

The St. Andrews Standard.

PUBLISHED BY A. W. SMITH.]

Evans tumendum est optimum. - Cic.

[12. 6d. PER ANN IN ADVANCE

No 14

SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1858.

[Vol. 25

AUNT MAGWIRE'S EXPERIENCE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF WIDOW BEDOTT.

Don't care a snap for him, hey? Now, Nancy Haddington, I want to know if you think you're gwine to make me believe such a story as a that? I know better. I can see as far into a millstone as any body—and I know and have know'd for better'n six months how you and Jasper Doolittle tuck a notion to one another. 'Tis extraordinary how gals talk! If you don't care a snap for him, what makes you go with him to leffers, and sleigh-rides, and all kind o' dowsins? Don't tell me you don't care a snap for him. He's a real nice young man tew, stiddy and industrious and deewin well. You'll never have a better chance in your life; may be he haint said nothin' particular to you yet, but that's no sign he aint a gwine tew as soon as he get's curridge up. He's rather bashful, you know, and it takes them sort o' fellers longer to come to the pint in such matters. They want considerable spurrin' up, and I advise you not to let nobody else her you say you don't care nothin' about Jasper Doolittle. Trouble comes o' them kind o' speeches. I know by experience. I come purty nigh losin' yer uncle Joshaway by makin' an unpudent remark o' that natur.

I'll tell you how 'twas, and maybe you'll take warnin' by it. I remember exactly when 'twas—'twas in the month o' March, about two years and a half arter sister Bedott was married; yer uncle and me'd been keepin' company all winter: he come t'our house every Sabberday evening, regularly beidesee'n on me hum from singin'-school and evenin' meetings, and so forth. 'Twas town talk that we were engaged; Joshaway Magwire and Melissy Pool, that was the story all round. But all this time mind you he hadn't said a word to me about havin' on him, though I was suspectin' every day when he would. You see he was awful bashful. Well, one night, 'twas in the month o' March, we was gwine hum from singin' school; nary one on us didn't say nothin' for some ways. At last yer uncle ham'd and haw'd tew or three times, and then says he to me, says he, 'Melissy! Says I, 'Hay? But he didnt continer for some time; arter a spell he ham'd and haw'd agin, and says he to me, says he, 'Melissy! Says I, 'Well, what? But still he didnt continer. At last I see we was gettin' purty nigh hum, so I says to him, says I, 'Joshaway what was you gwine to remark? So then he says, says he, 'I was gwine to say—but his curridge failed and he didnt finish. Afore long we came to the gate, and there we stopt, 'we used to stop a while at the gate, in a gineral way,' and says he, 'Melissy! Says I, 'Joshaway Magwire, what dew you want? Why, says he, 'I was gwine to ax you—' Jest then yer grandfather Pool opened the door and come out, so yer uncle went off, and I went in. Well, next day Hanner Canoot came in t'our house and she begun to joke me about yer uncle. Now, I never could bear Hanner Canoot; she was a reglar mischief-makin' old maid, always a meddlin' with everybody's bizness in the place, and as sure as she see a young couple apparently attached to one another, she'd insinuate suthin' or other against them. She couldnt get no sweet-heart herself, and it made her awful cross-grained and mad at them as could git 'em. I hadent never had no difficulty with her; but I didnt like her, and yer gram ther Pool used to say to me frequently, 'Melissy, dew be keeful what you say afore Hanner Canoot, she's a dangerous critter.' And I was keeful in a gineral way.

And then you see, there was her brother, Josiah Canoot; he'd ben tryin' to be perlite to me tew or three year, and I wouldnt keep company with him, nor have nothin' to say tew him, and Hanner, she know'd it, and she felt awful spiteful to me on account of that. Speakin' of Josiah Canoot, the last time I was up to Wiggletown, yer aunt Bedott telled me he was quite pertickler to her. He haint never been married. I suppose nobody wouldent have him, he was so lazy and consumed disagreeable, and so awful humly. Why his hair was fiery red, and he hadent scarcely any nose at all, and what there was on't turned right up straight. When yer aunt Bedott telled me about his steppin' up to her, I says, 'I hope you wont incurridge him, for he is a poor shiftless critter.' 'Why no he aint nuther,' says she; 'he's been in the millitary, and got to be capten Canoot.' 'I dont care for that,' says I; 't'wouldnt make no difference to me if he was General; he's Si Canoot and always will be.'

