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POOR DOCUMENT

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JOHN A. BOWES. Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 1889.

IT WAS MURDER.

Last evening the shocking truth leaked out that Mrs. Donald Macrae, whose sudden death on Wednesday was so deeply regretted, had been poisoned by eating some candy which had been sent through the mails addressed to her husband the Rev. Dr. Macrae. This candy, it appears, had been heavily charged with strychnine, one of the most deadly poisons known. Two other clergymen in the city, Rev. J. de Soyres and the Rev. T J Deinstadt received similar packages of candy, through the mails, but fortunately they were not eaten by them or by any member of their families. All three of these packages have been apparently sent by the same person and all three contained candies charged with poison. We must presume that the object of the person who sent these packages of candy was murder and this object, in one case at least has been accomplished.

What was the motive for this vile attempt to destroy three Protestant clergymen of three different denominations? This is the first inquiry which suggests itself to the mind when considering the crime and its consequences. In what way have these three clergymen rendered themselves obnoxious in their public capacity, and to whom have they been obnoxious? Was it as members of some society or organization, as ministers of the gospel, or as participants in some public meeting that they incurred the deadly enmity of the person who attempted to murder them? That they were all made the subjects of this dreadful plot for the same reason we hold to be too clear for argument, and it will probably be found on making fuller inquiry that they are not the only persons in this community whose lives have been thus menaced. There is something Italian in this method of disposing of an enemy; the features of the crime are foreign and belong to a race which produced the Borgias in the fifteenth century. Yet it may be that the criminal in this case is a son of the soil whose mind has been warped by evil influences into the path that leads to assassination.

The authorities have now this remarkable case in their hands and no doubt they will be unceasing in their efforts to discover the murderer. But they must not be left to work out the case alone. Let every man and woman in this community bring the knowledge at his command and his best mental resources to bear on the solution of this problem, and we think it will be found that the result will be the capture of the guilty party. The man or woman who planned this crime probably had a confederate and if so the knowledge of it probably extends to several persons, thus increasing the chances of detection. It is not pleasant to think that there is an individual in our midst capable of a murder so foul, but this fact should stimulate the efforts of every good citizen to have the author of this monstrous crime detected and punished.

THE HARBOR AND THE BOARD OF TRADE.

There was not as large an attendance yesterday at the meeting of the Board of Trade to consider the report of the committee on the harbor as there should have been, but those who attended heard a good deal in regard to harbor matters here and elsewhere, that was valuable and interesting. We have already dealt pretty fully with the report of the committee in former articles, so that it is only necessary to remind our readers that it recommended an extension of the new corporation pier to the north end of the McLeod property, which was to be purchased together with all the other private property south of that point and west of Water street. Warehouses were to be built on this pier and a railway made by the city to connect with the Intercolonial. The committee did not furnish any estimate of the cost of this work, which, when completed, would only give accommodation to two large steamships, but we place the cost at not less than $325,000, which will not be regarded as an excessive estimate when it is known that the McLeod property alone is held at $75,000. Most people will be disposed to think that the plan recommended by the committee is well calculated to give us the minimum of accommodation at the maximum of cost.

The report of the committee is now left in a curious position. No one present at the meeting yesterday spoke in favor of its recommendations with the exception of Mr. Spurr, its author, who made a speech, almost an hour in length, explaining its features. The reasons he gave for condemning Mr. Perley's plan of harbor improvement at Lower Cove were not very satisfactory to his hearers, nor did they impress any one as conclusive. He moved that the report be sent to the Common Council. To this Mr. Samuel Schofield moved an amendment that it be referred to the Council of the Board of trade in order that they might deal with it before sending it to the Common Council. This amendment was carried, and its practical result will be that the report of the committee, if it goes to the Common Council at all, will go in such form and with such amendments as the council of the Board of Trade choose to attach to it. When it emerges from their hands it will probably be in a very different form from what it is in at present.

