

# THE



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### A STORM AT SEA DESCRIBED.

(From Miss Martineau's "Retrospect of Western Travel.")

Before I went on board, I had said that I should like to witness a storm as fierce as we could escape from without fatal damage. Some passenger repeated this wish of mine (very common in persons going to sea for the first time) in the hearing of the mate, who told the sailors; who, accordingly, were overheard saying one afternoon, that I had better come on deck, and see what I should see. My clerical friend took the hint, a called me hastily, to observe the crew make ready for a squall. I ran up, and perceived the black line advancing over the water from the horizon—the remarkable indication of a coming squall. The sailors were running up the shrouds to get the sails in. The second mate was aloft, in the post of danger, his long hair streaming in the wind, while with us below all was calm. The sails were got in just in time. The captain did not come down to dinner. Orders were given to "splice the main-brace;" for the crew had been handling the ropes since four in the morning. I saw them come from their grog, and then wait for what might happen next. By sunset the sky was tremendous; the sea rising, the wind moaning and whistling strangely. When I staggered to the stern to bid the sea good night, according to custom, the waters were splendidly luminous. Floods of blue fire were dashed abroad from our bows, and beyond, the whole expanse sparkled as with diamonds.

All night the noises would have banished sleep, if we could have lain quiet. There was a roar of wind; the waves dashed against the sides of the ship, as if they were bursting in; water poured into our cabin, though the skylight was fastened down. The state of our cabin was intolerable;—the crashing of glass, the complaining voices of the sick ladies, the creaking and straining of the ship and above all, the want of air, while the winds were roaring overhead. I saw no necessity for bearing all this; so, sick as I was, I put my clothes on, swathed myself in one cloak, and carried up another, wherewith to lash myself to something on deck.

There, all was so glorious, that I immediately stumbled down again to implore the other ladies, to come up and be refreshed; but no one would listen to me. They were too ill. I got the captain's leave to fasten myself to the post of the binnacle, promising to give no trouble, and there I was the whole of the never-to-be-forgotten scene.

We were lying in the trough of the sea, and the rolling was tremendous. The captain wished to wear round, and put out a sail, which, though new, was immediately split to ribands; so that we had to make ourselves contented where we were. The scene was perfectly unlike what I had imagined. The sea was no more like water than it was like land or sky. When I had heard of the ocean running mountains high, I thought it was a mere hyperbolical expression.—But here the scene was of huge wandering mountains—wandering as it to find a resting-place—with dreary leaden vales between. The sky seemed narrowed to a mere slip overhead, and a long-drawn extent of leaden waters seemed to measure a thousand miles; and these were crested by most exquisite shades of blue and green where the foam was about to break. The heaven seemed rocking their masses of torn clouds, keeping time with the billows to the solemn music of the winds; the most swelling and mournful music I ever listened to. The delight of the hour I shall not forget: it was the only new scene I had ever beheld that I had previously, in idea, been unable to form a correct notion of.

INTRIGUE IN TURKEY, AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.—Our Armenian host relates a

