

which seems to brood within a rock-bound coast is real or imaginary?"

Again the Doctor preserved silence. At first, I only deemed him absent; now, I began to think him absolutely rude. Suddenly he looked on the sands, quietly inscribed his name on them with his stick, and still, with that look of melancholy on his face, spoke. "Life, my dear Miss Dagmar, is but a dream." Had the Doctor been so entertaining himself with his own thoughts as not to have heard my questions? "And," continued my companion, "as this is an incontrovertible fact, why should not the dream be a happy one?" Was he taking leave of his senses, or merely meditating an essay on a very worn-out theme, for my especial benefit? I could only nod an assent, and then allow him to continue. "In my case," said the Doctor, "life might be made happier."

"How so?" I asked, the meaning of his remarks at last dawning on me—resolving to lead him up to the point, and bring matters to a crisis, in order to let him know the worst.

"In this way," answered my companion, who then drew his handkerchief from his pocket, wiped his forehead determinedly, and hesitated. Wishing to aid his speech as far as I was able, I remarked—

"You were saying, Doctor Ponder, that life in your case—"

"Might be made happier," continued the Doctor, "could I only find a companion to share it for life." And here the Doctor, gathering all his resolution, threw it into his voice, which suddenly became more earnest. "During many years I have seen the one, whose affection, could I only have been lucky enough to have won it, would have proved a dear boon to me. Yes, Agnes, I have been bold enough to have loved you. Can you think of me as a lover? Will you bestow on me the dearer name still of husband?"

He did not attempt to take my hand; he did not even dare to approach me by a hair's breadth. He fearfully uttered this avowal of his love, and I, feeling truly sorry for him, tried to make my refusal as kind as possible, and then waited calmly for my answer.

"Doctor Ponder," I said, "we have been friends, old friends; let us continue so. My heart is bound up in Flora's welfare only, and in her happiness; all the love in it is for her. I have neither the wish nor the inclination to marry any one. My good friend, I hope I have not pained you. Think of me as Agnes Dagmar always, but never associate my name as the wife of any man."

Could I not thus speak candidly and truthfully to him? I had no love to give him, nor any one now. In the calm of thought, which had succeeded my renunciation of love for Frank, I could frame my reply to the Doctor composedly.

"Have I no possible chance in the future?" he said. "Is my case hopeless? Is your answer 'No'—to be always 'No'?"

"Always," I replied. "Seek a more fitting helpmate than I am, and let us never revert to this conversation."

The Doctor did not answer me then, and his next speech was about ordinary topics; and ere we entered our house he had assumed his general manner. He had taken his refusal manfully and bore it heroically. Accustomed always to conquer feeling in the exercise of the noblest and tenderest duties which, in my opinion, it is the privilege of a human being to follow—namely, ministering to human ailments—he bravely smothered his own disappointment in his unswerving attendance on my dear sister; and I think, after this interview, there was more freedom in our friendly intercourse than before.

Closing this chapter with the spoken record of the Doctor's confession, to one, whom I am afraid, was hardly worthy of it, I cannot, through the sorrow that encompassed those days, summon language to express my gratitude to him for all those nameless and numberless acts of attention, thoughtful, and advice, tendered to her, which accordingly makes me linger lovingly over a recital in which his name figures so conspicuously.

(To be continued.)

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

MR. MACKENZIE'S RESIGNATION—DOMINION NOTES AND BANK CHARTERS—THE LETELLIER CASE—SUPPLIES—SIR R. CARTWRIGHT'S WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION—THE HIGH COMMISSIONER—BILLS SANCTIONED—DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER'S BILL—PRINTING CONTRACT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 1.—1880.—When the town awoke on Wednesday morning it was startled by the announcement in the morning papers that Mr. Mackenzie had resigned the leadership of the Opposition. He made his statement in such a way as to constitute a surprise, and I am credibly informed that members on his own side of the House were as much astonished as any body else. At the hour of about two o'clock in the morning after a prolonged and tedious sitting, the adjournment of the House was moved. It is in order for any member to say anything he likes when this motion is proposed; and Mr. Mackenzie took people somewhat aback by getting up and saying that he desired to make a statement personal to himself. He then, without giving any reasons,

simply said he had decided to resign the position of leader of the Opposition; and that, henceforth, in that House, nobody but himself would be responsible for anything he might say. Sir John Macdonald immediately rose and remarked that while it was not for his (the Government) side to make any comments on the statement which the House had just listened to, yet he might say he sincerely trusted that the member who took the place of the member for Lambton in the leadership would display the same earnestness and zeal for the interests and good of the country as he had done. That was, at least, a graceful and unpremeditated compliment from the First Minister to the retired, or—shall I say—fallen leader of the Opposition. The adjournment immediately afterwards took place, and both Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Leonard Tilley at once walked across the floor and shook hands with Mr. Mackenzie.

