

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponit secures,
Arbitrio popularis aures.—Hor.*

No. 27.

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PRICE 2 CENTS.

THE LICENSE LAW.

Some five months back, we called public attention to the reckless and ill-advised manner in which spirit licenses had been granted to all who were legally qualified to obtain them, and we pointed out some of the most glaring evils consequent upon the abuse of a power which should at all times be used most sparingly by the Civic authorities. We gladly return to the subject, because in certain quarters we note a disposition to censure the proceedings of the City Council, upon a question of vital importance to the moral and social welfare of the community at large. We have before us the Ordinances, and most recent Provincial Acts of the city and we sincerely trust that no considerations of a party or private nature will be allowed to interfere with the provisions of the License Act, which Act, if rigidly and impartially carried out, will go far towards counteracting those evils we formerly denounced. The wholesale manner in which licenses have hitherto been granted and renewed has been productive of untold misery, and has done more towards demoralizing the community than the abuse of any other power vested in the hands of the people's representatives. The liquor traffic is not regulated by the ordinary rules of commerce, inasmuch as the supply to a large extent creates the demand, and an extraordinary large supply is commonly found in connection with a demoralized state of society. In granting spirit licenses, there are other things to be considered than the revenues of the city and the characters of the applicants. Licensing Magistrates should be guided not merely by that which is lawful but likewise by that which is expedient. Without in any way seeking to enforce morality by law, a magistrate may yet further the interests of morality by exercising a wise discretion upon those questions whereon the law grants him a discretionary power. Now, there is perhaps no question upon which a Magistrate is invested with more discretionary power than upon the license question. By granting or refusing a license, a Magistrate may confer a benefit upon a section of society, or he may sanction a grievous offence against society at large. Mr. A. may be highly respectable and well able to pay for a license, but such considerations do not justify a Magistrate granting Mr. A. a spirit license, should it be clearly proved that the locality wherein Mr. A. purposes establishing his business is already overstocked with retail spirit stores. The respectability of the applicant in such a case should not in any way bias the Magistrate's decision, inasmuch as the presence of a respectable spirit vendor among a host of smaller publicans would merely cause the latter to undersell the former by vending the vilest poison at the cheapest possible rate. The chief supporters of the smaller liquor stores are those who drink, not for the sake of gratifying their palates, but rather for the sake of getting drunk, and for such no liquor is unpalatable so long as it is fiery and strong. The great evil to be combated in this city, is the undue excess of spirit shops, independent of their character or mode of business. The dismal statistics of drunkenness are regulated, not by the size of liquor stores, but by their number. Ten grog shops, valued at £200 each, will turn out far more drunkards than two liquor stores valued at £2000. There is no surer way to nourish evil than to place temptation to evil

within easy reach, and we know of no city wherein the opportunities for dram-drinking are so frequent as in Halifax. Turn where we will—North or South, East or West,—our principal thoroughfares are, to speak, lined with spirit bottles. The time has arrived when, for the sake of our reputation, the most stringent and uncompromising reform is absolutely imperative. The License Regulations drawn up by the City Council are, taken as a whole, wise and expedient, albeit capable of some slight improvement. The following sentence of the opening paragraph will commend itself to all sensible men:—"No licenses to sell liquors shall be issued or granted to any person who now keeps or hereafter shall keep a house of ill-fame,"—and a little further on, we learn that—"the Mayor and three Aldermen shall have power to suspend any such license, if in their judgment the order and welfare of the city require it." There cannot, we fancy, be any two opinions regarding the character of most of the licensed houses of our upper streets, and we trust that the Mayor and Aldermen will not renew any licenses in these localities before taking evidence as to the real nature of the houses in question. If the judgment of any three members of the Civic body can approve the present condition of Barrack and Albermarle Streets, as conducing towards the 'order and welfare of the city,' the sooner the City Council is reformed the better for the reputation of our city. We are glad to find that Constables are now "empowered to enter in or upon the premises, or into the shop, store, dwelling-house, or other building of any person or persons who (holding a license or unlicensed) is or are suspected of violating any law respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors, or of violating the license law." This power, if wisely used, will doubtless replenish the City Coffers at the expense of many who have too long set the license laws at defiance. The old and weak argument quoted in favor of almost unlimited licensing—that Constables had power to enter licensed houses only—is now effectually and wisely disposed of, and we hope to see a little extra vigilance on the part of the Constabulary—especially as regards the southern portion of the city. The evidence necessary for the conviction of suspected spirit retailers is clearly defined, and Magistrates would do well to reject any quibbles which may be put forward relative to an admitted consumption of spirits without payment for the same. Turning to Schedule A, we find that licenses are granted under three heads, viz—"Tavern Licenses," "Shop Licenses," and "Hotel and Eating House Licenses." The tavern license sanctions the sale of "intoxicating liquors only, and no other articles, either provisions, goods, wares, or merchandize of any description." This wise Act seems especially aimed against that monstrous evil to which we formerly called attention—viz—the combination of the grocery and spirit trades. As matters now stand, almost every Grocer is also a dram seller, and for one man that habitually gets drunk at a regular tavern, there are fifty habitual dram drinkers who would never have tasted spirits had they not been compelled to purchase their groceries in an atmosphere of rum. But there are those among us who argue that the majority of the Grocers are men of the highest respectability—men whose stores are models of propriety—men to withhold a

