

HARBOR GRACE, FEB. 4, 1874.

FIREMEN'S BALL!

The Harbor Grace Volunteer Fire Company, according to previous announcement, held their Annual Entertainment at Masonic and British Halls, on Tuesday, 27th ult. The arrangements throughout were such as to make the affair one of the most brilliant of the kind we have ever had the pleasure of attending. The assembly was large, and the members of the Company clad in their handsome uniforms, and the gaily attired ladies gave the scene a picturesque and enchanting appearance. Dancing commenced at eight, and was kept up with right good will till eleven o'clock, when all present sat down to a sumptuous repast. The caterers were excellent, and bore ample testimony to the ability of Mr. Michael Jones as a caterer. All having been satisfied with this important part of the programme, dancing was resumed, and continued until the small hours, when the night's enjoyment was brought to a close, all present expressing the utmost satisfaction at the result of the entertainment.

To the officers and members of the Fire Company we tender our best wishes, and trust that they may long continue, in their present efficient state to protect the lives and property of the lieges from the ravages of fire.

Dr. W. F. BURNS, whose advertisement will be seen in another column, arrived in town yesterday. Persons in need of the Doctor's professional aid would do well to give him an early call, as we understand his stay here will be limited to a few weeks.

By advices from Bonavista we are in receipt of intelligence of the destruction by fire of the dwelling house of Mr. Bernard Murphy, of King's Cove, and of the owner, Mr. Murphy, having perished in the flames. We deeply sympathise with the widow and relations of the deceased.

By list of appointments in another column, it will be seen that Thomas R. Bennett, Esq., has been appointed "Judge of the District Court of Conception Bay, and Coroner for the Harbor Grace Division of the Electoral District of Conception Bay."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.]

SIR,—In Saturday's "Standard" I observe two letters (signed respectively "Advertiser" and "A Resident") containing the most malicious and unprovoked attacks on the conduct of Mr. Alexander A. Parsons. Being intimately acquainted with Mr. P., and knowing him to be a young man of sterling integrity, I cannot do him the injustice to remain silent, while unprincipled men are assailing him with the most mendacious charges, backed by protestations, the untruthfulness of which is calculated to place the moral condition of "this community" at a discount in the estimation of every other community in the country. "Advertiser" says, "Mr. Parsons did offer the bribe to Mr. Lander; he confessed as much before two reliable witnesses." Now, Mr. Editor, I am prepared to prove this assertion to be "a glaring falsehood." I was at the residence of Mr. Parsons on the 26th December, while the Rev. Mr. Lander held the interview alluded to in his statement. The "two reliable (?) witnesses" were present. During the interview I occupied a seat in a room adjoining that in which the parties were conversing. I paid little attention to their conversation, as I did not at the time feel interested. I, however, distinctly heard Mr. Parsons "emphatically deny having made any attempt to bribe the Rev. Mr. Lander. I also heard Mr. Parsons tell the Rev. gentleman that he "must be labouring under a misapprehension." This I am in a position to prove on oath.

In regard to the invidious insinuations of "A Resident," I hesitate not to stigmatize the latter writer as an individual capable of descending to the lowest degree of infamy and turpitude; for no person possessed of the smallest sense of moral or religious rectitude could possibly be the author of a fabrication so utterly devoid of every appearance of truth as that to which I allude. Not satisfied with his efforts to cast reflections on the character of Mr. Alexander A. Parsons, "A Resident" endeavours by a still greater perversion of truth, to involve Mr. Ambrose Parsons (the aged parent of the former) in difficulty also. Out upon such unchristian conduct.

To prove the utter fallaciousness of "A Resident's" observations, I would here remark that on the evening of

Saturday, the 24th January Mr. Ambrose Parsons conversed with me, from seven to eight o'clock, on the matter in question; and not only did he deny having ever heard his son make any allusion to an attempt to bribe Mr. Lander, but expressed himself highly displeased with the conduct of the Rev. gentleman, and said he felt sure no offer of bribery was ever made by his son to Mr. Lander or any other person.

I have been informed that steps are being taken to compel "A Resident" to come forward and unmask himself.

Yours, &c.,

JUSTICE.

Harbor Grace, Feb. 2, 1874.

