to my face to believe that I am mad. I will not allow myself to be impudently cheated out of my rights in this way. You will hear from me again, madam, when the Canadian mail arrives in England."

She walked towards the door. This time Lady Janet answered, as readily and as explicitly as it was possible to desire.

"I shall refuse to receive your letters," she said.

Grace returned a few steps, threateningly.

"My letters will be followed by my witnesses," she proceeded.

"I shall refuse to receive your witnesses."

"Refuse at your peril. I will appeal to the law!"

Lady Janet smiled.

"I don't pretend to much knowledge of the subject," she said; "but I should be surprised indeed, if I discovered that you had any claim on me which the law could enforce. However, let us suppose that you can set the law in action. You know as well as I do, that the only motive power which can do that is—money. I am rich; fees, costs, and all the rest of it are matters of no sort of consequence

to me. May I ask if you are in the same position?"

The question silenced Grace. So far as money was concerned, she was literally at the end of her resources. Her only friends were friends in Canada. After what she had said to him in the boudoir, it would be quite useless to appeal to the sympathies of Julian Gray. In the pecuniary sense, and in one word, she was absolutely incapable of gratifying her own vindictive longings. And there sat the mistress of Mablethorpe House, perfectly well aware of it.

Lady Janet pointed to the empty chair.

"Suppose you sit down again?" she suggested. "The course of our interview seems to have brought us back to the question that I asked you when you came into my room. Instead of threatening me with the law, suppose you consider the propriety of permitting me to be of some use to you? I am in the habit of assisting ladies in embarrassed circumstances, and nobody knows of it but myself. Once more, let me inquire if a little advance of the pecuniary sort (delicately offered) would be acceptable to you?"

Varieties.

One can be married cheap in New Hampshire. A clergyman of that State, having performed the interesting ceremony, was asked his price by the bridegroom. On replying that the law gave him two dollars, the newly married man promptly handed him fifty cents, remarking, "well, that will make up \$2.50 for you," and disappeared with his bride.

One day last week a lady in the country wrote for a piece of music "with sentimental words that almost silently flow from the depth of concealed sorrow, revealing a sad heart's tenderest emotion in a tone that would almost melt an iceberg and crumble adamant to dust," and in a postscript informed them that her "paugh" would be up next week and pay for it.

The latest story of a brave though childlike form, faithful at the post of duty, comes from Ohio. He was the son of a village doctor, and having discovered a broken rail on the road just out of town sat for five hours on a fence near by waiting for the train so that he might carry the particulars of the accident to his father. Such devotion to the paternal interest is very affecting.

The fourth wife of a man was (as is usual for ladies after marriage) regulating the fixtures in general about the house, and went into the attic accompanied by a boy of some six or seven summers where she found a pair of neatly made saw-horses such as carpenters use in cutting lumber. She said: "Sammy, my son, what are these horses for?"

"Well, father keeps them horses to put his wives' collars on."

Imagine that span of horses taking a San Patch leap from the attic window of a two-story house, with "I guess my coffin won't ride you this week."

Mr. Shirra, of Kirkealdy, has been one of the most distinguished Scotsmen for his homely and remarkable sayings, both in the pulpit and abroad. A weaver entered the church dressed in the new uniform for the volunteers. The man, vain of his appearance, kept blushing in one of the passages, although offered accommodation in the pews. Mr. Shirra observed him, and when prayer was over addressed him thus:—"Sit down, lad, we ken ye hae gotten new breaks; sit down, an' we'll take a look of them when the kirk skells."

They tell a good story in Lawrence of a professional gentleman, and wife, who bear the very highest reputation for severe propriety. Last Saturday night the gentleman told his wife he was going out on business and might not be back till late. "You are not going to the Black Crook, are you?" she asked. "Black Crook! what do you take me for?" he indignantly exclaimed. "Oh, well," said she, "I was only joking. I'm going out to do some shopping. Don't be alarmed if I am not in when you return." The next that worthy couple saw of each other was at the aforesaid Black Crook, where some destiny seated them side by side to their astonishment.

At the Théâtre Français there is a rule that the fauteuil reserved for a journalist on first nights shall remain at his service, even when his connection with his journal shall have ceased. The Courier de France cites an occurrence which recently took place, in proof of this: During the first representation of a play, a gentleman who had been standing during the entire first act, pushed about, getting his feet trodden upon and generally inconvenienced, perceived an empty stall and took possession of it. An attendant signed to him to vacate, but the gentleman had no desire to resume his former unenviable position, so he took no heed of his expressive grimaces. "Sir, you cannot remain there, the gentleman will be coming to take his seat." "Well, I will give it up when he comes." "Impossible, sir! Be off with you, the curtain is rising." However, the municipal officer's influence is soon brought to bear upon the truculent occupant of the stall, and he yields to a nod from the shake of authority. "Well," he says, "I shall just go and see if this stall is really let," and goes to the boxkeeper's desk, who, looking in his book, finds the following entry opposite the number of the fauteuil: "Service de presse, M. Adolphe Thiers, du Constitutionnel, 1822." *Se non è vero, è ben trovato!*

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