

Carleton Place

VOL. XIII.

CARLETON PLACE, C.W., NOVEMBER 12, 1862.

No. 10.

SABBATH READING.

Palace and Prison.

In the fort of Varignano,
On a hard and narrow bed,
Brooding thoughts as a volcano
Brooded lava-floods unshed,
Lies a chained and crippled hero,
Balked and baffled, not subdued,
Though his fortune's sunk to zero,
At blood-thirst still stands his mood.

In his sumptuous sea-side palace,
Where Biarritz looks o'er sea,
With all splendor, for such solace
As from splendour wrung may be,
Sits a crowned and sceptered sovereign,
Strong in arms, more strong in art,
Wrapped in thoughts of men's discovering,
With a marble tone to heart.

From her centuries' sleep arisen,
Clenching half-unfettered hands,
'Tis that palace and that prison,
Flashed and fierce Italia stands.
Brave words and brave deeds as well,
Now she doubts he vain would fool her
Of the hopes he helped so well.

So with visage dark and lowering,
She that palace-threshold spurns,
And with tenderness of power
To the fortress-prison turns.
Ne'er a doubt of the devotion
Of that claimed and crippled chief,
Clouds her love profound emotion,
Stays the passion of her grief.

What's an Emperor's word, whose action
To his utterance gives the lie?
But this chief for love bade faction,
Prudence, policy stand by.
Blind may be, but blind for brightness
Of the goal to which he strove,
All his life is one long witness
Life to him is less than love.

Then what wonder to the prison
From the palace if he turn?
'Tis her star that newly risen
O'er that fortress-eclipsed burn.
The true prison is that palace,
And that prisoner is this king!
Were his palace-bed a gallow,
There Italia's heart would cling,
Not to yon man dark and callous,
Grit by his base courtier-ring.

The Waters and the Shadow.

Victor Hugo thus describes the condition
of one who, by crime, has cast himself out
of the pale of society. We would answer
the inquiry at the close in the words of
St. Paul: "I thank God through Jesus Christ
our Lord."

A man overboard!
What matters it the ship does not stop.
The wind is blowing—that dark ship must
keep on her destined course. She passes
away.

The man disappears, he reappears; he
plunges and rises again to the surface, he
calls, he stretches out his hands, they hear
him not; the ship staggering under the gale,
is straining every rope, the sailors and
passengers see the drowning man no longer,
his miserable head is but a point in the vast-
ness of the billows.

He hurries cries deeper into the depths.
What a spectacle is that disappearing sail!
He looks upon it, he looks upon it with frenzy.
It moves away; it grows dim; it diminishes.
He was there but just now, he was one of
the crew, he went and came upon the air and
with the rest, he had his share of the air and
of the sunlight, he was a living man! Now,
what has become of him? He slipped, he
fell, and it is finished.

He is in the monstrous deep. He has
nothing under his feet but the yielding, fleeing
element. The waves, torn and scattered
by the wind, close round him hideously; the
rolling of the abyss bears him along, shreds
of waters are flying about his head, a pop-
ple of waves spit upon him, confused open-
ings half-swallow him; when he sinks he
catches glimpses of yawning precipices full
of darkness; fearful unknown vegetations
seize upon him, bind his feet, and draw him
to themselves; he feels that he is becoming
deeper, deeper, he makes part of the foam;
the billows toss him from one to the other;
he tastes the bitterness, the greedy ocean
eager to devour him; the monster plays
with his agony. It seems as if all this were
liquid hate.

But yet struggles.
He tries to defend himself, he tries to
sustain himself, he struggles, he swims.
He—that poor strength that fails so soon—
he combats the unfeeling.

Where now is the ship? Far away yon-
der. Hardly visible in the pallid gloom of
the horizon.

The wind blows in gusts, the billows over-
whelm him. He gasps, he groans, he sees
only the livid clouds. He is in his dying
agony, makes part of this immense insanity
of the sea. He is tortured by his death, by
his insupportable madness. He hears
sounds which are strange to man, sounds
which seem to come not from some frightful
realm beyond.