FIRE AT KING'S COVE, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

[FROM OUR BONAVISTA CORRESPONDENT.]

Another year is upon us, and if fine weather is a sign of auspiciousness, then doubtless this will prove a good one.

Of snow we have had some heavy falls, but recent soft and beautiful weather has dispelled it in many places, and old terra firma is peeping out here and there, as if winter were about to depart.

The winds since the year begun have been mostly light and boreal, with keen frost during the small hours of the night, softening however before the radiant influence of the sun by day.

Information has just reached me of a sad catastrophe at King's Cove, by which one poor fellow lost his life.

It seems that on Tuesday, the 6th instant, fire broke out on the premises of Bernard Murphy, who carries on a mercantile business there, and that these being of the most inflammable nature, speedily fell a prey to the devouring element, in spite of the strenuous efforts of the multitude to arrest its progress. The origin of the fire is attributed to a defect in the funnelling near the roof or shingling. Mr. Murphy, apparently possessed of a desire to save as much of the effects as possible, lost his life in the burning mass, while eagerly pursuing that laudable end. His wife, too, is said to be severely scorched and to have had three of her ribs broken. This sad calamity has cast quite a gloom over the neighborhood, and much sympathy is expressed for his sorrowing friends at this trying time.

The merchandise destroyed by this melancholy affair is estimated variously, but £400 is pretty generally conceded to be about the amount of loss. Very few seals taken here yet.

Bonavista, Jan. 9, 1874.

[FOR THE H. G. STAR.]

HOW "KIT LACY" MARRIED THE OFFICER.

Dear readers let me tell you the history of the above individual. "Kit" as I shall style her, was the only child of her fond parents. Her early education was, I regret to say, sadly neglected, owing to the bad times in which she graced this world with her presence. The hard struggle made by her father and mother, to keep body and soul together, had much to do with little "Kit" not having been passed through the literary mill. She was a kind of juvenile wit in her crude state, and gave every promise of smartness, had she been blessed with a small dose of early training. Her ready wit and pleasing manner gained her many friends, and among them one good charitable lady offered to send her to school if her parents were willing; but alas poverty, and ignorance on the part of her only guardians prevented any such kind promise being carried out.

The opening of her future welfare was pitifully nipped in the bud. Poor wretched creature she was toiling from early morn till late at night, plying her only vocation, hawking oysters from one house to another in order to obtain the means of supporting her mother and sick father. Hard indeed is life when accompanied by that "pride level" poverty, and yet under such dire affliction "Kit's" heart was light and merry, and oft in the dark hour of their sorrow, she would arouse the drooping feelings which chained her parents.

Honesty pervaded all her actions. Poverty is not, as has been asserted by heedless pseudo philosophers, the father of theft. Were it so, how sad indeed would society be! how unpleasant life would be especially for the wealthy. Days, and months and years melted, bringing no glad news of any better prospects for the Lacy family. No bright hopes to stem the scourge which played upon them such fearful havoc. The poor father sick in bed, the poor mother scraping the flesh off her bones, shackled to the wash-tub, badly paid and miserably fed, and poor "Kit" straining her eyes looking up at every wealthy house silently imploring the "gobblers" of luxury to buy some of the oysters she hawked about in a basket on her head. Such was the position of the Lacy family; but stop, the wheel was turning—Poverty gnawed them to the marrow, (query, had they any? dutious.) Their richer neighbors looked upon these three victims of squalor, as so many lepers. But the taunts of haughtiness they bore with true christian silence. The hand of succour they knew not, and yet patience under all their troubles was their happy lot. Poor "Kit's" industry never deserted her in her deep anxiety to keep alive the object of all her thoughts. The lack of means brought out her noble qualities which she eminently possessed. Some latent agency told her that a brilliant future was not far off. The star of her fortune was looming in the distance, nearing piecemeal; its meagre glimmer dimly buoyed up her thoughts. The long log of distress enveloped her, but now the time had come to light the miserable tramp and drudge into happiness. The

wheel of fortune had in its lazy revolution swallowed up the subject of my narrative in its glad embrace. Others had their days and why not "Kit" Lacy and her sorrow stricken parents have a turn.

