

THE SOLDIER AND THE SPY.

A Tale of the Siege of Sebastopol.

CHAPTER I.

THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN.

It was early morning of November, fifth in the Crimea. Sebastopol, the stronghold of Russian power, lay cradled by her harbor in miles majestic. The long row of white edifices, and the lofty spires of churches, the noble streets and massive quays, appeared plainly in the pale, increasing morning light, and intimated the besieger. For there—abandoned by the aerial tempest which the artillery of the "Gibraltar" had hurled upon it; uninjured by fire and ball; with banners undimmed, and strength unshaken, surrounded by Russian fortifications, and armed with appalling strength—the famous city, and still defied and haughty to scorn, the might of her besiegers.

It was early morning, and few sounds were to be heard from the city. The air was peaceful. Careless now of the object of their efforts, they lay beneath the shelter of the walls, and the dotted the surrounding plain, and in dreams revisited their native land. The sun rose upon the scene, and the air was still, and the atmosphere was so calm, that it seemed as if the city were dead.

Where the air of the ancient town of Sebastopol met a breeze of some ancient people, it was dark and dismal, where steep rocks and wooded declivities arise. Upon the waterside of the city, the English division was encamped. A thousand tents stood upon the plain, and stretched the distance, and the air was filled with the sound of arms, and the hum of industry. They slept, and rested, and dreamed, and they were not aware of the danger that was upon them.

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, JUNE 6, 1867.

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

In compliance with the terms of the Statute, in that case made and provided, it is probable that the County Council will at this session provide for the erection of suitable buildings for a House of Refuge, and fix upon the site. The general feeling, we believe, is in favor of the establishment of an Industrial Farm in connection with such House of Refuge—a wise resolution, in our opinion, as by that means alone can the institution be made to afford the greatest portion of the expense involved in carrying it out, and secure the greatest amount of moral and physical benefit to the inmates. Even with a farm attached, it will require the greatest wisdom in the selection of the site and the management of the establishment to prevent its becoming a serious burden upon the County. A large number of those who will be sent to it will undoubtedly be composed of aged and infirm persons, and the majority will be partially or wholly unable to systematize labor. Hence the necessity of careful selection of the site, and the quantity of land to be purchased.

As to the site, we find that a good deal of land is now being secured at least 200 acres which land is comparatively cheap in order to secure plenty of room for future operations, and it will certainly be worth while considering whether the idea is not a valuable one.

To give some idea of the cost and mode of carrying on such an institution, we give the following facts relative to the House of Refuge for New York State at Rochester, which only admits boys under 16 years of age:

The following officers of the House of Refuge are salaried—Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chaplain, Physician, Steward, Farmer, Gardener, Gatekeeper, Hallward, Tailor, Watchman, Patrol. The school is divided into three departments—primary, intermediate and senior. Each department is directed by a Principal and assisted by a number of teachers. Nine teachers are employed in all.

The salaries paid these officers in 1855 were \$11,481.81, and the entire expenses, including food, clothing, fuel, stationery and school books, repairs, cleaning, hospital charges, rents, &c., amounted to \$23,171. As the average attendance during the year was 856, their cost per capita was therefore \$26, or nearly 35 cents per day, which is probably not so heavy as that entailed by the confinement of prisoners in our Common Gaol, if the salaries be added to the cost of board. The restriction is however entirely removed, and the products of the farm and garden, exclusive of green vegetables, are set down at \$ 363.33.

Now, it seems to us absolutely necessary that the House of Refuge for Huron should be situated where the best market can be secured for the products grown. At what point can the greatest quantity be sold, and at the best price? For farming purposes simply an inland position would be as good as any other, and all other things being equal a central situation would be desirable. But we contend that successful gardening on a large scale can be carried on only near the lake, as it is well known that the matter of fruits alone there would be a decided odds in favor of the latter position. In the single article of plants, ten acres near Goderich would yield a sure and immense return, with a splendid home and foreign market. So also with strawberries and other finer fruits, while the Saginaw valley is open to a very large trade in the way of vegetables, eggs, poultry, &c. We trust the members of the Council will keep these and other facts well in mind, and adduce in view when making their selection of ground.

