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THE ABBOTSFORD MYSTERY.

Tried by Fire—Persecution for Conscience Sake—How the Wicked Insurance Men were Incredulous—Threatening Letters Written by the Threatened—A very remarkable Coincidence—Sent for Trial.

An article appeared in our local columns some time since concerning the alleged persecution of one Mr. David Payruss, of Abbotford, and the burning of his barns by the wicked Catholics of that place because he changed from a Catholic and became a Protestant.

Mr. Payruss was, it appears, a farmer with whom this world's affairs went badly, whether through fault of his own, through his being a Catholic, or owing to circumstances over which he had no control.

In order, therefore, to better his condition in this world and prepare in a fitting manner for the next, he converted himself to the Protestant religion, and became a member of the Anglican Church at Abbotford.

Shortly after he joined the brotherhood of Freemasons, and still taking "Exceller" for his motto, he joined one of the local Royal Orange Lodges, but still he was not happy.

He became a Methodist, or rather (for the man had a most uneasy conscience) fluctuated between the Anglican and Wesleyan Methodist modes of belief. Some time after the change his barns were burned down.

They were insured in the Agricultural Company of Canada for the sum of \$700. The reputation of Mr. Payruss in Abbotford and vicinity had never been of the most brilliant, and Protestants as well as Catholics did not view this burning without suspicion.

Mr. Jas. H. Smith, the adjuster of the Agricultural Insurance Company, however, who went out to make an examination on behalf of his company, took a charitable view of the matter. He learned that the poor Payruss had received threatening letters (copies of which were shown him), that the feelings of the Catholics were excited against him owing to his change of religion, that he was an honest, upright, well-meaning man,

and, finally, that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and the insurance money ought to be paid. This opinion of Mr. Smith had, doubtless, considerable effect on the minds of the Protestants, who could not bear to see a man persecuted for religion's sake in this free country in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and the result was that they clubbed together—more especially the Methodists, to whom the convert had lately inclined—and builded him up a

brand new barn much better than the old one that had been destroyed by the miserable incendiaries. It is scarcely necessary to observe that for this charitable act the heart of the pure Payruss rose and fell with feelings of gratitude he was too much overpowered with emotion to give expression to.

tioned Mr. Payruss as to what he considered the cause of the incendiarism, and that gentleman told him in substance, as we have before related, that his barns and out-houses were burned out because he joined the Protestant church, the Freemasons and the Orange body, adding that he believed the one was the instigator of the whole mischief. The latter statement made the interrogator suspicious, as he personally knew the one to be of one the most benevolent and impartial minded men in Canada and one who would not go out of his way to hurt a mouse.

On his being questioned concerning the fire, he stated that the night before he had his team harnessed and ready to start for Glanville in the morning, so that nothing would be required before daybreak but to feed the horses and start off to the market with his garden produce. While the horses were eating their provender in the morning he observed a man emerge from the building in a

slouching, stealthy manner and move away, and when he called to him he did not answer, but quickened his pace. He then sent his dog after him, but the animal came back after overtaking the fugitive, and acted in such a manner as if he had only seen an acquaintance. Mr. Patterson thought this a very lame story, and demanded to see the insurance papers and the threatening letters so much spoken of.

To this Payruss demurred a good deal. "Now," said the agent, "I did not come out here for nothing, Mr. Payruss, and I must see the papers; the peace of this community is at stake; I am doubtful of your story, and I frankly confess to you that I think, in order to secure insurance money, you have done that which has stirred up strife in the community; you have set Protestant against Catholic, and friend against friend, in a place where to my knowledge nothing but harmony and good will reigned before. I am a Protestant myself, and I don't believe Catholics ever burned your barns, either the first time or the second."

This language rather staggered Payruss, and it was with great reluctance he handed over the letters and papers for inspection. On carefully comparing the application made by Payruss for insurance money which he had procured from the Canada Agricultural Co., Mr. Patterson was struck with the thinly-disguised similarity of the writing with that in the letters. One of the three threatening letters is written in a laborious imitation of a school-boy's hand and purporting to come from the cure. In fact, to make a long story short, Mr. Patterson was firmly convinced that Payruss was the writer of the letters himself, and *par consequens* he had twice

burned his own barns to cheat the insurance companies. He stuck fast to the letters notwithstanding the entreaties of Payruss that he would return them, and proceeded to Messrs. Gibbs and Crossland, two of the warmest sympathizers of the man, and with those gentlemen the letters were again gone over and compared, and after the agent had logically stated his case they were as fully