license from whom would be a proceeding unjust and illiberal. Let not the City Council listen to such false reasoning. No really respectable Grocer would condescend to sell spirits by the glass, any more than a really respectable publican would condescend to sell an ounce of tea or sugar. If Grocers and other dealers think fit to supply their customers with wine or spirits, they can readily obtain a shop license, which allows them to sell "intoxicating liquors in quantities not less than one bottle, containing not less than three half pints; but no part whereof shall be consumed on the premises." That an outcry will take place on behalf of those highly respectable Grocers who have long been accustomed to retail "white-eye" at five cents per glass, we have not the smallest doubt; but let the members of the City Council stand their ground, and they will, in the end, receive the thanks of their fellow citizens for the most salutary city reform ever effected. We cannot altogether approve of the policy of the Council in allowing Confectioners to obtain a spirit license under the third class. It is highly important that the distinction between "Eating Houses" and "Confectioner's Shops" should be clearly marked. What constitutes a Confectioner's Shop? The articles included in the term "Confectionary," vary so considerably that this portion of the Act seems open to the gravest abuse. If every man who chooses to exhibit in his window two or three bottles of barley sugar and a corresponding amount of lemon drops, be entitled to take out a Confectioner's spirit license, the sale of bad rum will continue on much the same scale as at present. The Council would do well to reconsider the third portion of Schedule A, and omit the words:—"or a Confectioner's shop." We presume it was the intention of the Council to accommodate those who endeavour to combine the business of a Confectioner with that of an Eating house keeper,—a convenient arrangement very common in the West End of London. We know of dozens of such establishments in London, and other large cities, but at none of them are intoxicating liquors retailed, the custom invariably being to send to the nearest tavern for such liquors as may be ordered—a system which works well, alike for the Confectioner, the tavern proprietor, and the public. We fear that some difficulty will attend the successful working of the law as laid down with regard to minors: "Any person holding a license who shall knowingly sell intoxicating liquors to a minor, any part of which shall be consumed on the premises, upon proof thereof before the Mayor, or presiding Alderman, shall forfeit his license, and shall not again be capable of holding a license." It seems somewhat hard that a lad of 19 or 20, should not be allowed a glass of ale on his way home from the cricket field, or the Dartmouth lakes, and the penalty attaching to a publican who would under such circumstances serve a glass of ale, seems harder still. Can it be that our youths are so precociously addicted to the abuse of intoxicating liquors as to render such a clause absolutely necessary? We now come upon a clause which, however, judicious in principle, seems to go somewhat beyond the limits of orthodox legislation. "If the husband, wife, parent, child, brother, or sister, master, guardian, or creditor, of any person addicted to the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors, or (? if) any Alderman or Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner of the Poor shall give notice in writing to any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors, that such person (? the person engaged in the sale, &c.) is addicted to the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors, it shall not thereafter be lawful, &c., for the person receiving such notice, &c., &c., to sell or give any intoxicating liquors to such intemperate person, &c." Any attempt to carry out this law would give rise to an amount of scandal grave in proportion to the social position of the parties implicated. It is not easy to say what constitutes an "intemperate use of intoxicating liquors," on the part of a man of whose antecedents we know nothing whatever. Let us suppose, for

