

SEIZURE OF A BAND OF ROBBERS.

The "Levant Herald" publishes the following letter from Damascus:—The topic of the greatest local interest is the seizure of the robbers who have for many years infested Damascus. Their exploits have already attained some fame, and deserved nothing less; for, of late, few Damascenes dared to interfere with them. Their skill and daring had gained them great respect and some admiration, and I am assured by a respectable Moslem that people having occasion to go down to lower rooms of their houses during the night generally shouted down the stairs before descending ladies are going down stairs; if there is anybody there let him retire. My informant assured me that this appeal was never uttered in vain, as the men always politely retired, taking with them only the things that came first to hand, rather than incommode the ladies. Last week, however, these proceedings were rudely interrupted. The robbers were paying a visit to the house of a Christian in the Meedan, called Farah. They had gathered whatever they wanted into a box, and were removing it from the premises when a woman in Pharah's house most unbecomingly screamed out, and some Druze neighbors, with their accustomed chivalry came to the assistance of the lady. At the threshold of the house they met the burglars, and courageously attacked them, but even Druze valour could not withstand the impetuous rush of the robbers. Old Druze, however, with bulldog courage, seized one of the robbers, and only relaxed his grasp, when the arm by which he held him was pistolled. This act of courage led to the discovery of the robber chief, his colleagues, and their plunder, and was rewarded with the handsome gift of two Russian dollars, equal to 40s. In the scuffle with the Druze the robber dropped a crowbar. On the following day the instrument was taken to the smiths of the city, one of whom declared that he had made it for Sheikh Husein El Faoury. Then there was a pause, for Sheikh Husein is reputed to be of holy descent, and is one of the dervishes whom our valiant delights to honour. The chief of the police, however, resolved to act on his own responsibility, and proceeded to the house of the Sheikh with a large force. He found the house full of banners and other religious emblems. He found also an enormous amount of plunder. One great sepulchre, overlaid with green coverlets and turbans, and which the Sheikh declared to be resting place of one of his ancestors, was found to be nothing but a heap of stolen property. The articles stolen from the Greek Catholic cathedral were found mingled with property stolen five or six years ago. The Sheikh and his two sons were marched off to prison, and soon about 30 of their accomplices were seized.

AN UNFORTUNATE LINE.

Messrs. Lord, Magor & Munn's line, advertised to run this summer between Montreal and the Maritime Provinces, has been rather unfortunate. One of their steamers, the "Mimosa" lost the fans of her screw by ice in the gulf and is now in Pictou waiting for a new one. One had been shipped for her from England by the "Linda," which was burnt at sea, and it will be some time before another can be procured. The other boat, the "Viklog" got ashore in the St. Lawrence, below Quebec, and has been condemned and ordered to be sold for the benefit of underwriters and all concerned.—[Halifax Citizen.]

FOUND DROWNED.

Our harbour has been yielding up its dead of late. Only a day or two ago we recorded the finding of the body of a truckman named Walsh, who had been missing for some months. Early yesterday morning the workmen on Cunard's wharf discovered, floating in north dock, a body very much decomposed and disfigured. A coroner was summoned who viewed the body and ordered it to be taken from the water. In the afternoon an inquest was held when a verdict of 'found drowned' was recorded. The body was so greatly disfigured that recognition was impossible, but from the clothes in which it was dressed it is supposed to be that of a man named Whelan, formerly fireman of the "Merlin" who has been missing since that vessel was in port getting new boilers six months ago or more.—[Ibid.]

The Paris journals profess to know that the Czar will pay a visit to the Empress Eugenie at Chislehurst to show his friendly recollection of her attentions to him when he was a guest in Paris. But it is at the same time said the Bonapartist party will be quite wrong if they attribute any political significance whatever to this act of courtesy.

Advices from Cuba represent the insurgents to be fast gaining ascendancy, and the Spaniards as discontented with Concha. News of in-urgent success sent gold up to 15 percent at Havana.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A WAR WITH RUSSIA.

It appears that we have had a narrow escape of a war with Russia through Belgium, whose neutrality we are still bound to protect. When, says a Nevada journal quoted by the "New York Times," the Grand Duke Alexis came to New York he was flooded with all sorts of letters on all sorts of subjects from all sorts of people. The grand Duke, not having time to read the letters in America, and thinking, perhaps, that some of them would require an answer, made them up into five packages and sent them by an orderly to St. Petersburg. Some time afterwards he was overtaken in the course of his travels by a telegram from his Imperial father informing him that not five packages but only four had come to hand, and that the orderly to whom all five had been entrusted was not to be found. Search was made throughout Europe for the missing orderly, who was ultimately discovered somewhere in Belgium engaged in preparing for publication the mysterious fifth packet. The publication of the fifth packet would, it is suggested, have been attended by awful consequences, which the Emperor of Russia was determined to prevent, even at the risk of a European war. He accordingly demanded the extradition of the culpable orderly; as the Belgian Government hesitated, threatened to invade Belgium (probably by way of Prussia) at the head of a numerous army unless the offender were at once delivered up. Thereupon he was delivered up, and is now, we need scarcely add, meditating on his unaccomplished crime in the mines of Siberia.—[Pall Mall Gazette.]

