

SONNET.

I'm sad to-night, my spirit's fading slow;
My heart is full, my hopes are growing dim;
The tears adown my cheek unbidden flow—
The future comes upon me fraught with we,
And life seems wearisome, and joy a whim.

She whom I love and cherish and adore,
Whose every wish I sought to anticipate;
In whom my life is centered,—she no more
Responds to my affection as of yore;
But leaves me sadly to my bitter fate!

Ah! pity me at least if love hath fled
The sacred portal of thy virgin heart;
Come, darling, come! ere every hope hath sped,
Some solace to my flickering soul impart.

THOMAS.

Montreal, 11th January, 1877.

THE TRAGEDY OF ST. JEROME;

OR,

HUMAN JUSTICE, AND ITS DIFFICULTIES.

(Continued.)

On the first day of the March Term, 185—, the counsel acting for the Crown, to whom I am indebted for many of the details of this painful narrative, laid an indictment before the Grand Jury, charging Madame Louvac and the two Dulong with murder. The Bill was found, and on the following day, the three prisoners were arraigned. They were all neatly and appropriately dressed in full mourning; they conducted themselves with great propriety and self-possession, and when called upon to plead to the charge, they answered with a low, firm voice "Not guilty." They were defended by three eminent counsel—the most experienced and eloquent lawyers then at the Montreal Bar. The 5th of April was finally fixed for the trial, and on that day, the proceedings commenced about 10 o'clock. The Chief Justice and a Puisne-Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, held the Court. The audience room was crowded almost to suffocation, and an immense interest was manifested in this important trial. Shortly after the opening of the Court, the three prisoners entered the dock, and the trial was at once proceeded with. Madame Louvac stood at the Bar, between the two other prisoners, Antoine on the right and George on the left; and altho' perhaps her cheek was a shade paler, and her dark brow slightly more thoughtful, yet her grand, sinister countenance, her large dreamy eyes, wore the same expression they did on the day she was arraigned—an imperious, tragical person, and one of those faces you meet with travelling through the "wildernesses of this world," on which neither hope nor fear, conscience, joy or sorrow have left any trace, so firm and hard were its outlines, and on which not even the horror of an ignominious death could, to any marked degree, change or discompose. The two male prisoners exhibited the same calm, almost stolid appearance they did on the day they first appeared in Court. After the necessary preliminaries of swearing the Jury, &c., the prosecuting counsel rose to open the case on the part of the Crown. Profound silence prevailed in Court. The writer, then a mere youth, well remembers, after the lapse of many years, the deep impression this solemn scene made on his young mind. The prosecutor now proceeded to lay before the Jury a clear, unadorned and circumstantial statement of the facts he intended to prove on behalf of the Crown. He gave a brief history of the two families, Dulong and Louvac, and altho' omitting any pointed, or incriminating allusion to the sudden death of Louvac and his daughter, yet he delicately referred to this strange and mysterious calamity. He remarked, however, that such afflictions frequently fell on families of the purest lives, and blighted the fairest hopes of domestic affection. In any case, he said, these painful incidents had no direct connection with the present case. In assigning a motive for the alleged crime then under consideration, he referred at length to the notorious and suspected intimacy between Madame Louvac and Antoine Dulong; and then proceeded to relate some of the events which occurred on the fatal night when Madame Dulong was found dead in her bed. He referred to the unaccountable absence of Antoine Dulong; his stopping to sleep so near his own house at the way-side inn; his restlessness and agitation during the night; all which he intended to prove. He dwelt on the fact of the two prisoners, Madame Louvac and George Dulong, being alone with the deceased on the night she died, or, as he pretended, was murdered; and also, on a variety of other circumstances which tended to shroud the whole affair in deep mystery. He frankly declared that the theory of the prosecution was, not that Madame Dulong had been poisoned, had died of apoplexy, or a fit of any kind, but that she had been suffocated, smothered by a murderous hand; that her husband, the man who was bound to shield her from harm and to alleviate the sorrow which seemed to weigh on that too confiding heart, had planned the deed of death with Madame Louvac; and that George, the brother-in-law, from motives difficult to comprehend and more difficult to prove, had entered into the plot; that in the concerted absence of the husband, the two other prisoners had perpetrated the ghastly and cruel deed with the knowledge and criminal connivance of Antoine Dulong. During the delivery of this address, the latter exhibited great emotion and considerable anxiety. The other two stood motionless and impassive as statues, neither in-

different nor deficient, neither depressed nor resigned, and Madame Louvac seemed, as usual, to be absorbed in a sombre reverie.

