

25, 1840.

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# The Standard.

## OR FRONTIER GAZETTE.

Volume 7.

SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1840.

Number 51

### AN ELIGIBLE MATCH. A Tale of a Country House.

BY MRS. ANDY.

(Continued.)

"Well," pursued Mr Burrows, "he is recently engaged to Julia, the third daughter, a very pretty girl, with auburn ringlets, and a most delightful voice; she has no money, but Captain Ormond's father has sufficient for both."

"And are you quite certain that there is no mistake about this engagement?" asked Penelope.

"I cannot tell what makes you fair ladies so incredulous," replied Mr. Burrows; "but I have a letter from the young lady's father in my pocket, informing me of the engagement, and I think you will allow I am entitled to speak confidently on the subject."

Mr. Burrows shortly took his leave, and the smothered tide of family indignation then burst forth.

"I could not have believed it possible!" exclaimed Penelope.

"He has quite insinuated himself into our house under false pretences," said Arabella.

"I suppose he must stay till the end of the week," said my mother; "but I shall be very distant and cool in my manner towards him."

"Let us view the subject dispassionately," said my father; "I am just as vexed as any of you; but, after all, I do not know that we have much cause to consider ourselves aggrieved; we have only been acquainted with Capt. Ormond one day, and it is not very surprising that he should not feel sufficiently intimate with us to confide in us as an engagement which has been so very recently formed."

"He ought to have made it known to us the very first hour of his arrival," interrupted my mother.

"I do not think so," said my father; "I remember I was once staying at a country-house, and a young man arrived who immediately entered the lady of the house to make known to her guests that he was engaged to be married, in order that no false hopes might be excited in the minds of the young ladies by any courteous attentions that he might pay them. She did so, and he was quite sent to Coventry; everybody said he must be an affected coxcomb, who entertained an overweening opinion of his own fascinations, and expected all the world to do the same. We have no one to blame for our wrong impression concerning Captain Ormond; I am sure he has paid no attentions to Eva that Julia Mapleton herself could have objected to, if she had been endowed with the property of becoming invisible at pleasure; no harm has been done, and engaged young men must be permitted to live, breathe, and receive civil treatment as well as disengaged ones."

"At all events," said my mother, "I suppose you do not expect Eva to curl her hair, and wear her best dresses, and fatigue herself with practising difficult songs while he stays?"

"Certainly not," replied my father; "I only expect Eva, and every other member of my family, to behave with good breeding, which has always characterised them. When Captain Ormond is married, we shall very likely find his wife a pleasant and desirable visiting acquaintance."

"And perhaps, after all," gently insinuated Penelope, "we may discover that the rumour of his engagement is unfounded."

"That is not at all likely," said my mother; "Mr. Burrows is far from having any addition to tattle and misrepresentation; besides, I have more than once heard him say that he was in habits of intimacy with the Mapletons of Hailbury, and you know he had the father's letter in his pocket."

We dispersed to our several occupations. When my brother returned he was informed of the news of the morning, which elicited from him the vehement prophecy that "Eva would be an old maid after all!" and a decided change took place in the manners of the family towards Captain Ormond. I do not mean to say that there was any coldness or rudeness attached to the change; good nature and good breeding still forbade such an evidence of disappointment; but he was allowed to go out and come in when he pleased, no one seemed to know or care whether he took notice of me or not, and so far from seeing me exalted on a pedestal as the idol of my family, he beheld me treated with the occasional unceremonious freedom to which the daughter of even an affectionate family is very liable to be exposed. My father on one occasion brought in an account which he had desired me to cast up for him, and told me that I was very careless, and had made the sum total quite wrong. My mother, when I kept the carriage waiting a few minutes, informed me that I was getting more and more unpunctual and thoughtless, and my brother advised me to ask Miss Shillburne for the name of her dressmaker, saying that her gowns seemed to fit the shape a great deal better than mine. Arabella was again the good humored, sometimes saucy younger sister, and Penelope, the useful, wonted-winding, pattern-taking cousin, and nothing more. Strange as it may seem, Captain Ormond appeared much hap-

pier than during the first day of his visit, and evidently liked me a great deal better; he walked with me, conversed with me, went out sketching with me, and even pleaded guilty to the accusation of a fine voice, and sang duets with me, occasionally diversifying the performance by single songs, which pleased my fancy much better than

"This is my eldest daughter, sir."

He hourly gained ground in my good opinion; he was certainly not only an "eligible match," but an accomplished and engaging young man. Captain Ormond had arrived on Thursday for a week's visit; it was Wednesday evening, tea was over, we all returned round the grounds, for since I had returned to white muslin dresses and braided hair, I had no finer to watch over, and was therefore permitted to enjoy the evening breezes, unchecked by my mother's admonitions.