I do not wish to fill your columns with gossip, and yet there are some curious circumstances connected with this matter one is tempted to notice. It is known there was no previous caucus of the Opposition, and it is, therefore, probable that Mr. Mackenzie may have been disgusted with cabals to call one. It is said that a notice had been put into his hands for the calling of a caucus to consider the leadership question, or to elect a leader, and that he cut the knot by the step he took. It is known that the rivalry of Mr. Blake has given rise to a question of leadership from the very commencement of the session; and I believe I correctly informed you that this subject would have been pressed some weeks ago, had it not been kept back by the great personal influence of the late Mr. Holton, who was known to be a friend to Mr. Mackenzie, and who saw that other evils, beside party ingratitude, would follow his deposition. While, however, Mr. Mackenzie occupied the place of leader, it has been patent to everybody that Mr. Blake pushed himself forward as though he regarded it not. Take an instance: Once during a question on a Militia Bill, Mr. James Macdonald, the Minister of Justice, and Mr. Blake were having a little brush, when the latter was described by the former as the officious member who volunteered to enlighten and guide the House on every question.

It is known that a considerable portion of the Reform party has long been favourable to the leadership of Mr. Blake, and, in fact, it was said, when Mr. Burke made way for him to give him his present seat, that leadership was one of the reasons for this step; and he has an imperious self-possession which seems to have been satisfied with no other position. Mr. Mackenzie, on the other hand, was always very modest about his position, and said to his constituents, when he went for re-election after his appointment as First Minister, that he would gladly have made way for another, and that the place had followed him, not he the place.

The newspaper which is the organ of the party in this city, stated on Wednesday evening that there was the utmost cordiality among the party, and that Mr. Mackenzie will serve with as much cheerfulness as he led. As a matter of fact, I believe this will be found to be the case; but, on the other hand, it cannot be doubted that he has of late encountered much that was disgusting and many humiliations. For instance, during the very sitting in which he made his announcement, while he was moving his elaborate resolution and making an elaborate speech on the Letellier matter, Mr. Blake drew his slouched hat over his face, laid his head on his desk, and made an ostentatious parade of going to sleep, instead of helping his leader. And I showed you last week that the Pacific Railway debate brought Mr. Mackenzie necessarily a still more bitter humiliation. The mistake he made, if he were going to resign, was that he did not do so before that.

Mr. Blake, on Wednesday, was smiling and gracious to everybody, and on Thursday he was elected leader by an Opposition caucus by an unanimous vote. But to this caucus, it is said, Mr. Mackenzie and some of his friends did not go. It did, however, pass a resolution expressive of gratitude to him, and Mr. Blake made an eloquent speech.

The place of Opposition leader is now an established constitutional entity, and carries with it the place of First Minister in the event of victory. The fall of a man from that position of the eminence of Mr. Mackenzie, constitutes a most decided event in our politics, and this, in its circumstances and the manner in which it has been brought about, is without a parallel in our history.

I have thus given you the simple facts which have led up to, and are connected with this event, and I find I have no room left for my own reflections; but I may say I know it has been felt by some of the members of the Liberal party that Mr. Mackenzie's stubbornness, especially on the question of the N. P., led them to defeat; and others of them said that, while he was Minister, the Opposition might as well have been in, for any good he was to them. This is testimony in favour of his rigid honesty. It is known that he is a poor man, and this, in view of the opportunities that high place always affords, is something which may be set down to the credit of our politics. It is noticeable that Mr. Mackenzie's fall comes after Mr. Holton's death, and when Mr. Brown is on his death-bed. The *Globe*, of Thursday, stated that the late "leader was diligent, exact, prompt, wise, and high-minded." But, in reviewing these transactions and writing an eulogy on Mr. Mac-

kenzie, that paper does not even mention the name of Mr. Blake.