There are birds in the clouds even as
there are angels above human distresses,
but what can they do for him? They fly,
sing, and float, while he is gasping.

He feels that he is buried at once by those
two infinities, the ocean and the sky; the
one is a tomb, the other a pestilence.

Night descends; he has been swimming
for hours; his strength is almost exhausted;
that ship that far off, where there were
men, is gone; he is alone in the terrible gloom
of the abyss; he sinks, he drowns, he strug-
gles, he feels beneath him the shadowy mon-
sters of the unseen, he shudders.

Men are no more. Where is God?
He shouts. Help! help! He shouts in-
cessantly.

Nothing in the horizon. Nothing in the
sky.

He implores the blue vault, the waves, the
rocks, all are deaf. He supplicates the tem-
pest; an imperturbable tempest obeys only
the Infinite.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Newspaper Postage.

Six years ago, an agitation was commenced
in Canada for the abolition of postage on
political and other local journals. It resulted
in the passage of a law providing for the
period of nearly three years the public en-
joyed the remarkable boon—for such it un-
doubtedly was—of a free delivery of their
newspapers and magazines at all the Provincial
post-offices.

But a change took place in the personnel of
the Provincial Government. The then
Postmaster General was defeated at the
elections; and his successor, probably urged
to do so by the Finance Minister, reimposed
the newspaper tax. The signs, how-
ever, began again to be favorable for expect-
ing a return to the original system. The
Minister now in the head of the Post-office,
like the originator of the reform, has had
the advantage of a long connection with a
considerable portion of the Provincial press.

He is, besides, a Liberal in politics suffi-
ciently advanced not to be afraid of the
influence of the press. He has, therefore, en-
larged the avenues of popular intelligence.
He thinks that in a country like Canada,
where the Government is subject to such
democratic influences, nothing should be
allowed to stand in the way of the widest
circulation of political information. This
is the philosophy of the whole matter.

Experience has proved that the effect of a
free postal law is to increase immensely the
sale of newspapers. Since the tax was reim-
posed, the falling off, even in many of the
most respectable journals, must be counted
by thousands weekly. The fractional charge
for each delivery is found to be practically
without a journal rather than put up with it.

Thus, then, the tendency of the impost is
precisely the same as that of the tax put on
the old Grab Street pamphleters. The effect
is scarcely so apparent all at once. Grab
Street is said to have completely suc-
cumbed for a moment under the heavy perma-
nent charge, but in general way the prime
end attainable by burdens or restrictions on
the Press, is to curtail the influence of free
speech and free thought.

Without charging on the late administra-
tion of Canada any desire to overthrow
the power of the Press, the postal law as it
stood, most of the members were influenced by
no other than purely fiscal considerations. The
public exchequer, it is true, was not in a
flourishing condition—the Post-office Depart-
ment showing serious deficits in its balance;
but the amount derivable from reimposing
the tax was not a matter of moment to the
system. The truth is that men in power must
be advanced as to their political views before
they can sympathize with too much free
expression, especially through the press.

We see this at the present moment, even in
the case of the late administration. The
different under a Conservative administra-
tion in a colony? And yet, as we judge
from the nature of the announcements which
came to us from the neighboring country,
the present Ministry of Canada are deter-
mined to retain the lost ground—to let the
Postal law, in the postal law as it stood,
remain in the way of rampant discussion.

They are right. A mean, malignant,
and dangerous Press cannot long exist among
a people so intelligent. The ill-disposed jour-
nals will be all the sooner routed out, when
there is the amplest encouragement given to
popular expression. The people will not be
discriminating in their choice of jour-
nals because their number and influence is
limited. They may become indifferent, from
having unnecessary restrictions put upon
their ability to gratify a taste for reading,
but they will certainly not become more dis-
cerning or more discriminating in their
choice of journals.