Captain Ormond and myself had wandered to some distance from the rest of the family; we passed into a meadow, the gate of which stood invitingly open. He offered me his arm, I accepted it, and made an observation on the beauty of the wild roses in the hedges. Captain Ormond did not reply to me.

"To-morrow," he said, at length, "I leave this delightful place. I am a most unhappy being. I have given both Mr. and Mrs. Warwick a dozen hints to be asked to stay, but they have not been taken; to-morrow my short visit must end."

"A week is indeed a short time," I rejoined, feeling that I returned a very common-place answer, and yet doubtful what answer I could have made that would have been much better.

"It is," he answered, "and yet in some respects it is a long time, because it enables us to rectify first-formed opinions, which would have been very unjust and uncharitable. Will you forgive me, Miss Warwick, if I tell you that the first day of my arrival I did not like you at all? I thought you artificial, over-dressed, full of display, and the spoiled child of a family who were all so devotedly wrapped up in you that they overrated your good qualities beyond all the bounds of reason, and demanded that the rest of the world should perform a similar homage to you: can you pardon me for this?"

"Yes," I said; and I mentally added, "I can very well pardon you, because your construction is a great deal more favorable to us than a real view of the case would have been."

"One circumstance even now perplexes me," said the captain; "after the first day you all seemed changed; your family became easy, natural, and unaffected, and you, Miss Warwick—how can I describe the delight that I have received from your accomplishments, your intellect, your excellence?"

I was on the point of disclaiming these compliments but I remembered a maxim of Rochefoucauld's: "Le refus des louanges est un desir d'être loué deux fois," and was silent. Captain Ormond continued, "Were you in London, I might hope to enjoy your occasional society; but now, how dreary and sad a prospect is mine to live for several months away from you!"

"It is lucky," thought I, "that Julia Mapleton has not according to my father's idea, the power of rendering herself invisible at pleasure;" but strange to say, instead of smiling at the fancy I had conjured up, the tears began to flow down my cheeks.

"Dearest Eva!" exclaimed Captain Ormond, "I cannot bear the sight of those tears; I cannot leave you unless absolutely and irretrievably banished from your presence by yourself and your relations. Do not forbid me to speak to your father this evening; let me tell him how much I admire and love you."

"My cheek crimsoned at the insult."

"Is it possible," said I, "that you forget that you are an engaged man?"

"You seem to be deeply versed in my concerns," said Captain Ormond with a smile, "considering that I am such a recent acquaintance; nay, you know more of me than I do of myself. I assure you that I am not aware that I am an engaged man."

"Are you acquainted with the Mapletons of Hailbury?" I asked, anxious to discover some misrepresentation in the statement of Mr. Burrows; "do you not admire Julia, the third daughter, who has auburn ringlets, and a very fine voice?"

"You bring circumstantial evidence closely to bear upon me," he replied, again smiling, "and I cannot pretend to dispute it. I know the Mapletons of Hailbury, and I not only admire Julia, the third daughter, (whose ringlets and voice are accurately described in the indictment,) but I have a very sincere regard for her."

I indignantly detached my arm from his. "Stay," he said, gently replacing it, "I think as a countryman of mine once said, that I can satisfactorily refute the charge brought against me, by proving myself another person! I have a younger brother, who is in the army as well as myself; he holds the same rank, and consequently he is generally known as Captain Ormond; he is just engaged to Miss Julia Mapleton, and although I will not tell you that you will find her so charming a young lady as yourself, I can venture to say that you will like her very much as a sister-in-law,

should you ever decide on admitting her to that honour by accepting the offer of my hand."

I need not detail the rest of our conversation; in about an hour we returned home. My mother was in the hall.

"How can you stay out so late, Eva?" she said indignantly; "you will certainly take cold."

Captain Ormond interrupted her by asking to speak in private with Mr. Warwick; she told him he would find him in the library, and then took her way to the drawing-room, followed by me, and saying angrily—

"I wonder what business engaged men have to want private interviews with fathers of families!"

I quickly reconciled her to the liberty Captain Ormond had taken, by informing her of his business; she eagerly embraced me.

"I congratulate you, dear Eva," she said, "on an alliance quite equal to my expectations for you, and I hope Arabella will profit by your good example; I must say, however, it is a wonder to me how the matter has been brought about."

"So it is to me," said I; and I spoke with perfect sincerity.

