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Weekly Almanack.

December.	R. Sun, s.	Moon	H. W.
29 Saturday,	7 36 4 29	6 36	11 6
30 Sunday,	7 36 4 29	Rises	morn.
31 Monday,	7 36 4 30	4 58	0 2
1 Tuesday,	7 36 4 32	6 17	0 22
2 Wednesday,	7 36 4 33	7 28	1 0
3 Thursday,	7 36 4 34	8 37	1 36
4 Friday,	7 36 4 35	9 39	2 17

Full Moon, 30th. 7h. 56m.

Public Institutions.

Bank of New-Brunswick.—Robt. F. Hazen, Esq. President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 3 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: Thos. Barlow, Esq.

Commercial Bank.—Charles Ward, Esq. President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes of Discount must be lodged before 1 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: John Wishart, Esq.

City Bank.—Thomas Leavitt, Esq. President. Discount Days, Mondays and Thursdays.—Office hours, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes for Discount must be lodged at the Bank before one o'clock on Saturdays and Wednesdays.—Director next week: John V. Thurgar, Esq.

Bank of British North America.—(Saint John Branch.)—R. H. Liston, Esq. Manager. Discount Days, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Hours of Business, from 10 to 3. Notes and Bills for Discount to be left before 3 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount Days. Director next week: James Kirk, Esq.

New-Brunswick Fire Insurance Company.—John M. Wilmot, Esq. President.—Office open every day, (Sundays excepted) from 11 to 1 o'clock. [All communications by mail, must be post paid.]

Savings Bank.—Hon. Ward Chipman, President.—Office hours, from 1 to 3 o'clock on Tuesday's. Cashier and Register, D. Jordan.

Marine Insurance.—I. L. Bedell, Broker. The committee of Underwriters meet every morning at 10 o'clock. (Sundays excepted.)

Marine Assurance Company.—Jas. Kirk, Esq. President.—Office open every day (Sundays excepted) from 10 to 3 o'clock. ☞ All applications for Insurance to be made in writing.

Canada.

COURT MARTIAL ON THE PIRATE PRISONERS.

From the Kingston Chronicle.

We mentioned in our last the assembling of the Court Martial for the trial of the pirate prisoners in Fort Henry, and gave the names of the Militia Officers who compose the Court. On Monday the 26th ult. the Court met, the members were sworn in, and then adjourned to Wednesday in order to afford time to the Judge Advocate to prepare for trial.

On Wednesday, Daniel George, late of Cape Vincent, N. Y., Paymaster of the pirates, was placed on his trial. At his request he was allowed counsel, and engaged John McDonald, Esq. the Court allowing a short delay for that purpose.

As evidence against the prisoner, Lieutenant Leary, Royal Navy, was examined, and stated he took the Captain prisoner with four others in a boat, when crossing from Windmill Point to the American shore, and that a book of accounts and sundry papers then produced were taken from the prisoner.

Two of the prisoners, young lads from Lower Canada, were also examined, and gave evidence respecting the presence of the prisoner with the armed party at the Mill, and the share he had in their proceedings.

Levi Chipman, late of Bastard, County of Leeds, in this Province, was called. Chipman bore a good character until last January, when he became connected with the revolutionary, and eventually joined them in the States, and was with them in the attack on Prescott. In his evidence he related the progress of the expedition from their embarking in the United States at Oswego, her taking the schooners in tow, the attempt to land at Prescott, the landing at the Mill, where he saw the prisoner next morning after landing. Prisoner wore a sword, and had command of a company; but did not see him make any payments either on the United States or at the Mill. He described the action on Tuesday, and said that an officer in a scarlet coat, desperately wounded, fell into the hands of their party, and though he was alive, one of them beat him with his musket until he broke it, and then stamped on him with his feet. [This was Lieut. Johnson who received such hellish treatment.] After the action on Tuesday the witness escaped from them. He said the design of the expedition was to revolutionize Canada, and make it a republic. The examination of the witness was continued on Thursday, and then

Lieut. Parker, Royal Marines, who was wounded in the action on Tuesday, was examined and touching some manuscripts in cypher that were found on the prisoner. Lieut. Parker stated that he had discovered the cypher, having made complete sense of the writing and formed an entire alphabet from it, excepting five letters. He then read extracts from a book of accounts, part cypher, taken from the prisoner, in which, among other entries, one E. Hungerford was credited for sundry payments to the "Patriot Army." Lieut. Parker also read two commissions, both in cypher, one of a captain, signed for the President by —— Long, Secretary of war; the other of a Lieutenant, signed J. Grant. In answer to a question from the prisoner through his counsel, Lieut. Parker stated that he had discovered the cypher by examination and comparison.

