

[Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.]

## WAITING FOR HER LOVER.

(From *Les Orientales* of VICTOR HUGO.)

Climb, Squirrel, climb yon oak on high,  
To the topmost twig that seeks the sky,  
And always like a trembling reed!  
Thou Stork, that hauntest each olden wall,  
From belfry fy to turret tall;  
From church to citadel high o'er all,  
Oh! mount on wings of speed!

Old Eagle, from thine eyrie soar,  
To yonder mountain white and hoar  
With everlasting snow:  
And thou, bi' the bird, whom in thy nest  
No dawn hath ever seen at rest,  
Mount, sleepless Lark, at my behest,  
And leave earth far below!

And now, from oak that seeks the sky:  
From marble spire of tower on high;  
From mount or cloudland see  
In the dim distance if ye can trace  
A snow-white plume that floats in space,  
A smoking courier's thundering pace,  
My lover who hastes to me!

GEORGE MURRAY.

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## MORE ABOUT NEWFOUNDLAND MINING PROSPECTS.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., March 6th, 1873.

## DISCOVERY OF A VALUABLE LEAD MINE.—LA MANCHE MINE.

The discovery, within the last few weeks, of a second valuable deposit of lead ore, on our western coast, encourages the expectation that when this island is thoroughly explored, and its unknown interior opened up, it will become a famous field for mining enterprise. By the terms of their charter, the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company are entitled to select one hundred square miles of unoccupied land, in blocks of not less than three square miles, in any part of the island, there being no limit as to the time of selection. In this way the company became owners of the valuable La Manche Lead Mine, in Placentia Bay. This property, embracing an area of 3,843 acres, has been leased for some time to a few mining capitalists, at a royalty of five per cent., or one twentieth of the gross output, and by the terms of this lease, which extends over twenty-one years, the lessees have the right to acquire the fee simple of the property, within ten years, for the sum of £27,000. A company has lately been formed in London for the purchase of this property, a prospectus having recently appeared in the *London Times*. A number of influential names appear on the directory, Sir Alexander Malet being chairman. The capital is £100,000 in 10,000 shares of £10 each. Of these 1,200 shares only are offered for public subscription, the remainder being privately subscribed for. The working capital is put down at £15,000. There can be little doubt that the shares will be speedily taken up in the London market. The mine is undoubtedly a most valuable one. Since 1865, when first opened, though the works have been carried on very languidly from want of adequate capital, no less than 3,250 tons of galena have been raised and sold at an average price of £12 12s. per ton. As yet only 1,500 superficial feet have been opened, leaving 3,780 feet of ascertained lode untouched. The company, however, do not intend confining operations to La Manche Mine, but have set aside a sum of £2,000 for explorations in the mineral district which is yet almost untouched. In their prospectus they say truly that "the internal resources of the island are almost unexplored and unknown. Promising indications, however, and known geological conformation justify the belief that the mineral resources of the colony are very great." We have thus the gratifying prospect of speedily seeing a most promising beginning made in the development of our mineral resources.

## LEAD FOUND AT PORT-AU-PORT.

The foregoing statement regarding the mineral wealth of this island, has received a strong confirmation by the recent discovery, at Port-au-Port, of a large deposit of lead ore. The Telegraph Company are again the lucky discoverers. A block of this ore, more than two feet square, has been on exhibition here for a short time. The specimen is exceedingly promising, and is said to yield from 15 to 20 per cent. of pure lead. The quantity is reported to be very great, and the facilities for mining all that could be desired. There is an excellent harbour at Port-au-Port; an abundance of fine timber, while the region is but a short distance from St. George's Bay, where coal mines are soon likely to be opened. The apathy of our own population may be judged of from the fact that the agents of the Telegraph Company are getting possession of all those fine mining locations, while our own capitalists will look at nothing but the fisheries. Several other discoveries are spoken of as having been made by the explorers of the company, but as they are as yet only matters of rumour I can say nothing farther of them at present.