One evening as Miss Lacy was making her way to the adjoining quarry to procure some free stone which she used to pound up and sell to housekeepers so much per pint for scouring purposes, she came across what she thought a little bag of the ground up powder, but on taking it up she found it was other than what she expected. Without much ceremony she ran home and shewed the bag to her father, who carefully cut the string, and lo! to his utter surprise, the bag contained a number of sovereigns and Bank of England notes. The poor sick man and his faithful girl could not constrain themselves, such was their delight. "Kit" bolted off for her mother to have her say and advice in the matter. Mother Lacy quickly made her appearance and after a brief consultation they decided what to do with the money. It appears that "Kit" during her early walks oyster vending, had heard a good deal about a lot of money having been stolen from a Spanish captain, who had the town placarded with bills offering a reward of £400 for the £2,000 that he had lost. Meantime the poor unfortunate captain was going about nearly insane, he having lost every cent his cargo fetched. Without further delay "Kit" and her mother went to the Minister, told him their tale, and ere one hour had elapsed the captain had his money, and the Lacy family their reward of £400. She was no longer the miserable girl who was so well known as the "town pump" and Miss Lacy. With good treatment and kind attention Mr. Lacy got well, and removed from his lowly shanty to a decent house, and opened an attractive oyster saloon, where with Miss Lacy's past experience they very quickly amassed a large fortune. "Kit" as she was called in days of yore, attended school, and soon acquired a very fair polishing up. Her beauty was much admired, and so were her genial manner, and poetical, and witty turn of mind. Her beautiful qualities, obtained from nature, and toned down by education made her the centre of much attraction among the wealthy community.

Among the many "dandies" who fought for "Kit" was a Major Spring. He was one of those perpendicular skeletonized half emaciated figures enveloped in military attire. His long beard and moustache were the only attractive articles he could boast of, but he knew his military title still had other defects he might otherwise have. His much language had been wasted, he cut all the other petticoat hunters out, and was victorious; having gained "Kit's" favor, whether real or superficial, I cannot say, as I never sounded the feelings of the young lady. I had a sneaking regard for the young lady myself rather for the tidy accumulation of the "filthy" which old Lacy had quietly put aside for "Kit's" future prosperity—but I had not the ghost of a chance when the dawning of that glittering appendage (the sword) was about the diggings. The manner in which the Major handled his weapon and stroked his beard would upset the centre of gravity of any civilian daring to poke his nose into such matters. I very wisely kept aloof, and left the Major and "Kit" to build up the structure of future felicity. The Major was rich, but his father's demise would make him heir to a large property. He loved "Kit" with all his soul so she said. She used to boast about his constancy, and affection, and so used the gallant officer sing out about his fondness for the lovely object of his affections. Like all true soldiers he advanced and brought matters to a close by asking "Kit's" hand, which was readily given. The wedding day was appointed. The news flew everywhere, and the daughters of the aristocracy were highly disgusted at Major Spring cementing him self to one so low in the scale of humanity. The "upper ten" got up a conspiracy to prevent "Kit's" marrying the Major. No stone was left unturned to gain their object. They wrote to his friends and did all in their power to prevent the mixing of the two races but to no purpose. The Major meant what he was about, and meantime glad tidings reached him of his father's death which placed him at the head of his father's property. "Kit" jumped with joy and so did old Lacy and his wife—fancy what a strange turn that their little girl would become the wife of the Hon. Major Spring. As soon as the nine days' sorrow (?) had subsided on the part of the Major, he issued from seclusion and gallantly, as only soldiers can do, led "Kit" Lacy to the altar, where in the presence of hundreds, she became the wife of the Hon. Major Spring. He smiled at the timidity and stupidity of the aristocracy having made such a fuss about himself, he being quite a stranger to them. The gallant officer has been matrimonialized some years and has retired from military life in order to spend his days in happiness and luxury with "Kit Lacy the Oyster Girl" whose good sense and charming ways won the praise of all who knew her.

Young ladies pray carefully study the above, as the whole affair is taken from fact.

B.

FAGAN & CO.

At Halifax recently several men of the 60th Rifles were badly injured while at work, in blasting rocks along the line of projected roads through the Tower Woods Park. It appears that a charge that had been laid did not explode, and the men were sent up to the spot to withdraw it. While performing this duty the charge went off. Two of the men, A. A. Allison and Edward Brown, were so badly injured about their arms and faces that they had to be sent to the military hospital. Three other men were slightly injured.

