St. John Chronicle.

"COLONIAL CONSERVATIVE."

VOLUME XXII. SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1858. NUMBER 44.

THE ST. JOHN CHRONICLE,

Is published every Friday afternoon, by WILLIAM DUNCAN, at his Office Centenary Stand.

Visiting, Card Business Cards, (plain and ornamental) Handbills, Blanks, and Printing generally neatly executed.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid up, except at the discretion of the publisher.

☞ Terms—10s. 6d., if paid within the year, 15s. if not paid until after expiration of the year. Any person paying 10s. in advance will receive a copy for one year.

All letters, Orders, Communications, &c., must be post-paid, and addressed to

WILLIAM DUNN,
Chronicle Office, Saint John, N. B.

☞ Archibald M'Allister, is an authorized Agent for the Chronicle at Gagetown, and vicinity.

Stephen Wiggins, is an authorized Agent for Grand Lake.

Joseph R. Perkins, Esq., is an authorized agent for Petersville, (Q. C.)

☞ The Chronicle is filed, and may be seen free of charge at Professor Holloway's Establishment, 244 Strand, London. Professor Holloway is duly empowered to receive all business that our establishment in London, and whose receipts will be regarded by us as valid.

GEORGE WHITMAN,
Auctioneer, Commission Merchant,
AND DEALER IN DRY GOODS, GROCERIES AND HARDWARE,
Chatham, N. S.

G. M. BUNNS
AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION MERCHANT
No. 20 South Market Wharf, St. John, N. B.
March 20, 1857.

JUST PUBLISHED—A new Edition of Lennie's English GRAMMAR, strongly bound in linen. Price 3s. 6d. per dozen.
June 5 B. O'BRIEN.

GRANITE HALL,
No. 3, Dock Street.

FALL OF 1857.

GREAT variety of Fall and Winter CLOTHING, made up in the well known style of this establishment from Cloths imported by myself especially for my own trade, owing to the dullness of the times and

LOW RATE OF LABOUR

in the Manufacture of fall Clothing, my customers will get all the advantage of a good garment at a LOW PRICE.

—THE STOCK CONSISTS OF—

Every description of OVER COATS;
Every description of DRESSCOATS;
Every description of BUSINESS COATS;
Every description of DRESS VESTS;
Every description of BUSINESS VESTS;
Every description of DRESS PANTALOONS;
Every description of Working PANTALOONS;

Gentlemen wishing Garments made to measure, can have their choice of the best assortment of West of England Cloths, Rich Vestings, Fancy Doeskins, and Real Scotch Tweeds in this City, and made up under the supervision of one of the best practical Cutters of the present age—and at prices that cannot fail to please.

ECONOMY IT-SELF.

HATS and every description of Winter CAPS. Reversible Rubber COATS. Goodyear's Rubber COATS, CAPES, &c. OIL CLOTHING of every description. FURNISHING GOODS of all kinds—Wholesale and Retail.

October 6. THOMAS R. JONES.

Fish! Fish!

120 QUINTALS good CODFISH;
200 boxes Dippet Harbour Smoked HERRINGS;
50 Barrels No. 1 SHAD.—For sale by
JOHN MARVEN,
February 19. Ward street.

MILK PANS AND BUTTER CROCKS—white inside.—A shipment of these Goodsare daily expected.
FRAS. CLEMENTSON,

MAGEE, HATTER.

THE Subscriber would respectfully inform his friends and the public in general, that he has removed a part of his Establishment to 27, North Side of King Street, directly opposite Cross Street, and one door below Mr. J. Frost's Shoe Store, where he will be found ready to serve the Public with HATS and CAPS of his *own Manufacture*, made under his inspection, which he feels warranted in saying are equal to any made or sold in this City, as has been proved at the Exhibitions held in this City and Fredericton, and also at Halifax, N. S., from which he received a Certificate of merits under the Seal of that Province.

The business will be conducted as formerly at his old Stand, under the management of his Nephew, D. MAGEE, a practical Hatter; where the Public will always find a good article, and at a reasonable price.

HATS and CAPS made to order.
A. MAGEE,
27 North Side, King street.