"You certainly," continued my mother, "appeared to great advantage the first day, and part of the second; but, after the mistake into which we were led by that stupid Mr. Burrows, you were so inanimate, and indifferent, and careless, (not that I blame you for it, my dear, because I gave you permission to be so,) and we all made ourselves so dull and disagreeable, that I am sure we were enough to repulse any eligible match in the world."

Captain Ormond and my father now entered, both looking highly satisfied with the result of their conference, and the latter hardly able to contain the effluence of his delight; he was at all times a good-natured man, but on the present occasion he was not contented to lavish his kindness on his wife, children, and future son-in-law, but actually went the length of caressing the lap-dog, and paying compliments to Penelope.

Captain Ormond was our guest during the remainder of the summer: his father gave a warm assent to his marriage, and we removed to London earlier in the winter than usual, for the purpose of buying wedding clothes.

I was at the Pantheon Bazaar, purchasing some "holy trifles," when I descried Mr. Burrows at a little distance, I ran to him, shook hands with him cordially, and stood, talking to him for some time, although he had never been a particular favorite of mine.

"What in the world, Eva," said my mother, when we were seated in the carriage, "could induce you to waste so much precious time with that tiresome old man? I have hardly patience to look at him; he was very nearly the cause of depriving you of Captain Ormond's proposal."

I merely said I did not wish to slight an old neighbor; but in my heart I felt assured that I owed a peculiar obligation to Mr. Burrows; and that his unintentional blunder had been the means of repairing those of my family, and that the disengagement of my person, mind, and manners from their gals-garb, and restoration to their easy every-day simplicity, had been the real cause of procuring for me all the happiness of an union of hearts, and all the advantages of an eligible match!

### UNITED STATES.

#### Extracts from the President's Message.

A quorum of both Houses of Congress appearing in their place on Wednesday, the President transmitted to them the following Message:

#### Fellow Citizens of the Senate,

#### and House of Representatives:

Our devout gratitude is due to our Supreme Being for having graciously continued to our beloved country, through the vicissitudes of another year, the invaluable blessings of health, plenty and peace. Scarcely has this favored land been so generally exempted from the ravages of disease, or the labor of the husbandman more amply rewarded; and never before have our relations with other countries been placed on a more favorable basis than that which they so happily occupy at this critical juncture in the affairs of the world.

A series of questions of long standing, difficult in their adjustment, and important in their consequences, in which the rights of our citizens and the honour of the country were deeply involved, have, in the course of a few years, (the most of them during the successful administration of my immediate predecessor,) been brought to a satisfactory conclusion; and the most important of those remaining are, I am happy to believe, in a fair way of being speedily and satisfactorily adjusted.

With all the Powers of the world our relations are those of honorable peace. Since the adjustment, nothing serious has occurred to interrupt or threaten this desirable harmony. If clouds have lowered about the other hemisphere, they have not however cast their portentous shadows upon our happy shores. Bound by no entangling alliances, yet linked by a common nature and interest with the other nations of mankind, our aspirations are for the preservation of peace, in

whose solid and civilizing triumphs all may participate with a generous emulation. Yet it behooves us to be prepared for any event, and to be always ready to maintain those just and enlightened principles of national intercourse, for which this government has ever contended. In the shock of contending empires, it is only by assuming a resolute bearing, and clothing themselves with defensive armour, that neutral nations can maintain their independence intact.

The excitement which grew out of the territorial controversy between the United States and Great Britain having in a great measure subsided, it is hoped that a favorable period is approaching for its final settlement. Both governments must now be convinced of the dangers with which the question is fraught; and it must be their desire, as it is their interest, that this perpetual cause of irritation should be removed as speedily as practicable.

In my last message you were informed that the proposition for a commission of exploration and survey promised by Great Britain had been received, and that a counter project, including also a provision for the certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute was then before the British government, for its consideration. The anxiety of that government, accompanied by additional propositions of its own, was received through the minister here, since your separation. These were promptly considered—such as were deemed correct in its principle, and consistent with a due regard to the just rights of the United States and of the state of Maine, occurred in; and the reasons for dissenting from the residue, with an additional suggestion on our part, communicated by the Secretary of State to Mr. Fox. That minister, not feeling himself sufficiently instructed upon some of the points raised in the discussion, felt it to be his duty to refer the matter to his own government for its further decision. Having now been for some time under its advisement, a speedy answer may be confidently expected. From the character of the points still in difference, and the undoubted disposition of both parties to bring the matter to an early conclusion, I look with entire confidence to a prompt and satisfactory termination of the negotiation. Three commissioners were appointed shortly after the adjournment of Congress, under the act of the last session providing for the exploration and survey of the line which separates the states of Maine and New Hampshire from the British Provinces; they have been actively employed, their progress was interrupted by the inclemency of the season, and will resume their labors as soon as practicable in the ensuing year.