The prosecution then closed, the Court was cleared, and on returning the prisoner was informed that he was allowed till Saturday to prepare for his defence. He attempted to shake the evidence of Chipman by asking in the cross examination if he had not represented himself as a British Deserter, and said that he would swear any thing to save his own life. Chipman denied both the questions. The prisoner was remanded to the cells. The Court then took a recess of 15 minutes, and on resuming

The Pole—Neils Szoltevcki Von Shoultz.—was placed on his trial. When required to plead, he asked if the statement which he had made to a magistrate would be received and sent to the Lieut. Governor. On being answered that it would, he pleaded *guilty*. The Judge Advocate cautioned him respecting the consequences of such a plea; told him that in the present circumstances of Upper Canada he could hold out no hope of mercy, and therefore the prisoner must consider his situation well, and if he thought proper he might withdraw his plea, and plead *not guilty*. The prisoner answered that he had been induced to take command of the invaders under false impressions, and now that he saw through the whole and discovered the delusion under which he had laboured, he was aware of the nature of his conduct. It was of no use to say any thing in defence, and he should persist in his plea of *guilty*.

The Court was then cleared, and as it is customary in Court Martial to hear at least one evidence, even when prisoners plead guilty, on resuming witnesses were called in behalf of the prosecution.

Edward Smith, was at Prescott during the five days of the invasion, and described the occurrences there. He was present when the prisoner was captured among the bushes near the Mill.—Prisoner was given in charge to witness and some others, to take him to the Fort at Prescott. On the way prisoner said he was a Pole, and had charge of six of his countrymen, but he gave a false name.

Lieut. Parker, Royal Marines, was examined, and related what took place under his observation, showing the hostile acts of the invaders.

Dr. Gardner, of the 83d Regiment, gave evidence touching the state of Lieut. Johnson's body. It had several gun-shot wounds that had caused his death, and had been mutilated with a sharp instrument.

Jean Baptiste Razeau examined. Was born at Montreal never left Lower Canada till lately, when he joined the "Patriot Army," and landed with them at the Mill near Prescott. They gave him a musket and ball cartridges, but he threw them away after the first fire in the action on Tuesday the 13th ult., and ran away, but was stopped by four men, who said they would shoot him if he ran. He recognized the Pole, said he was called General by the party, but never spoke to him. [This witness is very young and wept bitterly when brought into Court.]

Laurent Melhiot, a boy 14 years of age, examined. Was born at Boucherville, Lower Canada. Joined the "Patriots," was with the armed party who landed near Prescott. They put arms into his hands, but he ran away after the first fire. Saw the prisoner in the stone house near the mill, he had a sword and commanded, but he did not see him command in the mill.

Levi Chipman examined. There were British subjects among the party at the mill. Saw the prisoner there, he was commander. The Pole here asked witness, if he did not know that Gen. Birge was commander of that expedition, to which he replied that Birge was understood to be the commander, but he never came, and the prisoner acted as commander.

Dr. Baker examined. Was a magistrate of this District, and took the prisoner's acknowledgment of a paper drawn up and signed by him.—He made it voluntarily.

The statement was then read, and was in substance that the prisoner is a native of Poland, aged 31, and his father was a major in the Polish army at the battle of Warsaw. The Prisoner also rose to be major in the Polish service. In 1836 he came to the United States, and settled at Salina as a chemist. Was induced to join the "Hunters" or "Patriot Masons," by Mr. Stone, of Salina, who also presented him with the flag that was taken at the Mill. He was told that the people of Canada would receive them with open arms, and that even the British regulars would join them on their landing. Trusting to these representations he embarked with others on board the U. States at Oswego, took the two schooners in tow laden with men, three cannon and munitions of war, was baffled in the attempt to land at Prescott, but finally landed at the Windmill with 180 men. He soon discovered how he had been deceived, as no aid came to them, nor did any one join them.—But as he had no means of returning to the States, he strengthened his position as far as possible, and made the best defence he could.