Waverly House, No. 69, King street

RUBBERS AT REDUCED PRICES.

LADIES' 2s 6d. Gents' 3s. 6d. Leather Boots and Shoes of every description, together with English felt Cloth BOOTS at first Cost.

The public will please to understand that I will continue these low prices to the 1st of May, and also that I willuse no deception or second price.
March 5. B. O'BRIEN.

Rope, Sail Twine, &c.

300 BOLTS Bleached Gourock CANVAS, assorted;
100 Bolts Extra all long Flax, ditto;
100 do. Gourock Boiled ditto;
75 Coils BOLT ROPE;
82 do. POINT LINE;
1700 three-thread SAIL TWINE.
JOHN ROOP,
Wishart's Buildings, Johnston's Wharf.
July 10.

Digby Chickens and Tea.

190 BOXES No. 1 Digby HERRINGS, a excellent quality;
10 Chests English Congo TEA;
A lot of 21, 22 and 20 inch Mast Hoops.
For sale by JOHN MARVEN,

Notice.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of Andrew Sherwood late of the Parish of Upham, in King's County, (deceased) are requested to present the same duly attested within eighteen months from this date and all persons indebted to the said Estate are required to make immediate payment to

RICHARD C. SHERWOOD,
JOHN F. SHERWOOD, } Executors
Upham, K. C., March 7th, 1857.

Mirror Mantles and Regulator Shades.

THE Subscriber would call the attention of the public to his extensive assortment of MIRROR MANTLES with REGULATOR SHADES and Common Patterns always manufactured by them, at the shortest notice, and warranted of a quality equal to any manufactured. They are particularly adapted for the Warerooms of Cabinet Makers, and are easily imparted, without the assistance of a mechanic, and are a very ornamental and useful article, very handsome, and sold cheaper than any other article. Orders may be left at No. 17, Water Street, or at the place of manufacture on Portland Bridge.

Several New and Elegant patterns of REGULATOR SHADES, Frames just completed, and for sale by

HAMING & ALLAN.
St. John, March 5, 1858.

Furniture & Upholstery Ware Rooms,
No. 97, Head of Mill Street.

DRAWING ROOM FURNITURE; DINING Room Furniture; BED ROOM Furniture—of fashionable designs, in Mahogany and Walnut.

HAIR MATTRESSES; MOSS MATTRESSES; GRASS MATTRESSES; STRAW MATTRESSES.

Cheap CHAIRS and BEDSTEADS, in great variety. For sale by the subscriber.
March 12. J. & G. LAWRENCE.

EAGLE FOUNDRY,
Steam Engine and Machine Shop,
SAINT DAVID AND ALMON STREETS,
Near Messrs. W. & R. Wright's Ship Yard Courtenay Bay.

ALWAYS on hand at the above Establishment, Patent and Common WINDLASSES for Vessels of all sizes; Capstan Heads; Sheaves and Rollers; Bushes; Fancy Chandeliers; Castings; Ploughs; Truck and Barrow Wheels; Waggon Boxes; Grate and Furnace Mouths; Tredgold Machines.

The Subscriber, in returning thanks to his friends and the Public for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him since his commencement in business, solicits a continuance of the same, and would further add, that having served a regular apprenticeship to the Engineering and Millwright business in Great Britain, and having practiced the same the last thirty years, continues to manufacture at the above Establishment all kinds of

STEAM ENGINES.

High and low Pressure, Fire Boxes, Saw, or Grist Mills, and for Propelling any kind of machinery.—Steam Engine Boilers for Marine or Land purposes made and repaired; all kinds of Machinery repaired; Iron and Brass Castings made to order; BRASS AND IRON TURNING; Blacksmith Work of all kinds executed promptly and on favorable terms. ☞ As cheap or cheaper than any other Establishment in the Province.☜

JOHN SMITH,
St. John, December 1, 1855. ENGINEER.

FRESH GROCERIES!!

THE Subscriber having received a large assortment of FRESH GROCERIES, per late arrivals, is prepared to sell them at the lowest market rates.