It is understood that their respective examinations will throw new light upon the subject in controversy, and serve to remove any erroneous impressions which may have been made elsewhere prejudicial to the rights of the United States. It was, among others, with a view of preventing the embarrassments which, in our peculiar system impeded and complicated negotiations involving the territorial rights of a State, that I thought it my duty as you have been informed on a previous occasion, to propose to the British Government through its Minister at Washington, that early steps should be taken to adjust the points at difference on the line of boundary from the entrance of Lake Superior to the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, by the arbitration of a friendly Power, in conformity with the seventh article of the treaty of Ghent. No answer has yet been returned by the British Government to this proposition.

Washington once called upon an elderly lady, whose little grand-daughter, at the close of his call waited on him to the door, and opened it to let him out. "The general, with his customary urbanity, thanked her, and laying his hand upon her head, said, 'My dear, I wish you a highly office.' 'Yes, sir, to let you in!' was the prompt and beautiful reply."

There Goes First Tally!—A midshipman of the name of Dorcas, was at his own particular request, landed at Boston, from the Glasgow frigate, shortly after the breaking out of the American war, to serve as a volunteer with the British troops. In the battles of Lexington and Bunkerhill, he received no less than seventeen gun-shots and other wounds. Those earliest inflicted did not in any degree abate his ardour for the fight. In dealing out his blow, and making good his way through the throng of the American soldiery, the fifth wound was dealt out to him, and followed by his exclamation of "There goes five: Tally!" He was ever after known among the Americans, who were too brave themselves not to admire his trait of heroism and cool intrepidity, as Tally Dorcas.—U.S. Paper.

Storm in Boston.—A dreadful storm was experienced at Boston on the 5th inst. by which great damage was done to the shipping in port, and about the coast. We do not see the names of any New-Brunswick or Nova Scotia vessels, however.

Prisoners for Political Libel.—From the 1st of January, 1839, to the 1st January 1840, 305 prisoners were confined in the different jails of England and Wales for printing and publishing seditious or libellous books, or for attending seditious meetings, or for conspiring to cause such meetings, to be held, or for some offence of a political character.

The Stamp Act.—Prosecutions are not uncommon in England, of persons who give receipts on unstamped paper. The penalty in such case is £10 sterling.

Uses of a Hat.—The hat often covers strange "matters and things," beside the head. Not long since, a gentleman within a thousand miles of Troy, in attempting to salute a lady with rare grace, raised his Leaver too high, when a shower of cigars came tumbling about his head and shoulders! A young friend whom we knew some years since, had an unconquerable fondness for whist. He always placed his cards in his hat, until, heedlessly entering church one Sabbath, the whole pack ran a race, like peas spilled upon a barn floor. This cured him of card-playing. After that he abandoned both "High, low, Jack and the Game." His last "hit" was "trumped" on Sabbath morning.

Branch of the Albion at Liverpool.

The improvements in Steam Navigation, and the greatly increased number of Steam vessels running between the British Empire, and this Continent, cannot fail to enlarge exceedingly the relations between those countries, and to render intelligence interesting upon an increased number of subjects. Taking all this into consideration, and being anxiously desirous to contribute to the utmost towards the information of our readers, on these matters, we have made arrangements at very considerable expense, which we trust will answer the end effectually.

This Journal being published weekly, it must necessarily happen, occasionally, that we should be late in publishing the Foreign Intelligence brought by the Steam Vessels between our regular days of publication. To obviate this, we have fixed a Branch of this establishment at Liverpool, at which place a paper will be printed, on each day of sailing of the Steam Packets from that port, and at the latest possible moment, for forwarding by the Steam Packets from other ports; containing the very latest intelligence on all subjects that can be of interest to either the American or the British reader on this side of the Atlantic. In particular we would say that the contents will consist of all that regards the money market and monetary matters, the state of American and principal European Stocks and Securities, exchanges, and industry facilities; the Cotton, Tobacco, and other markets for American produce; the manufacturing and other trades of Great Britain; Parliamentary and political proceedings;

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We shall always avail ourselves of Mr. Canard's Steamers, and the Papers for the Lower Provinces will be landed at Halifax by those steamers, except we have more immediate means of communication. The Colonial Shipping Intelligence and Colonial markets will receive minute attention.

We trust our readers will perceive the importance of this arrangement, which is made entirely with a view to their accommodation. To render it such at the least possible expense the paper will be furnished to Albion Subscribers at the low rate of two dollars per annum and to non-subscribers to this Journal at four dollars per annum, payable in advance. The plan will be in operation early in the ensuing year.

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