Well, I felt worried about it, and when I come hum, I telled yer uncle on't, and says he, 'O, dont you be afear'd o' Silly's marryin' him. I'll be bound he haint no idea o' marryin' her. She allers thinks the men has seer notions if they look at her.' That's what yer uncle said; and I don't say but what 'tis so. Sister Bedott's a curious critter, though she's a nice woman in the main. Well, I

was a gwine to tell what Hanner said; she began to joke me, and says she, 'I was spinnin' on the great wheel when she began to joke me,' and says she, 'Melissy! they telled curious stories about you and Joshaway; what went the wheel, and I pertended I didnt hear her. Arter a spell she spoke up loud, and says she, 'Melissy! they telled strange stories about you and Joshaway; what went the wheel, and I made as if I didnt hear her word. So bimeby she turns to your gram ther, she was a sitten there, and says she, 'How is it, Miss Pool? when's that ar weddin' a comin' on?' says she, to mother. 'What weddin'?' says mother; says she, 'Why Melissy and Joshaway Magwire, beshure,' says Hanner, says she, 'Never, not as I knows on,' says mother, says she, 'I dont know nothin' about no such bizness.' Well, she see she wouldnt git no satisfaction out o' mother, so she hollers to me agin, and says she, 'Seems to me yer rather hard o' hearin' to day, Melissy.' 'Whizz-z-z-z! went the wheel louder'n ever, and I didnt take notice o' what she said. Purty soon she hawled out agin, and says she, 'I guess what makes you so deef is you must a ketch'd cold in yer head last night; twas rather a long journey you tuk to git hum.' (You see yer uncle and me went hum by the turnpike instead o' gwine cross lots, but how the crit-folnt it out, dear knows.) Well, I didnt pay no'tention, but I telled you I was comin' mad. Arter a spell she gits up and comes and dumps her right down aslid o' me, and says she, 'Silly, Melissy dew tell when you and Joshaway is a gwine to stop off. He's a very nice young man, though I guess he wont never set the river, afre. When she said that, I was completely riled up. I'd ben growin' madder and madder all the time to think o' her tellin' right afore mother about our comin' hum by the turnpike, and then sayin' he wouldnt never set the river, afre, 'twas too much; I couldnt hold in no longer; so I turned round and shook my wheel pin in her face, and says I, 'Hanner Canoot, yer a meddlin' old maid! I wish you'd mind yer own bizness, and lem me alone about Josh Magwire, I wouldnt wipe my old shoes on him!'

Now what did the critter dew, when I spoke so? Why, she sported right out alarin, and says she, 'O, dont get in a passion, Melissy, dont. Dew keep yer temper till yer married, dew.' Purty soon she went hum, and this was Friday. Well Sabberday cum, and I didnt see nuthin' o' Joshaway. I thought twas rather queer, but I reckoned on seeing him to Wednesday evenin' meetin'. Well, he was there, and I sposed of course he'd wait on me hum; but when meetin' was out, lo and behold! he went strait apast me, and axed Cloey Foggerson if he shud have the pleasure o' seein' her hum! Then it all cum through my head like a flash o' lightnin', what I said to Hanner Canoot: I know'd she'd told him o' it as well as ef I'd heard her. I tell you I felt bad. I never knowed till that mornin' how much I thought of Josh Magwire; the idea o' losin' him was awful aggravatin'. Well, I got hum somehow or other, and went strait out to bed, but I didnt sleep none that night in the mornin' I got up with a tremendous headache, and lookin' as pale as a ghost. Mother, she had to ax me whether or no I was sick. I telled her no; but all that day I wain't fit for no bizness, didn't have no appetite; and when night came, yer gram ther felt so consarned about me, that she gin me a dose o' perriglarie, coz she said if I didnt sleep that night I'd sartainly be attacked with a fever.