The articles consist in part of—
10 Chests TEA; 500 lbs. Java COFFEE;
3 boxes Yeast POWDER; 5 barrels Crushed SUGAR;
5 hds. Porto Rico SUGAR; 10 boxes good CHEESE;
15 Tubs Prime New BUTTER;
1 Ton OATMEAL;
10 bbls. Corn MEAL; 5 do. Rye FLOUR;
25 bbls. Superfine State FLOUR; 10 barrels PORK, best quality;
2 barrels SALERATUS;
5 kegs TOBACCO; 1 bbl. Bladder SNUFF
15 boxes Adamantine CANDLES, short sizes
25 quintals Prime COD FISH;
1 cask superior HAMS, Sugar cured, suitable for family use.
20 M. assorted CIGARS;

Also,—Rice; Pepper; Starch; Tomato Ketchup; Pepper Sauce; Cream Tartar; Salt; Beans; Mustard; Mixed Pickles; Spanish Liquorice; ground Pimento; Matches; Sperm Candles; Dried Apples; Oranges; Lemons; Nuts; Brooms; Chocolate; Citron Peel; Ginger Fresh Figs; Digby Herrings, &c.

4 hhds. Hollands GIN;
5 hhds. BRANDY; 3 pns. ALCOHOL;
1 pun. Islay Malt WHISKEY; 1 do Old Jamaica RUM; 5 qr.-casks Port & Sherry WINE; 5 cases Sparkling Champagne;
10 bbls. London PORTER and ALE.
WILLIAM PARKS,
July 16, 1857. No. 186, Prince Wm. street.

FAIRBANKS'
CELEBRATED
SCALES,
of every variety,
54 Milby Street, Boston.
GREENLEAF & BROWN, Agents.

A full assortment of all kinds of weighing apparatus and store furniture for sale at low rates Railroad, Hay, and Coal Scales set in any part of the Provinces.

For Sale in St. John by WM. THOMSON.
May 15th, 1857. (1y.)

North American House,
No. 7 North side of King's Square,
ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

IS now kept by the Subscriber, who having recently refitted and furnished the same in a thorough and most comfortable manner, and now is prepared to entertain Residents in this City, Farmers, and Travellers generally, by the day or for any period, in an agreeable style and on satisfactory terms. Good Stabling is attached. Experienced Attendants are employed in every department.

The Daily and other Newspapers are regularly taken and filed. Every information with regard to the Markets, and other business of the City, is promptly afforded. Purchases can be made for Strangers.

Extra Meals, when called for, are provided without delay. In short nothing is wanting at any hour that can be reasonably required.
May 22. HUGH CHISHOLM.

TOYS! TOYS!! TOYS!!!

I TAKE this method of informing my customers and the Public, generally, that I have just received

7 CASES

of new Toys and FANCY GOODS, one case of War DOLLS; one do. Gutta Percha TOYS, New Styles; also, a choice selection of Gifts and Birthday Presents; all of which are now ready at Wholesale and Retail.

☞ Persons fitting up Bazaars would do well to call and examine, as good bargains may be expected.
A. PAGE,
Nov. 6. 105 Prince Wm. Street.

HEALTH OR SICKNESS!

CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

The blood furnishes the material of every tissue, muscle, gland and fibre in the human frame. When pure, it secures Health to every organ in proportion; when impure, disease. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS operate directly upon the elements of the stream of life, neutralizing the germs of disease, and then radically curing the malady, whether located in the nerves, the stomach, the liver, the bowels, the muscles, the skin, the brain, or any other part of the system.

USED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are equally efficacious in complaints common to the whole human race and in disorders peculiar to certain climates and localities.

ALARMING DISORDERS.

Dyspepsia, and derangement of the liver, the source of infinity and suffering, and the cause of innumerable deaths, yield to these curatives, in all cases, however aggravated, acting as a mild purgative, alterative and tonic; they relieve the bowels, purify the blood, and invigorate the system and the constitution at the same time.

GENERAL WEAKNESS—NERVOUS COMPLAINTS.

When all stimulants fail, the renovating and bracing properties of these Pills give firmness to the shaking nerves and enfeebled muscles of the victim of general debility.

DELICATE FEMALES.

