

Our course being east south east, we were not getting southward very rapidly; but every hour carried us farther into the wide tropical current, and as nothing like a north west hurricane came after us, the weather continued moderate and balmy; several times while we were still in pretty high latitude it showed an actual mid summer temperature.

Arriving in the harbor of Funchal, we find an odd looking town of about eight thousand people, occupying the semi-circular shores at the head of a small bay on the southern side of the chief Madeira Island.

On either side of the entrance to this sound is a lofty headland, crowned with extensive fortifications, which look as though they were at least a thousand years old. Of course these antique affairs appear ugly and imposing enough to one who does not understand the beautiful art of modern warfare. But military men say that nineteenth century artillery would knock them down about as fast as balls and shells would hit them.

Viewed from the water the city and surroundings present a finely picturesque appearance. The thickly clustered buildings near its centre, the tastefully laid out districts on either side, and the pretty environment of delightful villas scattered among luxuriant tropical groves, are displayed before a range of mountains over five thousand feet high, and upon these highlands, beginning with the lowest slopes, cultivation is successfully carried on almost to the very summits. Such low latitude farms produce sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and tropical fruits, where the land is not too high; while farther up the steep declivities are fashioned into beautiful terraces, at the proper season adorned with excellent crops of Indian corn and southern wheat. The soil near Funchal, and in fact throughout the Madeira Islands, is especially adapted to the cultivation of grapes, and many thousands of tons are annually used in manufacturing the celebrated Madeira wine. Upon their very tops the mountains are ornamented with a dense growth of forest trees, the kinds found in valleys of temperate climates being most common. Here and there a bold crag of reddish looking stone rises above the woodland, which at morning and evening when not clouded with mist—which is usually the case—reflects the sunlight in a great variety of beautiful tinges.

The buildings in Funchal are mostly stone, and painted white, a shade which prettily contrasts with the bright green of landscapes about.

On landing, one of the first objects to attract our notice is a sort of sled with runners turned up at both ends. This primitive conveyance is used in a region where snow is unknown, and it would seem that if the people had made a particular effort to get up something not adapted to their purpose, they could not have succeeded better. These clumsy contrivances are drawn by oxen and employed for every purpose, from an afternoon drive to the transportation of merchandise. For heavy loads they have an immense flat bottomed drag, built something like those used in Canada to carry stone. It is said there are less than a dozen wheeled vehicles on the Island, all of which are the property of government officials and seldom seen by visitors.

Funchal has very narrow streets, but they are well paved with small stones set on edge; and the side-walks are made from material of many colors, and often wrought into strange and quaintly artistic designs. A cathedral of huge size is the most prominent structure, and every few minutes all day long, the monotone of its bells gently disturbs the quietness of the tropical air. The next important edifice is a stone theatre, which looks more like a fortress. There is also a massive old castle used for military purposes; and for a signal station they have a round tower built of pressed brick which looks as though an average gale would turn it wrong end upwards. However it does not lack company of its own sort, for almost everything in this city of other days has a tumble down and dejected aspect. But such matters do not trouble the ease loving people who divide most of their time between eating, drinking, and entertaining each other, and studiously practise the recognized diplomatic law of never doing at present what can possibly be done in the future.

Considering the number of mouths to fill, provision, grocery, and other stores, dispensing the necessities of life, are amazingly scarce. But upon all thoroughfares almost every other house is a liquor shop, and there is no more restriction upon alcoholic drinks than upon meat or fruit. Still, during our stay in Funchal, we saw but one intoxicated person, and he, we regret to say, was a sailor belonging to our own vessel.

A number of old hulks in the roadstead are stored with coal, for which there is a good demand from passing steamers. While we were there a fleet of British men-of-war glided into the harbor to replenish their fuel, and these marvellous achievements of constructive genius were so unlike the rude old fashion of everything on shore, we could easily fancy them as sailing down from another planet.

These were mostly steel plated ships, and two were over eleven thousand tons burden. Each carried about five hundred men, and guns enough to destroy this ancient Portuguese settlement, forts and all, before its sleepy people could sufficiently wake up to make the first preparation for defense.

JONATHAN.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

ODDS AND ENDS.

I was turning over some numbers of the *Presbyterian Witness*, in search of some articles of Dr. Honeyman's, when I came across an excellent leader on "Sacramental Wine," and also the following paragraph in United States' Items:—"High license has decreased the number of saloons in Chicago, from 13,000 to 9,000, and added nearly \$1,300,000 to the revenues of the city." It would seem that it might be worth the trial to raise the license fees again, and see if they could not knock off 7,000 or 8,000 more saloons. I do not very often read religious newspapers, and was not aware how very good a paper the *Presbyterian Witness* is.