convinced as himself that his opinions were strictly correct, and they then and there washed their hands of Payruss only in so far as that they wished to see justice done. The rest is soon told. The Hon. Messrs. Chapleau, Carter and Church were engaged by the Ottawa Company. Mr. Chapleau, instructed by the indefatigable agent, cross-examined Payruss till he grew pale and trembled like an aspen leaf. The pitiless lawyer, however, showed no mercy; he searched down deep into the soul of the convert in presence of Mr. Blanchard, who conducted the enquiry, until every one in Abbotford felt convinced that he was a guilty man. All he could say to each succeeding letter was: "I don't know; I did not write the letters." Mr. Blanchard ordered the man to be

taken in charge by the county constable, which was done, and Mr. Payruss now lies awaiting his trial for intended fraud and incendiarism. Verily his chickens came home to roost. The *entente cordiale* has again, we are happy to say, once more been re-established between the Catholics and Protestants of Abbotford, and mainly through the ability, intelligence and impartiality of Mr. J. H. Patterson. We may state in conclusion that this gentleman demanded that half the expenses of the enquiry should be paid by the Canadian Agricultural Company, a very reasonable demand, considering that they were saved \$503 by the exposure. They have, however, refused, as doubtless Mr. J. H. Smith still considers Payruss a much injured, upright man.

Since writing the above the following additional facts have come under our notice:—The first suspicions of Mr. Patterson were aroused on learning that the following peculiar circumstances attended both fires:—The first fire occurred almost immediately after he had threshed out the grain, and removed it from the barn to the granary, while as regards the second the same circumstances were noticed. These facts, coupled

with the kindness of the supposed evil-minded enemy in burning a barn insured for its full value, when a much severer revenge might be obtained by destroying the other buildings which were not over-insured, showed such a surprising amount of consideration on the part of the incendiary that it was evident there was method in the whole plan. Another fact that excited suspicion was the thorough knowledge of English displayed by Payruss and his wife when an important question was asked by Mr. Patterson, and corresponding ignorance professed at times when a leading question was put, which did not tend to allay the suspicion already aroused that the "Ethiopian" lived nearer his own door than the honest and sympathizing community seemed inclined to believe. The intelligent agent could not well believe that a state of religions

feeling could exist that could lead to such a practice as the wholesale burning of Protestants' houses by Catholics, as was threatened in the letters, and he remarked to Payruss: "If such a feeling exists in this community the company would at once cancel every risk it had, as the thing would have to resolve itself into a war of reprisals such as obtained in barbarous countries." After he found the adjuster was investigating matters closely, he came to the Montreal office and demanded his letters back, which were refused, whereupon he seemed a good deal terrified, the perspiration rolling down his face in large drops, he next threatened the police, but was laughed at, and was told if he wanted them badly he would get them in a court-house, if that suited him. It may also be added that Mr. Gibbs gave valuable assistance in having the matter cleared up, and for his action in the premises deserves the thanks of the community.

MORMON MARRIAGE.

Curious Scenes in the Salt Lake Endowment House. (From the Salt Lake Tribune.) If the woman who now styles herself Mrs. Owen Miles was an honest and deserving woman when she left London to emigrate to Utah with the Latter Day Saints, and so soon after her arrival here (only some five weeks ago) passed through the Endowment House, I think there might be some palliation for her very peculiar and seemingly inconsistent conduct.

When Caroline Owen went to the Endowment House she entered at the north door and gave her name to the Recorder. She then passed inside to be washed, taking off her clothes until she was as naked as the hour she was born. She was then washed from head to foot. Afterward she was covered with oil and blessed by the holy priestess. She then put on her new garments, and received her new name in a whisper by the officiating priestess, the woman tied so beautifully in court. Passing along she came before the Great Jehovah and Elohim, they being in another room, and commenced reading the ritual of the Order:—Let us go down and make man, etc., which is all too tedious to mention.

Mrs. Owen passed on from one change to another, having her robes and her apron on to appear before the master of ceremonies to receive the oaths. Standing straight, as shown by the elder, bringing her right arm at an angle, then placing it across her throat as the terrible words were uttered by the officiating priest, then drawing and extending her arm straight out and bringing it back to a right angle, striking it straight to the earth, interpreting the oaths as spoken, that the throat should be cut from ear to ear, that he should be cut out, and that she be disencumbered and her body be buried in the depths of the sea, &c., if she should divulge anything pertaining to the ceremonies performed in that house.