In spite of perriglarie I didnt sleep a wink that night nuther. Next day I felt worse ever, but I was awful spirited, and I was determined nobody shouldnt know the reason. Thinks I, if Joshaway's a mind to use me so, he may be and be hang'd to him. I aint agwine to kill myself on account of him; he aint the only young man in the universe. That's the way I talked to myself, but talkin' and dewin's tew things you know, Nancy. The more I tried to despise your uncle the more I couldnt; the more I tried to hate him, the better I liked him. Well, so it went on for a number of weeks. He never cum high me, I used to see him to singin' school and meetin', but he never offered to see me hum, but always went with Cloey Foggerson. Afore long folks was talkin' about him and Cloey Foggerson! But what worked me most was the gals began to plague me about losin' my sweetheart, and thinks I, I'll git him back if I die for't. So, arter ponderin' on't a spell, I made up my mind I'd incurridge Siah Canoot, and see if that wouldnt bring yer uncle tew. Si was ready to step up you know, but I'd gin him the mitten so many times he was afeerd to rentur.

So one day I goes by his shop, (he was a waggin' maker by trade, you know;) he was a standin' in the door as he always was, in a gineral way, (he was everlastin' lazy; well says I, 'How de dew, Mr. Canoot?' I telled you I never see a surpriseder critter'n what he was; I hadent spoke to him for better'n

a year. 'Well as common,' says he. Says I, 'Why dont you never come to see us now days, Mr. Canoot?' The critter was mighty tickled; and says he, 'The reason I haint been's cause I reckoned my company wain't agreeable.' 'O, Mr. Canoot, you mustnt think so, says I, and then I went off. Well, next night he come t'our house, and arter that, he come every night; and I telled you twas an awful cross to me to treat him in any way decent; for I despised the critter like pizen; but I managed to be polite tew him, and afore a week's time he popt the question. 'I telled him it was very unexpected, and I must consider on't a spell afore I gin him an answer. He seemed afore apparently satisfied and contented to wait on me; and I could see yer uncle felt uneasy by the way, he looked sideways at us whenever he see us together; but still he never come nigh me, nor offered to speak tew me; and so it went on tew full months. All the neighbors begun to talk about Josiah Canoot and me; and Siah himself was teasin' on me to know whether I hadent considered tew my most long enough; and what to dew I didnt know. I was high up on crazy; my health failed; I hadent no appetite nor no spirits. Yer gram ther was awful uneasy about me. You see I was all the daughter, she had left at hum. Yer mar was married and gone, and yer aunt Bedott was married and gone tew.

Well, I got to be a miserable critter. One evenin' arter supper, I was in a dreadful state o' mind. I know'd Siah was comin' that night to get his answer, and I wanted to get rid on him. So I put on my things and slipped out, and went up to sister Bedott's. She lived at the upper end of the village. Well, I found yer aunt Bedott at home alone. Yer uncle Hex wain't in; gone to some meetin' or other; and Kiar, (he was a baby then,) he was asleep in the cradle. 'I'm glad you have cum,' says Sally, says she, 'for I'm awful lonesome; Hex has gone off somewhere, dear knows where; 'tis amazin' how any man can be willin' to leave his parden alone as much as he does. I'm clear out o' patience with it; if it hadent a ben for that poor little young one's havin' the snuffles, I'd a went off somewhere myself.' (Yer aunt Bedott's a nice woman, but she was always an awful grumbler; they dew say she jawed the deacon out o' the world.) Well, so she went on, scoldin' and frettin', and tellin' her troubles and trials for ever so long; at last I broke in, and says I, 'O! Silly, dont go on so; you dont know what trouble's.' I said it in a kind o' way that startled her, and says she, 'Melissy, what dew you mean?' I bust right out a cryin'. Yer aunt put down her knittin' work, and come tew me, and says she, 'Melissy Pool what is the matter?' I kept on cryin' and didnt ansur. At last says she, 'Dew tell what ails you, Melissy, dew; taint nothin' about Josh Magwire, I hope. I wouldnt ferfay gizzard for him; there's as good fishes in the sea as any't ever was ketcht yet.' Well, arter a while thinks I, 'I may as well tell her. So I telled her the hull, from beginnin' to end; how nigh yer uncle came to poptin' the question; what I said to Hanner Canoot; how she provoked me to say it; how undoubtedly she told Josh on't, and all how and about it.