On Monday, Sir Leonard Tilley's Dominion Notes and Bank Charters' measures were passed through Committee of the Whole, and the principles they contained were established. There was no serious opposition. The banks seem to be quite satisfied with the measures, in as far as they are concerned, at least, they made no resistance. I have already given you the points of these measures. As respects the Dominion Notes, it cannot be said that increasing the credit from twelve to twenty millions is anything more than a natural progress in keeping with that of the country. It is not launching out into any new experiments of credits by means of notes; while as to the bank charters, the restrictions have been on the side of prudence and strengthening the credit of bank notes.

On Tuesday, Mr. Mackenzie moved a long, elaborate resolution, seeking to establish that, in the action taken by Sir John Macdonald and approved by the House, there was a subversion of the principles of Responsible Government, together with an attack on the independence of the Provincial Governments. This question is too long, if it is not too old, again to discuss; but I think it may be said that Mr. Mackenzie did succeed in tripping up Sir John upon the question of the forms adopted; and, in fact, the position assumed in his resolution was not successfully answered, because it could not be; but if one were to pass through the forms and go upon the merits, there is a much more substantial case on the side of Sir John; and, perhaps, this is one of the reasons which induced Mr. Blake to affect to go to sleep while his leader was speaking. Mr. Mackenzie's resolution was rejected by a vote of 119 to 49.

After this vote the House went into Committee of Supply and continued to pass items of the estimates till it rose at two o'clock.

On Wednesday, the Supplies were again the main business of the day, and the routine of the votes was somewhat enlivened by a motion of Sir Richard Cartwright of want of confidence arising from increase of expenditure under the heads of Civil Government, Superannuation, and the Indians of the North-West. This may be called the first gun under Mr. Blake's leadership. The point was that since 1875, in round figures, Superannuation had risen from \$100,000 to \$142,000; Indians from \$121,000 to \$250,000, and Civil Government from \$15,000 to \$97,000. Sir Richard's resolution was rejected by a vote of 127 to 59, and this may be fairly taken as the point of departure showing the relative strength of parties under the new Opposition leader. I think nothing can be more [elusive and unfair than making simple comparisons of gross figures of this nature which establish percentages of increase without looking at the actual facts on which they are based. For instance, much of the increase under the head of Civil Government and Superannuation is statutory, and, therefore, beyond the control of the Ministers, and, if thoroughly looked into may also be found to have been quite necessary and in the public interest. I believe also that nobody better than Sir Richard Cartwright knows that none of the items under these heads are excessive. As respects the Indians, the fact arising from the decrease of the buffalo had to be met. The Indians could not be allowed to starve, and withholding expenditure on this head might have led to another infinitely greater, in costly attempts to suppress outrages, to say nothing of the natural call of humanity. The manner of dealing with the Indians may be a mooted question, but in times of scarcity of food it is action that is required and not debate. The voting these estimates occupied the whole evening until two o'clock in the morning, and a great many items were passed.

On Thursday the second reading of the Bill appointing the High Commissioner was moved by Sir John Macdonald, and in Committee of the Whole the House passed a resolution to fix the salary at \$10,000 a year. This brought up a debate and afforded the Opposition an opportunity for a little onset against the Government and a little sharp speaking. Sir A. T. Galt will probably be edited by finding himself sharply criticised by his old friends—of course, one cannot say, party allies—Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie. Mr. Mackenzie was particularly sharp in pointing out the weak places of the High Commissioner's speech on the occasion of the banquet at Montreal, saying, in fact, that the statements made were grossly improper for a representative of Canada, and generally calling in question the value of the functions which he would be called upon to exercise. Mr. Blake seemed to fear that the country would be committed to some probable gross imprudence by having a representative in England, but this was happily answered by Sir John, who said the representative could not exercise greater powers than the Government which sent him, which was amenable to the House of Commons of Canada. Sir Leonard Tilley showed that as Financial Agent, Sir A. T. Galt would be the means of saving large sums to the Dominion in the management of the Canadian accounts, and this point Sir Richard Cartwright frankly admitted. This is, I think, the one great and substantial reason that may be adduced in support of the appointment, and one, moreover, which admits of no question. The only wonder is, in view of the vast sums paid out during the last few years, why something of this kind was not earlier done. The other kinds of agency which Sir Alexander will exercise, diplomatic, emigration and treaty making, may be things

which admit of question, and may amount to very little; but it may be convenient nevertheless that we should have a general Agent in London. The second reading was carried by a vote of 120 to 48.

