

THE HOMESTEAD MASSACRE.

PITTSBURG, PA., May 2, 1874.

The black hearted fiend who butchered and burned the Hammet family was arrested in Alleghany City this morning, and at present lies in jail in this city. All day yesterday detectives were making untiring efforts to get trail of the murderer. A man giving the name of Ernest Ortwein was suspected on account of his strange conduct, and so nearly filling the description given by those who knew him, he was traced to various places in the city and finally he was heard of in Alleghany city. About six o'clock yesterday afternoon he made his appearance on Troy Hill. A number of men were talking about the murder and this stranger joined in the conversation. He said he had worked for Mrs. Hammet. As soon as he said this he became alarmed and ran off at full speed. Officer Quirk, of the Alleghany police force, gave chase and soon succeeded in capturing him. His carpet sack was found in a store on Ohio street, it contained a lot of clo'es, nearly new. In a vest was found an accessors notification of valuation, a piece of paper on which are pencil figures, a ten cent scrip and a railroad ticket over the Pittsburg, Virginia and Charleston Railroad. The assessment paper is signed by "A. Behl, Assessor," and is directed to John Hammet, giving the valuation of his property at \$12,720. The piece of paper with the figures evidently contains Mr. Hammet's estimate of value of his property, being found in connection with the assessor's valuation. The vest was doubtless one worn by Mr. Hammet. When it became generally known that the murderer had been captured the greatest excitement prevailed, and the Tombs in Alleghany were surrounded by an excited throng. It was feared that efforts would be made to lynch the prisoner, and it was found necessary to place a strong guard of police along the corridors of the Tombs. He gave his name as Ernest Ortwein, and his appearance was not calculated to impress one favorably. This fiend, who murdered a family of five for \$15, is about five feet eight inches in height, heavily built, and would weigh 175 pounds. He has a big, round, bulldog head, rather broad, flat nose, low forehead and small eyes. His face is large, red, and appears puffed up by drink and bears every evidence that he has been speering for a day or two past. He has a short, sandy mustache and a little tuft of hair in the dimple of his chin. He was dressed in a fine black frockcoat, dark figured pants, white shirt and small necktie. He has a very short, thick neck. A black slouch hat was lying on a bench beside him. His shoes are new, as is all of the clothing he has on. He said he was a native of Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, and came to this country about a year ago, and first worked as a farm hand with Peter Ramsey at Brooklyn, N. Y. It was no use, he said, to conceal the crime; he committed the murder. He said he left Hammet's dwelling just after supper on the night of the murder, and went directly to the village of Homestead. He drank two glasses of beer in a saloon by the wayside, which is all the beverage he had that night. After quitting the saloon he went to a grocers store, where he got some cigars, also some candy for the Hammet children. He then goes on and tells the following story to the press representatives through an interpreter: "Just as I was leaving it came into my head that I must have Hammet's money. I thought he had a great deal of money in the house, and as I felt so queer all at once in my head I thought I must get it. I went directly to the house, but don't know how I got there, I suppose I must have been out of my mind. After getting into the house I found Mr. and Mrs. Hammet had not come home. It occurred to me that to get the money I must kill the children. I found an axe in the kitchen, and taking that with me I went up into the room over the kitchen, where Robert Smith and I slept. The bed was in the corner of the room and I saw that Robert was sleeping soundly with his face toward me. I took a position at the front of the bed, and with one blow killed the boy; he never moved, I can't say how it was the boy's throat was cut. I may have struck him twice, but he never groaned. After the boy was dead I went into the adjoining room where Ida and little Emma were sleeping. There were two beds in the room, one in a corner, and the other, the one occupied by the children, near the centre. Both of the little girls were sleeping. I crept over cautiously to where they slumbered and dealt Ida a fearful blow which silenced her forever. She never moved a muscle, she was dead in a minute. I then raised the axe and struck at Emma. She uttered a cry and I hit her the second time. She did not groan again. After this I went down stairs and took a position just inside the door of the room adjoining the kitchen, and waited for Mr. and Mrs. Hammet to come home. God knows my feelings when concealed there. I was desperate now and thirsted for more blood.