The speeches of Mr. Samuel Schofield and Solicitor General Pugsley and the information conveyed by Mr. George Robertson were the features of yesterdays meeting. Mr. Schofield is a very practical person, there is no speculation in his eye; he is not troubling himself about the grain trade or any other trade which has to be created, but he has a very firm grip of the present and he sees that our facilities for doing the business which at present exists, or which is ready to come to us for the asking, are miserably inadequate. Mr. Schofield's plan is to build a trestle from the angle formed by the Charlotte street extension and the government wharf to the south east corner of Reed's point wharf, and to carry the railway over it. He would remove the Monticello from the new pier and make a place for her at the south face of Reed's Point wharf, known as the Anchor Line wharf, and he would remove the International steamers to the Long Wharf. He holds it to be absurd to occupy the two best deep water wharves in the city with two steamers neither of which draws as much as 12 feet of water. He would extend the new pier to the northern boundary of the Pettingill property giving it a total length of 750 feet, and he would build up the west face of Reed's Point wharf solid, removing the floats and filling up the present boat landing. These changes would give us a berth for a steamship 400 feet long on the west face of Reed's Point wharf, a berth for a steamship 400 feet long at the south end of the new pier and a berth for a steamship 350 feet long at the north end of the same pier. Thus we would have room for three first class steamships with railway connexions at an expenditure of probably $100,000 to which should be added the loss of the rental $3,500 from the International S. S. Company and of the present Anchor Line wharf which would be occupied by the Monticello.

Mr. Schofield gave the Board of Trade some valuable information in regard to the character of the warehouse they will require for the Furness Line, which no doubt will receive due attention from the common council, who should see that this line, now the only one running regularly to this port, has proper accommodations. He spoke strongly of the need of a frost proof warehouse where apples could be stored when delivered by schooner for shipment to England, in advance of the arrival of the steamer here. By providing such facilities the bulk of the Nova Scotia apple business could be brought here. The Solicitor-General was strongly in favor of the city making improvements at Sand Point, if the wharf property there could be acquired from the government. In this respect he differed from Mr. Schofield, who thought the Canadian Pacific people should build their own wharves. The matter is one which admits of debate, and which can only be decided by a full inquiry into all the circumstances of the case, among which the ability of the city to acquire the property from the government on favorable terms must be an important element.

The facts and figures given by Mr. George Robertson in regard to terminal facilities, warehouse accomodation and rates of wharfage in Portland, Boston, and New York, were very interesting and important and proved conclusively that the shippers who used as an argument against harbor commission the statement that the charges at New York were only one third those at Montreal were simply lying. The Inman line pays $90,000 a year or three times the entire revenue of this harbor, for its wharf accommodation at New York. The Anchor liner City of Rome pays $100 a day for her berth on the North River. The facts show that there is every reason for the belief that St. John with its lighter port charges will be able to take the bulk of the Canadian trade which now goes to New York.

A LITERARY IMPOSTURE.

A correspondent in another column calls attention to a poem entitled "Forget Thee," which appears in the Telegraph as having been written for that paper, but which was published long before the Telegraph came into existence. Another singular case of literary imposture has just come under our observation in connexion with the essays and poems for which the Montreal Witness recently gave prizes. The Witness published a poem entitled "The Maiden's Sacrifice," which was sent to it by Angs McLeod, a pupil of the Superior School at Grand Falls, and which took the prize of $25 for the best essay or poem from Victoria County. This poem describes the destruction of a band of Mohawk warriors by a Milicite maiden who undertook to pilot them down the river and who took them over the falls. The piece was written sixteen years ago by Mr, James Hannay and was published by him in the Telegraph with which he was then connected. It was reprinted shortly afterwards in another form, and was again published in 1882, in a pamphlet entitled "St. John past and future," as one of the readings in the Congregational church vestry, held under the auspices of the Ladies society. As "The Maiden's Sacrifice" has been avery common recitation piece in the schools, Master Angus McLeod took a good many chances of detection when he forwarded it to the Witness as his own production, but he probably did not calculate on its publication. Dr. A. A. Stockton was the judge who awarded the prize, but he did not recognize the verses, although their ring seemed familiar to his ear.

The Globe in an editorial last evening accuses what it calls the Tory press of violating the courtesy of the press by making personal attacks on the writers in other newspapers. We know of no paper in Canada that has been guilty of so many mean personal attacks on the writers for other newspapers and on private individuals as the Globe itself, and if there is to be a reform in this direction the Globe should begin by reforming itself. In proof of this we need only cite its frequent personal references to Mr. Thorne, president of the Sun Publishing Co.

Just received from Havana La Habanera, LaVenis, El Amber, Angel Queens and Vicente Suarez Queens, wholesale and retail at Whitebone & Co, City Market Building, Charlotte street.