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, paid another visit to the Empress Eugenie at Camden House Chislehurst. The intention had been kept as private as is customary on these occasions, but many of the county families drove into Chislehurst, and largely increased the number of residents who gathered in the vicinity of the railway station. The Queen looked in excellent health. She wore a black silk dress, and a black velvet mantle trimmed with fringe; a black bonnet, with a wreath of white flowers underneath, and carried a lilac coloured parasol. The Princess wore a drab dress, trimmed with black velvet, a black silk jacket, and a light bonnet, with a profusion of flowers. As she entered the carriage which was an open one, the Queen was greeted with much cheering, which was continued as the journey was pursued up Summer-hill, and repeated on nearing Camden House, but at this point the Royal party unexpectedly drove across Chislehurst common in the direction of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, where a stoppage was made. Viscount Sydney conducted the party to the chapel, where lie the remains of the late Emperor of the French. Her Majesty had not seen the magnificent sarcophagus (which was presented by herself) since its completion. After minutely inspecting it she added an appropriate bouquet to the many floral mementoes placed thereon, as did also the Princess Beatrice. On leaving the chapel Viscount Sydney preceded the party in his carriage to Camden House, where the Queen visited the Empress Eugenie. The Prince Imperial, who had returned from Woolwich, as is usual on Saturdays, was present during the stay of Her Majesty. The visit lasted about half an hour, and the Empress escorted her Royal guest to the carriage on leaving.

CAUTION TO HUSBANDS.—The New York papers report a suit by a lady who, after being divorced from her first husband [poor wretch] with \$672 a year awarded as alimony, married again [very strange thing too] and again [of course] obtained a divorce this time with \$3,000 a year alimony—what a splendid haul, eh! On her marrying the third time, the second husband (poor dupe) refused to pay the \$3,000 any longer but the judge decided against him, as the decree of divorce permitted her to marry again. If the lady can keep getting married and then getting divorced which the law allows she must have a respectable annual stipend by this time. She is certain to serve the third husband the same, yes and the tenth if she can reach to that number. What a splendid precedent for strong-minded maids to go by.

The New York Journal *Herth and Home*, dated 13th inst., contains the following paragraph:—  
The new cable now on its way to this country is that of the Direct United States Cable Company, formed about a year ago by English and continental capitalists, with a capital of £1,000,000. The cable is 3000 miles in length, and will be laid from a point on the New Hampshire Coast to Nova Scotia, thence to Newfoundland; the cable ship, *Farraday*, will then return to England for another cable to be laid from England direct to Newfoundland. The cable itself is a variation from the others in construction. This Company promises to do business at 50 cents a word.

A CARD.

DR. CARFAGNINI, Bishop of Harbor Grace, acknowledges with thanks a donation of £100 from RICHARD HENEBURY, Esq., of Bay Roberts, in aid of the building of the Cathedral: June 18.

THE STAR

Harbor Grace, June 18, 1874

The mails per "Virgo" arrived here yesterday. News unimportant.

We beg to call the attention of the authorities to the fact that for some time past parties have been removing the soil from off the Horse Race-Course.

We clip the following from the St. John's "Chronicle":

"The harbor of St. John's was on Sunday evening the recipient of a no less distinguished visitor than Sir Henry Burrows, in command of his pretty, trim, little yacht 'Dracena' from the West of England via Fayal, Fermeuse and Cape Broyle, which latter place she left on the morning of her arrival here. The little craft has, all told fourteen persons on board, comprising the gallant knight's lady, child and servant, beside a crew of ten British tars, dressed in the uniform of the Royal Yacht Club. Sir Henry is on a pleasure excursion, and it is said intends visiting Harbor Grace, after which he will continue the passage north about. The 'D' made the run from Western Isles to Fermeuse in eight days encountering considerable adverse winds and weather. On coming into the harbor she grazed the rock at its entrance known as 'Pancake' but we are glad to learn sustained little or no injury.

(From the Royal Gazette.)

[COPY.]  
Islands Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
Office of the Commandant.  
No 31  
ST PIERRE,  
6th June, 1874.

SIR,—  
By telegraphic despatch of date the 23rd May I had the honor to acquaint Your Excellency of the wreck of the English Corvette 'Niobe' on the North West Coast of Miquelon. As at the present time the greater part of the articles belonging to that ship and susceptible of being saved have been placed in security, I now inform your Excellency of the details of that disaster:

On the 21st May last at one o'clock in the morning, the 'Niobe' commanded by Commander Boyle struck during a heavy sea and a dense fog, on rocks named the Mulots on the North west of Miquelon at some distance from Cape Blanc.