This is not all the oath by a great deal. Miss Owen then received all the grips, signs, tokens, &c. There are several of these which only the faithful can understand. Miss Owen then passed on to the other degrees, prayer circles, &c. Passing onward and upward, she came to the veil or arch. This being previous to her marriage, John Miles was on the inside of the veil or arch, Caroline on the outside. Then the compass and square were cut over her heart. There was only a sheet to separate John and Caroline.

Then John whispered in her ear, and told her the new name she had named below. Nobody on earth knows what that name is but John and Caroline. He then brought Caroline through the veil or arch to be married. John F. Smith sat immediately opposite at the table; John stood at the right and Caroline at the left. After the usual questions were put and answered, the marriage was proceeded with and finished, John and Caroline walking to the sealing room, where Joseph F. Smith sat on the throne, and John stood at the door. Miss Owen walked around to the north side of the altar, and Miles remained on the south side. Joseph F. Smith proceeded with the ceremony, John and Caroline were kneeling, when Joseph F. told them to clasp hands across the altar and kiss each other, which they did. He then sealed them up to everlasting life, to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection to receive power for ever and ever. Amen.

An Odd Mistake. (New York Sun.) The tendency of the Ritualistic clergy in England to imitate the ceremonies and even the costume of the Roman Catholic priest-hood sometimes gives rise to singular mistakes. Not long ago the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, happening to be in London, was strolling with a friend in Kensington Gardens. They passed a priest—apparently a Roman Catholic priest—who had a lady on his arm, her hand in his, and to whom he was apparently making violent love. The Bishop was so shocked at this that he turned back and asked leave to speak to him. "Permit me to ask you," said he, "under the jurisdiction of what parish are you?" "Before I answer you," replied the priest, "I should like to know who you are?" "I am the Bishop of Nottingham." "There is no such Bishop in the English Church," declared the priest. "Oh, then you belong to the English Church! I am glad to hear it; but I do wish you wouldn't walk about in our livery."

Anglo-Saxons Versus Irish and Germans in the United States. The Boston Pilot says:—"Statistics" asserts that the national census of 1850 will undoubtedly show a population of 50,000,000. Of this number, it may be safely asserted, that less than one fifth are of Anglo-Saxon descent. The New York Tribune's estimate is as follows: Celtic, 30 1/2%; Anglo-Saxon, 25%; Dutch or Scandinavian, 2%; Uncertain, 12 1/2%.

"As we have already intimated, we think the Anglo-Saxon figure, here given, is too large. We place it at 20; and we increase the Celtic figure to 35. This we believe to be as approximate an estimation as can be obtained."

Assuming that our population will be fifty millions in 1880, its composition as regards leading nationalities will be as follows, on the basis of the percentages above given: Anglo-Saxons, about 10,000,000; Celtic, 17,500,000; German, 13,500,000; Dutch, or Scandinavian, 1,000,000; other different nationalities, 8,000,000. As regards population, we have far more reason to call ourselves Irish and German than Anglo-Saxon. The emigrants and their descendants of these two nationalities number fully three times, probably three and a half times more than the Anglo-Saxon emigrants and their descendants. The people of the United States, too, are being formed more after the mental and moral types of the Celts and Germans than of the English.

The Winter Fun. The winter fun is becoming a piece of furniture. The latest has a knob-handle, which holds powder and puff. Under one of the slides-slaves is concealed a mirror, and under the other a scent-tube and pocket comb. The fun is so light and perfect that it has been brought in the Review of the Year, played by the best Boulevard actors at the Varieties. One of the artists who led the honour of *engager* reappeared with a tin stuck in her back hair instead of a high Spanish comb. The others are Japanese fans, fan-like screens, and used as such.—Paris Letter.

Camdians Who Have Been Honored by England.