After the statement had been read, he addressed the court verbally, denying the imputation of having treated the wounded with inhumanity, stating that he took three of our wounded into the Mill, and gave them the best attention he could. [They confirm this.] He also said that he endeavoured to obtain Lieut. Johnson's body to take care of it, but had two men wounded in the attempt, as the fire was so hot on that point; and he then planted sentries to watch the body and keep off the pigs from injuring it. Some pigs were shot in consequence when near the body. He said that if the body had been mutilated, it must have been done by the pigs, as both himself and those who were with him spoke highly in praise of Lieut. Johnson, as a brave man who deserved every honour, and they would not shew indignity to his remains.

It is, we believe, admitted now, that the account of Lieut. Johnson's body being tied to a post by the feet is not correct.

This closed the proceedings on Thursday.

We may remark on the Pole's defence or apology, that when he discovered his mistake in receiving no aid from this side he ought, if he could not return to the States, to have surrendered without fighting. He and his deluded comrades might then have expected mercy, at least for their lives, as there would not have been the loss of life on our side to atone for. But instead of this, though he had discovered his delusion, and that he had no pretence for making war on our people, he yet used all the force he had to destroy them, and, aided by the strength of his position caused a loss of life on our side, which demands the rigid satisfaction of life for life. His plea then in abatement of his offence amounts to nothing, because it did not cause him to abandon his hostile intentions when he discovered his delusion, but with a full knowledge of the fallacy of the pretence under which he sought to justify his conduct, he still acted as if what he knew to be false had been actually true, and sought to revenge on our people the deception that had been practised on him by his heartless employers and comrades. Though he knew that the pretence for the expedition was false and therefore that its object could not be attained, he yet did all the injury he could, and killed our people, though he knew that he could not conquer the country. We make these remarks in order to prevent any false impression on the public mind; for as to the Pole, he does not expect to live. He had made up his mind for death. He is a most determined and resolute man, did his utmost to gain the end of his landing in Canada, and he is prepared to take the consequences.—He made his observations more to vindicate his character than to save his life. When he had made his arrangement at the Mill, he said that he had the best position between Kingston and Quebec.

On Friday, Dorephus Abbey, of Watertown, a Colonel among the pirates, was arraigned, and pleaded *not guilty*.

On behalf of the prosecution, Lieut. Leary, R. N. was called, and stated that on the 12th ult. he was on duty at Kingston and Brockville, fitting out vessels to repel aggressions on our shores.—Heard of the invasion that evening at Brockville. Proceeded to Prescott and found that pirates had landed at the Windmill below. Was left at Prescott in the Cobourg by command of Capt. Sandom, until called to the Mill. Had a full opportunity of seeing the firing and resistance of the pirates from the windows of houses and behind stone walls, against our troops. Saw the pirate flag flying on the Mill from about ten o'clock A. M. to about five in the afternoon.—Two boats came from the American shore towards ours, but were stopped by Capt. Sandom in the steam boats. One boat strove to escape from the Mill shore to the States, with five men and arms and ammunition, but was taken.—The pirates continued at the mill from the night of the 12th to 8 or 9 P. M. on the 16th. Was present when they surrendered. Saw the prisoner taken, but could not identify more than one on that occasion. Saw the prisoner in Gaol on the 18th. Saw an account book that was taken from Daniel George, one of the five captured in the boat, in which book he saw an entry of $49 paid to the prisoner, and thereon asked him who he was, and he replied that he was a Colonel among the "Patriots" at the Mill. They kept up a continual and regular fire on the Steam boats, and some of their shot struck the boats, but there was no loss, only on shore. The provisions of the pirates were American, the biscuit being marked with American names. The brass piece of Artillery was American, having on it the letters S. N. Y. [and No. 54 in black letters on the carriage. It was evidently taken from an Arsenal.]

Christopher Armstrong sworn. Saw the prisoner in Gaol, and he said he was an American from the eastern States, but last from Watertown.

Lieut. Parker sworn. Was at Prescott on the 13th. Described the action there. Did not see the prisoner. In reply to a question from the prisoner, he said that in regard to the left wing the fire came first from the rebels. Was not sure as to the right wing, as they were some distance apart. The firing from the steamers began a short time before the attack on shore. When the rebels were driven into the houses the fire on both sides slackened, and then the steamers re-opened their fire.