After waiting a long time I heard the footsteps of the couple coming up the lawn. They came nearer and nearer, and I clutched my axe handle tight, at they were here. Mr. Hammet came into the room first. I was standing so that he could not see me, and I struck him from behind, using the same axe, and he fell to the floor. Mrs. H. then came rushing into the room, and as she passed through the door I struck her, but did not kill her. She shrieked once or twice, Oh God, John! and then I struck her a second blow, which killed her instantly. Mrs. Hammet and baby were the only ones I struck twice, the others were killed with one blow. I used the axe all the time. I committed the deed to get Mr. Hammet's money. I searched Mr. Hammet's pockets and obtained his pocket book. It contained only fifteen dollars in paper money. I found Mr. Hammet's pocket book on the sewing machine. There was only fifty cents in it. I looked over the house, but all the money I got was \$15. The Silver money I spent I brought with me from Germany. I did not get it from the house. My only motive for doing this deed was to get the money. I never had any ill feeling towards any of the Hammet's. I always liked the little children, and I always bought them candy when I went to Homestead. The boy Smith and I were good friends and I always liked Mr. and Mrs. Hammet. I did not fire the house, and it was not a part of my plan to cover up the murder. When searching the house I put an oil-lamp in the sitting room, and when rushing away from the building it was overturned. I thought it would go out, I did not think the house would burn. As soon as I left the building I proceeded at once to the railroad and walked direct to Pittsburg. I stopped at several places but don't know the names of the places. I came over to Pittsburg and went to see my friend Baier, on Pennsylvania street, I think. I don't know locations very well. I was never in Pittsburg more than three times. After leaving Bair's I crossed over to Alleghany City. I crossed a covered bridge and went to several breweries to get work. I purchased a new suit of clothes yesterday morning and finally was arrested."

It has been ascertained this evening that the parents of Ortwein, who live in Stuttgart, are well off. During the Franco-Prussian war he was drafted, but deserted and came to this country. One of the closing acts in this dreadful tragedy took place this afternoon—the consigning to the grave of the remains of the murdered family. There were two coffins, the largest of which held the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Hammet and the two children, Ida and Emma. In another and smaller coffin lay Robbie Smith. These horrible objects were kept enclosed until after the ceremonies were concluded in the church. The edifice was filled to overflowing with anguish-stricken men and women, who in a great measure were neighbors of the murdered family.

**NOTICE!**  
Owing to the alteration of the Local Mail, the STAR will be issued on Thursday instead of Wednesday.

THE STAR.  
THURSDAY, MAY 28th, 1874.

In this Anti-monopolizing age; the age of progress and refinement, there is perhaps no greater existing bugbear, than that known as the "Telegraph Monopoly" on the part of the New York Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company.

The world, and all that therein is, were made in six days. These six days have given us the enormous number of five thousand, eight hundred, and seventy eight years of light and darkness.

To make an "Atlantic Cable," and lay it, requires, say a period of one year, and consequently, Cyrus Field, arguing out his case by the "Rule of Three," would fain make Newfoundland believe that he should have and to hold our common country for a proportionate length of time. This is all very well, and shew a clearness of perception, which must, now and henceforth, distinguish him as a paragon of genius. Being however, also highly endowed with cmfnarious powers, he was desirous of convincing others that his calculations were correct and indisputable. To effect this very pleasing end, he took great care to induce a few of the wealthy to invest in his undertaking, thus calculating on his being able to defy any one crying shame, while monetary Newfoundland was, and is, in a sense herself supporting him.

The species of trickery, by which he has endeavoured to make Newfoundland believe that were she to enforce her pre-emption rights, she would be brought low, and absolutely ruined, is apparent to all, even to those who advocate his cause; love of gold is however the only incentive of these latter.

When that spicy bit of news reached us, of the bold stroke Canada has made in reference to submarine lines, we were actually made younger, and our mind's eye had clearly reflected on its truthful retina, a glorious, prosperous, and satisfactory future for this Island.

What heavy hearts must some have had when compelled to digest such unexpected information; yet it is to be hoped, that all were not so sordid in their natures as to be unnecessarily sad. It is an alleviating repercussion, eminently lofty in its nature and conception; one well qualified to check the detested monopoly, and infuse us with feelings of sincere gratitude for such a commutation: in short, instead of having had to exercise our right of pre-emption, we have had, on our account by others, a literal co-emption.

Derivable from all this, we have a warning; a caution against haste and rashness in any undertaking affecting the common weal. This will be patent to every one, and it is only to be hoped, that in future, our legislators will wisely consider, and be very precise in making their stipulations, in connection with anything of moment, clear and irrefragable.

We have some idea that the steamer "Faraday's" visit to our shores, with another cable end, will cause as much excitement, and more real happiness than ever emanated from the occasion of any cruise of the "Great Eastern" in our waters.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL AT NORTH RIVER.