sake of illustration, that a teetotal tailor has given credit to a man of prepossessing exterior and doubtful means, and that, having in vain furnished his "little account," the temperate tailor hears that his dubious patron is in the habit of drinking a bottle of brandy per diem. The teetotal tailor might, in his capacity as creditor, and in hopes of getting his bill paid, prohibit the sale of liquor to his prepossessing debtor, and by so doing consign his patron to *delirium tremens* and probable death. Again,—a desperate creditor might, were he so minded, stop the liquor of a debtor kept alive solely by liquor, merely because the said debtor was known to have ensured his life for the sake of his creditors. There is, in point of fact, scarce any limit to the difficulties consequent upon an endeavour to enforce sobriety by means of legislation, and the City Council would do well to erase from its Statutes the clause in question. The clause relating to "Habitual drunkards" should likewise be expunged. In the first place, it could never be fairly carried out; and in the second place, it is entirely opposed to individual freedom. However sad may be the contemplation of an habitual drunkard, undermining his health and neglecting his family in order to gratify his cravings for strong drink, the spectacle by no means justifies "any two Aldermen" causing a notice of such an one's unhappy peculiarities to be made public in the columns of the press. When a man ill uses, or neglects his family, the latter can appeal to the law for protection, but any attempt to enforce morality by law is as inexpedient as it must necessarily be impracticable.

THE LEGISLATURE—MINOR DEBATES.

The arguments employed against the Hon. Mr. SHANNON'S bill, "to allow foreigners to obtain patents in Nova Scotia on the same terms as those imposed on our citizens in their "(foreigners) countries," seem expressly designed to prove the truth of Mr. McCULLY'S assertion—small countries produce small men. Listen to Mr. BLANCHARD'S words:—"He thought it would be unsafe to extend large privileges to foreigners in the way proposed." If it were not that in this Province a so-called conservative party introduced universal suffrage, we should say that Mr. BLANCHARD had made a mistake in taking up his position on the Speaker's left. Fancy, a so-called liberal arguing in favor of protection as regards patents! Mr. BLANCHARD'S liberality on this subject, reminds us of the liberality which, some ten years back, was accorded to an English army doctor by one or more Halifax physicians. The Englishman had the effrontery to cure patients whom the Halifax doctors did not cure, and the latter, with that liberality for which we are so justly celebrated, asserted that an English officer, because he was an English officer, had no right to interfere in matters so purely local as health and sickness—indeed the local practitioners were silly enough to refer the matter to the English authorities, and thus merit the snubbing they (as a matter of course) finally received. Mr. LEVISCONTE went a little further than Mr. BLANCHARD, and referred to the loss "which would be caused by opening a door to competition in our present inventions." We wonder to which of those two mighty parties, for whose squabbles our gigantic population pays \$30,000 per annum, Mr. LEVISCONTE belongs. How glad we are that we neither know nor care? To write for a party paper in a Province like Nova Scotia must be a painful task indeed, and we sincerely sympathize with those who are bound to support a man who dreads "competition in invention," merely because he is one of a political party, in a country which needs neither politics nor politicians. The only sensible remark made concerning patents, was that of Mr. SHANNON, who said, "our attempts at invention, as seen in the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S office, are positively ludicrous, and I do not see any reason