## TILT COVE AND NOTRE DAME MINES.

It would seem, at present, as if the southern and western portions of the island were destined to be the seats of lead and coal mining, while on the northern and north-eastern shores copper mining will be carried on most successfully. Our famous Tilt Cove Copper Mine has lately been purchased by an English Company for £150,000 sterling; and it is expected that the works will be carried on next summer on a greatly extended scale, and under the direction of the best engineering skill. Second in importance to Tilt Cove Mine is the Notre Dame Mine, in the same neighbourhood. As yet operations there have not proved remunerative. At first matters looked very promising, a copper vein ten feet square having been struck. After a time this was cut off by an intrusive mass of diorite. The company last summer employed Mr. Fletcher, an able mining engineer, to examine and report on the property. His report is highly favourable. He is of opinion that once the workings are carried beyond the influence of the intrusive diorite, regular deposits of copper ore will be reached. He strongly recommends the continuance of mining operations. He finds that the serpentine, with which the ores of copper in this island are

uniformly associated, is exceedingly well developed, and extends through the entire length of the property, the mineral band being nearly two hundred feet wide, and composed of dark, chloritic slate, steatite and diorite. The ore contained in these rocks is a yellow sulphuret of copper, and is deposited in the form of concretionary layers and bunches, usually following or conforming to the lines of stratification, but also occurring in veins and seams, forming various angles with the strike of the strata. It is probable the Notre Dame Company will issue preferential shares with the view of raising a sufficient working capital, and push on operations vigorously. The attention of mining capitalists is now strongly directed to this island, and extensive explorations of the large tract containing mineral deposits will probably be undertaken shortly. To crown all, an eminent English Naturalist, Henry Reeks, Esq., F. L. S., who spent two years on the western coast studying the ornithology of the country, has declared, in one of his papers in the *Geologist*, that he discovered surface indications of petroleum as marked as any in the oil region of Pennsylvania. He wisely keeps the knowledge of the locality to himself; and we shall probably hear more about it shortly. Should oil be "struck" in addition to our other mineral treasures, our prospects as a colony will speedily become very cheering.

## STARTING FOR THE SEAL HUNT.

Three days ago, on the 3rd March, the whole of our fleet took their departure for the ice fields in pursuit of the seals. The importance of this marine industry to Newfoundland, may be judged of from the fact that twenty large steamers are this year engaged in the seal fishery, and that the annual value of the seals captured is from a million and a quarter to a million and a half of dollars. The number of men who have this year embarked for the ice fields is about 10,000. Five new steamers have this year been added to the fleet, the largest being the "Neptune" of 770 tons burthen, and 120 horse-power. She is owned by Job Brothers, and is the largest steamer engaged in whale or seal fishery. She carries 270 men. The "Vanguard," owned by Mr. Munn, of Harbour Grace, is another fine new steamer of 550 tons burthen, and 120 horse-power. Never perhaps did the sealing fleet get a more favourable start than this year. The whole of them got to sea on the 3rd and 4th of March, the coast being quite clear of ice, so that all could make their way to the north-east, in which direction lie the "ice-meadows." There young seals lie among the hummocks, rapidly fattening for the slaughter, being fed on their mothers' milk. At this date they are over a fortnight old; and in another fortnight will be in their prime, being then literally balls of fat, from which the finest oil is obtained. The hunters aim at reaching them from the 15th to the 25th March. A slight blow on the nose with a pole despatches them; then the skin with the adhering fat is removed and put on board, the carcase being left on the ice. Each seal is worth three dollars. It is calculated that if the steamer "Neptune" should get a full cargo she can bring into port 45,000 or 50,000 seals. It is quite possible she might, within three weeks from the time of her departure, return with such a cargo and in that short time gain enough for her owners to repay her cost; or, on the other hand, she might fail to find the seals, and return "clean." We have high hopes this year of a successful seal fishery. Last year's fishery was a failure; so that the bulk of the seals escaped the hands of the hunters, and may be looked for in greater abundance this year.