It has been rumored that on the return of the Vice-Royal party to society the mayors of the principal cities of the Dominion will receive the honor of knighthood; and the mayoralty elections in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and elsewhere are attracting ambitious candidates who otherwise would not care to run for that office. The leading newspapers of both political parties are opposed to this, and the more daring of the Reform journals do not hesitate to say that titles are out of place here. There are at present ten Canadian knights and two baronets. Sir John Macdonald was created a K. C. B. in 1867 for his services on behalf of Confederation. Sir Alexander Galt was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for similar services in 1869, though he had expressed himself in favor of the independence of Canada. Sir John William Lucif Richards, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Dominion, was knighted in 1877 with Sir A. A. Dorian, Chief Justice of Quebec. Sir Francis Hincks was knighted many years ago, when, after a stormy political career in Canada, he was appointed to a colonial governorship in the West Indies, which he abandoned on his return here in 1869. Sir Edward Kenny, of Halifax, and Sir Narcisse Belleau, of Quebec, were knighted in 1867. Sir Albert Smith was knighted for his services as Minister of Marine and Fisheries during the Halifax Commission. Sir William Young, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, was knighted in 1877, and Sir Hugh Allan in 1872. Sir John Rose, Bart., of the London banking firm of Morton, Rose & Co., was knighted for his confederation and other services to Canada just before leaving this country, and has since been made a baronet. Sir James L. Robinson, Bart., is the son of a former Chief Justice of Upper Canada, who was created a baronet for his services to the Crown. The present Sir James is now a clerk at a small salary in the law courts over which his father used to preside. Hugh Miller, in one of his works, tells of a Scotch baronetcy which was held by a hod-carrier, to whom the masons were wont to cry, "Sir So-and-so, some more mortar!" In Ossgoode Hall the lawyers call on Sir James Lukin Robinson, Bart., to register this or make another copy of that with the utmost disregard for his dignity. Besides these there are a number of C. B.'s and C. M. G.'s. Dr. Tupper, M. Langevin, Mr. Tilley, Mr. McDougall and others are Commanders of the Bath, while many prominent government officials have been admitted to the Commandery of St. Michael and St. George. The distribution of titles has indeed been so lavish of late that leading public men have ceased to covet imperial honors, Hon. George Brown and Mr. Mackenzie, the ex-Premier, refusing knighthood in 1876. In Quebec several prominent French Canadians wear Papal honors, M. Langevin, for example, being a Knight Commander of the Cross of St. Gregory the Great. In view of the hostility of public opinion to an increase in the number of titles, it is probable that the alleged intention of their Excellencies to recommend the Mayors of the chief cities for knighthood will not be carried out.

Conquering the Afghans. The advance began at three A. M., the troops marching in a biting, cold wind, blowing over a stony plateau, till about eight, when the Twelfth Bengal cavalry, reconnoitering in front, reported that the enemy had been seen in the villages and undulating ground before the Peshwar hills. The Twenty-ninth and Fifth Punjab infantry and two mountain guns were at once detached to the left, and proceeded under cover of a low range of hills till they reached the Mangal village of Toosetunge.

From this point the road turned up a steep dingle and crossed ranges overlooking the village of Targia. Here the enemy was first seen, some swarming up the pass and others still far down. The Fifth Punjab infantry rapidly pushed down and occupied the village, while the Twenty-ninth went up the glen, hoping to gain the summit before dusk. The enemy now commenced firing from higher ground, but the Twenty-ninth pushed on and the leading companies succeeded in gaining a position well up the glen, amid a thick pine forest. A hot skirmish then opened, the Afghans using their artillery, while the remainder of the division, pushing on directly to the front, came into action and replied by a sharp infantry and artillery fire. Evening was now far advanced, it was impossible properly to support the Twenty-ninth native infantry, and the troops had been under arms since three A. M., so the General ordered the force to retire to bivouac. On their way back the Twenty-ninth came under a heavy fire from the Afghans, who crowned the crags above and poured down a brisk fusillade. The Fifth Punjab infantry covered the retreat admirably, and the whole force ultimately bivouached under the pines. There was, of necessity, much confusion in the camp. Our casualties are, Lieutenant Reid, of the Twenty-ninth, dangerously wounded; about sixteen Sepoys killed and wounded.

A NIGHT DEPLOYMENT. From the 28th to the 30th the division halted to enable supplies to come up. The enemy's position, very strong and impregnable in front, consisted of a high range of vine clad hills and precipitous cliffs. The road over the pass led through high commanding hills. The enemy occupied a front of some seven miles and numbered 4,000 men. They had twenty-four guns, all placed on commanding points. The front was also strengthened by felling pine trees and erecting breastworks. They placed field artillery on the crest of the pass and amused themselves by firing long shots into the camp. The position having been thoroughly reconnoitred, General Roberts, on the night of the 1st, made a march with five regiments, four Horse Artillery guns and a mountain battery, with a view to surprising and turning the enemy's left flank. A force was left in the camp to make a front attack and silence the

guns in position. The movement was well planned and ably carried out, despite the difficulties attending the night march. The force moved due south three miles, then turned up the bed of the torrent toward the Spin-gawi Kotal, or crest under main range. The 5th Goorkhas leading, next the 72nd Highlanders and the 29th, with the mountain battery, as the assaulting column, came at dawn unobserved on the enemy's intrenchments in the dense pine forests. As the day broke a sharp roll of snipers from the Goorkhas smote the Afghan line, and in a very few minutes Major Fitzlugh and his gallant little Goorkhas had captured the first line of the enemy's intrenchments.