But a word of ours could reach the ears
of the Postmaster General of Canada, we
should urge him strongly not to be intimi-
dated by the indifference of his colleagues,
or the open hostility of reactionary politicians
of any degree. The question he is asked to
solve is not merely the permanent freedom
of the Press, but the permanent freedom
of a certain population. It is the question of
progress, intelligence, and free speech every-
where. It is the question of setting a bright
and high example before other people and
other governments, where the tendency is to
check rather than encourage the freedom
of the Press.

It is a single sign at the outset, robbed of
the child of God? Of how much deep sorrow
and mortification has been the inlet? It
was an act, perhaps as soon done as the
turning of a key by the angel that opened
the bottomless pit, but with a more tremen-
dous power for evil, it has caused a darkness
as the smoke of a great furnace, to over-
cloud your prospect, and has let forth amid
the wild-spread scenes, all your following
years, memories and regrets with a keener
power than scorpions, and leaving hardly a
green thing in the way of life that opened
with so much to announce the displeasure of God.

It has arrayed his providence against you
and shut you off from the fulness of his love.
An undivided expression from the lips of
Moses shut him out from green pastures and
quiet waters beyond Jordan. Never till we
reach heaven, and there have all our secret
sins unveiled to our view, shall we know
from how many scenes of earthly and of
spiritual happiness a single wrong act has
excluded us; how many sore afflictions it
has drawn around our weary pilgrimage;
and from what degrees of advancement it
has shut us even among the glories and
blessedness of heaven.

When we are pierced with afflictions the
way is not to go to God and say, "Take
this thorn!" God says "No. I put it there to
bless you where you are plethoric."

Suffering well, where is better than suffer-
ing removed. Suffering did not slip in the
theologians make so many things to have
done, at the fall; but it is a part of God's
original method. I know enough of garden-
ing to understand that if I would have a
tree grow upon its south side I must cut off
the branches there. Then all its forces go
to repairing the injury, and twenty buds
shoot out where otherwise there would have
been but one. When we reach the garden
above, we shall find that out of those very
trees which we grieved and grieved
down on earth, have sprung verdant branches,
bearing precious fruit, a thousand fold.

That gospel which sanctions ignorance
and oppression for three millions of men,
what fruit or flower has it to shake down for
the healing of the nations? It is cursed
in its own roots, and blasted in its own
branches.

Why was Sampson the greatest, sold that
ever lived?—Because he saved one
thousand Philistines in death.

Dreadful Railway Accident

near Edinburgh.

A disastrous railway accident occurred
near Edinburgh, on Monday night, the 13th.
The following particulars of this fearful dis-
aster are taken from the *Scottishman*:—

"The passenger train leaving Edinburgh for
the North, at six o'clock, came into col-
lision with the ordinary passenger train, which
left Glasgow at five o'clock, at a short dis-
tance west of Edinburgh. The result was the
destruction of the train between Edinburgh
and Linlithgow, and during the repairs the
train has been running there on a
single line for a short distance. The train
which left Edinburgh at six o'clock
consisted of two third and two first class
carriages, with one van and horse-box.

Shortly after passing Winton, about half
past six o'clock, and while it was on the
single line of rails, the train came into col-
lision with the passenger train from Glas-
gow, which was a unusual heavy one. The
collision took place on a curve of the line,
and the result was the destruction of the
train between Edinburgh and Linlithgow, and
during the repairs the train has been running
there on a single line for a short distance.

The train which left Glasgow at five o'clock
consisted of two third and two first class
carriages, with one van and horse-box. The
passenger train which was on the single line
of rails, the train came into collision with the
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Census of Scotland.

The Report which has been issued from the

Census office of Scotland with the population
tables, just published, states that the
single State of Virginia, a great part of
which was absorbed by the Federal States,
in no instance has it ventured twenty-five
miles from its transports. The Lincoln
Government contemplates the military occu-
pation of the whole of the Confederate
States, one-third of their term of power
has elapsed, and they have not been able
to establish an efficient military occupa-
tion in a single one of the seceded States.
In Virginia and Tennessee, Confederate notes
pass current within the Federal lines, and
daily communications are maintained with
the Confederate authorities. Far from
being able to establish any kind of settled
Government in those portions of Virginia
and Tennessee which are held by their land
forces, they are unable to suppress the ad-
herents of the Southern cause, who openly
defy their authority in Kentucky and
in Missouri.