In proceeding to adduce evidence on the part of the prosecution, the first and chief difficulty was to establish beyond reasonable doubt the cause of death. The post mortem examination, it was true, had been made, with considerable care, by two physicians, but they were men of no great experience, nor persons of much eminence in their profession. They were medical men of high character, however, and one of them had, moreover, attended the deceased during life. After a thorough investigation, as has been already stated, they were wholly unable to detect any trace of poison. The fact of the punch having been prepared by Madame Louvac herself, had suggested the idea that poison had in this way been administered; but none was found, and, as a matter of fact, there was none to find. The doctors had declared that the post mortem examination disclosed the fact that the heart, stomach, liver, kidneys, and with the exception of the brain, the other vital organs presented a healthy appearance, and no cause of death could be detected in any of them. The brain was congested, but how, when, or by what particular disease had that been brought about? The physicians were pretty sure it had not been caused by apoplexy, epilepsy, or any of the known forms of morbid congestion. Was it caused by external violence? These gentlemen thought not, at the time of the inquest; and they could scarcely believe so now. It was quite true that there were slight marks on the neck and breast, and under one eye, but they were so insignificant that they could scarcely be said to indicate violence, causing death; but still they existed, and, moreover, there was a slight rent, very small, in one of the pillows, which may have been there previously, or been made on the night of the death. But this again did not seem of sufficient importance to justify the inference that a death struggle had taken place; that was all they would venture to say. Madame Dulong, they added, had died from asphyxia; but how caused, they could not swear with entire confidence. All this was very unsatisfactory, but still it was something upon which an hypothesis might be based.

There was, at that time, residing in Montreal, I believe he is living still, a physician who had been summoned to give evidence on the trial. He was a man of great professional attainments, considerable experience, and well known for his proficiency in what, I believe, called "descriptive anatomy." He was of a cautious and discriminating turn of mind. He had examined the description of the post mortem examination made by the two doctors; and he had, moreover, listened with the greatest attention to the evidence these gentlemen had just given in the witness box. He was now called and proceeded to give his testimony. His examination and his cross-examination, which was very lengthy and singularly able, occupied the greater part of two days. He testified in substance, as his opinion, a strictly professional opinion, that the cause of death was congestion of the brain, caused by asphyxia; he was satisfied the deceased had been smothered, suffocated by a pillow, or by something of that kind. Since the deceased was described as being a person of rather full blood, subject to sensations of syncope, and not enjoying very good health, if assailed suddenly in this way, while in sound sleep and lying on her back, her death might be caused very quickly and with very slight, if any, marks of external violence; the small rent in the pillow, the faint marks on the neck and chest, and under one eye, would be sufficient indication of the process of suffocation, and confirmed him in his opinion. No doubt, this might appear strange; but it was still stranger, that as the cause of death was shown to be a congested condition of the brain, the cause of that congestion if morbid and natural could not be detected. If the result of apoplexy, there would have been unmistakable signs of it after death; and if brought about by any kind of fit, there would have been a marked struggle, and convulsive effort in dying. At least, such was his opinion; and he did not believe he would be controverted in this particular. Now it was strange that the prisoners Louvac and George Dulong had witnessed no struggle with death, of the character he had described; no lingering agony; no prolonged or violent spasm, syncope, properly so called, would not necessarily cause the brain to be congested; nor would a sudden rupture of the pneumo-gastric nerve.