Some silly, if well meaning, women, think it good to exercise, or at all events parade, some crank of abstinence (generally from some easily dispensed-with article of food) during Lent. Let it be mildly and deferentially suggested, that the sacrifice most acceptable during Lent (and, it might be, in perpetuity), would be that of the delight of "evil-speaking, lying and slandering." I only quote the Catechism, the wholesome inculcations of which some so-called ladies forget.

The Nemesis of Political Profligacy has overtaken the so called Liberals and their lofty and virtuous leader in the discomfiture and contempt which have attended their flagitious conversion to the cult of "Riel. For a "Pairty of Purity" the "Bless" philandering was a fairly strong, not to say indecent, specimen of flirtation. But the Grit stomach is strong, and no one who witnessed the peculiar villainy which compassed (finding its appropriate agent in "Judas" Wood) the downfall of Sandfield Macdonald, can be vulnerable to surprise at any demonstration of the organization of hypocrisy. No draft is too nauseous to swallow. The *Globe* is coquetting with Communism. By and by it will find Communism an unpleasant master, as the "Hudson's Bay" people found Riel an unpleasant master in the winter of 1869-70, after they had coquetted with him to some purpose, but not their own purpose.

The Conservatives may be (like "the Fox that lived under a tree,") "as wicked as can be"; but on the whole, I don't think they do quite such nasty things as the Grits, or make appointments quite so unsavory. "Judas" Wood, now, I believe, gone to his appointed place, received the reward of his infamy in the Chief Justiceship of Manitoba; and he, and the times in which he flourished, remind me of another hoary sinner, who, for his unclean services in a piece of political scoundrelism known in that day as the "Proton Outrage," was appointed supply officer to the Mounted Police. Being in high favor with the Grit Government, this unpleasant old person, whose assumption was enhanced by a profession of high sanctimoniousness, aspired to control Col. Freuh and his command. He was, I believe, a petty country storekeeper, and, like others of his class who have got themselves on by politics, gave himself airs, and was, consequently well snubbed by officers of the Force. He feathered his nest, however, particularly well, in the three or four years during which he got the chance.

FRANC-TREURN.

#### POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

DOMINION.—March 29th.—Caron said that the population of Manitoba was estimated at 125,000, and that 79,159 immigrants had settled in Canada last year.

Weldon moved for copies of papers relating to the Stather case. He said that the Government in removing the prisoner from Dorchester to Kingston had been guilty of a gross interference with the right of every British subject to have his case investigated. He defended the right of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick to deal with the case, and claimed that no such outrage upon British justice had occurred since the days of Charles I.

Thompson denied that any reflection on the Supreme Court of New Brunswick was involved in the proceedings. The prisoner was found guilty of breach of trust in office, and duly sentenced, but owing to accident or oversight on the part of the clerk of the court, a correct copy of the sentence was not sent to Dorchester. The removal to Kingston took place to prevent his discharge on a clerical error.

Speeches were also made by Cameron, Mills, Tupper, and McCarthy, regarding the action of the Minister of Justice.

Edgar moved for a select committee to consider the condition of the laws relating to copyright. He argued at length on the right to legislate with respect to the question, and thought that the Imperial Parliament would have no objection to Canada dealing with the question.

Langevin stated that correspondence was now going on between the Imperial and Canadian governments in reference to the copyright question, and it would be inconvenient to appoint a committee at present.

Mr. Mitchell moved for a return respecting the steamers and sailing vessels forming the marine police of Canada.

Tuesday, March 30th.—The Hon. A. W. McLelan moved the House into committee on ways and means. He paid a high compliment to Sir Leonard Tilley. He thought the eighteen years of Confederation were marked with many evidences of progress and development. In 1867, we had four Provinces, containing 338,000 square miles. We had increased our area ten fold, and doubled our population, since that time. Our commercial, social, political, and industrial ties had been strengthened since that time. The receipts for 1885 were \$33,200,000. The receipts from customs duties were \$18,900,000. The increase of customs duties of 1885 was only about two per cent higher than in 1878, and such increase was upon luxuries imported into Canada. In England, the laboring classes paid 56 per cent of the whole customs duty, while in Canada it was less than half that. The net interest in 1885 was \$7,500,000. In 1867 it was \$4,600,000, the increase since that time being less than \$3,000,000. He showed that the charge per head was \$1.63 at present as against \$1.40 in 1867. The interest on the public debt in 1878 was greater than in 1885. During the McKenzie administration the public debt was increased at an annual rate of \$7,800,000, while the Liberal-Conservative Government had only increased the debt \$4,144,000 a year. The expenditure up to March 20th, 1886, was \$25,958,481, of which amount the war expenses were \$2,502,936. The receipts were \$24,030,000, showing a surplus over ordinary expenditure of \$574,195. There were other expenditures, however, which would leave a deficit of \$1,450,000. The revenue for next year is