Levi Chipman sworn. There were British subjects among the party at the Windmill as himself, his brother Trueman Chipman, James Phillips, and some Lower Canadians. Saw the prisoner there. He was armed with a sword, and was called Colonel. He took part in the action on Tuesday. Witness understood that the object of the expedition was to revolutionize Canada, and make it a republic; and that they intended to despoil the loyalists of their property and divide it among themselves. Heard this from Americans, but not from any of the party. Understood from some of them that each private soldier was to have 200 acres of land, and saw the same in print at a secret meeting of the "Hunters" in Morristown. Mr. Polwhele, a Justice of the Peace, presided at that meeting. If they succeeded, the President and all state officers were to be elective, but never heard who the first President was to be. Heard that some of the loyalists were to be hung, but not from any of the party.

Dr. Baker sworn. Attested the statement made by the prisoner. It was made voluntarily. It was then read and was in substance, that he was a native of Connecticut, 47 years of age: moved from thence to Albany, from thence to Watertown, where he edited the Jefferson County Gazette, and another paper afterwards. Moved to Jersey and then back to near Watertown, where he settled as a farmer. Became a sworn "Hunter', this summer of 1838. The object was to promote liberty. Van Shoultz was appointed Commander in-chief, Prisoner second. Had 10 killed in the action on Tuesday. Intended to land at Prescott. The expedition was abandoned when they found that no aid was given to them from this side. They were all sick of it before the action on Tuesday, and would have left if they had any means of doing so.

Edward Smith sworn. Saw the prisoner near the Mill on the 16th soon after noon. He got upon a wall and Col. Fraser called him over. He came and the Col. went to meet him, and struck him on the back with the flat of his sword. He was brought down, and said that he came in under the protection of a flag of truce, but witness thought our flag was down at the time. It had been granted in order to pick up the wounded, and bury the dead of the action on Tuesday. Col. Fraser told prisoner that if he considered that he came under a flag of truce he might return, but he would not return. He was then given into Witness' charge to take him to the Fort. On the way he told his name and rank as Colonel.

The prisoner here asked witness under what conditions he had the liberty of returning. Would he not be fired on? Witness said he probably would, and as it was they had hard work to keep him from being killed. Colonel Fraser did not consider him under the protection of the flag, as our flag was down.

Laurent Melhiot sworn—saw the Prisoner in the field and at the Mill—he was commanding.

Alpheus Jones sworn. Stated that Levi Chipman, Trueman Chipman, James Cummings, and James Phillips, were British subjects. Cummings was taken on Tuesday in the field, and was sent by witness to the Fort.

The Prosecution here closed.

The Prisoner made some remarks in extenuation of his conduct. Said that he had been told by the General Commanding, that the people of Canada were prepared for revolution, that many at Prescott and elsewhere would receive them with open arms, and there would be no fighting. When they found the difference, he and others wished to abandon the enterprise, but could not, and therefore prepared to defend themselves. Much delusion prevailed in the States respecting public opinion on this side.

The Prisoner then called Mr. Armstrong in explanation of this statement, and said that they did not land at the mill with any hostile intentions, but merely because they could not get back to the States after failing to land at Prescott, through the fire of the steam boats. To prove this point, on which he rested his defence, he called,

Sampson A. Wiley, who stated that the object of landing at the mill was to send their schooner to lighten the other that was aground, and as she did not return they had no conveyance away.

The Court here adjourned to Saturday, when the same witness was heard further on the defence, and said that several strove to return to the States after landing at the Mill, but had no opportunity. Witness tried, but could not. A scow came from the American side, and landed some men and cannon, but pushed back immediately, and they had no means of detaining it. They were told that nine-tenths of the Canadians were in favour of a revolution and they came to assist them, but when they found no aid they abandoned the idea of doing any thing until they were forced by the attack on them. The commanders were General Birge and Colonel Eustis. The other officers were temporally appointed on this side. Became a sworn "Hunter" at watertown for 8 weeks before the expedition. Had secret signs and pass-words by which to know one another. Prisoner was engaged in the expedition against Canada.—Expected aid at Prescott or wherever they landed. The fire from the British steamer prevented the schooner from returning to take them off. Heard at the secret meetings that if they succeeded they were to have a bounty in land. Was taken prisoner at Windmill Point.

Phares Miller of Evan's Mills, Jefferson County, sworn. Landed at Windmill Point to save himself from being killed by the fire of the British steamer. Was asleep in the hold of the schooner when the landing was attempted at Prescott. Though they were going to Ogdensburgh, when they grounded. Joined at Millan's Bay.—Saw 60 or 70 men, muskets, dirks and pistols, but no cannon. Supposed they were going up the Lake, but did not know for what. They were to land on this side, and be joined by a number of men, and make peace, as they were all in an uproar. Had a gun at Wind mill Point. Does not know who gave orders there.