The physicians who made the post mortem examination were of opinion that this was the cause of death, so that theory could not be entertained. There remained that peculiar congestion caused by asphyxia, and in this case he had no hesitation in saying that the deceased was suffocated by the pillow, or by some such soft and bulky substance being held by a strong hand on her face when asleep, while another hand, equally strong, must have held the victim by the ankles. From all he had heard of the case, he had no doubt that the death was caused in this manner. Several other medical witnesses were examined, and they, in part, corroborated this view. They spoke, however, with considerable hesitation. Altho' they were of opinion, upon the whole, that the post mortem appearance did not necessarily exclude the possibility of death by natural causes, yet it was not probable that such was the case in this instance. They were of opinion that the theory of suffocation, as previously propounded, was the more probable. Undoubtedly death might have resulted from a process of smothering such

as that described, and also without leaving any great or special marks of external violence.

This evidence was not very strong to show beyond all reasonable doubt or difficulty the cause of death; and the Court intimated to the prosecuting counsel, that it became a question whether, with such testimony, the case should be allowed to proceed. A lively discussion then arose between the counsel on both sides, the defence contending that the proof was insufficient and amounted to no more than speculative opinion, the Crown on the other hand insisting that whether, conclusive or not, that it was evidence at all events to go to the jury. The Judges finally decided that the case should proceed, but observed that, according to all present appearances, it would result in a sheer waste of time.

It became now a matter of vital importance for the prosecution to make out a case, to show all the occurrences, in so far as possible, which took place at Dulong's house on the fatal night in question, and likewise all the previous, concurrent and extraneous circumstances which might lead to the belief and to produce the conviction that Madame Dulong had been murdered; and that the foul deed had been perpetrated by Madame Louvac and George Dulong in concert and complicity with the husband of the deceased. This was a difficult task and for its performance professional skill, considerable judgment, and, under the circumstances, courageous and persistent efforts were necessary. About twenty witnesses were present on the part of the Crown; the principal of them were Rose Dunagon, Madeline Vogel, the two daughters of Madame Louvac, Laurent Beauchamp and a young man by the name of Isidore Delorme, who will call for particular notice hereafter.

Madame Dunagon deposed that on the night in question she had called on the deceased about 8 o'clock in the evening; found her cheerful and in good health; their friendship had been very intimate and was of very long standing. That Madame Louvac was there at the time; that owing to her well-known character and the suspicions which were in circulation about her in regard to some previous incidents—she would not mention—together with her own notorious, she added, scandalous intimacy with Antoine Dulong, she at once entertained vague apprehensions that she was there for no good purpose, and that something very serious might happen. She then proceeded to say that during a few minutes' absence of Madame Dulong, while attending to some household concern, on the evening in question, she had inquired of Madame Louvac, not offensively, whether she intended to pass the night there. Upon receiving an answer in the affirmative, she expressed her surprise that she could leave her children alone all night, come so far on such a cold day and more particularly as her friend Dulong was absent. She added that, thereupon, Madame Louvac had fixed her great, flaming eyes upon her, and approaching her, said in a voice of suppressed rage, that she was not in the habit of gratifying the idle curiosity of village gossip. That when she, Dunagon, heard the little birds singing in the woods she might listen, wonder, imitate them if she could; but that when she met a wolf or panther in her path, she had better pass on quickly, and not only be silent but get out of their way. She added with a kind of angry growl, "I have heard, Madame, of some of the vile calumnies you have circulated and continue to circulate about me; now let me once for all request you to mind your own business, at least not to meddle with mine. If you ever do again, I warn you before hand—beware. Pas de mediances sur mon compte, Madame, sous les serres; prenez garde."

She was terrified at this woman's violence, and when Madame Dulong came back she bade them good-night and left. She was very uneasy. She went home and shortly after she and her husband retired for the night. She mentioned her fears to him; he laughed at her and went to sleep. Between 10 and 11 o'clock, she had occasion to go to her nursery and looking out a front window, she did not know exactly why, her attention was attracted by a light passing rapidly three or four times in quick succession through one of the rooms in Dulong's house—it was the bed-room. She thought this a little strange, but the circumstance made no great impression upon her mind at the time. She could not distinguish by whom the light was borne. She went to bed again, and about an hour afterwards they were aroused by George Dulong. "At first my husband was annoyed at what he called all this nonsense," and swore he would not go till after he smoked his pipe, but told me to go. Seeing that I remained longer than he expected, he became alarmed and joined me at the house. She then detailed all that she heard and saw there on the night in question, and a number of other facts of more or less relevancy and importance. She was cross-examined at great length, and, by her shrewd, gossiping answers, as often happens in such cases, very materially damaged the defence. Her husband corroborated her testimony.