His Excellency came down on Thursday and gave the Royal assent to a number of bills.

Sir John Macdonald made the announcement that the Government hoped to be able to close the session on Friday next.

There was a long debate in the Senate on Tuesday, on the Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill, and a good deal of sharp debating. The Bill was defeated by a majority of one upon a motion to postpone for one year; this being the ground taken in the speech of Sir Leonard Tilley to which I have before alluded, in order to allow time for the expression of opinions. One or two of the Senators also took exception to the form in which this Bill was drawn, who would have been willing to assent to the simple proposition that marriages of the kind in question should be legal if solemnized by the Church to which the contracting parties belonged. From the very decided expression of opinion of the House of Commons, and the giving-time ground assumed by the Senate, one may anticipate that this Bill will become law in another year in Canada.

The Joint Committee have decided that the printing contract of Messrs. McLean, Roger & Co. should be cancelled as a punishment for the practices connected with it. This is hard on the printers; but there are others more guilty than they. And they have probably only done what other contractors have. The thing, however, is to check the system if possible.

On Friday the business was principally routine.

INTEMPERATE TEMPERANCE.

Rev. Dr. Bartol uttered a vigorous protest at the celebration of the State Fast, in Boston, against the intemperate advocacy of temperance, or rather prohibition. He is reported as denying that total abstinence is requisite universally either for self-protection or for example's sake. It may be necessary to such as, like Mr. Gough, have been once long and thoroughly steeped, like a naturalist's preserved specimen, in alcohol. "Touch not, taste not, handle not and smell not," may be the only rule for them. A man who cannot taste of wine without wanting to take too much is not temperate, lacking power within to stop at the right point. A man is intemperate who, in his earnestness to make a point, overstates, distorts, disparages, depreciates or misrepresents. A man is intemperate who launches bitter personal sarcasms for honest diversity of views at men as good as himself and far better, if abstaining from imitation of his invidious or reply to his scorn. A man is intemperate who, with statutory laws of any sort, would tyrannically over-ride his neighbour or cramp him in the freedom he discreetly employs. The great enemy of intemperance must be dislodged by supplying its place with a stronger force. Man the stronghold of the soul with good affections, and there will be no room for strong drink to come in. I know not whether we can or ought to destroy alcohol from the face of the earth. It will in some form and measure continue to be used. It is well if we could hinder it from being adulterated and drugged. "Add to knowledge temperance," which is not an enforced act, but a state of mind, balance of character, a poise of inclination so perfect as to be peace and joy. Let me accordingly suggest to all engaged in the temperance reform that their main business, as it is the solemn obligation of us all, is to stir in ourselves and waken in our fellows the cravings whose satisfaction is the soul's salvation.

The Princess Beatrice is gaining a reputation as an elegant dresser, her toilet at the Queen's last levee of peach silk, with bodice and train of black and peach-striped velvet, suggesting something delicious and worthy a true Parisienne in the matter of taste.

The people of Lexington, Ky., mourn the death of Bulger, a sad dog, who for years has followed every funeral procession to the cemetery. The first funeral attended by Bulger was that of his owner, and ever afterward the dog seemed to be looking for his master.

Now, the general name for bread in Cabul, is a leavened cake of a long oval shape, made of whole meal, and baked in the oven. It is like very good brown bread. When malted-rye powder is mixed with the flour, the bread is rather sweet, and said to be both wholesome and nutritious.

HUMOROUS.

SOME gentlemen on dining at a table d'hôte, the conversation turned on oysters, which several of the party contended showed a sagacity that argued that they must have brains. A young man who had taken an unduly prominent part in the conversation, to the annoyance of an elderly gentleman, his neighbour, turned to the latter, and said: "Do you believe that oysters have brains?" "Certainly, I do, sir," was the prompt and pointed reply, "since they know when to shut up."

"What we Need" is the very appropriate title of an article in an exchange. We haven't read it because we know what we need better than anybody can tell us. Let's see, we want two or three additional brown stone front houses, a new spring overcoat and a suit of clothes, a team that can beat our present horses, which trot in 2:15. Send them right along to the office and then we'll make out another high catalogue of what we want.