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## THE LORE OF THE CALENDAR.

NO. II.—ALL FOOLS DAY. (Dies irrisorius.)

Laugh if you're wise.

Addison, in the *Spectator*, No XLVII., says that "There is a custom everywhere among us on the first of April when everybody takes it into his head to make as many fools as he can. In proportion as there are more follies discovered, so there is more laughter raised on this day than on any other in the whole year. A neighbour of mine, who is a haberdasher by trade, a very shallow conceited fellow, makes his boasts that for these ten years he has not made less than a hundred April fools."

In poor Robin's Almanac for 1760 there is a pleasant, and what is meant for a poetical description of the modern fooleries of the first of April, with the open avowal of being ignorant of the origin of them:—

"The first of April, some do say,  
Is set apart for all-fools day;  
But why the people call it so,  
Nor I, nor they themselves do know;  
But on this day are people sent,  
On purpose for pure merriment,"

upon what are called *sleeveless* errands, for the history of *Eve's mother*, for pigeon's milk, with similar ridiculous absurdities.

All Fools Day, according to Brande, author of *Popular Antiquities*, is a corruption of *auld*, that is *old* fools day; in confirmation of which he quotes an observation on the first of November in the ancient Roman calendar: "The Feast of *old* fools is removed to this day." When this old-fools day, *Festum Stultorum*, was removed to the first of April it is difficult to determine—our antiquaries are silent on the subject. It seems to be a different day from the "feast of fools," which was held on the first of January, of which a particular description may be found in Du Cange's learned glossary in verbo *Kalenda*, (see New Year's Day.)

In Trusler's chronology, A.D. 1198, we are told: "Fools, Festival at Paris, held January 1st, and continued for 240 years, when all sorts of absurdities and indecencies were committed."

In "The Book of Days," the author says there was in the Catholic Church the Feast of the Ass on Twelfth Day, and various *mummings* about Christmas; but April fooling stands apart from these dates. There is but one plausible-looking suggestion from Mr. Pegge to the effect that, the 25th March being, in one respect, New Year's Day, the first of April was its *Octave*, and the termination of its celebrations, but this idea is not very satisfactory."

The subject is an interesting one, and, probably, Mr. Pegge may not be far wrong; for Stow has preserved an account of a remarkable *mummary*, 1377, "made by the citizens for disport of the young Prince Richard, sonne to the Black Prince." On the Sunday before Candlemas, in the night, 130 citizens, disguised and well horsed, in a *mummary*, with sounds of trumpets, sackbuts, cornets, shalmes, and other minstrels, and innumerable torch-lights of wax, rode to Kennington where the young prince was; there was much jollity and *mumming* and drinking and feasting—the prince and the lords dancing with the *mummers*. Stow also mentions that in the second year of the reign of King Henry IV., "the King keeping his Christmas at Eltham, twelve aldermen of London and their sonnes rode in a *mumming* and had great thanks."