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" why the country should refuse to participate in the advanced stages arising from foreign inventions." We are glad to find that the all-important subject of a " Geological Survey " of this Province has received honourable mention, and that the magnificent sum of £100,000, currency, has been, or will be paid, toward furthering Dr. HONEYMAN'S researches. The government has also " assumed the responsibility of making an advance of £5,000, currency," to obtain copies of Dr. HONEYMAN'S paper, read in London, Great Britain. It is almost needless to add, that the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, despite the large majority which sustains his government, was ready with an apology for the government's conduct upon the survey question:—" Measures " would have been taken by the government for an *efficient* " geological survey, but for causes to which I need not now " particularly refer. It was considered *not improbable* that the " subject would be dealt with in a *more efficient manner* under " different arrangements, &c." This explanation cannot fail to satisfy all reasonable men. No measures whatever having been previously taken for an *efficient* survey, it is, as the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY judiciously remarks, *not improbable* that " under *different arrangements* " the subject will be dealt with in a *more efficient manner*. We are here reminded of Falladeen's final criticism upon the poetry of Feramorz:—he had no doubt that Feramorz would be an excellent poet, provided he consented to totally change his style of writing and mode of thought. Some twaddle was talked by Dr. HAMILTON upon the License Law, and Mr. S. McDONALD was justified in saying that " some gentlemen were influenced by their zeal for " temperance to go too far, and try impossibilities." Mr. BLANCHARD, introduced a bill the obvious tendency of which is to counteract the efforts of those wishing to keep the Province well supplied with salmon. It would appear that a number of the inhabitants of Margaree, Inverness, complain that, " the act " passed last session on the " river fisheries," bore hardly upon " the fishermen, and was only for the benefit of gentlemen " sportsmen." Well, Mr. BLANCHARD is one of the members for Inverness, and his bill was referred to the Committee on River Fisheries. We sincerely trust that the Committee may report unfavourably upon the bill, and endeavour to keep salmon in our rivers, albeit the latter are occasionally fished by " gentlemen." The petitions presented against Confederation have been numerous, and the government has wisely said as little upon the subject as possible. The debate upon the sale of Provincial bonds was highly unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it compelled the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY to defend the government against an imputation of secrecy and unfairness in dealing with public money. We refrain from commenting upon the issues raised in this debate, and will only remark that the whole debate was a bitter satire upon the folly of Responsible Government in a Province such as Nova Scotia. Imagine the leader of the government being compelled to say:—" There was no " secrecy whatever. *Every man was treated alike, and no " preference was shown to any friend of the government.*" And this assertion had reference to the disposal of public money. What a wretched burlesque upon the British form of government!

UNEQUAL EQUALITY.

Boz's sketches of American life—Martin Chuzzlewit—and many minor bits at the peculiarities of life on this side of the Atlantic should be read with a devout attention by Nova Scotians. Mr. DICKENS, after criticising our neighbours in the States, might, had he spent a few days here, have added one or two highly valuable chapters on Halifax institutions, and the little Anglo-American follies of the inhabitants of this city. Everybody must remember the fictitious General Choke, Colonel

Diver, and the others, who, in a country where all were supposed to be equal proved the absurdity of the assumption by lowering themselves beneath their fellows, by the adoption of *airs*, titles, and names which ill suited the pappies who made use of them. To play at being Generals, Colonels, and Majors, is not the peculiar vanity, as Mr. Weller would say, of Halifaxians. The same sentiment, however, which acts with such ludicrous results in the States, exists to a certain extent here, and manifests itself at divers times and in various places. Our processions, every member of which feels separated for the time being from the common herd of mankind, are examples of the peculiar kind of self-assertion to which we refer. We do not say that there is any harm in such demonstrations—on the contrary, they may tend to good results by keeping societies in working order. They are, nevertheless, illustrations of the principle, that those who profess to regard, in a sketchy, general way, all men as equals are the first to assert as far as possible their individual exclusiveness. The peculiar vanity of Nova Scotians, however, seems to us to be playing at Parliament. Five or six gentlemen cannot assemble in an ordinary chamber to talk over a public matter, be it never so simple, without appointing a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer—voting each other in order and out of order to the hearts' content of those who, not being M.P.'s, or G.W.P.'s, or P.P.'s, or W.G.M.'s, are determined (if not themselves roses) to assert their privilege of living for the moment in the odour of political or official circumlocution. It is the old, old story, which Mr. DICKENS laughed at in New York, and to be appointed a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director, has the same enhancing effect for Nova Scotians as a " bogus " Generalship or Colonelcy has for the people of the United States. We will give an example of what we mean by an account of a certain public (?) meeting which it was our good fortune to attend a few days ago.

Mr. PROXY POTTER, a gentleman well known in commercial circles, had long since conceived the idea that Cotton could be cultivated with advantage in this Province. His scheme, it is true, hardly received the assistance which its intrinsic merits would appear to deserve. He canvassed for supporters long and unsuccessfully. He was told it could never answer. He was laughed at. But Mr. POTTER had a great object in view, and the sneers of the narrow-minded, though, no doubt, somewhat vexatious, did not turn him from the course which love of duty, conscious rectitude, (and ten per cent for his money) pointed out as the only safe one for Mr. PROXY POTTER to follow. He advertised a public meeting, that the expediency of growing Cotton in Nova Scotia might be considered. It is true that before taking this step Mr. POTTER placed himself in communication with three or four gentlemen, whose only objections to his scheme were, its apparent vagueness, and the fact that " people say it can't answer." These scruples overcome, the four or five dubious gentlemen arrived at the conclusion that the meeting could do no harm, and since POTTER, their old and esteemed friend, wished it—they would attend. An advertisement followed. A notice in the morning and evening papers followed the advertisement. The notice was to this effect:—

" We see with pleasure that Mr. POTTER'S efforts are at last about to bear fruit. A meeting on the propriety of bringing cotton into the country, (to be grown there) is announced. Mr. POTTER having given the labour of a life time to the subject, no doubt can be entertained as to his ultimate success. Success to the Cotton growers."

