

The defile terminated, the coffin was carried into the dépôt and deposited in the *chapelle ardente* waggon-carriage to await hooking on to the night train for Dieppe. This carriage is a novelty for France; it consists of three compartments, one draped for the coffin, the middle for the mourners, etc., and the front for baggage. Only the immediate members of the family, friends and officials, together with some members of the press, were here admitted. The four clergymen in surplice stood near the waggon; they wore college caps, save one, whose Spanish *beret* suggested anything but connection with the twelve apostles. The coffin locked in, two gentlemen entered the other department as an honorary death watch. Then each retired, after mentally pronouncing a *requiescat in pace*.

The members of the English Embassy were in court dress, and looked very dejected. There was no mistaking the grief-marks with Mr. Austin Lee, the popular secretary. The tall form of Colonel Talbot did credit to red-jacketism. The stalwart figure of Count Munster was conspicuous. Sir Edward Blount, who represents the English colony in Paris, though in his 82nd year, was as active as a "young fellow of thirty." American Minister Whitelaw Reid, who contributed one of the laurel wreaths, was more than an official representative. The most showy uniform was worn by the Chinese ambassador and his secretary; their *jupons* were, as ladies would say, in "a lovely blue silk;" they were as comely and rotund as Dutchman—just the administrative degree of stoutness that Caesar liked. The "Russians" did not create any marked sensation. The Japs looked funny in diamond editions of French uniforms. The Siamese came most up to the barbaric pearl and gold of the gorgeous East. What a contrast between the now and the Embassy that came to salaam Louis IV. I was looking at an engraving of that event just a few days ago! The most dowdy-looking ambassador was the representative of the Sultan. Wonder if the Porte pays its foreign agents as unpunctually as its officers and soldiers. The "hermit mourner" was M. Arsène Houssaye, the deceased's oldest and warmest literary friend.

As ambassador to France, Earl Lytton was an all-round success. He committed no errors, he made no enemies. He was in touch with all that was intellectual in France; he was a Briton with a Gallic temperament. Popularity came to him unbidden for; learned, he was courted by the learned. Neither a poseur nor pretentious, he claimed simply his place among artists, scientists and men of general intelligence, and that place was accorded him in the front line. His social qualities were equally estimable, aye, fascinating, and these, combined with the gracefulness and simple elegance of his Countess, made the British Embassy one of the *premiers salons* of Paris. They are mundane, rather than political, qualities that are required in English ambassadors to France.

The Chinese question is commencing to monopolize all attention. Element number one in the surprises is the inactivity of the united Western navies. The general impression in circles here is, that the rebellion wave intends to not only sweep away the existing dynasty, but all Europeans, no matter whether Christians or infidels, saints or sinners. This means that if the Chinese do not smash up their huge and unwieldy empire themselves, the "foreign devils" must do it for them. The Flowery Land would thus become another dark continent for "grab-bings" by Westerns. Germany and Italy may be expected to cut out for themselves there handsome colonial realms. Of course the other powers will take care of number one also. That would give the Westerns work for many years to come, and by then Alsace and Lorraine, the Balkans and Spanish Morocco would be only twilight controversies. As many seers proclaim that the yellow race is destined in due time to sweep India and Europe, splitting the torrent's source now before it can swell and roll westwards, might be a necessity for civilization. A stitch in time saves nine. What a market would be opened up if China were gridironed with railways and arterially drained. Speculation and capital might desert the African continent for the Celestial Empire; missionaries might then be let loose on the heathen Chinese, without dread of being sliced up, or reduced to cubic morsels for the hell broth in John Chinaman's cauldron.

It is not quite clear as yet what is the aim of the agitation now being organized about the conviction of the Archbishop of Aix for writing a violent letter to his—secular—superior, the Minister of Cultes. The Concordat places all the clergy of France under common law; the incriminated archbishop was fined 3,000 frs. for violating it. A newspaper opened a subscription, which was contrary to law, to pay the penalty; it has been cited for doing so, and when fined, as it will likely be, the religious journals intend to open a penny subscription to meet the penalty—some 500 frs.—that the sinning *confrère* will have to pay. If the Government has made a blunder, in originally prosecuting the prelate, that was an affair for Parliament to settle, not an occasion to violate the law. The latter is made to be obeyed; if bad, reform it. The law prohibits the gutting of a newspaper office; yet mobs have ere now done so, on account of irritating articles in journals. But the rioters must not disobey the law; nor can excuses be accepted for their doing so. It cannot be the object of this agitation of the royalist-religious party to try a fall with the republican-religious party, the freemasons, and the indifferents. It is the interest of the nation to uphold the Concordat for the sake of public tranquility.