THE NORTHERN GRAVEL ROAD.

We understand that to put the Northern Gravel Road into a thorough state of repair it will require an outlay of \$30,000 or \$12,000, including what the Company have recently expended on the road. The yearly interest on the road for paying the interest on the mortgage debt, does not exceed \$1500. So that the Northern Gravel Road, however desirous of maintaining the road in a perfect state will be unable to do so. The proprietors may struggle on and keep the road outside of the statute, the works of which authorize an interference by the County Engineer only when the road is so much out of repair "as to impede or endanger Her Majesty's subjects." But they can hardly be expected to maintain the way in as high a state of efficiency as the County Roads, on which is expended an amount much greater than the toll collected.

The Northern Gravel Road is the only outlet to the east half of Wawanash, the west half of Ashfield, and two-thirds of Colborne, and since the County Roads were commenced these portions of Wawanash, Ashfield, and Colborne have paid towards the building and maintenance of the County Gravel Roads at least \$30,000, in return for which they have not received one cent from the fund. Moreover, the tolls charged on the County Gravel Roads are four pence each way, on the Northern Gravel Road 7 1/2, whether the team returns or not. The Gravel Road Company with the County do not propose to enter into the discussion of this subject, but we think the population bordering on the Northern Gravel Road have a right to have expended on this road some portion of the money which they have yearly paid into the Gravel Road Fund, and from which they have never yet received one dollar, so far as we are ascertain.

As to the allusion to the "Wallace Lands," it is only visited those gentlemen who would be so kind as to visit the Wallace Lands, as any other class in the province." So with the Star. We are glad to hear it, but should like to know how long it is since the learning and polish were put on.

End of the Mexican Empire.

It is evident that the reign of the Emperor Maximilian I. has come to a premature end, and with it the existence of the Mexican Empire. Foraken by France, and surrounded by difficulties of an extraordinary nature the Emperor struggled on manfully until the last remnant of his military strength was broken, and he fell into the hands of his enemies. He has been banished in certain quarters because he did not give up a hopeless resistance long since and fly the country, but the fact that he held on to the struggle in the hope that he might save the lives of the leading defenders, will give the unfortunate Prince the place of hero in the eyes of the world. Should Jaurez persist in carrying out his threat of shooting Maximilian and his generals in cold-blood—a deed which Mexicans are fully capable of—he will call down upon his head the anathemas of the civilized world, and deserve the severest punishment that can be inflicted upon him. It will be interesting to watch the next act of the bloody drama which has been going on in that distracted country, but so many generally will be ready to believe that nothing but a continued bloodshed it is hard to believe, judging from the past, and the probability is that the nation and semi-barbarism will away one of the richest and fairest portions of the earth, until the United States, (reluctantly, of course,) for pure humanity's sake consents to receive it in the fraternal embrace of the Great Republic.

AS IT SHOULD BE.

We are happy to see that the castigation administered to the Star man in our last had the effect of taming him down to the use of language a little more in accordance with the rules of common civility. The sickly, shambling effort he makes to wriggle out of the corner into which he has been pushed, and the attempt of a half-bred school-boy, will afford his readers a good hour's amusement, and if he will but dwell upon the necessity of a little more common-sense in his own case he will trouble himself, in future, much less about the mental deficiencies of others. In his criticisms with regard to our method of dealing with public questions, he may find under a mild rebuke, but we wish him to bear in mind always that there is a distinction between Mr. Cox as a private individual, and the Huron Signal, as a public newspaper. Leading papers, such as the Globe and Herald, however kindly they may feel about public questions, seldom, if ever, trench upon even the borders of private life, and who will say that they do not, by such a course, add to the dignity of the press, and enhance the interests of society. For our own part we have always regarded the use of petty personal attacks as the sure indication of a weak, uneducated mind. It smacks strongly of the journalism of a one-horse Yankee Village, where the editor of the day-traveller's "sile contemporary" of the Starry Flag to a column of vituperation—the cause of quarrel being, perhaps, a five-dollar job, or a dollar-and-a-half advertisement. Few men are without their weak points, whether they see them or not, and we flatter ourselves that the Almighty has given us a tolerably reliable faculty of perceiving such weak points, and exposing them to public view, if necessary in a self-defence. It is a very poor rule that will not work both ways.