Jeremiah Winegar sworn. Landed at Wind mill Point on Monday evening the 12th. Had arms on Tuesday. Knew no officer but Von Shoultz who was called General, and Mr. Abbey who was called Colonel. Was 59 years of age. A sworn Hunter. When let into the secret never expected to cross to this shore. Had a son 22 years old who had agreed to come: he left home, and I (said witness) "took his place, like a very foolish man." He was told that never a gun would be fired. They were to come to this country to give the people liberty, and all that was required was to make a stand, and the people would join and become a republic. They were not to plunder or destroy, but to respect females and private property.

The prisoner then remarked that he could say nothing but that he had been influenced by a mistaken idea of the state of public feeling on this side, and the same delusion prevailed through the States. He thought the Court would see by the absence of of the commanding officers, that the expedition was not intended to go on by those in subordinate command. The resistance was made from necessity and had been conducted with bravery.

This closed the case, the Court was cleared, and on resuming Daniel George began his defence. He called no witness, but read an argument prepared for him by his counsel, and which turned chiefly on legal points.

The Judge Advocate and the Court afforded every facility to the prisoners in managing their defence, and the former conducted the prosecutions with his characteristic moderation. Once or twice he pressed the reluctant, shuffling witnesses rather sharply, but there was no brow-beating nor any harshness of manner employed, though if it ever could be justified it might in this case, from the loss of life occasioned by the prisoners.

In deportment the Pole is as unmoved as a rock. George and Abbey evince great emotion, especially the latter.

It will be seen that the trials make slow progress, and will not be concluded till spring at the present rate. But we expect that after the pirate officers are tried, the men will be arraigned in some number together.

GOVERNMENT PLAN OF EDUCATION.

In the resolution of the government to prosecute their educational inquiries through the intervention of the poor-law commissioners, we are furnished with a clue to unravel their future projects respecting the important subject of national education. By this substitution of clerks and collectors of rates and taxes, for the agency of the parochial clergy, it is easy to anticipate the sort of treatment which the church of England may expect to receive in the ensuing session, from such an administration. We have little doubt that an attempt will be made to set up a scheme of popular education, of a merely secular description:—nay, we should not be surprised if it were proposed to place the education of the poor-rates, and transmute these poor-laws commissioners into so many universal schoolmasters. This, we believe, was the project of Mr. Slaney; and it looks very much like a step towards the adoption of his plan, to direct their preparatory inquiries through the poor-law board.

But be this as it may, the insult to the bishops and and the clergy cannot be misaken; and whether this has arisen from accident or design, as relates to the British and Foreign School Committee it is, at least, apparently owing to their rejection of the government offer of £500 for the inspection of the schools, by their own agents. Had this proposition been accepted, this insult could not have been offered to the ministers of the established church; and this, we suppose, is to some minds, a sufficient recommendation in its favour.

The answers to all the queries are to be returned by the 20th of November. This is, certainly, gaining information with the utmost despatch, and it rivals the Great Western in the rapidity of its movements. The answers of more than 20,000 schools, scattered over all the towns and villages of England, Scotland, and Wales, are to be collected and returned we repeat, by the 20th of November next!

It was an old adage—*sat cito, si sat bene*—"soon enough, if well enough,"—but our present ministers have reversed the proverb—"well enough, if soon enough." No matter whether these answers be true or false, correct or incorrect, if they only arrive in time sufficient for their purpose. And what is that? To draw out a bill of indictment against the "National Society" and its schools, and to substitute a board of education, or the present board of poor-law commissioners, to undertake the national education of the people of this country,—in other words to cashier the church, the clergy, and the ministers of religion, as the instructos of the poor,—to reduce Christian education to a matter of police,—and thus to pave the way for the triumph of popery in Ireland, and infidelity in England.

But we trust that sincere Christians, whether they be churchmen or dissenters, will be alive to these anti-Christian projects, and will be prepared to prevent the evils which threaten their common interests. A mere state education, under any circumstances, is not suited to the habits of Englishmen; but a state education, under our present government would be only another name for the ruin of protestantism. We trust therefore, that all protestants will raise their voices against it.—*Watchman.*