This beautiful Chapel now dedicated to St. Joseph, was commenced about two years since. Its speedy completion, is a strong evidence of the zeal of our good priest, Rev. E. F. Walsh, and piety of the people of North River. It is most favorably situated, commanding a fine view of the beautiful and delightful scenery that surrounds it, and the decorations so tastefully arrayed for the occasion, rendered it so much more attractive to the numerous faithful that crowded the building to its utmost capacity. The site which comprises about forty acres of land, is a donation from the generous and well deserving, esteemed Mr. Henry, of Bay Roberts. The solemn and interesting ceremony of dedication, was performed on Sunday last (Whit Sunday) by the Most Rev. Henry Carfagnini, D.D., O.S.F. assisted by the Revs. E. F. Walsh and D. Falconio. The music for the occasion, was very effectually performed by the Harbor Grace Choir.

His Lordship, after having gone through the interesting ceremonies prescribed by the Church for the solemn occasion, addressed the large congregation with a truly pious discourse, to impress his hearers with due veneration, for what is consecrated to the service of the Most High. The temple of the old Law was, he observed, but a figure of those of the New Law. That Church which the piety of the faithful had erected, that they might adore God therein with greater splendor and so emany, had on that day been blessed by God Himself, through the hands of his minister. God, then, had chosen that holy place for his own habitation, and that His eyes would be open, and His ears would be attentive to the prayers which his people might offer therein.

Our Redeemer, who died for us all, prayed to His Eternal Father to infuse into the hearts of His people the spirit of fraternal charity, which constitutes that necessary tie of the unity of His Holy Church, and thereby destroyed the wall of separation that kept mankind distracted and divided, and by becoming our Father He made all men, of every nation, and race only one beloved family to dwell in His Holy House. Our churches and chapels, continued his Lordship, are the houses of God, and these our Redeemer, having no regard of what country or race we may be, will consider us all as his children and will hear alike the prayer of the rich and poor of the learned and of the ignorant. They are styled by the Prophet, "the new Heaven and Earth" because the church should represent the harmony and peace of that heavenly kingdom, and exhibit in the various ranks and organs which compose its hierarchy and its members the regularity and subordination which marks the various gradations of the seats of the Holy Nion.

The Holy Altar anointed with chism and consecrated by the prayers of the church is an image of Jesus Christ Himself, our anointed King and great High Priest. From the Altar is offered up the tremendous sacrifice of the living and the dead. On the Altar is laid the Adorable Body, which hung upon the cross, and upon the Altar is poured forth the blood of the Saint that was slain for our iniquities." On the Altar is erected a Tabernacle for the residence of the Lord of Hosts, a mercy-seat for the King of Kings, where the Saviour in the Eucharist dwells in the midst of His people, attracting their hearts by the sweet influence of His grace, and crying out in His most affectionate accents, "Come to me all you that are burdened and heavy laden, and I will refresh you"

After other appropriate remarks, his Lordship concluded his sermon by impressing on the minds of the attentive hearers the necessity of labouring earnestly for the sanctification of their souls that they might be truly called with St. Paul "living temple of the Holy Ghost" and thus become worthy of God's heavenly blessing when kneeling in prayer before his altar.

After the sermon His Lordship celebrated the Holy Eucharist and gave the Benediction of

this most Adorable Sacrament, the "Abbe Louis Lambiotti's" solemn "Tantum Ergo" was rendered in fine style by the choir.

The Harbor Grace Temperance Band considerably heightened the effect of the joy and pleasure felt by all, executing several pieces in a most efficient style.

The service being over the Bishop and Clergy with the Choir and Band repaired to Bay Roberts where all were hospitably and sumptuously entertained by Mr. Henebury at his residence.

Nothing within the means of the people was omitted to give eclat to the solemnities of the day and to testify their love and veneration for their beloved Bishop, whose only thought is for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his people.—Communicated.

The steam-tug "Cabot" arrived here yesterday, from St. John's, with freight and passengers.

O C A L.

The steamer Merlin arrived last evening from the Gulf fishery with 1,700, mostly old seals.—Chronicle.

The Imperial Government Surveying steamer *Galvane* arrived from Charlottetown and Pictou on Sunday evening last.—Ibid.

A good show of fresh Codfish was presented for sale yesterday at the public coves. A few Salmon, were also in the market, at 8d per pound.—Ibid.

Loss of H.M.S. NIobe.—His Excellency the Governor received a telegram from the commander of Her Majesty Ship *Niobe*, at St. Pierre, on Saturday morning, announcing the loss of that vessel at Miquelon, crew saved. A telegram was also received by the Governor from Monsieur Joubert, Governor of St. Pierre, to the same effect. It is said that the "Niobe" was lost on Wednesday night, but no further particulars other than those stated have yet been received. The "Niobe" was designed by Mr. Reed, C. B., late chief constructor of the Navy, and was considered one of his model ships. She carried five guns, but these were of very heavy calibre. The engines, were of 300 horse power. She was 1083 tons register and 1574 burden with speed and steam over 12 knots. The "Niobe" was recently commanded by Sir Lambton Lorraine, Bart., who was the recipient of a silver brick from Nevada State for his decisive action in recently saving the lives of many American citizens at Santiago de Cuba. The officer commanding her at the time of her loss was Commander David Boyle, of seniority of the 16th December, 1865, but appointed to the "Niobe" so recently as the 23rd January last.—Ibid.