All irregularities and ailments incident to the delicate and sensitive organs of the sex are removed or prevented by a few doses of these mild, but infallible alteratives. No mother who regards her own or her children's health should fail to have them within her reach.

SCIENTIFIC ENDORSEMENTS.

The London "Lancet," the London "Medical Review," and the most eminent of the faculty in Great Britain, France and Germany, have eulogized the Pills and their inventor.

Holloway's Pills are the best remedy known in the world for the following diseases:

Asthma	Female Complaints	Piles
Bowel Complaints	Fevers	Stone and Gravel
Coughs	Headaches	Secondary Symptoms
Colds	Indigestion	Venereal Affections
Chest Diseases	Influenza	Worms, of all kinds.
Costiveness	Inflammation	
Dyspepsia	Inward Weakness	
Diarrhœa	Liver Complaints	
Dropsy		
Debility		
Fever and Ague	Lowness of spirits	

Sold at the Manufactories of Professor Holloway, 80, Maiden Lane, New York, and 244 Strand, (near Temple Bar, London,) by all respectable Druggists and Dealers in Medicines throughout the United States and the civilized World, in boxes at 25 cents, 62½ cents, and 1$ each.

☞ There is a considerable saving by taking the larger sizes.

N.B.—Directions for the guidance of patients in every disorder are affixed to each Box.

S. L. TILLEY, *Provincial Agent*, No. 2 King-st St. John, N. B.; A. Coy & Son, Fredericton; W. T. Baird, Woodstock; Alex. Lockhart, Quaco; James Beck, Bend of Petitcodiac; O. K. Sayre, Dorchester; John Bell, Shediac; John Lewis, Hillsborough; John Cutty, Canning; and Jas. G. White Belleisle.

Ship Chandlery.

LANDING EX "JOHN DUNCAN;"—

63 BALES CORDAGE, (assorted;)
Spunyarn; Marline; Houseline; Ambroline; Log Lines; Tar Brushes; Wool Mop Heads; Ship Scrapers; Patent Deck Lights Cork Fenders; Liverpool Oakum.

The above are the Manufacture of that well known firm Hutcheson & Jarvie, of Liverpool, and are warranted to be of a superior quality.

10 bbls. Black Varnish; 1 Bag Carpet Thrumbs
4 kegs Countersunk Nails, (assorted;)
1 case Flags and Bunting; Cod Lines;
Connectings LINKS, (assorted.)

The above, together with the Subscribers Stock of General SHIP CHANDLERY, are for Sale at lowest Market rates.
JOHN WALKER,
May 22. Ward Stree

New Soap & Candle Manufactory.

THE Subscribers having entered into Partnership under the name and firm of BARKER & HANVEY, for the purpose of manufacturing Soap and Candles, in the rear of Wm. Peter's Tannery, 13 Union-street, beg leave to inform their friends and the public that they will furnish the above named articles of as good quality and at as low as any other manufacturers in the city.
J. H. BARKER,
May 6. ROBERT HANVEY.

S. K. FOSTER'S Shoe Store.

Just received per steamer from Liverpool:

A Large assortment of Ladies, Misses, Boys' Children's, and Infants CLOTH BOOTS, of all qualities, suitable for the season.

A great variety of Men's, Women's, Misses, Children's and Infants FELT BOOTS, Shoes and Slippers of every quality.

Oil Hats—A large lot of Women's Prunella BOOTS, suitable for wearing under Rubber Shoes in Winter—for 3s. to 4s. 6d. a pair.
Feb. 7. S. K. FOSTER.

Per Arthur White, from London.

100 CHESTS Souchong TEA;
8 tons Brandram's No. 1 WHITE LEAD;
1 ton Brandram's Coloured PAINTS;
Casks Boiled and Raw OIL;
8 do. PUTTY; 1 cask STARCH;
4 cases INDIGO;
1 case Ladies' BOOTS;
1 do. STATIONERY.
For Sale at the lowest market rates.
June 12. L. H. DEVEBER & SONS.

S. K. FOSTER'S—Shoe Store.

THE Subscriber has just received another lot of those Cheap BOOTS and SHOES which he is selling off at most astonishing low prices.