Night Travelling on Railroads.—A writer in the *National Intelligencer* states that Mr. Herron, a distinguished civil engineer on the Gaston and Raleigh railroad, proposes to illuminate railroads during night travel, by a light sited in front of the locomotive so strong and brilliant as to illuminate objects to a considerable distance a-head. The description of the mode in which he proposes to accomplish his purpose is as follows:—"The chimney of the locomotive now in general use is placed foremost on the road. The end of the boiler is covered by a large sheet iron box, rounded at top, and surmounted by the chimney. The flame from the furnace passes through the boiler into this box by means of from 60 to 140 tubes, each nearly two inches in diameter, so that the end of the boiler, which also forms the inner end of the box, has precisely an appearance much resembling a honeycomb: and from each cell, when the engine is in motion, a bright jet of flame issues and curves upwards towards the chimney, so that the whole interior of the box is filled with one intense sheet of flame. The waste steam from the cylinders is conducted by a pipe through the box to the interior of the chimney, up which it is discharged with great force, in the form of a jet, which drives the air in the chimney before it, and draws that contained in the box after it, thus forming a vacuum, which is immediately filled by the flame from the furnace. In the external end of the box, immediately under the chimney, is a sheet iron door, or rather an elliptic form, and of sufficient size to admit a man with ease to make any necessary repairs on the tubes, &c.—Suppose we remove this sheet-iron door, and cover the orifice closely with a large semi-circular lantern glazed with small panes of glass or tale, it would seem to be a reasonable inference, that a very brilliant light must be emitted, exceeding that of any lighthouse. It would be proper to place a fine wire netting over the orifice first, to keep sparks out of the lantern; and, if glass is used, it should be slightly oiled, to keep it from cracking by heat. Perhaps a very fine wire gauze, similar to that employed by Sir Humphry Davy in his celebrated safety lamp, might alone, without the lantern, prove more efficient, as it would admit a small quantity of atmospheric air, thus rendering the combustion more perfect, and increasing the brilliancy of the flame. The whole end of the box might be thus formed, and it would be less liable to injury or accident than the lantern. It will be perceived, that the experiment can be made on most of the locomotives now in use, without any alteration whatever of their parts, and at a trifling expense."

Mozart.—The first opera on which Mozart's celebrity is founded, was composed under the powerful excitement of love and ambition. He had laboured strenuously and successfully to gain honour and distinction, but had been sorely disappointed in his prospects of solid advantage from his talents. In the capital of France, as well as in several places in his own country, he had met with neglect from the great, and malevolence from jealous rivals, and had returned, sickened, and disheartened, to his native Salzburg, when his sovereign, the archbishop of that city, called him to Vienna. In the Austrian capital his prospects brightened, and a new charm was given to his existence by the society of an amiable girl, Constance Weber, a favourite young actress. He became passionately enamoured of her, and she returned his love; but her parents would not consent to their union on account of his want of a settled situation in life. At this time the elector of Bavaria, who had already shown him distinguished favour, desired him to write an opera for the elector's theatre at Munich, which was then maintained in a style of great splendour. Mozart was now five-and-twenty, in the full strength and vigour of his genius. He saw before him the means of achieving an honourable independence, and of gaining the object of his affection; and, with a heart burning with love and hope, he rapidly composed his "Idomeneo;" a piece which he always fondly regarded as the best of his works, and which certainly yields to none of them in tender and passionate expression.—*Hogarth's Memoirs of the Musical Drama.*

Mahommedan Cemeteries.—About half a mile from the town of Calcutta is an extensive cemetry pertaining to the Mussalman community, denominated the "Cossye Bugaun." This spot of ground contains nearly 20 acres, and is beautifully shaded by aspiring bamboos, lofty and spacious cedars, and other sombre trees, whose dense foliage casts a doleful gloom around this hallowed sanctuary. The tombs and sepulchres of the Mahommedans are, all of them, so constructed as to admit of a taper being burned in them every night—a custom which is religiously observed by the surviving relatives of the deceased parties, with a view to keeping away the carrion beasts. Various tanks are interspersed throughout this cemetery, to admit of those who may attend the funerals of the departed to undergo the ceremony of ablution. In villages remote from large and populous towns, some shaded spot is chosen by them for their funeral obsequies, generally under the spreading and pensive branches of the tamarind tree, which is regarded in the same light by them as is the yew in this country. Thus in the most quiet and sequestered places the lonesome and contemplative traveller may detect two or more Mahommedan sepulchres which have been erected some hundreds of years, and which, very probably, might contain the dust of men who were mighty in their day, but who there remain entombed without a letter or a symbol to denote their distinction.