THE ENEMY GIVES WAY. The Seventy-second Highlanders and the Twenty-ninth Punjab infantry, pushing rapidly on, now gave material assistance, and before the sun was well up the whole of the enemy's left flank was gained. Resistance, though short, was determined, the enemy leaving seventy dead on the ground. On our side poor Captain Kello, of the artillery, was shot dead, and several Goorkhas and a number of the Seventy-second Highlanders were hit. The troops, sweeping through the intrenchments, collected on a wide plateau of the ridge to the left. The Twenty-ninth were sent out to skirmish through the pine forest and along the backbone of the ridge leading down to the Pass, the Goorkhas and the Seventy-second Highlanders acting as a support, with the Second brigade in the rear. The object of the movement was to join hands with the front attack from the camp, whence our heavy guns and the Martini-Heurys of the Eighth could be distinctly heard. The Twenty-ninth pressed on, and for a mile met no resistance, but on reaching the ridge overlooking Kotal the enemy were seen crowding up the slopes and forests to the right front, evidently with the object of cutting off our rear. A sharp skirmish ensued. Some of the Twenty-ninth pushed on the enemy's ridge, but being overwhelmed by superior numbers, had to fall back a short distance. The Afghans were now in great force, and from nine to four our troops were sharply engaged. A battery then enfiladed the Afghan left flank and the whole of our front was lined by the First and Second brigades. An incessant fire was kept up, but at five the General, taking one brigade, made a flank movement to cut off the enemy's retreat, leaving the Second Punjab infantry to line the ridges and the Twenty-ninth to guard the wounded.

About four the pass was evacuated, and at dusk the enemy were in full retreat, the flank movement evidently making them fearful for their communications. Our troops bivouac on the field at elevations varying from 6,000 feet to 9,000 feet. Water was scarce, but food, fortunately, was abundant. Our loss was two officers and twenty men killed, and two officers and seventy-one men wounded. It is supposed the enemy left nearly three hundred dead, over one hundred and thirty being found on the field. Twenty guns and a large amount of stores and rifles were captured, and by the fourth of December the Afghan field force was in utter route. The success was most complete. The position taken could hardly have been stronger. The enemy fought both with skill and determination. As in all cover fighting, the element of chance played a considerable part, leaving little room for generalship. The night march being undiscovered was a most fortunate circumstance. Had the enemy kept the slightest lookout we must have met with a reverse. The front attack was well carried out, the Eighth foot and the Fifth Punjab infantry getting up within one thousand yards of the pass, while the horse artillery made splendid practice, completely silencing their guns by two P. M., and at three the place was evacuated.

National Characteristics. Since the days of Tacitus, the subject *De Moribus Germanorum* has never been worthily treated. It has been the custom to epitomize the character of a nation in a proverb. Voltaire, whose wit, like a Malay kreese, carried poison in his blade, turned his satire on his own countrymen, whom he epigrammatically described as *Motie sings, motie tigre*. A German proverb says, "A German will do as much work as three Russians, an Englishman as much as three Germans, and an American as much as three Englishmen." The Italians say, "It takes three Jews to make a Genoese, and three Genoese to make a Greek." The Turks are as little complimentary to their own nation as Voltaire to his, for they say, "The Turks hunt hares in carriages drawn by oxen," and of the Persians, whom they regard as heretical Mohammedans, they say that in the other world they will be transformed into asses, to carry Jews into a locality not to be named to ears polite. Of a great liar they say, "Send him to Persia to teach Persians to lie," and the Russians they describe as "Bears in kid gloves." The great fault of a German is that he cannot understand a joke unless it be a very practical one; and herein he resembles the matter-of-fact lowland Scot and the English peasant.—The late W. H. Harrison, in University Magazine.

One of the most reliable medicines for Headache, is Dr. Harvey's Anti-Bilious & Purgative Pills. Is there no cure for Neuralgia? Yes, a sure cure; it is BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PAN-ACEA and Family Liniment. Rheumatism is bad, Toothache is worse, Neuralgia worst. It is a superlative disease, but even it yields to this potent remedy. Its sale is ubiquitous. All druggists sell it. We sincerely believe that the mother who neglects to provide MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for her suffering child, is depriving the little sufferer of the remedy of all the world best calculated to give it rest and restore health. There is not a mother who has ever used it, but what will tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest and health to the child.

MUCH BURNED OUT. Mr. Payruss. He first carefully examined the premises and was forcibly struck with the idea that they had been insured for \$50 more than they could ever have been worth. He next ques-