CORRESPONDENCE

(FOR THE H. G. STAR.)

From our Bonavista Correspondent.

The activity ever apparent in this flourishing community, is particularly manifest at this season of the year. Now it is that the most onerous duties demand attention, everything, as it were, requiring to be looked after simultaneously.

Field and garden fences having been a just—thus preventing the unnecessary explorations of "guttersnipes" and goats—agricultural wants are receiving a large portion of labour, the spade and the plough being in daily requisition.

The land round about this vicinity is rich, and some of it is in a very high state of cultivation; help is largely used as manure, the fertilizing properties of which cannot be over estimated. What a pleasant sight it is, to see the horse and plough turning up the soil that is so sure to be a cad in different shades of verdure. Potato planting will have commenced next week.

Boat building during the winter has been commensurate with requirements. Some sp endid timber has been brought here this Spring from different parts of the bay, and which for size and quality, could not be excelled by any from the neighboring Provinces. Why is not Newfoundland an exporter of timber?

Since the 25th ult., we have had repeated visits of Northern ice, bringing with it a very few seas, which were speedily denied existence.

The weather of late, although occasionally pleasant, has on the whole been cold and trying; easterly winds prevailing.

Some new stores of handsome appearance and proportion are now in course of erection. Dwelling houses too, have been greatly augmented this Spring.

The bait skills will shortly put out. Salmon nets will be laid so soon as no obstruction need be feared from the inroads of ice.

A medical practitioner from Halifax N. S., and who has just reached this, is, I understand, about to take up residence in this locality.

Bonavista }  
May 16, 1874. }

THE CONFESSION OF AN OLL PUBLICAN—HOW THE LIQUOR USED TO BE DRUGGED.

Readers, how many of you pass "Pub's" divers times in the course of the week, but how little do you know what's silently passing behind the counters, and the cellars of such would be "Immaculate Establishments" In those busy "dens" far from the gaze of the tippler is carried on the baptizing of the horrid drink splended for the pocket of the vender but ruin for the bodies and souls of the "votaries of Bacchus."

The mixing process requires a good deal of experience in order to be able to palm off the liquid as "good," but, alas! how sadly mistaken is the purchaser. I have been an old "mixer" in my time and I know all about the "drugging dodge," I have no prejudice whatever against the sale of spirits, but I have a great horror of the odious manner in which publicans hash up the liquor for their customers. All men are supposed to have seats of thought called "Consciences," but how can publicans have any? The shadows might still remain in their bosoms, but the essence of such precious, vivid gifts must have been squeezed out of them ere they are in the "trade" three months. I feel I have hardly any conscience myself, and I must say I have been just as fair and scrupulous a dispenser of the "fiery liquid" as any other "mixer" in the Island. My career as a "spirit druggist" and "poison seller" has been full of incidents which I hope to place before you in their true light. Would that I had known better when I first thought of starting a "Pub" the bitter corroding sting of remorse hacks my very soul when I calmly glance back upon a series of years and think of the divers schemes I had to employ to secure my ends in mixing the poisonous stuff for my fellow creatures. The thought sends a thrill of horror through me. Had I not opened a "Pub" I would to-day, in my old age, have a clear, easy, nontorturing conscience, a mind plathoric with thoughts the most cheering for the next life. Had I followed any other decent calling a better store would have been laid up to my credit in the world beyond the grave, but as I feel, I fear there is but small chance for us publicans if we don't turn over a new leaf, and stop doctoring the liquor for those whom we now publicly cheat by only giving them water instead of rum for their money.

About fifteen years ago I came into collision with a highly respectable family, and, after a good deal of sparring, Nancy and I were booked as one. After the honeymoon moon, which only occupied about a week, Nancy woke up to business and counicled me as to our future career. Her whole desire was focused in the "Public Line," and to object at such a period to her wishes, would doubtless entail the greatest misery upon me and my life. Would that I had talked her out of such a project, but I didn't then take the trouble. Poor old girl, I can cry when I think of those innocent days when first she broached to me the utility of opening a "Pub." I hope she is in a better world poor thing. She was the best little creature that ever swallowed a cup of tea, which she said was invented solely for woman's good, and I think there was a good deal of pith in her spicy remark. We were just 27 each when we got married, so you see we were well out for each other. She was a cute little woman, and it was to her knowledge of human character that we flourished so well. Why bless you, money walked in the door to us, so kind were our customers—weren't they now?