Z.

## THREE RONDELETS.

I.

WILL he return  
When summer's golden days are dead?  
Will he return  
One tithe of my undying love to learn,  
When winter's ice-cold blasts shall hoar his head?  
To say the fond words that were left unsaid,  
Will he return?

II.

Without his love  
My life with bitterness is interlined;  
Without his love  
I heed not if the sky is fair above;  
In all the joys of Heaven and earth combined,  
No meagre crumb of comfort can I find  
Without his love.

III.

One hope remains  
Above the rebel longings of my breast.  
One hope remains,  
Coursing like fever through my throbbing veins,  
That I shall meet him as no passing guest,  
When all are gathered to the final Rest.  
One hope remains.

A. MELBOURNE THOMPSON.

## OLD NEW-WORLD STORIES.

ST. DENYS DE FRONSAC.

THE Treaty of Saint Germain en Laye was signed on the 29th of March, 1632. By this treaty England transferred back to France all the possessions in Canada and Acadie which the former had acquired since 1627, mainly through the efforts of David Kirk and his brothers, Louis and Thomas. In the spring of that same year, Isaac de Razilli, Knight of St. John and Captain in the French navy, was sent out in command of a squadron to take possession of the territories thus ceded. With Razilli on that occasion there were two men who afterwards attained some distinction in the New World. These were Charles De Menou, Seigneur d'Aulnay de Charnisé and Nicholas Denys—or St. Denys—Seigneur de Fronsac. The latter was also accompanied by his brother, Denys de Vitré. The after history of D'Aulnay has been treated elsewhere.

This St. Denys and his history should be better known than they are. He was one of those men occasionally met who, oftentimes to their own great personal disadvantage, but very frequently to the ultimate benefit of others, are truthfully said to be "before their age." Of all the European visitors to the shores of Acadie, or Nova Scotia, St. Denys is almost the only one who seems to have taken a correct view as to what were really the most valuable natural resources of the country. He does not leave us in doubt as to what those views were; for he has left us a carefully prepared book in which they are fully expounded. The history of his own experiences in the country are proof of his sincerity and that he did not fear to act upon his own convictions.

Razilli, who represented not only the King of France, but Richelieu's "Company of New France," made his first landfall at La Have; and there he commenced the settlement of a colony. St. Denys was not long upon the ground until he saw that, in the fisheries of that coast, there was a certain prospect of a highly profitable business. It is probable that Razilli quite concurred with him in this view, for he, too, was obviously a man of clear head and enterprising disposition. However that may be, we find that, soon after their arrival at La Have, St. Denys, Razilli and a Breton merchant named Dauray had entered into partnership for the establishment of a sedentary fishery at La Have. This venture proved successful from the outset. The partners sent some cargoes to France, where the fish sold well. It is said that St. Denys established a branch fishery at Rossignol (now Liverpool), and there seems no reason to doubt that he prosecuted the fishery far to the east of La Have, and especially in Chedabucto Bay, already noted for the wealth of its fisheries. Eventually, they sent the *Catherine*, a vessel of 200 tons, under the command of St. Denys de Vitré, with a full cargo of fish to Portugal. This proved to be an unfortunate venture. The *Catherine* arrived in Portugal all right, but, by a series of swindling transactions, which need not here be recapitulated, St. Denys was cheated out of both ship and cargo, and was glad even to make his own safe way back to France. This St. Denys de Vitré afterwards became a Captain in the French navy.

It has been told in another of these narratives that, in dividing his command into the sub-jurisdictions of his three lieutenants, D'Aulnay, La Tour and St. Denys, Razilli had conferred upon the latter the special charge of the Gulf coast. Razilli died in 1636. St. Denys was soon afterwards—the precise date is not known—confirmed by the King in this command, which comprised the whole coast of Acadie, from Cape Canso to Cape Rosier, and also the islands of Cape Breton, St. John's and Newfoundland. He applied himself to his charge with an energy and a sagacious industry which were without precedent among his *confrères*. He built a fort near the head of Chedabucto Bay and another at St. Peter's, on the near island

of Cape Breton. He diligently explored the country. What is now known as the Strait of Canso was named for him the *Passage de Fronsac*. He discovered a river which flows into the Grand Bras d'Or from the westward, and still bears the name of River Denys. He commenced a settlement upon the commodious and beautiful harbour of St. Anne's. He even extended his operations up the coast to Miramichi, and into the Bay Chaleur.