WONDERFUL STRENGTH.

Remarkable Muscular Feats of Men of Ancient and Modern Times.

Venetianello, the Italian rope walker, although a man of short stature, was celebrated throughout Europe as the strongest man of the Sixteenth century. He daily performed with a hard wood beam twenty feet long and a foot square. This beam was a heavy load for two men of average build, yet this Liliputian prodigy would walk about his exhibition grounds with it standing upon end on his shoulder, juggler fashion, and shift it from one shoulder to the other without the aid of his hands.

Nicholas Klunher, another Sixteenth century athlete, living at Misnia, Thuring, brought from a cellar a cask or hogshead of wine containing 252 gallons, without the aid of pulleys or ropes, and afterwards deposited it in a wagon.

George le Feur, the German writer, mentions this extraordinary feat in his writing, and even says that the affidavits of persons who witnessed the removal of the cask were then extant.

"I have seen a man," says Mayolus, the Italian bishop, "in the town of Aste, who, in the presence of the Marquis of Pescara, handled a pillar of marble three feet long and one foot square, which he cast high in the air, then received it upon his arms, then threw it up again as easily as if it had been a cotton ball."

Cardan writes that he once saw a man dancing with two full grown men in his arms, and with one seated upon each shoulder and the fifth clinging around his neck.

Hermann Maurice, count of Saxe, of whom Frederick the Great wrote: "I have seen the hero of France; a man of whom all the generals of Europe could learn the art of war," was a man renowned for many feats requiring great muscular strength. While waiting at the village smithy for his war horse to be shod, his favorite pastime was that of pulling horseshoes in two and twisting off large bars of iron.

Leebelski, the author, who was at Constantinople during the celebration in honor of the birth of Mahomet, son of Amurath, the Turkish emperor, in 1581, saw a man who lifted with ease a beam of hewed wood three feet in diameter, and so long and heavy that ten men were unable to remove it from its resting place. The same man permitted a stone of 1,200 weight to be placed upon his chest, while eight men who placed it there with levers and ropes seated themselves on the top of it. Leebelski adds: "Of this he made light jest."

Thomas Topham, the wonderful strong man of the past century, performed many astonishing feats of strength. He was born at London in 1710. On the 28th day of May, 1741, when Topham was 31 years of age, he gave the most wonderful exhibition when, at Cold Bath Fields, near London, he lifted three hogsheads of water, weighing 1,836 pounds, in the presence of thousands of people.

Dr. Desaguliers, the expert called to witness his feats, says in his report: With his fingers he rolled up a very strong pewter dish in the same manner and with as much ease as an ordinary man would a sheet of paper. He struck an iron poker, a yard long and three-fourths of an inch thick, across his bare arm, between the elbow and wrist, until the instrument was bent so as to nearly form a right angle. Taking another poker of the same kind across the back of his neck, he bent it in the form of a horseshoe, and then made it straight with his bare hands. * * * He broke a hempen rope two inches in thickness, the same with which two horses had pulled a stone roller weighing 800 pounds, and afterwards lifted the roller itself with nothing but his hands and a chain fastened in a large ring in the side of the column.

John Bray, a Cornishman, who lived about the same time, for a small wager carried six bushels of wheat and the miller, seated on top of the sacks, a distance of 500 yards. In our own country W. B. Curtis, of New York city, lifted (in harness) 3,239 pounds Dec. 20, 1868. H. Loussing lifted 1,384 pounds with the hands alone, at Cincinnati, in 1880. Three years later D. L. Dowd, of Springfield, Mass., beat the Cincinnati man's lift 58½ pounds.

Sterns Carpenter, an old man living at Granite Corners, N. Y., in 1883, claimed to have shouldered a cannon weighing 1,400, and to have once carried a box of scrap iron weighing 1,900 pounds. At the age of 80 years, in 1883, he could grasp a 20-foot railroad rail in each hand and walk off with them.

At Berthierville, Canada, Oct. 1, 1888, Louis Cyr crept under some trestles upon which 3,536 pounds of pig iron rested upon heavy timbers and succeeded in raising that enormous weight more than two inches from its resting place upon the trestles.