☞ Call and see.
March 4. S. K. FOSTER.

PER "JOHN DUNCAN."—5,000 FIRE BRICKS. For sale by
FRAS. CLEMENTSON,
Sept. 25. 29, Dock-street.

GENTS. SHAWLS.—The Subscriber has received an assortment of Gentlemen's SHAWLS, of superior quality to those usually imported. Also, Gents' MUFFLERS, for sale at reasonable prices, by
D. H. HALL,
Nov. 14. 41, King-street.

Poetry.

TO AN ABSENT WIFE.

BY GEO. D. PRENTICE.

"Tis morn—the sea breeze seems to bring
Joy, health and freshness on the wing;
Bright flowers to me all strange and new
Are glittering in the early dew,
And fountains rise in every grove,
Like incense to the clouds that move
Like spirits o'er you welkin clear;
But I am sad—thou art not here.

"Tis noon—a calm, unbroken sleep,
Is on the blue wave of the deep,
A dreamy haze, like a fairy dream,
Is floating over wood and stream,
And murmurs from the musk magnolia flower,
Within the shadowy woodland bower,
Is gushing like a lonely song;
But I am sad—thou art slow.

"Tis eve—on the earth the sunset skies
And painting their own Eden dyes;
The stars come down, and trembling low
Like diamonds on the wave below,
And, like an unseen spirit, the breeze
Stealing lingering 'mid the orange trees,
Breathing its music round the spot,
But I am sad—I see the not.

"Tis midnight—with a soothing spell
The far off tones of ocean swell—
Soft as the mother's cadenced mild,
Low bending o'er her sleeping child;
And on each wind-ring breeze are heard
The rich notes of the mocking bird,
In many a wild and wondrous lay;
But I am sad—thou art away.

I dwell in dreams—low, sweet and clear;
Thy own dear voice is in mine ear;
Around my cheek thy tresses twine—
Thy own loved hand is clasped in mine,
Thy own soft lips to mine is pressed,
Thy head is pillowed on my breast;
Oh! I have all my heart holds dear,
And I am happy—thou art here.

FIRE AND LIFE
ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY
LIVERPOOL and LONDON.

Agency for New Brunswick.
Princess Street, Saint John.

Extract from the Sworn Balance Sheet of the above Company to 31st Dec., 1856, filed in the office of the Provincial Secretary, pursuant to the Act of Assembly 19 Victoria, Chapter 45.

ASSETS.

	Sterling.		
Loans and Investments on Freehold & other securities.	£442,404	16	2
American Investments,	34,704	7	0
Premises Dale St., Liverpool,	15,000	0	0
Do. Lombard St., London,	4,500	13	11
Cash due by Agents, &c.,	5,420	14	0
Do. do. in Bank,	2,243	19	6
Do. do. to meet unclaimed Dividends,	212	0	0
New York Branch,	23,600	18	4
Cash on hand,	290	10	9
	£528,376.	12	9

CAPITAL,	£2,000,000.	
Subscribed for,	1,656,100.	
Paid up,	278,415.	
Fire Premiums for the year 1856,	£151,733	9 6
Fire Losses for 1856,	88,905	10 9

All descriptions of property taken at fair rates, and losses paid promptly on reasonable proof of loss—without reference to the head Establishment
JAMES L. KAYE,
May 21, 1858. Agent for New Brunswick.

Confectionary.

THE Subscriber has just received per Pilgrim from Glasgow—150 lbs Choice CONFECTIONARY, consisting of Conversation, Peppermint & mixed LOZENGES, Motto HEARTS, Ginger & Polka *Seals*, Rosebuds, Bracelets, Polka & Princess Ball Horehound, Acid, Rose Acid, Pine Apple, Pear Fish, Strawberry, and Alphabet DROPS, Almonds BARLEY SUGAR.
July 11. S. L. TILLEY.

THE Subscribers have just received from the United States, a large assortment of Hungarian Kossuth, and Wide Awake HATS, various styles colours, qualities, and prices.

They have also made up a Stock of SATIN HATS, of the *Spring Style* for 1857.