Our first move was to run a "Pub" in an out Harbor where none existed, and as I often had strong language with Nancy about not doing so, she would just turn on me and call me a useless d'one. I had to cave in, and I defy any one who can resist a woman's chain of argument as its paralyzing, and soon floors its victim. If I had not said "yes" to her keeping a "Pub" misery would have been my lot all my days. We packed up our traps sure enough, and took passage in the first boat bound for "Lobster Tackle" where we were deposited in good condition. We brought with us a puncheon of rum and some of the other drinks only fit for "gents" to use. When we arrived we said to each other, "well, this is truly a work of charity, and do you know all the people flocked around us and looked at us just the same as the negroes looked at Livingstone when he exhibited the magic lantern. They (the bystanders) wanted to know what was in the barrels as they looked so anxiously at them. Nancy says to me "Mick tell 'em it medicine" faith sure I did, and all they began to jump with delight that at last they were to have a druggest among 'em. Ah, says I to Nancy, we have struck oil, and you will see what a run of good luck we will have. We then thought as we moved into our new shanty that we had come to confer a lasting blessing upon our fellow creatures, but, alas, the sequel will unfold the reverse. The license was in my pocket and to tell you the truth the Magistrate J. Joe Paver, Esq., looked as glad as possible when I applied to him for it; he said "spirit vending" was a splendid way to make money, and that it conferred a boon upon the public generally, also that it afforded him the greatest pleasure in the world to grant any number of such papers which were good for the revenue, and left a slight margin in his own pocket.

(CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.)

By Authority.

His Excellency the Governor in council has been pleased to appoint the following Boards of Road Commissioners, viz:—

Harbor Grace Proper—Messrs. Robert Walsh, Charles Ross, Patrick Devereux Wm. Tapp, John Paterson Mark Parsons and James Hippisley.

South Side Har or Grace and Bryant's Cove—Messrs. John Noel William Webster John S. Stephenson (Bryant's Cove,) P. K. Norcott and Moses Parsons.

Spaniards Bay—Messrs. Moses Gosse William Bagns William H. Earle Robert Gosse and Thomas Whelan.

Upper Is and Cove and Bl-hyp's Cove—Messrs. James Crane Israel Gosse John Barret Joseph Drover and Elsie Drover.

Carleton—Messrs. Nicholas Ni-hole Benjamin J F Gou d Ambrose Forward Edward S Pike Michael Gou d Michael Sawyer and Felix J McCarthy.

Secretary's Office, 26th May, 1874.—Gazette.

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Latest

Carnarvon in government will Coast.

Wolsley has mouth.

Durham min broken out.

The Czar will 6 o'clock this yacht going ash his arrival will be the time fixed on Madrid Beria ties are insurm coalition Govern The French Military Com President.

Gold 112 Panama letter outrages on Brit at San Jose by Military Com outrage, pursued

The Prince of Duchess of Edin thur met the Czar arriving at Winc Broglie will ca Bill for debate Friday. The L oppose it, and w tion.

At the recep other Ecclesiast the Mexican Gov mala for the pers lowed to come up countries.

Gold steady—

The Queen St and Alexis last Wales, Duke of and Disrali par probably visit E Broglie accept and Extreme R and will make it

Gold 112.

The Grand D rested on suspici thers diamonds.

Grant declared gitimate Govern will support him tional troops.

Broglie introduced Chamber amidst the Left, The E ferred to a comm wildest confusion business could be adjourned.

The "Times" the reception of declared that the peace, His Maj this morning, and mons this aftern Crystal Palace.

The Madrid G active service 40 Glogue the Fret

NORTH

The Goshen res acre gave way t water swept thro liamsburgh, Hayc Florence. Many bridges were over and property to 5

Broglie's minist Their resignation Mahon, M. Gou Premiership. Th the immediate dis sly. It is rumour Right intend to mo of monarchy, and too will vote for dis Concha is movin The Carlists are h lieans near Bilbao, ministry intend to nobility, and subsi

The Czar wished yesterday, and visi Traffic is suspende Fleet Street, Ludg side

STEAM'S DA

Prof. Faraday, of a grain of water of tions equivalent to a of lightning. Kno ibrium of these rela destroyed in the be change of condition mously mechanical wo stantly discovering tural conditions; t (which seems to be are not our locomot propelled with grain