The steamer Merlin left Halifax for Cow Bay en route for St. John's.

UNITED STATES.

A TRAGEDY IN BROOKLYN.

A shocking affair occurred about 3 o'clock on the night of the 13th in South Brooklyn. A man named Reuben M. Murdock, who is employed as a special policeman in Greenwood cemetery, shot and killed his wife Emma C. Murdock, in mistake for a burglar. Mrs. Murdock, it is stated, started from home the previous afternoon to visit some friends in Flat-bush, with whom she told her husband she would remain all night. About 9 o'clock that night Mr. Murdock heard some person in the yard at the rear of his residence. When he reached the yard he saw a head just disappearing in the cellar way, and supposing the person to be a burglar he fired. On going down to ascertain who it was, he found that he had shot his wife. The ball had penetrated her brain and she died almost instantly. Murdock was arrested by Sergeant MacNamara, and locked up in the Eighth precinct station house to await investigation.

THE VIRGINIUS SURVIVORS.

On the 13th the English mail steamer *Etna*, plying between New York and Jamaica, carried among her passengers for Kingston the following British survivors of the ill-fated *Virginus* expedition—John Potemount, Jose Espiritu Santo, Charles DeBross, Abraham L. Pinto, W. Denton, Sydney R. Atchison, J. Burke, W. Curtis, all of whom are being sent home to Jamaica at the cost of the British Government. The men in question have been stopping of late in the Sailor's home, in Cherry Street. Several other British subjects, who, in company with the aforesaid men, joined the expedition in Kingston, will be sent home by the steamer *Atlas*, which vessel is shortly expected here for the Spanish Main. Among those present on the wharf to bid farewell to the party, was Captain G. W. Brown, the former commander of the *Conard* steamer *Famine*, who took charge upon their arrival at New York of the Britishers. Several of the Cuban survivors of the expedition were also present to give their late companions in adversity a good send off. Although some of the British subjects are natives of England, the British minister has decided that all shall be sent back to Jamaica, that being the place where the whole number joined the *Virginus*.

A DANCE OF DEATH.

William Brown, a clerk, age 23 years, residing in Wilkesbarre, Pa., was fatally stabbed last night at Miner Station, three miles north of here, on the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad. Brown, in company with his sister, had gone to Miner's in the evening to attend the birthday party of a Miss Maxfield, who belongs to a very respectable family. Adjoining the Maxfield's residence was that of a family named Stanton, in which there gathered during the evening a set of rough characters, who engaged in dancing. About 11 o'clock Frank Stucker, one of the Stanton party, came in from the outside and said that he had been assaulted by some one. Eight persons at once left the dance with him, and commenced an attack on the Mansfield house. By means of a heavy fence post they battered in the door and broke the windows, and then hurled various missiles into the room. Young Brown pushed the door shut, and while standing by it and in front of where a panel had been knocked out was stabbed. The femoral artery was completely severed and he died within four minutes. The assailants dispersed after committing the fatal deed, but were all arrested this morning upon a warrant issued by Esquire Cox.

At the hearing it was shown that Lewis Stucker, a brother of the one before mentioned, had stabbed Brown. As this testimony was given, Stucker, who is a little young fellow, about 20 years of age, jumped and ran from the room, crowded as it was with 200 or 300 persons. After reaching the open air he ran across a lot and attempted to climb a high board fence, but his clothes caught fast, and before he could extricate himself the officers were upon him. A friend said to him that his attempt to escape made his case look darker, and he replied, "That's so. I'm afraid they will hang me now." He was committed to the county jail to await his trial. Brown was an industrious young man of good habits and the only son of a widowed mother.

BROWN'S CHALLENGE.

It was stated about a fortnight since that a challenge had been sent on behalf of George Brown to the oarsmen of America. This was to be published in the New York "Clipper," and the following letter accompanied it:—

To Frank Queen, Editor New York "Clipper":

The attention of the H. R. C. having been called to a paragraph which appeared in the late issue of your paper, in reference to our Champion Oarsmen, George Brown, and making the remark that he had better look to ward home before he ventured to cross the Atlantic.