In the ten years' warfare which was maintained without cessation, between La Tour and D'Aulnay, St. Denys took no part with or against either of the belligerents, although it seems clear, from his writings, that he considered D'Aulnay in the wrong. The prosecution of the fisheries was his principal occupation, but it was by no means the only industry in which he engaged. St. Peter's was the seat of his principal operations. There, as indeed everywhere else where he left his mark, he set himself diligently to work to clear and cultivate the land. He thought very highly of the country, and gives graphic descriptions of its attractions and its capabilities. He truly says:—

"It is then very certain that one may dwell there (in Acadie) with as much comfort as in France itself, if the envy of the French against each other did not ruin the designs of the best intentioned persons."

At one time St. Denys had over eighty acres under cultivation at St. Peter's. A prettily situated and thriving village now occupies the ground which was first cleared from the primeval forest by Nicholas St. Denys, Sieur de Fronsac; and a ship canal runs past his fields. Upon the top of a now wooded hill, eastward, and nearly abreast of the southern end of that canal, may be seen to-day the outlines of an old redoubt. This might be, and often is, supposed to be the remains of St. Denys' fort, but it is not. It is a work of a much later period. St. Denys' fort, there is every reason to believe, was on the west side of the canal, just where the upland bank closes upon the shore of St. Peter's Bay. This place he called "Little St. Peter's" (*Le Petit St. Pierre*), a name which it continued to bear down to our own time, in contradistinction to "Big St. Peter's," which was more to the south-eastward, and around what afterwards became the widely-known Kavanah homestead.

Thus affairs went on with St. Denys, down to the year 1650, he and his little colonies flourishing satisfactorily, as they certainly deserved to do. In that year D'Aulnay de Charnisé died. Thereupon one Emmanuel Le Borgne, a Rochelle merchant, trumped up a claim against the deceased D'Aulnay's estate, alleging that D'Aulnay, at the time of his death, owed him the sum of 260,000 livres—about \$52,000 of our money of to-day. The widow of D'Aulnay, as guardian of her and his minor children, had already entered into an agreement with M. Caesar Duc de Vendome, a nobleman holding a high official position at Court, to the effect that he should protect her rights, and, because of the expense he must thus incur, he, his heirs and assigns should be co-Seigneurs of Acadie, with her and her children. This agreement was confirmed by the King in December, 1652; and now Le Borgne was taken into this partnership—or rather, conspiracy—against La Tour and St. Denys. He, too, assumed to be a co-Seigneur of Acadie; and shipped, or pretended to ship, a large invoice of goods to that country, in the name and pretended behalf of the Duke. It is satisfactory to know that the Duke's claim, as subsequently made in form, was held to be spurious; and neither he, nor his heirs, ever received anything from this operation.

In the very next year (1653), La Tour adroitly extinguished this conspiracy, so far as it affected him, by himself marrying the widow of D'Aulnay. St. Denys was less fortunate.

Le Borgne acted upon the peculiar idea that he could best serve his own interests by ruining the interests of others. He made his first dash at the unoffending St. Denys. Learning that the latter had commenced a settlement at St. Peter's, he sent thither a force of sixty men with orders to break up the settlement, and seize and carry off St. Denys himself. On arrival at that place, Le Borgne's emissary and commander was informed by St. Denys' people that he himself was away on a visit to his new settlement at St. Anne's. Here was a fine, easy opportunity for carrying out Le Borgne's savage instructions. St. Denys' men were taken by surprise and were in no condition to encounter hostilities, and they were at once made prisoners. A vessel of St. Denys', lying in the harbour, and having on board a cargo valued at 50,000 livres (\$10,000), was seized; and less portable property was destroyed. The insolent trespasser then sent a well-armed party of twenty-five men to lay an ambush for St. Denys, as he came up the Bras d'Or, on his return from St. Anne's, and seize him before he could have any opportunity of learning what had occurred at St. Peter's during his absence. It is highly probable that this party lay in wait on Holy Family Island (*Isle de la Sainte Famille*), now called "Chapel Island." St. Denys was taken entirely by surprise, was seized, carried a prisoner to Port Royal, thrust into a dungeon, and put in irons like a common felon. The same party who had lent themselves to this villainy called on their way at La Have, where, since the death of Razilli, there had grown up a sort of miscellaneous and independent colony. Here Le Borgne's men, acting upon his characteristic orders, set fire to all the buildings in the place, the chapel included, destroyed property valued at \$20,000, and left only desolation behind them.