most tragical story of intriguing, which took place about thirteen years ago. A young Greek-merchant formed an intimacy with the wife of a Turk of some consequence, who had been in the habit of buying goods of him, and the lady was imprudent enough to admit her lover into the house when her husband was absent from Constantinople in the provinces. The Greek paid his visits in the loose feridee or cloak, veil, and common out-of-doors attire of a Turkish lady.—Suspicion, however, appears to have been excited, for the Turk returned suddenly, and went straight to his harem, without first sending to give notice, as is the custom. The Greek in making his escape stabbed the husband, but not mortally, and the latter sent instant information to Achmet Pasha. The Greek was seized in attempting to leave Constantinople, and the unfortunate lady was immediately taken from her home and family by the Pasha's slaves. The Sultan was informed of the circumstance, and ordered the instant execution of both parties. Mine host, when he heard of the seizure of the Greek, hastened to see if a heavy ransom would procure a mitigation of the capital punishment. He was desired to wait and carry back the answer to the "vile sons of unbelieving mothers" who had sent him. He was ordered to follow a black slave, and passed through several courts up a wooden staircase into a small room, where, on a divan in one corner, sat the unfortunate lady sobbing, and two black mutes arranging a piece of catgut. My informant was thrust into one corner of the room, and the unhappy woman was immediately ordered to seat herself in the middle of the floor; not complying, and resisting those who came up to pull her by force, she was beaten upon the neck and face, dragged into the middle of the room, and held down in a sitting position, with her legs under her. A mute then endeavoured to throw a piece of catgut fastened to a stick over her head, but the girl (for she was not 20) laid fast hold of her long hair, to prevent the passage of the fatal noose, and with such desperate firmness that they were obliged to cut the hair away from her grasp with a knife. Having adjusted the catgut, the slave gave the stick three or four turns; there was a great noise in her throat, her eye-balls darted from their sockets, and she fell dead on the floor. The body was put into a sack, and carried privately through some gardens to a boat on the sea of Marmora. He was ordered to go along with it, and with the greatest horror he observed on reaching the boat the young Greek, quietly seated with his hands tied behind his back.—Without a word the whole party were towed beyond the walls to a small rising ground, upon which were a few trees. They disembarked, the sack was untied, and the Greek, after being indulged with a view of his mistress, hung up by the neck to the opposite tree, and the whole was concluded by both bodies being pitched into the sea, and the frightened Armenian ordered to go back to them that sent him, and take care of himself.—Addison's *Damascus and Palmyra*.

BRISTOL TRADESMEN'S CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY.—The proceedings of the annual meeting of this society, held on Tuesday, will be found in our second page. The members were highly delighted to crowd once more round their staunch and excellent president, Mr. Daniel, and to add another assurance of their attachment to the man whom Lord John Russell vainly endeavoured to degrade by erasing his name from the list of magistrates. We rejoice to add that Mr. Daniel is in good health and as ready as ever to head the band of Bristol conservatives. Let them, on their parts, be active, vigilant, and united, prepared for a contest whenever it may take place, either municipal or parliamentary, and success will crown their efforts. And this, we entreat them to recollect, they

must be, or they will consent to deliver over the best interests of this city into hands ready to sacrifice them to their revolutionary and anti-social principles. *Felix Farley*.

AUSTRALIA.—Lord Glenelg has prepared a bill to present to the House of Lords, continue until December 31, 1841, and from thence to the end of the then next session of parliament, an act of the 10th Geo IV., for providing for the government of the settlements in Western Australia, on the western coast of New Holland. It will be read the second time on Friday—(this day.)

### P. E. ISLAND, AUG. 29.

Numerous conjectures are afloat as to the object of the recent convocation of Governors at Quebec. The attention of the United States' Government has been awakened by it, and it appears by an article which we subjoin, that the idea in that country is, that it is connected with the question of the disputed territory between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick. This subject, it is far from improbable, may have come under discussion, and may have occupied no inconsiderable share of their attention; but the main object of the meeting, we have good grounds for believing, was for the purpose of affording the Governor General an opportunity of explaining to the Governors of the different Provinces his plans for the future governance of this important portion of her Majesty's dominions. Earl DURHAM it is plain to be seen, is not a man of half measures. All will agree that his plan evinces a grand and comprehensive mind, however opinions may vary as to the practicability of it. As far as our information goes—and we have it from good authority—it is briefly this;