Expected by first arrivals from Liverpool—Children's Fancy CAPS, Felt Hats, Leghorn Hats, &c

All the above will be sold at a small advance on cost *Wholesale and Retail*.
C. D. EVERETT & SON,
April 18. 15 King street.

Cordage, Pitch, Tar, &c.
Now Landing and in Store.

120 TONS Manilla CORDAGE, 6 thread to 6 inch;
14 tons Hemp Cordage 6 thd. to 6 inch;
10 do. London and Liverpool OAKUM;
150 Bbls. PITCH; 25 do. RESIN;
30 do. Coal TAR.

For Fishermen

120 Coils 6 and 9 thread RATLINE;
50 Bbls. Thin TAR. For sale at low rates by
JOHN WALKER.
St John, May 8, 1858.

Fresh Garden & Field Seeds.

JUST received from London, per barque Kingston via Liverpool, a full supply of Fresh Garden and Field SEEDS, warranted fresh and true to their kinds. The following are some of the varieties, viz:

Purpletop Swedish TURNIP SEED;
Greentop do. do. do.;
Laing's Improved do. do.;
Yellow Aberdeen do. do.;
White Round do. do.;
Early White do. do.;
Red Spanish Onion SEED;
Silver skin do. do.;
Early Cauliflower SEED;
Red Mangold Wortzel SEED;
Long Blood Beet do.;
Parsnip, Radish, Celery, Cress & Spanish Seeds
Pot Herbs, Peas and Beans in great variety;
White Clover SEED;
Long Orange Carrot Seed;
Early Horn, do. do.;
White Belgian do. do.;
Altringham do. do.;
Large Drumhead Cabbage SEED;
Early York do. do.;
Large York do. do.;
Flat Dutch do. do.;
Sugar Loaf do. do.;
Green Curled Savoy do.;
Scarlet White and Runner BEANS;

A supply of Northern Red Clover and Harvey Grass Seeds to arrive.
April 9. S. L. TILLEY.

GIN.—Now Landing ex Ship "Arthur White, 20 Hhds. GIN, 50 Gallons each, and 50 Cases And daily expected per Brig "Victor" from Charente:

6 Hhds. BRANDY, and 100 Cases.
—IN BOND—
20 Pipes, Hhds., and Qr. Casks Pale and Dark BRANDY;
10 Puncheons WHISKY, Cameron Bridge;
30 Pipes and Hhds. GIN
10 Pchs. ALCOHOL For Sale low by
May 20. JOHN KIRK.

Miscellany.

A LESSON FOR YOUNG LADIES, AND A VERY GOOD AND A VERY FUNNY STORY.

"I vow!" said Joe Chickweed, as he stood before the parlor mirror, putting the last touch to his well-oiled hair, "if I let this night pass without finding out just how I stand with Melinda Martin, then I am a cow. The critter's always acted so peaky skittish, that there's been no getting around her. I like her, and she knows it, and I am inclined to think she likes me; but she likes to have more than one string to her bow, and I ain't sure but she'd skip me any minute if she could make a better bargain. Maybe I'm doing her as injustice, and I hope I am; but she acts something 'tarnally like a real coquette, and I don't know what to make of her. But to-night," he added, fitting an immensely high and an immensely wide brimmed hat upon his shining head, "to-night I'll settle the matter—I'll cross the Rubicon, if I get my boots full of water. Melinda ain't a bad spec, and I might do worse most any where else."

"Do tell if it's come to that!" exclaimed old Mrs. Chickweed, who had entered the room unnoticed by her son, in time to hear his last sentence—"well I've all along had a notion that you was sittin' in that eye direction."

Joe turned red from his eye-winkers to his ankles, and looked very sheepish. He worked very busily, too, for a few seconds, with brushing an imaginary quantity of dust from a place between the shoulders of his coat, which he could'nt reach but he said nothing.

"There aint' nothin' to be ashamed on, Joe," continued the loquacious old lady, apparently greatly pleased at making the discovery she had, "and you spoke gospel truth when you said you might do worse elsewhere. Melinda's a very nice gal."

"Well," said Joe, gaining some courage from his mother's manner, "I'm glad you think so, for I'm bound to make her my wife, if ——"

"If what?" asked the old lady.