The Common Hawthorn.—Crataegus Oxyacantha (the hawthorn) was known to the Greeks under the name of "pyracantha;" though it is uncertain whether it was employed by that people or the Romans for any useful purpose, the oxyacantha of the classics being by some considered as the Crataegus pyracantha, and by others as the common berberry. It appears from Homer, that when Ulysses returned to his father Laertes, the good old man had sent his servants into the woods to gather young thorns for forming hedges, and was occupied himself in preparing ground to receive them. (*Odyssey*, lib. 24.) These thorns might have been of the common hawthorn, or of some of the oriental species of crataegus, or of other thorn-bearing plants. Varro calls a thorn hedge a natural and living guardian, and Columella prefers it to the constructed one, or dead-hedge, as more lasting and less expensive. (*De Rustica*, lib. II.) In modern times we find from Crescentius (lib. 5) that hawthorn hedges were used in Italy before 1400. In England they appear to have been in use from the time of the Romans. In all the old works on husbandry directions occur for quickseting ditches and forming hedgerows; and in Standish's *Commons' Complaint*, published in 1611, the author gives directions for a new method of pruning "quickwood sets of whitethorn," so as to make them thick at the bottom: and advises, in certain cases, that three rows of quick thorn shall be set in each ridge instead of two, as appears to have been the ordinary practice. In a black letter tract, called *An Old Thrifte Newly Revived, &c.*, published in 1612, very particular directions are given for enclosing young plantations "with a good ditch and quicksett of white thorne, crab-tree, and hollin, mixed together, or else any one of them; and by no means, if you can chuse, set any black thorne (sloes) amongst it, for that it will grow into the fieldsward and spoile pasture, and tear the wool of the sheepes back.—*Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum.*

A Fortunate Escape.—In 1751, the following affair happened at Bedlam. Several patients, who were suffered to walk about the house, being in the kitchen one morning when the doctor was there, complained to him of the badness of their broth; and said they were determined not to suffer it any longer, for, as the cook was absent they would rectify it themselves: and immediately seized him, and were going to put him into the boiling copper. The doctor told them, with great presence of mind, that his clothes would spoil the broth, and desired leave to strip; which was granted, and he was accordingly reduced to his breeches and shirt, when some person knocked at the door, which the madmen had fastened. The doctor called out, that no one could be admitted, as he was undressing to get into the copper to be made broth of. The person outside immediately comprehended the doctor's situation, and roared out—fire, fire; at which the patients were so terrified that they opened the door & ran up stairs, by which means the doctor escaped.

Summer and Winter.—Those who are observers of the season say that the last three days of the moon between April and May are infallible presages what summer will be; to know how the winter will turn out, observe the twenty-fourth day of November, and according to it the winter will prove; also observe whether the pigs grub the earth with their heads turned to the north, which foretells a hard and long winter.

The Imprisonment of Rabelais.—His brother monks annoyed and harassed Rabelais by all the modes which malice, ignorance, and numbers can employ against an individual, and in a convent. The learned Budeus, alluding to the persecutions which he was suffering, says, in one of his letters, "I understand that Rabelais is grievously annoyed and persecuted by those enemies of all that is elegant and graceful, for his ardour in the study of Greek literature. Oh! evil infatuation of men whose minds are so dull and stupid!" They at last condemned him to live *in peace*—that is to linger out the remainder of his life on bread and water in the prison cell of the convent. The cause of the pretence of Rabelais being thus buried alive is described as a "scandalous adventure;" but differently related. According to some, the scandal consisted in his disfiguring, by way of frolic, with another young Cordelier, the image of their patron saint. Others state that on the festival of St. Francis he removed the image of the saint and took its place. Having taken precautions to hear out the imposture, he escaped detection until the grotesque devotions of the multitude and the rogueries of the monks overcame his gravity and he laughed. The simple people, seeing the image of the saint as they supposed it move, exclaimed "A miracle!" But the monks, who knew better, dismissed the laity, made their false brother descend from his niche, and gave him the discipline with their hempen cords until his blood appeared. We will not decide which, or whether either of these versions be true, but it is certain that he was condemned, as we have said, to solitary confinement for life in the prison cell. Fortunately for him, his wit, gaiety, and acquirements had made him friends who were powerful enough to obtain his release.—*Lardner's Cyclopædia: Lit. and Scientific Men.*