Well, at first yer aunt blowed me sky high for makin' such an unpudent speech, she was unpudent enough herself, but she hadent no patience with anybody else for bein' so.) At last says she, 'What's said cant be unsaid; the only way to mend the mischief is, for Joshaway and you to get together and make it up somehow.' But how can we git together? says I, 'I cant go to see him, and he dont never come to see me now. Arter thinkin' a spell, says Sally, says she, 'Silly was always a cunning critter.' I've got it now; you jist stay here and see to the baby, and I'll run into widder Magwire's; it's purty dark now, and by the time I come home it'll be awful dark; and Joshaway he'll come with me; he did it several times; he's wonderful purlite; and when we git to the door, I'll ax him to come in and see husband. Hex wont be in hum, taint likely; but Josh wont know but what he is; and when he once gits in, I'll bet forty grate apples you and he will make up straight purty soon.

'O, Silly,' says I, 'that's a real good idee; but you mustnt let him know I'm here, coz if you dew he wont come in.' I went sartin shure, says she. So she put on her things and off she went, and I sat down in the back part of the room, and begun a contrivin' what I should say to yer uncle. O, Nancy! you've no idee what a state of pre-tergation I was in: one minnit I was afeard I shouldnt say nothin' to no purpose; and the next minnit I was eeny most shure of gittin' Joshaway back agin. Well, sister Bedott was gone a hull hour. You see Joshaway wain't to hum when she went, and so she stopt until he come. It did seem to me as if she was gone a year. At last I heard her a comin'. They got to the door, and says yer uncle, says he, 'Good night.'

'Oh come in, dew,' says yer aunt Silly, says she. 'Mr. Bedott wants to see you amazin'ly.' 'Well,' says he, 'I'll step in a minnit. So in they come. 'Why,' says sister Bedott, says she, 'I wonder where husband is? you set down by the fire and I'll go and call him; he cant be fur off, I'm sure! he wouldnt go and leave the baby alone.'

So he set down with his back to me: I was sittin' where he didnt see me, and she went into t'other room and shut the door. Gracious sakes alive! I never in my hull life experienced such feelins as I did that minnit; and I sha I never agin if I live a thousand years. It seemed as if my heart would jump out of my mouth. Arter a minnit or so, I ham'd; yer uncle started and looked round and when he see me he ris and made for the door. Thinks I, I've lost him now sartin shure. Jist as he got his hand on the latch says I, 'Mr. Magwire.' He stopt and lookt round at me, and says he, 'Did you speak to me, Miss Pool?' 'Yes,' says I. 'What did you want?' says he; he spoke so cold and unconcerned I felt clear discouraged, and I jist bust out a cryin'. So then he comes up to me, and says he, 'Melissy! Says I, 'Joshaway, what makes you so cold and distant to me lately? Says he, you are engaged, aint you Melissy?' 'Yes I, 'No I aint—no such a thing.' Arter a minnit, he says, says he, 'What makes you say you wouldnt wipe your old shoes on me?' 'Cause I wouldnt,' says I, 'and there aint but one feller in the town I would sarve such a mean trick, and that's Siah Canoot; he's jist fit to wipe old shoes on.' Now, Nancy, what do yer spose yer uncle done then?—'Why he hev his arms round my neck, and gin me such a good earnest kiss as I never got before or since. 'O Melissy,' says he, 'we'll be married arter all the fuss went we!' 'I shouldnt wonder,' says I. And we was married in less than a month, and I haint never had no occasion to repent, for he's made me a fast rate husband; but only think how nigh I come to losin' him jist for speakin' as I did to Hanner Canoot. She haint never ben nigh me since I was married—and as for Siah, he was as mad as the dragon.

The Philosophers Stone.
It is said that John Randolph once suddenly rose up in his seat in the House of Representatives, and cried out, "Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I have found the philosopher's stone. It is pay as you go."
John Randolph said many wise things, but perhaps no one better than this.
Pay as you go, and you can walk the streets with a manly front, looking at men in the eyes without finching. You will not have to cross the way to avoid a dun, or look into the shop windows to avoid seeing a creditor.
Pay as you go, and when you laugh, it will be a right honest and hearty one.
Pay as you go, and when you sleep you will not dream of bills which you cant pay, or wake up to credits which you cannot support.
Pay as you go, and your home will be your home—happy, cheerful, contented, safe.
Pay as you go. But there is one debt which you cannot pay—the debt of short-comin' and sin to your Lord and Sovereign. That can only be cancelled by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Accept this surety-ship, and you will then not only be square with this world, but what is far more important, square with the terrible reckoning of the world to come.—*Child's Paper.*

Provincial Parliament.