The meeting assembled in the Temperance Hall pursuant to notice; Mr. POTTER, sanguine of success, having engaged that large and convenient chamber for the occasion. At eight o'clock the lamps were lit and Mr. POTTER appeared upon the platform and seated himself unduly in a corner. For the space of half an hour, that gentleman, the lamps, and a young gentleman (who affected public meetings in general, no matter what

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their object, and who on this occasion seated himself beneath the gallery, apparently to avoid the glare of the gas lamps or the concentrated fire of Mr. POTTER's eye) constituted the meeting. At the expiration of thirty minutes, Messrs. FUMBLE, FEEBLE, FOOZLE, and DAZED, Mr. POTTER's doubtful friends, entered the hall one by one, and took their seats upon the platform. Mr. PROSY POTTER, after blowing his nose twice and taking a cautious glance into the dimmer recesses of the hall—as though an enemy or a wild beast might possibly be concealed within them, said aloud: "I think, gentlemen, we may as well proceed to business: shall we declare the meeting opened?" Mr. NYNCOM POOPE (the gentleman under the gallery) here remarked, obliquely and in a tone of voice somewhat defiant for one so young,—“Mr. Chairman—Am I in order?” No chairman having been elected, the question was not easily solved. Mr. POTTER repeated it to his four friends, and, as Mr. FOOZLE (with extraordinary acuteness) remarked,—“No Chairman having been elected, it would be a great presumption on the part of any gentleman present to answer the question which had been addressed by the honorable gentleman under the gallery exclusively to the Chairman.” Mr. FUMBLE objected. “It was not,” he said, “his desire to be obstructive, but it appeared to him only civil that the young gent—the honorable gentleman under the gallery—should receive an answer. If no one else would take the responsibility he would do it himself.” Mr. FUMBLE, putting his precept in practice, invited Mr. NYNCOM POOPE to come upon the platform, which invitation, as rare as unexpected, was speedily complied with by the young gentleman invited. At this period a few persons of both sexes—attracted, moth-like, by the lighted windows, fluttered into the Hall. The necessity of electing a chairman became every minute more and more imperative. Mr. POOPE, seeing this, again stood up and said, “The meeting being now assembled we had better choose a Chairman.” Mr. POOPE, moved by gratitude, suggested Mr. FUMBLE as a competent person to fill that important office, but his advice fell dead upon his audience who justly thought that none but Mr. POTTER deserved so high an honour. Mr. FEEBLE proposed Mr. DAZED. The latter gentleman, after frequent inquiries as to whether or no he was “in order,” proposed Mr. FOOZLE—and so on. At length Mr. POTTER was elected by the elevation of three hands and three voices crying “yes” to some unintelligible proposition, and the meeting proceeded to business. What succeeded we do not exactly remember. Mr. DAZED talked about the Sea Island Cotton, and said that “its staple was not to be obtained elsewhere.” Mr. POTTER, as Chairman, interfered. Mr. NYNCOM POOPE at last stopped the whole proceedings by proposing in a loud voice (and totally out of order) “the whole thing bosh”—a motion which we must with pleasure confess was carried unanimously, and succeeded by jeers and ironical cheers from the moths in the body of the hall. Then did Messrs. POTTER, FUMBLE, FEEBLE, and DAZED retire—not discomforted but rather elated at the reflection that they had brought a great subject forward and were entitled to the plaudits of the Halifax world for such disinterested endeavours to promote a great object.

And this is the way some Haligonians raise themselves above their fellows. Presidents of Clubs, Commodores, G. W. P.'s, and all the rest, are branches from the same root. Well, well, since men cannot all be equal, and should not be so, it is not for us to complain—where the old world ways to honor are impracticable, or muddy (witness politics in Nova Scotia) other courses must be found, and if they are sometimes rather absurd it is no business of ours.

MURDOCH'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX—A. & W. MACKINLAY.