Madeline Vogel, Madame Dulong's servant-girl, proved among other things the intimacy between Madame Louvac and Dulong, and deposed to facts which went to show that it was of a guilty character. She said her mistress was in good health on the day preceding her death, and that she was seldom ill; at times, however, she suffered from a kind of fainting fits; did not know to what the fits were attributable; the doctor said it was her digestion that

was weak. She bore testimony to the words uttered by the husband and wife, when they parted on the morning previous, and that neither she or Madame Dulong were aware that Madame Louvac was coming to the house that day. She testified that the pillow on Madame Dulong's bed was not torn in the morning, previous to her death, and that she had never noticed any mark near the eye or on the neck and breast of her mistress before death.

(To be continued.)

FASHION NOTES.

WHITE is considered the most appropriate dress for a young lady making her debut in society.

WHITE Spanish blonde mantillas are fashionably worn as wraps for the head instead of knitted hoods.

EVENING dresses are made with short sleeves and a fall of rich lace or simple allusions around the arm-hole. Elbow sleeves are less fashionable but often worn.

BROOCHES, veil-pins, and other ornaments are covered with black crepe when very deep mourning is worn.

LOST!

ON THE 6th NOVEMBER,

A PARCEL OF FORMS OF

NEW TEN DOLLAR BILLS

OF THE

Consolidated Bank of Canada

(NOT COUNTERSIGNED)

DATED MONTREAL, 15th JULY, 1876.

The Bank has not yet begun to issue any new notes. The only notes in circulation at present, are the notes of the City Bank and Royal Canadian Bank. A reward will be given for the return of the forms which are of no value to the public. Any person attempting to use these forms as notes, will be prosecuted.

THE

Burland - Desbarats Lithographic COMPANY.

NOTICE

IS HEREBY given that a Dividend of EIGHT per cent upon the paid up CAPITAL of this Company for the business year ending 31st December, 1876, has been declared, and that the same will be due and payable at the office of the Company on and after Tuesday, the 6th February next. The transfer book will be closed from the 24th January to the 7th February, both days inclusive.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the SHAREHOLDERS of this Company will be held at the Office, Nos 5 & 7 Bleury Street, on WEDNESDAY, the SEVENTH day of FEBRUARY next, at THREE o'clock in the afternoon, to receive the Annual Report, to elect Directors, and for the general purposes of the Company.

By order of the Board,

F. B. DAVIN,

Secretary.

Ladies' College, Compton, P. Q.

AN INCORPORATED SUPERIOR SCHOOL FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF GENTLEMEN.

PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION AND VISITOR:

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC

TRUSTEES:

The Rev. Professor Ross. The Hon. M. H. Cochrane. The Rev. J. Foster. R. Herbert Smith, Esq.

PRINCIPAL:

The Rev. J. Dinzey, S. A. C.

Assisted by a Lady Principal, a Lady Superintendent and a Staff of competent and experienced Teachers.

TERMS:

Board, with Laundry: English, French, Latin, Drawing and Painting in Water Colors, \$175 per ann. Music, with use of Piano, 25. German, and Special Singing Lessons, \$20 and 30.

The School is now in the Third year of its existence. Number of resident pupils last term, Forty-five. The Winter Term commenced on Monday, 15th January, 1877.

For Circulars, address:

REV. J. DINZEY,

Compton, P. Q.

CANADA METAL WORKS,

377, CRAIG STREET.

Plumbers, Steam & Gas Fitters.

MATTINSON, YOUNG & CO.

15-126-203-00.

MILTON GOLD JEWELRY

1 Gent chain, set of shirt studs, sleeve buttons, collar stud, heavy plain ring, Parisian diamond pin, sent post-paid 50 cents. Retail price \$1. Agents wanted.

MONTREAL NOVELTY CO., MONTREAL, P. Q.