By water they have met with no resist-
ance, and have successfully occupied many
ports, but in no single instance have they
been able to extend their authority thirty
miles from the water.

In the meantime, the Government of the
Confederate States has had a year to
organize its power, and it has, at the
present moment, been able to raise a num-
ber of better armed and equipped army in
the field than it has ever yet had.

If Mr. Lincoln's armies have been unable
to get complete possession even of Tennes-
see, his government has been still less suc-
cessful in reuniting any portion of the ter-
ritory.

Let us take Virginia as an example, of
which the writer can speak from personal
observation.

This State, it should be borne in mind,
was disposed, even after Mr. Lincoln's elec-
tion, to stand by the Union and the existing
Constitution, in which the Confederate
States, it would be in Virginia. They have
even claimed to have this State so far with
them as to retain in Congress at Washing-
ton a pretended representative of Virginia.

Now to give some idea of the actual state
of feeling in Virginia, the writer visited
the Union candidates to the Convention
are not only now serving in the Confederate
army, but are among the most violent ene-
mies of the North. Throughout even those
districts which are in the occupation of the
Federal troops a Southern soldier, or any
Southerner, may throw himself upon the pro-
tection of the first person he meets on the
road, rich or poor, man or woman, with
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Now to give some idea of the actual state
of feeling in Virginia, the writer visited
the Union candidates to the Convention
are not only now serving in the Confederate
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districts which are in the occupation of the
Federal troops a Southern soldier, or any
Southerner, may throw himself upon the pro-
tection of the first person he meets on the
road, rich or poor, man or woman, with
other claims to have this State so far with
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Ten Days in Richmond.

(From Blackwood's Magazine.)

This flank movement of McClellan's has
again somewhat postponed the termination
of this ninety days' rebellion. It appears
rather more probable that Jackson will be
in Pennsylvania this autumn than that Mc-
Clellan will reach Richmond.

This defeat, however, is more than a
mere temporary reverse. It shows that the
North, with all the energy it has exerted,
has not the power to carry out its purpose.
The battle of Bull's Run occurred in
July, 1861. The Lincoln Government
then commenced despatching its chief energies
to raising and equipping this, the Grand
Army of the Potomac. The preparations
occupied seven months, till last April it was
sent forth to subjugate the South. It
has, however, proved insufficient to occupy
the single State of Virginia, a great part of
which was absorbed by the Federal States,
in no instance has it ventured twenty-five
miles from its transports. The Lincoln
Government contemplates the military occu-
pation of the whole of the Confederate
States, one-third of their term of power
has elapsed, and they have not been able
to establish an efficient military occupa-
tion in a single one of the seceded States.
In Virginia and Tennessee, Confederate notes
pass current within the Federal lines, and
daily communications are maintained with
the Confederate authorities. Far from
being able to establish any kind of settled
Government in those portions of Virginia
and Tennessee which are held by their land
forces, they are unable to suppress the ad-
herents of the Southern cause, who openly
defy their authority in Kentucky and
in Missouri.

By water they have met with no resist-
ance, and have successfully occupied many
ports, but in no single instance have they
been able to extend their authority thirty
miles from the water.

In the meantime, the Government of the
Confederate States has had a year to
organize its power, and it has, at the
present moment, been able to raise a num-
ber of better armed and equipped army in
the field than it has ever yet had.

If Mr. Lincoln's armies have been unable
to get complete possession even of Tennes-
see, his government has been still less suc-
cessful in reuniting any portion of the ter-
ritory.

Let us take Virginia as an example, of
which the writer can speak from personal
observation.

This State, it should be borne in mind,
was disposed, even after Mr. Lincoln's elec-
tion, to stand by the Union and the existing
Constitution, in which the Confederate
States, it would be in Virginia. They have
even claimed to have this State so far with
them as to retain in Congress at Washing-
ton a pretended representative of Virginia.

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