A Union of the five Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, (Newfoundland to have the option of joining,) under one Federal Government, each Province retaining its own Local Legislature, *divested of a Legislative Council, or Upper Chamber*—the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Province, aided by an Executive Council, of not less than five members, to have the power of revising Bills, and suggesting alterations therein to the Assembly, but not to have the power of rejection—the Governor to have a vote on all Bills, as at present. Each Province joining the Federal union, whether large or small, to send ten members to represent them in a General Assembly which shall legislate on such matters as are common to all, or to two or more of them, and which shall also be a Court of Appeal, to take cognizance of such cases as have heretofore been referred to the British Parliament or the Privy Council. The Governor General, with the assistance of a Council, to have the same power, with regard to Bills passed by the General Assembly, as the other Governor's have in the Provincial Assemblies. Quebec, Montreal and Halifax to send two members each to the General Assembly (to be included in the ten returnable by the Province)—the same privilege to be extended to any other town as soon as its population amounts to 15,000 persons. Each of the Provinces to have the privilege of returning two Members to represent its interests in the British Parliament. The whole of the Revenues of each Province to be placed at the disposal of its House of Assembly, we shall determine the amount of salary to be paid to its Governor, Judges, and other public Officers, and provide for the payment of its Civil List.

Such is an outline of the comprehensive measure which, if sanctioned and supported by the people of the different Provinces, is proposed to be recommended to the Imperial Parliament. As to how the sense of the people is to be

arrived at, upon a subject in which they are so deeply interested, we cannot with any confidence speak. In the meantime, however, Commissioners from each of the Provinces are to proceed to Quebec, without delay, for the purpose of affording the Governor General every information on the subject; and should their opinion coincide with his own views, it would, no doubt materially tend to forward his grand object—the amelioration of the condition of the Colonists, by amending their political institutions. But in the choice of these Commissioners the people are to have no voice; they are to be selected by the different Governors.—Persons so appointed cannot, therefore, by any construction of language, be said to possess a representative character, however much they may assist the Governor General with their advice. The sense of the people may be guessed at, but can only be known with certainty by a direct appeal to themselves; and that the result of such an appeal would be in favour of the Earl of DURHAM's policy, there are few, we believe who can entertain much doubt on the subject.

The Commissioners for this Island (three or five in number, it is said) will be chosen immediately, and before our next paper issues from the press, they will, in all probability, be on their way to Quebec. Indeed, if it is true, as is asserted, that the *Medea* is to call here on her return from Halifax, for the purpose of conveying them to Quebec, along with the Commissioners for Nova Scotia, it is not unlikely but they may have arrived at their destination before another week elapses.

We refrain for the present from any comment upon the policy of the proposed measures, as this article has already extended to a length much greater than we intended.

MELBOURNE AND DURHAM.—With what feelings his Lordship anticipates Lord Durham's next despatch it is impossible to guess. Those who know Lord Durham best, think it would be extremely unwise to provoke him, and unless his Lordship comes down from his stilts, Lord Melbourne is laid in the dirt for ever.

"War with England" is the popular watchword in America, the two candidates for the Presidentship making their advocacy of it the principal claim in their respective canvasses.

There it yet a hope, however, that—thanks to the rapidity of the voyage to America—Lord Durham's gentle answer to the despatches he was received, and the throw-over of Lord Melbourne, will arrive before Parliament is up, unless his Excellency should take the still stronger measure of coming over himself. We do not envy the Premier the agitation which he will suffer during the interval.

The *Hercules* has brought the latest news from the seat of the Canadian Government. The amnesty which the Governor-General has granted has created great alarm in one party, without having excited the smallest gratitude in the other. His Excellency had given a splendid ball, and had met with an accident, unaccompanied with any serious consequences, by tumbling down the side of H. M. S. *Inconstant*. From all we hear, we believe the position of Lord Durham to be this—If at the time he receives Lord Melbourne's throw-over and positive directions to cancel the very objectionable appointments which he has made, he thinks himself likely to be ultimately successful in the objects of his mission, he will swallow the affront, and throw Massrs. Turton, Wakefield, & Co., overboard, as Lord Melbourne has thrown him; but if on the contrary he sees no probability of a tolerably creditable issue to himself, he will avail himself, of the insult offered to his power and dignity, and come home in disgust to try his hand in "the art of tormenting" his friends at home.

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