A Letter from Dr. William Sloan.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.
Sir—As it is alleged that I am the party accused, in a paragraph in your last issue, of having written a letter to the Editor of the Signal, I send you a few lines which please insert by way of explanation. A rumor was circulated in Goderich, that I had written a letter to the Editor of the Signal, in which I had attacked the Editor of the Signal, and had called for his resignation. I have never written such a letter, and I have never called for his resignation. I have never written such a letter, and I have never called for his resignation. I have never written such a letter, and I have never called for his resignation.

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COUNTY COUNCIL.

The County Council met on Monday morning last. The Warden having taken the chair, the following gentlemen answered to their names: Messrs. Malouff, Dalton, Young, Horton, Sheppard, Patton, Dobson, R. Brown, Smillie, Morrow, Snell, Gibson, Perkins, Evans, Brown, Kelly, Woods, Simpson, Carling, Spratt, Doig, Messer, Bishop, Creery, Currie, Girvin, Gault.

The minutes of last day of last session were read and approved. The Warden addressed the Council briefly, stating that the Co. Treasurer had received a statement from the government relative to the municipal loan fund of a very satisfactory nature which would be read to them. The Matland Bridge would, he thought, require immediate attention. It had been left too long in its present condition, and the result might be some serious accident. No doubt some action would be taken in the matter. The Court House required also a coating of paint outside to preserve the woodwork. There were no repairs asked for at the Jail. With regard to all that had been said against the Council, he supposed they would let it go for what it was worth, and leave the people to put in a better Council if dissatisfied with this present one.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND. The following letter from the County Treasurer was read and referred to Finance Committee:— "Gentlemen—I have much pleasure in reporting that on the 28th Jan. last, two days after your meeting, rose, I received from the Receiver General, in answer to a letter I had written him on the 19th, a very satisfactory statement of our municipal loan fund account, in which the government gave the Counties the benefit of the reduced interest, which is paid to the holders of municipal loan debentures, viz: 5 per cent, the Government having charged us only 5 per cent since June, 1861, which is a clear saving of \$3,000 a year, or in all up to the present time of \$ 8,480 on the joint account, or \$15,180 on Co. Huron. For this reduction I feel inclined to take to myself some credit, as I am confident I was the first, and so far as I yet know, the only one who has pressed this just reduction on the Govt., since 1861. I just received the notice of the Finance Minister, personally, and have pressed it through our representatives, and by letter on several occasions since. This reduction of interest will enable you if you feel so disposed to reduce your yearly estimate for this act, or \$2350, and still keep up the two per cent sinking fund. By making this reduction the debt will be paid off in 1875, or if you still continue to pay the 8 per cent for interest and sinking fund, the debt will be paid off in 1876. The government have acted in this matter more favorably than might have been expected, as while charging us only 5 per cent interest on the debt they allow us 5 per cent on the sinking fund. The amount at the credit of the sinking fund on 31st Dec. last, as you will see by the financial account submitted to you on the 10th inst., is \$118,384.73, the proportion of which belonged to Huron is \$36,040. Although the County has reason to feel much pleased with the satisfactory result of their application, but in the favorable position in which the accounts stand.

A. M. ROSS, Treas.

Reports of Local Superintendents were received and referred. Several minor matters were referred to the Finance Com.

Schedule of furniture in the Co. Atty. office belonging to Mr. Blake and purchased by the Council, was read and referred to finance committee.

Several accounts were read and referred to the Finance Com. The account of the Clerk was read and referred to com.

Position of Joe Wells and 17 other delinquent keepers, praying for a reduction of rent, was read and referred to the Finance Com.

Position of Mrs. Eliza Hackett praying for a remission of \$10 from last year's rent of tollage was read and referred to the Finance Com.

Moved by Mr. Spratt, and by Mr. Horton, that this Council pass a By-Law authorizing the Co. Treasurer to pay over to the different municipalities the respective sums that have been paid into his office for Non-Resident taxes, since last meeting of Council—enrolled.