Origin of the Term Petit-Maitre.—Roger de Rabutin, Comte de Bussy, cousin of Madame de Sevigne, was one of those unfortunate men who, from some malconformity in the structure of their minds, inherit infamy from the use they make of their talents. His youth was spent in gambling, dissipation, duels, and all the disorders of a disorderly period. He was in the army during his early years, and became attached to the great Conde. He served under him when that Prince blockaded Paris, and was one of the faction of young men of quality who attempted to govern the Court on its return, and who received the name of *Petits-Maitres* from the witty Parisians, a name afterwards preserved to designate young coxcombs of fashion in almost all countries. When Conde was arrested he made war against the King in Berri. When liberated he abandoned him. Insolent and presumptuous, he made an enemy of this great man as well as of Turenne. Bussy attacked the latter in a dull epigram. Turenne's reply was far more witty: he wrote to the King that "Bussy was the best officer for songs that he had in his troop."—*Lardner's Cyclopædia.*

The Ghost in Spectacles.—I once saw what nobody, excepting always the audience of that particular night, could have seen, the ghost of Hamlet's father acted at Covent-garden theatre in spectacles. Armour, of course, was the costume, and chalk the complexion; the performer was the late Mr. Cinpman, who was remarkably near-sighted. Having acted the ghost so frequently as to have entirely forgotten the part (for who can expect people to remember things for ever?) he had put on his spectacles on the outside of the casque which covered his "auficiente" head, and, being suddenly called to the stage, on he went, helmet, glasses, and all. When once on, to remove the glasses would have been impossible; a ghost, without speculation in his eyes, taking off a pair of spectacles would have been fatal, and, accordingly, the ghost performed his duty, even to the time of cock-crowing, framed and glazed as ghost was never seen before.—*New Monthly.*

Opium Venders of Constantinople.—Talking of drinking and dramming, puts me in mind of the opium eaters, on a number of whom the Sultan played a capital trick some time back. He was passing through a quarter of the city where they sold the noxious drug, and the thought struck him that as the father of his people he was bound to put a stop to so pernicious a practice: so, without more ado, he pulled down all the shops, over the site of which I have several times had the honour of walking, and sent every single soul he found in them to the madhouse, which happens to be close by, and there they remained with iron collars round their necks and chained to the walls for two or three months, at the end of which time his sublime Highness let them out on their solemn promise never to go mad any more.—*Three Months' Leave*, an amusing volume by Captain Rose.

A Russian Court Ball.—On returning from ball we found the Emperor's younger children, the two Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas, with their governesses and precepteresses, assembled in the outer room, where a large *montagne Russe* had been erected for their amusement, in using which they frequently got the Emperor and ladies of the Court to join. The two boys are fair, but strong and healthy. They were dressed *en Cossaque*, spoke English, and a Scotch lady in charge of them, who was very conversable and agreeable. She had been nineteen years in the Imperial family, and gave me the most interesting account of the perfection of its interior, and of the qualities of the Emperor as a father, husband, and master, which could only be surpassed by those of the empress a mother and wife. Having noticed and communicated with all the nursery department, we went to the ball-room, and shortly afterwards the Empress appeared. She led off the dance with her son, and it was kept up with spirit till twelve, her Majesty really dancing as if she were fifteen, and looking much more like the sister than the mother of the Cesarowitch. It is useless to enumerate all the company that graced this splendid ball. The *elite* of Petersburg are well known.—*Lord Londonderry's Northern Courts of Europe.*

A Dead Irishman's.—An individual in a small village in the West of Scotland, having lately been presented with a son and heir, was anxiously questioned by the grandmother as to what was to be the name of the future hope of the house.—The father, who was a great admirer of the writings of the author of "The Deserted Village," said he thought he should call him after Oliver Goldsmith, "Oliver Goldsmith!" echoed the old lady, whose reading had been somewhat less extensive than that of her son-in-law, "Oliver Goldsmith! and wha's he in a' the warld?" "Oh, he's an Irishman," replied the father; "did ye never hear o' him, afore granny?" "Sooth no I never heard o' him; what does he bide?" "Oh, he's dead langsyne." "Dead!" she exclaimed in great amazement, "and ye're to ca' ye're wean after a dead Irishman!—Well, I never heard the like o' that!"

Thanksgiving Festival Extraordinary.—This jubilee was celebrated at the Lunatic Hospital Worcester, Mass. in great style. The maniacs feasted on Turkeys and mince pies, and in the evening to the number of 70 or 80 danced merrily in the great hall to their own musicians. One of the most furious of the lunatics led off the first waltz with Mrs. Woodward lady of the physician. The whole affair had a most tranquilizing effect upon the tenants of this establishment.