We have before us the history of Acadie, from the arrival of Baron de St. Just at Sable Island in 1518, to the appointment of Charles de St. E.ienne as “King's Lt.-General” in 1631. John Cabot is indeed said to have seen Newfoundland towards the close of the fifteenth century, and to have named it “Prima Vista,” but the first event of much importance in the history of this Province, was the arrival at Liverpool, of M. de Monts, in the twofold capacity of missionary and explorer. Mr. Murdoch has appended to his second chapter the commission granted de Monts by Henry of Navarre, wherein the instructions laid down for the protestant explorer are set forth at length. M. de Monts had visited Acadie during a pleasure trip in 1589, and having reported favorably thereon, was appointed “Lieutenant General, and commissioned by Henry to bring to obedience all the people of the said land and the borderers thereon: and to call, make, provoke and incite them to the knowledge of God, and to the light of faith and Christian religion, and to establish it there, and * * * to make, or cause to be made, discovery and view along the maritime coasts and other countries of the main land, which you shall order and prescribe in the aforesaid space of the 40th degree to the 46th degree, or otherwise as much and as far as may be, along the said coast, and in the firm land. To make carefully to be sought and marked all sorts of gold, and of silver, copper, and other metals and minerals, &c.” Among those who accompanied de Monts was the Baron de Poutrineourt, a gentleman of Picardie, who, for political reasons, was desirous of settling in the new world. Having confiscated a vessel found in the harbor of Liverpool, de Monts and his party coasted to the S. West, doubled Cape Sable and anchored in St. Mary's bay. “Two or three days after their arrival at St. Mary's, one of their priests, called Aubry (of the city of Paris,) got lost in the woods, not being able to find his way back to the ship,” and was not found until seventeen days later, when he was more dead than alive, from exposure and want of sustenance. Leaving St. Mary's bay, the party entered the bay of Fundy, passed through Digby gut into Annapolis basin, and came upon the site of Annapolis, which they named Port Royal. Poutrineourt was so charmed with Annapolis, that he obtained a grant of it from de Monts, which grant was confirmed by the King in 1607. From Port Royal de Monts sailed to Mines, since called Horton, and thence crossing the bay, ascended the St. John river. Then, coasting south-westerly from the mouth of the St. John, de Monts landed at the isle of St. Croix, built a fort thereon, and hoisted the royal standard of France. During the winter no less than thirty-six of the party died from scurvy, but in the spring they were reinforced by forty men brought out by Pontgravé, an able navigator, and one of the principal merchants of St. Malo. The whole party then crossed the bay to Port Royal, now Annapolis,—founded in 1605; “the first durable settlement formed by the French in North America, and the most ancient town in this part of the world after St. Augustine.” De Monts sailed for France in the autumn of 1605, but the heavy expense and small return of his adventure, set the minds of the people at home against it.” Meanwhile, Pontgravé remained at Port Royal as de Mont's Lieutenant, and “with the arrival of winter, the Indians came from distances to Port Royal, bringing the skins of the beaver, the otter, and the moose to barter. They also brought with them fresh meat, and feasted merrily. * * * The disposition shewn by the Micmacs to a friendly intercourse with the French may be attributed to two causes: I. That the Micmacs, though called savages, were an intelligent, honest, and kind race of men. II. That for a century before, from 1594 to 1604, there had been dealings and acquaintance between them and fishermen from Bretagne, the Basques and other French, who frequented these coasts. * * * One of the greatest annoyances the settlers felt, was their being compelled to grind up their grain in hand mills. The Indians declined to assist in this severe labour, although half the meal ground was offered them as recompense. Six of the settlers died this winter, and Les-carbot thought this labour of grinding had contributed to kill them.”

Both de Monts and Poutrineourt labored hard for support to fit out another expedition, and on the 13th May, 1606, they left Rochelle in the *Jonas*, a vessel of 150 tons, and arrived at Port Royal on the 27th July, where they found only two men, who had volunteered to take charge of the stores, Pontgravé and his party having (owing to a scarcity of food) left for France. But, as good luck would have it, Pontgravé met a shallop, by which he learned that the *Jonas* had been spoken

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"off Canseau, and on this news he went back to Port Royal." These early French settlers seem to have been men of indomitable energy and perseverance, and to have been full of hope concerning the fertile valley of Annapolis. There is something almost touching in the mainly simplicity of the following passage, written by Lescaurbot:—"Finally, being in the port, it was unto us a thing marvellous to see the fair distance and the largeness of it, and the mountains and hills that environed it, and I wondered how so fair a place did remain desert, being all filled with woods, seeing that so many pine away in the world which might make good of this land, if only they had a chief governor to conduct them thither. At the very beginning we were desirous to see the country up the river, where we found meadows almost continually above twelve leagues of ground, among which brooks do run without number, which come from the hills and mountains adjoining."