SECOND DAY. TUESDAY, June 4. The Council met at 10 o'clock, a. m. After routine, the clerk read a statement of the Non-Resident collections.

Position of Wm. Campbell and others praying for the erection of Seaforth into an incorporated village, was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Gibson, Sheppard, Dalrymple, Morrow, Evans, Morrow, and Carling.

The County Auditor reported that they had found the treasurer's book correct, and had in abstracts of the same, which were read.

HOUSE OF REFUGE. Letter from G. M. Truman, offering land in Colborne for the purpose of the house of refuge, referred to Special Committee. Moved by Mr. Girvin, and by Mr. Gault, that the Co. Engineer be instructed to convey to the Engineer of Huron, with a view to have the bridges over the nine mile river on the line between Wawanash and Kintosh put in a proper state of repair or rebuilt if necessary.

Moved by Mr. Messer, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that the Co. Engineer be instructed to have the stone bridge over the nine mile river to within 10 rods of the teams spreading the same. It was ordered that \$200 be paid towards the construction of Bayfield Drill Shop as the proper certificate can be obtained.

The Engineer was instructed to make 7 rods of board fence on each side of the approach to Bannockburn Bridge. Moved by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Creery, that this Council grant the sum of \$100 to build a bridge over the Sable on the line between Ulster and Haldimand. Referred to the Board and Bridge Commission.

TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Friday evening last. Present, the Mayor presiding, Messrs. McKean, Gibson, Ross, Seymour, Kay, Horton, Hays, Clifford, McKay and Leonard.

After routine, the Clerk read the Report of the Road and Bridge Commission recommending sundry small repairs to the sidewalks and drains, and also that the attention of the Government be again directed to the dangerous situation of the light-house-rocker, adopted by the Council, and that the same be repaired by Mr. Gordon's and Hosker's be laid, with gravel.

The sum of \$10.00 was granted Mr. G. Wells, to assist in keeping one McNabb, who died in his house after a long illness.

Letter from Mrs. Fraser in reference to drainage of her lot was referred to committee. The Cemetery Committee reported, recommending the purchase of a proper book of registry for the recorder, and also that a map of the cemetery on a reduced scale be procured for convenience of reference. Referred for further consideration.

Account of D. C. McKay, father \$55—ordered to be paid.

Some conversation arose with reference to the proposed House of Refuge. The Mayor said several parties had complained of being insulted by rowdies at night, and asked if some steps could not be taken to abate the nuisance. The general feeling of the Council seemed to be to let the matter alone, as they were very busy.

The Market question being raised by Mr. Horton, a good deal of discussion arose and took place, but the result was that matters remain *status quo* at present. Mr. Whitehead being requested to see upon the resolution of Council granting him the market fees for two months beyond his year.

The Council then adjourned for two weeks.

The members of the Council must feel highly complimented at the success of their arrival in Goderich, with printed slips in which they are set forth as rubbers of the public purse.

A fine large Union Jack, purchased by the Town Council, was hoisted on the Court House yesterday. It should be kept up on all public occasions.

FINE WEATHER.—June has opened with fine warm weather, and the earth has suddenly burst into beauty. Like the wand of a magician, the heat of Sunday last turned the forest, gardens and fields from sterility to life and verdure. With much abundant promise, the earth will give us a tropical growth, if the fruits of the earth. The prospect of a very large fruit crop is better than we have ever yet seen it in the County.

LUCKNOW. CORONER'S INQUEST.—A coroner's inquest was held on the exhumed body of Elizabeth Armstrong by C. T. Scott, Esq., Coroner, Wingham, Mr. James Campbell's Hotel, here, on Wednesday and Thursday last, the 29th and 30th ult. The deceased had been buried for two weeks, appears to have died somewhat suddenly under mysterious circumstances, and the result of some of her relatives a suspicion of poisoning. Drs. Gordon, Tennant, and McGregor made a post mortem examination, the result of which was that she returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased Elizabeth Armstrong came to her death from natural causes, but in the interval between the medical evidence, that had the deceased had proper medical treatment she might have been saved from a more prolonged existence.