Towards half past seven in the morning Monsieur Senes Commes de Marine charged with the Administrative Service of Miquelon was informed of the shipwreck, and proceeded in all haste to the scene of the catastrophe.

Thanks to the promptitude and to the intelligence of this officer and to the co-operation of the other Functionaries and inhabitants of the locality speedy and efficacious assistance was offered to the Crew of the Corvette.

Boats were sent to accompany those of the 'Niobe' across the breakers and to show the best places for the disembarkation of the men.

Some schooners were anchored a few cables from the ship to assist during the landing of the men and the material.

This first operation was effected with the greatest order, thanks to the wise authority of the Officers of the Corvette.

The loss, however, is to be regretted of one man who fell upon the rocks; his body, nevertheless, was recovered from the water and received the honour of burial.

Towards four o'clock next morning, the Corvette was carried further into the midst of the rocks.

But the first danger was passed; the 130 men and 23 Officers which the Corvette carried had been landed and installed as comfortably as their number and the needy circumstances of the inhabitants of the Island, for the most part poor fishermen, would permit.

There was nothing more left but to pick up from the sea the debris of the Ship, for at this time the "Niobe" was completely stove-in, and there was no longer any hope of floating her.

The next day, the 23rd, towards morning, I was informed of this occurrence; notwithstanding the short distance which separates Miquelon from St. Pierre, no ship could be dispatched owing to the heavy sea and the thick fog.

I immediately assembled the Officers commanding the Men-of-War in the Roadstead at the time and it was resolved that Monsieur Humann, Captain of the dispatch boat 'Adonis' would proceed during the day with the Commandant of the 'Eurydice' to offer to Commander Boyle assistance in men and in material.

Thanks to this aid the salvage continued with great rapidity; the masts the rigging, the sails, portions of bedding, and some provisions have been landed.

The Cash Box and the ordnance have been saved.

I have been able to assure myself by going to the place of disaster, that the greatest order prevailed there.

They hope yet to save the Engine and thus diminish the expenses occasioned by the catastrophe.

In this unfortunate affair, I observe with pleasure that every one performed his duty.

Commander Boyle has shown the most praiseworthy coolness and an energy deserving of the greatest commendation; his conduct, moreover has been imitated in every respect by his officers and crew.

I hasten to give these details to your Excellency, persuaded that they will interest you, and will also afford a proof of the desire of the Colony which I rule to continue the good relations which exist between us.

I pray Your Excellency to be pleased to accept the expression of the high consideration of your servant.

The Commandant of the Islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon.

A. JOUBERT.

His Excellency the Governor of Newfoundland, St. John's.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint Doctor John Ryall, to be a member of the Road Board at Carbonear, in place of Mr. E. S. Pike.

Secretary's Office, 16th June, 1874.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(FOR THE H. G. STAR.)

From our Bonavista Correspondent.

At this particular season of the year, every community in the island presents an appearance of business activity; this settlement in proportion to population being second to none in the vastness of her preparations for summer work. Here ingenuity and industry reign supreme, imparting to every body and every thing an elasticity and willingness which merit success.

A very few days have sufficed to erect all the flakes and stages necessary, while every boat has been returned to the water.

One of the bait skiffs left yesterday morning, so that fishing will have begun in earnest by Monday, 1st June.

For some days past, codfish of fair size and quality have been jigged, and fishermen generally concede, that there are appearances of a fair summers work.

Some salmon are also being got, but catchers are shy in giving information as to their actual success, lest others on the same errand may feel disposed to resort to the vicinity of their good fortune.

I understand, that a manufactory for canning salmon and lobsters hermetically is about to be put in operation here, and as lobsters are abundant, our American friends will be delighted with the prospect of our assistance in supplying the demand.

The weather continues good, but at times, cold snow fell yesterday evening.

The grass is getting its natural color, and tiny leaves are peeping up through mother earth in the gardens.

Next week I shall be able to report—I hope favorably—the success of the first fishing days.

Bonavista  
May 30, 1874.

(FOR THE STAR.)

INTERMENT OR CREMATION.

At a meeting of the seventy-four inhabitants of this place, convened on the 1st inst., the subject above named was discussed, many of the leading local celebrities displaying great interest in the question.

Mr. Thinkin having been called to the chair, stated, in most intelligible language, that the object of the meeting was to consider whether it would be desirable to forego the old-fashioned mode of burial, with a view to the introduction of cremation, expressing it as his candid opinion that there is something out of joint with the present style, otherwise great men, in other countries, would not urge upon a change.