At Lynn, Mass., Dec. 13, 1884, C. O. Breed lifted a barrel of flour 240 times with one hand in one minute. The total weight lifted in that sixty seconds amounted to 56,680 pounds, over twenty-eight tons. It is doubtful if this has ever been excelled. All the above remarkable facts have been placed on record.—John W. Wright in St. Louis Republic.

George Sand has given us a vivid sketch of Chopin's conscientiousness as a composer. "He shut himself up in his room for entire days," she says, "weeping, walking about, breaking his pen, repeating and changing a bar a hundred times, and beginning again next day with minute and desperate perseverance. He spent six weeks over a single page, only to go back and write that which he had traced at the first essay." (Oh, modern composers, read and learn!) As regards his creativeness, George Sand says that "it descended upon his piano suddenly, completely, sublimely, or it sang itself in his head during his walks, and he made haste to hear it by rushing to the instrument." I have already mentioned the fact that when he wrote his last mazurka he was too weak to try it on the piano. In one of his letters he speaks of a polonaise being ready in his head.

These facts indicate that he composed mentally, although, no doubt, during the improvisations many themes occurred to him which he remembered and utilized. Some times the pictures in his mind became so vivid as to form real hallucinations. Thus, it is related that one evening when he was alone in the dark trying over the A major Polonaise, which he had just completed, he saw the door open, and in marched a procession of Polish knights and ladies in mediæval costumes—the same, no doubt, that his imagination had pictured while he was composing. He was so alarmed at this vision that he fled through the opposite door and did not venture to return. Another illustration of the relation between genius and insanity.—Chopin and Other Musical Essays—Henry T. Finck.

The eating of large quantities of potatoes has been tried as a means of relief from foreign bodies that have been accidentally swallowed. The whole intestinal canal is thus dilated proportionately and the foreign body is carried through. Professor Billroth and Dr. Salzer affirm that many surgical operations might be avoided in this way. Such articles as a twenty gramme weight, a set of artificial teeth and a needle have been successfully removed.—New York Telegram.

Old Fables.

An Egyptian fable states that on one occasion a man had prepared a very savory pot of herbs, which a wall willfully broke. The unfortunate animal was severely threshed for its interference, but when the man went to pick up the fragments of his prepared delicacy he found a venomous serpent concealed among them.

A very similar story, in all probability arising out of the same fable, tells how a favorite falcon saved a king from swallowing a live serpent. His majesty had raised a drinking vessel, presumably one of the old style earthenware pots, to his lips, when the faithful bird flew suddenly down, and throwing its full weight against the vessel, upset it. The king, in his wrath, killed the bird, whereupon he discovered that there had been a small serpent in the water, and that the martyred bird had saved his life. In the Greek there is another story of this kind. A peasant liberated an eagle from the clutches of a dragon. The latter out of revenge poisoned some water which the peasant was about to drink, but the eagle showed its gratitude by upsetting the vessel and spilling its contents.—St, Louis Globe-Democrat.

Electric Launches.

Launches propelled by electricity are now common on the Thames. Heretofore the use of the steam launch has been attended with more or less discomfort, but by means of electric storage batteries the distasteful features of common navigation are done away with. The use of the storage batteries involves obtaining a supply of electricity wherever this may be needed. To accomplish this floating electric power stations have been put at various points on the river.—Detroit Free Press.

Dumas once said to a young gentleman who was invited to a Russian soiree, and was dazzled with the stars and ribands of the gentlemen present: "You are the most distinguished man here this evening," said Dumas to him; "you are the only one who is not decorated."

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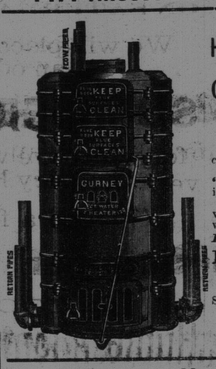

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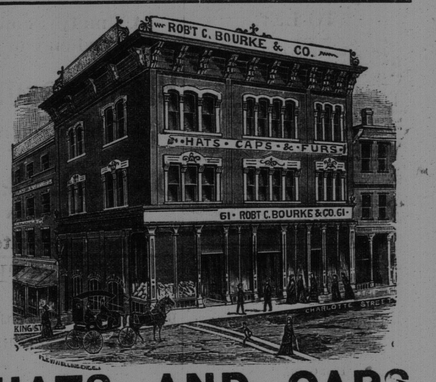

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