LETTER FROM "W." To the Editor of the Huron Signal.
Sir—I use by the last number of the Star that the well merited castigation you gave him in Tuesday's Signal, has had the desired effect and brought the irresponsible editor of the "Huron Signal" to his senses. It is his "blatant" and "obscure" editorship, and the success of your editorial whip, and that a sign that in future he will behave himself better. Although an avowed proponent of all kinds of "isms," and who has written for me and well pleased with the position you have hitherto maintained in this respect, your readers cannot but be gratified that the Star and non of that stamp that "those who are in the habit of writing for the Star" should be so severely rebuked for having committed nearly every offence known to the criminal and a great many more. I have no doubt that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal, and that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal, and that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal.

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The Council met on Friday evening last. Present, the Mayor presiding, Messrs. McKean, Gibson, Ross, Seymour, Kay, Horton, Hays, Clifford, McKay and Leonard.

After routine, the Clerk read the Report of the Road and Bridge Commission recommending sundry small repairs to the sidewalks and drains, and also that the attention of the Government be again directed to the dangerous situation of the light-house-rocker, adopted by the Council, and that the same be repaired by Mr. Gordon's and Hosker's be laid, with gravel.

The sum of \$10.00 was granted Mr. G. Wells, to assist in keeping one McNabb, who died in his house after a long illness.

Letter from Mrs. Fraser in reference to drainage of her lot was referred to committee. The Cemetery Committee reported, recommending the purchase of a proper book of registry for the recorder, and also that a map of the cemetery on a reduced scale be procured for convenience of reference. Referred for further consideration.

Account of D. C. McKay, father \$55—ordered to be paid.

Some conversation arose with reference to the proposed House of Refuge. The Mayor said several parties had complained of being insulted by rowdies at night, and asked if some steps could not be taken to abate the nuisance. The general feeling of the Council seemed to be to let the matter alone, as they were very busy.

The Market question being raised by Mr. Horton, a good deal of discussion arose and took place, but the result was that matters remain *status quo* at present. Mr. Whitehead being requested to see upon the resolution of Council granting him the market fees for two months beyond his year.

The Council then adjourned for two weeks.

The members of the Council must feel highly complimented at the success of their arrival in Goderich, with printed slips in which they are set forth as rubbers of the public purse.

A fine large Union Jack, purchased by the Town Council, was hoisted on the Court House yesterday. It should be kept up on all public occasions.

FINE WEATHER.—June has opened with fine warm weather, and the earth has suddenly burst into beauty. Like the wand of a magician, the heat of Sunday last turned the forest, gardens and fields from sterility to life and verdure. With much abundant promise, the earth will give us a tropical growth, if the fruits of the earth. The prospect of a very large fruit crop is better than we have ever yet seen it in the County.

LUCKNOW. CORONER'S INQUEST.—A coroner's inquest was held on the exhumed body of Elizabeth Armstrong by C. T. Scott, Esq., Coroner, Wingham, Mr. James Campbell's Hotel, here, on Wednesday and Thursday last, the 29th and 30th ult. The deceased had been buried for two weeks, appears to have died somewhat suddenly under mysterious circumstances, and the result of some of her relatives a suspicion of poisoning. Drs. Gordon, Tennant, and McGregor made a post mortem examination, the result of which was that she returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased Elizabeth Armstrong came to her death from natural causes, but in the interval between the medical evidence, that had the deceased had proper medical treatment she might have been saved from a more prolonged existence.

LETTER FROM "W." To the Editor of the Huron Signal.
Sir—I use by the last number of the Star that the well merited castigation you gave him in Tuesday's Signal, has had the desired effect and brought the irresponsible editor of the "Huron Signal" to his senses. It is his "blatant" and "obscure" editorship, and the success of your editorial whip, and that a sign that in future he will behave himself better. Although an avowed proponent of all kinds of "isms," and who has written for me and well pleased with the position you have hitherto maintained in this respect, your readers cannot but be gratified that the Star and non of that stamp that "those who are in the habit of writing for the Star" should be so severely rebuked for having committed nearly every offence known to the criminal and a great many more. I have no doubt that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal, and that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal, and that the "Huron Signal" will be a more respectable and useful journal.

W. T. HAYS.

TOWN COUNCIL.