"Well, if everything's agin it."

"You must do your duty, Joe, and Melinda's yourn. Remember the farm."

"It is a fine farm, no mistake!" said the young man earnestly.

"No better farm of its size in the whole country than the widder Martin's!" said Mrs. Chickweed in an emphatic tone.

"No, I think dot."

"And then see how it's stocked; two yoke of the best steers in all these parts, besides her two horses, sayin' nothing of the rest of the critters. And, of course, they'll all go with Melinda when the widder's dead, and before, too, for you will go right onto the farm as soon as you marry, and take charge of everything."

"It's a good opinion, that's a fact," said Joe; but I put a higher value on Melinda than on all the property."

"And well you should; though the farm and fixin's ain't to be despised."

"Oh, I ain't one to despise 'em!"

Joe laughed and left the room, and soon after he left the house, and made his way as expeditiously as the gloom of the evening would permit, towards the residence of the widow Martin. A light was burning in the front room, but the window curtains were closely drawn, so that he could not get a view into the apartment as he passed along the yard. He knocked at the door, and was admitted by the widow in person, who, after inquiring benevolently after his health, ushered him into the parlor.

It was already occupied by two persons—Melinda and Reuben Sparks, the latter a young man who had recently returned to Springville, from California, and who was looked upon with special disfavor by the young farmer.

Joe was welcomed by the young lady, but not so cordially as formerly, and by no means so cordially as Joe thought his due. He was greeted by Mr. Sparks in a sort of a joking, condescending way, that raised his ire inwardly. However, the conversation that followed was apparently agreeable to all parties, and the evening wore away till the widow retired, when Mr. Sparks intimated that it was perhaps time for him to be retiring, as it was quite a little walk to the village. Melinda at once asserted that it was very early indeed, and he should not think of leaving so soon; whereupon Mr. Sparks was induced to remain a while longer, and Mr. Chickweed was secretly enraged that Melinda should be so much taken up with the young sprig.

California became the topic of conversation, and Reuben Sparks shone brilliantly in his descriptive accounts of the country, and what he had done there.

"Then you were'nt in the diggins?" inquired Joe, in response to something his rival had uttered.

"By no means," replied Sparks loftily. "I left digging to those that were used to it; I had'nt no taste that way."

"Oh, then you stopped in town?"

"Certainly."

"Business I sp'ose first rate there."

"Yes; a young man of talent will soon engage himself in profitable employment."

"Then I 'spect you must have done extraordinary well!" said Joe in a tone he intended should be sarcastic.

"Oh!" replied the other, laughing in a meaning way, and winking with one eye at the young lady, who appeared to "take" and enjoy it accordingly—"as for that matter I can't complain. I think I improved my chances,—I *rather* think I did. No, I don't complain, by no means."

"Then why did'nt you stay longer. You were not gone but a short time; you should have stayed a year or two more, and made yourself independent."

"Perhaps I am independent already; I say *perhaps*. Of course I cannot tell you the exact amount I made—that, I think, is quite unnecessary."

"Oh, quite."

"And perhaps, too, there were attractions in this part of the world as alluring as gold."

He looked knowingly at Melinda as he spoke, and gave her another wink, which that young lady seemed to relish, though she blushed and appeared wonderfully embarrassed for a moment. Joe noticed what occurred, and did'nt at all fancy the course affairs seemed to be acting. He knew that he should feel and appear peculiarly savage if he remained much longer, and he hinted that it was about time for him to be going; and what served to enrage him more than aught else, Melinda appeared to be of the same mind, for she offered no objection. So he took his hat and departed, with firmness in his step and bitterness in his heart.

"I don't like the look of this at all," he muttered to himself as he walked on through the dark. "She's altogether too tender to that chap to be agreeable to me. If he has not turned her head then there's a mistake somewhere. I don't believe he has brought enough money from California to buy a rope to hang him. He's after the widder's farm, now, to make it up, I'll bet my hat. Yes, sir, he means to catch Melinda, and I've been fool enough to wait till this time before coming to a final point. But perhaps it ain't too late yet!" he added after a few moments' reflection; "maybe she'll consent to have me yet, if I lose no time in asking her. I'll try it, I vow that I will. I'll go over again to-morrow, and have the thing settled."