*Mummer* signifies a masker, one disguised under a vizard, from the Danish *Mumme*, or Dutch *Momme*. Lipsius tells us in his 44th Epistle, Book 3, "that *momar* is used by the Sicilians for a fool. There can be no doubt that there were a great many *tom-fooleries* committed about the time of Twelfth Day, as well as revellings and frolics, and it is just probable that there were many, according to the *Spectator*, "honest gentlemen always exposed to the wit and raillery of their well-wishers and companions," who were sent upon fools' errands, or what the Scotch call *hunting the gowk*—*Gauch*, Teutonic is rendered *Stultus*, fool. All-Fools Day probably owes its beginning to a removal, which was of frequent use in the Roman Calendar. "There is nothing hardly," says Du Cange, "that will bear a clearer demonstration than that the primitive Christians, by way of conciliating the Pagans to a better worship, humoured their prejudices by yielding to a conformity of names, and even of customs, where they did not essentially interfere with the fundamentals of Gospel Doctrine." This was done in order to quiet their possession and to secure their tenure—an admirable expedient and extremely fit in those barbarous times to prevent the people from returning to their old religion. Among these, in imitation of the Roman *Saturnalia* was the *Festum Fatorum*, when part of the jollity of the season was a burlesque election of a mock pope, mock cardinals, mock bishops, attended with a thousand ridiculous ceremonies, gambols and antics such as singing and dancing in the churches to ludicrous anthems, all allusively to the exploded pretensions of the Druids, whom these sports were calculated to expose to scorn and derision. This *feast of fools* had its designed effect, and contributed, perhaps, more to the extermination of those heathens than all the collateral aids of fire and sword, neither of which were spared in the persecution of them. The continuance of customs, (especially droll ones which suit the gross taste of the multitude) after the original cause of them has ceased, is a great, but no uncommon absurdity.

The epithet *old fools* does not ill accord with the pictures of the Druids transmitted to us. The united appearances of age, sanctity and wisdom, which these ancient priests assumed, doubtless contributed not a little to the deception of the people. The Christian teachers, in their labours to undeceive the fettered multitudes, would probably spare no pains to pull off the mask from these venerable hypocrites, and point out to their converts that *age* was not always synonymous with *wisdom*, that youth was not the peculiar period of folly; but that with young ones there were also *old fools*.

In putting together the scattered fragments that survive the mutilation of ancient customs, it is difficult to make the parts closely agree, so little means of information having been transmitted to us, we are compelled to eke out a great deal by conjecture. The true meaning and design of *all-fool's day* is probably lost, but it is strange that the practice of April fooling is so widely prevalent, and that it has travelled down to us through a long succession of years and outlived the knowledge of the causes that gave rise to the practice.

## Art and Literature.

Robert Browning has a new poem ready for press.

The Rev. Newman Hall will visit this continent in the summer.

Bret Harte's first series of stories has been translated into French.

It is reported that Tennyson has in view a poem on the Colonies.

Kaulbach is preparing a large cartoon of the Deluge for the Vienna Exhibition.

M. Doré is said to be engaged upon a new work, entitled "Paris," as a companion to "London."

Garibaldi is writing a novel entitled "The Hyena of Paris." It is believed that the title refers to the ex-Empress Eugénie.

Joaquin Miller is announced as writing a poem entitled "By the Sun-down Seas," which will be published in London next fall.

Gounod has composed a new "Paternoster" for four voices, and a requiem—a five-part choral work—entitled "Messe Brève pour les Morts."

The *Athenaeum* states that the German University at Strasburg, is not to be allowed to deprive Oxford of the services of Professor Max Muller.

Melissonier's last painting has been purchased for £4,000 by Messrs. Wallis &amp; Co., but will be exhibited in the first place in the Vienna Exhibition.

Marshall Wood has been exhibiting four statues in New York. They are "Daphne," "Hebe," "Psyche Returning from Hades," and "The Song of the Shirt."

The Cesnola collection of antiquities is being arranged in the Douglas mansion, opposite Fechter's Theatre, New York. The arrangement is being carried on under the direction of General Cesnola himself.

The Orleanist party is about to bring out a half-penny paper in Paris, to be called the *Soleil*, and another in Marseilles, with the title of *Le Petit Provençal*. Enormous placards herald the advent of the new organs.A novel by the Princess Mathilde Bonaparte, entitled *La Dame à la Rubine*, will shortly be published. This novel, it is said, was laid before M. Prosper Mérimée some time before his decease, and was corrected by him.

The senior member of the French Academy has just died, at the age of ninety-three—General Comte de Ségur, so well known for his history of the Russian campaign, in which he bore part as a General of Brigade; he is the last surviving General of that terrible retreat from Moscow. He has lived in retirement since 1848.