That paragraph having caused considerable dissatisfaction among Brown's friends, I have been directed by the club to request you will inform me through your columns whether it referred to any particular American oarsman, and if so, to whom?

The subjoined Challenge will, I think, prove conclusively that George is not afraid to look either at home or abroad.

Wm. Craig, Sec'y. Halifax Boating Club.

The challenge will be found at the end of the following remarks from the *Clipper* of the 10th instant, just at hand:

GEORGE BROWN CHALLENGES ALL AMERICA.

First in the field for 1874 is the celebrated Haligonian sculler, George Brown, who has abandoned for some months at least, his proposed trip across the Atlantic, and sends the subjoined defiant blast, which is addressed to each and every professional scullist within the borders of the States and Canadas. As Brown's old opponent, John Biglin, was denied another trial last fall, we presume he will come to the fore again; if not, the public will look for an acceptance by either Harry Coulter or William Schaff. Read the challenge:

Halifax N. S.

Dec. 31st, 1873.

Frank Queen, Esq., Dear Sir,—

I do hereby challenge any oarsman in America to row a five mile race, with one turn, in best and best boats, for any sum not less than \$2000—say two thousand dollars in gold—on either the Charles River, Springfield or the Kennebecases. This challenge to remain open for one month from this date and the race to take place some time during the month of June 1874. Any party accepting this challenge will please deposit the sum of \$500 with either W. L. Lowell & Co. Exchange Brokers, Halifax, N. S. or Judge Jackson, American consul of this place, which will be immediately covered. Each party to pay his own expenses.

Yours resp'y,

GEORGE BROWN.

FROM EUROPE.

LONDON, Jan. 20.

It is rumored that the King of the Ashantees has sent an embassy to Gen. Wolseley, suing for peace and offering indemnity.

The Swiss Federal Council has appointed the 15th October for the opening of the International Postage Congress.

Private advices state that the famine in Bengal is assuming increased importance, and is engaging the earnest attention of leading men in finance and commercial circles in London.

The steamer "Celtic" from Liverpool was disabled and her passengers returned to Queenstown and will leave in the "Baltic."

VERSAILLES, 20.

In the Assembly to-day, bills conferring on the Government the nomination of Mayors, was passed by a majority of 43.

LONDON, 20.

Sir Montague Cholmondeley member of Parliament, is dead.

Mr. Gladstone is confined to his residence by illness.

A heavy gale prevailed around the British coast yesterday.

Ex President Thiers has been presented with a gold medal by the French resident of Philadelphia.

The French steamer "Zouave" sunk off Corsica. Nineteen persons were drowned including the captain and chief engineer.

Consols and markets steady.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, 21.

The Eastern Railroad Bridge at Biddeford, Maine, was burned yesterday; loss \$7,000.

John T. Gordon, the Thorndyke murderer was yesterday sentenced to be hung in the Maine State prison.

The Railway tunnel in Washington Avenue, St. Louis, caved in yesterday, causing a loss of \$50,000.

A frightful accident occurred in Bennington, Vermont, yesterday. An explosion caused by a leaky gasoline pipe demolished a sewing room, instantly killing nine women at work there, and badly injuring six others, besides many slightly wounded, and setting fire to the building, which was burned with a loss of 100,000, partially insured.

NEW YORK, 20.

There are threatening indications of a general strike of miners throughout the coal regions of Pennsylvania.

The Siamese Twins did on Saturday at their home in North Carolina. Chang was partially paralysed last fall, since which time he has been fretful and strongly addicted to drinking liquor as a means of alleviating his sufferings. As soon as it was discovered that Chang was dead, Eng became terribly shocked and raved wildly for a time, exhibiting signs of great mental aberration. This attack was followed by a deadly stupor. In two hours from the death of Chang, Eng died.

OTTAWA, 20.

Glaring frauds, perpetrated by late government in granting contracts for carrying mails in British Columbia, have come to light and will be investigated, together with the sale of most valuable timber limit in that Province to Mr. Nelson the late M.P. for New Westminster on his own terms.

Correspondence between the Dominion Government and Hon A. DeCosmos who was appointed special delegate by British Columbia, to proceed to Ottawa and England concerning Esquimaux gravings, has been published. His mission has been attended with great success.

The president of national cupitated disorder.

There is a who who has whistled year. For last