And having come to this conclusion, he hurried forward, and soon after was dreaming of Melinda Martin, the widow, himself, and quite an infinite number of Reuben Sparkses, who were all endeavouring to chase him up a steep hill, and beat his brains out with bars of California gold.

Mrs. Chickweed was most anxious next morning to learn from her son the result of his mission to the widow's, but Joe was silent and pensive, avoiding his mother's eye, and keeping away from the house as much as possible. Late in the evening he carefully dressed himself in his best suit, and with a look of determination stamped upon his features, he once more set out to visit the fick'e Melinda.

He found her at home, and alone.

"Hope you spent an agreeable evening yesterday," remarked Joe, after he had passed the usual compliments, and seated himself near the lady.

"Oh yes, I did, I assure you," was the reply.

"Mr. Sparks, I should say, is a very entertaining young man."

Joe didn't think any thing of the kind, but quite the contrary.

"He is, indeed," responded Melinda.

Joe looked any thing but pleased at this encomium on his rival, and sat for some moments in utter silence. At length he turned to the young lady and spoke:

"I came here last evening," he said, "with the intention of speaking to you on a particular subject, but I found you so engaged that I determined to call again to-night, and so—so—"

"Here you are," said Melinda, smiling at his embarrassment.

"Yes, here I am, and now that I'm here, I'll tell you at once what I have come for. You know I love you; I've told you as much more'n once, and I've flattered myself that I were'nt indifferent to you. But now I wish you to tell me if you really love me in return, and if I may hope to make you my wife. Will you marry me?"

Joe having arrived at this important question, looked tenderly and appealingly into her face, and breathlessly waited her reply; she colored slightly and bent her eyes to the ground

"You are quite right," she said, "in supposing that you are not indifferent to me, for I regard you very highly."

"Then all my fears have been groundless!"—uttered Joe, exultingly.

"Then," continued the lady, "I cannot very well grant your wish regarding—"

"What?" cried Joe, his countenance suddenly changing.

"I cannot very well marry you!"

"And why can't you; I'd like to know what's to hinder your marrying me if you think enough of me."

"There is one reason in particular."

"What is it?"

"I'm engaged to another!"

Joe turned pale.

"Sparks!" he cried—"tell me is it Sparks?"

"Well, and if it is?"

"I knew it. Blast him, I knew what he was after!"

"I don't know that Mr. Sparks has acted in any way that he should not," remarked the young lady warmly.

"He is a cheatin' villain," replied Joe indignantly.

"You dont't know him; he's nothing of the kind!"

"It's you that don't know him; but you will before long. I've been deceived, and I ain't afraid to say so!" continued he, snatching up his hat; "it's the money he pretends to have that's lost me a wife; but when you want to touch it, just as like as not you won't be able."

He rushed from the house as he uttered these words, and hurried homeward. He found his mother still up, and was eagerly interrogated by her as to the luck he had met with. He told her all, and little condolence was she enabled to offer him in return.

For two or three days following, Joe Chickweed said very little, but he thought much. One fine morning he met his mother with a smiling face, and a sort of triumph in his look. The old lady was somewhat surprised at this sudden change in her son's manner.

"Why, what on earth's the matter now, Joe? hope you ain't going to be crazy," said she.

"Not by a long shot—I ain't quite so big a fool as that," replied Joe.

"Then what ails you?"

"Oh, I've got it all arranged at last—I've got him now."

"Who? What?"

"Why, Melinda and that vagabond Reuben Sparks: ha! ha! I'll surprise *him*."

"Well, how are you going to do it."

"Oh, it's all right. I'll do it, darn'd if I don't. I'll fix the sneaking critter," said Joe, laughing slyly.

"But how—*how*, Joe? Can't you speak out? What's got into the boy?" cried the old lady, dying with curiosity to know what was his plan.

"Well, now, I'll tell you all about it," began Joe, assuming a more sober tone.

"Well, I just wish you would."

"You know the widder has always favored my keeping company with Melinda."

"Well!"