The chairman then introduced Mr. Bagpaunch, an American colporteur at present in the district.

That gentleman in coming forward expressed the gratification it afforded him to be thus permitted to address such an intelligent and discerning audience which although small numerically, showed a superiority or go aheadiveness over many others he had been introduced to.

He guessed cremation meant business, which he reckoned might be made a profitable one, and was happy to see around him so many approvers of the bone-dust system.

By the new mode of cremation he maintained there would be a very considerable saving, in fact a gain, as he understood that the great American republic is about to establish bone-dust collieries about to establish bone-dust collieries about to establish bone-dust collieries.

These would pay liberally for the dust, which he guessed was much required for manure. He guessed, however, (no disrespect intended) that Mr. Thinkin's remains would not realize as much as those of some of the fatter members of the audience.

The chairman rose, bowed, and said he would go under training so that eventually he might bring something good.

At this juncture, a Mr. Sexton interrupted the chairman by demanding what would be given grave-diggers in return for the disuse of their avocation.

Mrs. Brassie, a female with a full moon appearance, bawled out that they could dig as much as ever, receiving payment at the bone dust shops for the produce of any old cross, bones or skulls they might turn up.

Mr. Wiseman rose to remark that the name of grave diggers was odious enough without commenting further as to him or his calling. He argued that the cremation would not take as it might lead to dangerous practices. "As the old cock crows, the young one learns," was a saying stamped with truth, and he well knew, that there would be—were cremation introduced—a general slaughter of harmless cats, useful dogs, and "unpacked pork," by the rising generation for the plausible purpose of imitating their seniors.

Mr. Bagpaunch did not concur in the views of the previous speaker; said cremation was the mode of the ancients, and that the poets of old sung of funeral fires. He guessed it was all right, cremation would prove a paying business.

The chairman bowing called for a show of hands, all hands, but two, were instantly raised.

He then suggested that the Governor be petitioned, asking permission to introduce the burning pan.

This suggestion receiving almost unanimous approval, a vote of thanks was heartily accorded the chairman, when the convention broke up.

AULD REEKIE,  
Crape Cove, Bonnichestock Bay,  
June 6, 1874.

(FOR THE STAR.)

ADULTERATION OF CHOCOLAT E

Readers, read the following and shudder!—"Ignorance is bliss"—Chocolate is one of those articles of food which are rarely sold in an unadulterated condition. These adulterations are so considerable that frequently the spurious chocolate is a mere imitation containing every ingredient except the principal one, the pure cocoa. Particularly is this the case with the imported material from France (yes and England too) a fact very evident considering that the poorest chocolate is sold in France at wholesale for some three cents a pound when the cocoa alone sells for twenty-three cents. The imitation chocolate is a queer hash of cocoa shells finely pulverised, burnt flour, beef marrow, and a slight quantity of spice, not taking into account human and other bone dust so largely used, and such is the spurious composition of much of the stuff we are obliged to use daily and for which we have to pay such a fearful high price in this country. The purity of chocolate can, however, be determined by very simple means. One part of the material to be tested is warmed with ten parts of water. The solution is then allowed to cool; and on being thrown on a piece of blotting filter, leaves a reddish brown deposit. The liquid should pass through promptly and be of a clear red, leaving an agreeable cocoa taste. The material on the filter, should also, on being dried, yield a light powder of very little coherence. If, however, the coccolate is adulterated, the liquid passes through the filter slowly, and is of yellowish color, having a sweet taste. A viscous mass remains on the paper, which dries slowly into a solid form. The more viscous the residuum the more burnt flour the chocolate contains. Glucose is frequently substituted in the spurious material for cane sugar. Thanks to the Adulteration Act, in England, the manufacturers can't do as they desire, nor the retail either. Why can't Newfoundland have the benefit of such an Act as that in England, where the poor man knows that what he buys is pure. The Act in England applies to the Adulteration of all kinds of food and drinks, even the egotistic pampered proprietor has got to drop his mids night doctoring the grog as he is not safe one hour from the keen eye of the inspector who frequently prowls about attired in tatters to conceal his authority—and perchance unawares pounces upon his victim. Happy day for the poor man to get the honest value of his hard earned money. No more deaths from rotten food—that day is past. The Adulteration Act should be introduced into this country as soon as the next house is convened for business.—"There is nothing lo-t-in creation" true that's what an old lady quoted as she finished her well flavored cup of chocolate, but had she been aware of the bone dust and other disgusting ingredients the extract of which she was drinking, what would her feelings be, I know what mine would be.

On Monday last judgment was given by the Supreme Court against Messrs Ayr and Bowring for violation of the provisions of the Placemans Act. The Counsel for the plaintiffs in this case were Hon R. J. Piusent, Q. C., and D. J. Green, Esq.—[Courier.]

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