REPORT OF RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

The Committee to whom were referred the various Documents laid before the House relative to 'The European and North American Railway,' having attended to that duty, beg leave to report—
That they have examined the various Documents in connection with the European and North American Railway, laid before the House by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the 8th day of March instant, in pursuance of the several Addresses and Notices for information on the subject: They have also examined Papers and Documents laid before them by the Provincial Secretary.
They have also examined W. H. Scovill, Esquire, the Chairman of the past, and Robert Jardine, Esquire, the Chairman of the present Board; Mr. Light, the Chief Engineer of the Works, and other witnesses.
They have also had before them the Engineer's Report upon the progress and position of the European and North American Railway up to the 16th March 1858, lately submitted to the Government by that officer.
In Mr. Jardine's official reply to the Provincial Secretary, who had addressed instructions to him as Chairman of the Railway

Board to furnish the information required, which replies are severally dated 2nd March 1858, we find it stated that 'Between the dates above mentioned, viz, 1st March 1857, and 1st February 1858, no written Tenders were asked for and no written contracts made for railway chairs or railway shoes, or for carrying, carting, or transporting railway materials from the City of Saint John or elsewhere, to different places along the line,' and 'I enclose copies of contracts for the grading of that part of the European and North American Railway, commencing at the Mill Pond and ending at the 'Four Mile House.' No written Tenders were advertised for or received for this portion of the Railway, the track laying and ballasting were not contracted for, but done by days work.

No written Tenders were asked for or received, or written Contract entered into previous to the 1st March 1857, for the construction or building of any locomotive, railway cars, railway chairs, railway shoes, railway bolts, clamps, or other articles made or manufactured for the railway works; and no written Tenders were asked for, or written Contracts made previous to the 1st March 1857, for carrying, carting or transporting railway materials from the City of Saint John, or elsewhere, to different places along the line.

Under date of the 4th March, referring to the cost of construction of the Railway between Moncton and Shediac, he says—

'The Commissioners are not aware of any cases in which the original Contracts have been varied or time extended, by authority of the Engineer or Commissioners.'

The Commissioners know of no cases in which Contracts have been completed 'within time specified.' He also states, with reference to the Shediac Wharf, the time for completing which pursuant to Contract, has expired—That no authority has been given for the extension of the term for completion by the Commissioners.

The Committee find that the construction of the works during the autumn of 1856; and up to 1st April 1857, was carried on without the appointment of any Commissioners, and directly contrary to law.

That on the 1st April, 1857, a Railway Board, pursuant to law, was first constituted, and in May a Secretary appointed; but no efficient system of books, or satisfactory mode of recording the proceedings of the Railway Board had been adopted previous to the appointment of the present Board on the 15th day of August, 1857: That fortnight after that time Mr. Read, one of the present Commissioners, went to England, and did not return to this Province until November, where he remained but three weeks, and then left for England again, where he has since been and is at present remaining.

That the works in the Province since the appointment of the present Board, except during the short Period of Mr. Read's visit, have been under the management of the Chairman, and Mr. R. C. Scovill, the other Commissioner, the former of whom has taken charge of the operations at Saint John, and the later at Shediac, pursuant to memorandum entered in the record book of the Board, under date 4th August, 1857, and which memorandum is as follows—

Ordered, That semi-monthly meetings, alternately at the Bend and Saint John, shall take place.

Ordered, That whatsoever business requires to be transacted between the meetings, Mr. Jardine, at Saint John, and Mr. Scovill, at Moncton and Shediac, is authorized to transact the same subject to the ratification of the Board at first meeting.

It is proper however to state that the Chairman informed the Committee that he was in constant telegraphic communication with Mr. Scovill, his Co-Commissioner, and that on all business of importance in the interval between the semi-monthly meetings, they communicated with each other.

The Committee further find, that many Contracts, involving large sums, have been entered into without tender, as required by law, and one instance, after a Contract of that nature had been made with a Mr. James for the building of two passenger cars at £70 each, and endorsement on the Contract by the Chairman, 'that if those cars were built to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, Mr. James should have the building of two more at the same price; and another instance, the giving out of work to one individual exceeding £1000 under similar circumstances.

There also appears unnecessary expense in the appointment of Superintendents, at daily wages, over small jobs, such as fencing let out by Contract, and requiring nothing but an ordinary examination when performing, to determine whether the Contract has been complied with or not; and on the List of Officers employed in the management of the works, are men whose appointments date