Late in the summer of 1606, de Monts and Pontgrévé returned to France, leaving Lescaurbot to look after the interests of Port Royal while Poutrinecourt coasted Southward in hopes of passing Cape Cod, until adverse weather compelled him to return to Port Royal. Near the Cape, five of Poutrinecourt's companions were surprised by the savages and several of them killed. The French having buried their comrades returned to their vessel, after which the Indians came at low water and tore down the cross under which the men were buried, took up one of the bodies, and by their gestures insulted the French, who would not come on shore. They had before yelled and danced in triumph, while the funeral service was performed. When the tide served, the French landed and replaced the cross and the body." The Port Royal settlers, while busily engaged in the culture of corn, &c., yet found time to enjoy themselves at the social board, as the following extract will prove. There was established at the table of M. Poutrinecourt *l'ordre de bon temps* (the order of happy times.) There were fifteen guests, each of whom, in his turn, became steward and caterer of the day. At the dinner, the steward, with napkin on shoulder, staff of office in hand, and the collar of the order round his neck, led the van. The other guests in procession followed, each bearing a dish. After grace in the evening, he resigned the insignia to his successor, and they drank to each other in a cup of wine. It was the steward's duty to look to supplies, and he would go hunt or fish a day or two before his turn came, to add some dainty to the ordinary fare. During the winter they had fowl and game in abundance, supplied by the Indians and by their own exertions. These feasts were often attended by Indians of all ages and both sexes, sometimes twenty or thirty being present." In 1607, Poutrinecourt was informed that, owing to the establishment of a Dutch traffic in Canadian furs, &c., the friends of the French Mission could no longer afford to supply the requisite funds, and on the 3rd Sept. the colonists sailed from Canseau for France, and arrived at Roscoff, in Lower Bretagne on Sept. 28th. When arrived at Paris, Poutrinecourt exhibited to the king specimens of Nova Scotian corn, likewise five wild geese, which had been bred from the eggs. During this year (1607) the English are said to have made a settlement at Sagadahoc. In March, 1608, de Monts sent out several families, but whether they went to Port Royal, or to Canada, Lescaurbot does not say. * * Lescaurbot closes this part of his work by stating M. Poutrinecourt's determination to settle Port Royal, and to take his family there. Lescaurbot dates his work in 1609. M. de Champlain began his settlement at Quebec in this year, 1608. M. de Monts had now turned his attention and devoted his exertions to Canada. Champlain arrived at Quebec on the 3rd July, 1608, and began at once to erect buildings and clear land. Champlain says he was himself three years and a half in Acadie, part of the time at St. Croix, and part at Port Royal."

(To be Continued.)

THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The following extracts from a leading English periodical are highly instructive, and will doubtless be read with much interest. We regret that want of space compels us to curtail certain passages, but we shall continue the article in our next issue.

The framers of the scheme before us style their work a copy of the British constitution; but, as a plan of a central govern-

ment for a federation, it may be called rather a copy of the constitution of the United States. Ottawa, as a factitious capital, is the exact counterpart of Washington; and at Ottawa, as at Washington, we shall too probably see the least worthy citizens of the Federation collected together, during several months in each year, without even the tempering and restraining influences which the mixed society of a real capital affords, an unadulterated element of professional politicians, devoting their whole time to the undivided work of corruption and intrigue.

If the Federation is to have a central government and a capital, the question should at all events be considered whether it is not desirable to place the capital in a city, such as Montreal, where there will be some social interests and influences, to temper the pursuits of which Wilward's Hotel and the boarding-houses at Washington are the classic scene. Even the amenities of Washington debate might be a little controlled by the presence of a more enlarged and cultivated circle in the gallery.

A writer, himself a colonist, and one who has had considerable experience in colonial politics, lays it down as one of a series of axioms for the guidance of colonial legislators, "that it is a fallacy to assume that there will be found in the colonies, as in England, a class of statesmen sufficiently above the influence of sordid motives to take the management of public affairs from public spirit and patriotic motives alone; or that men who, by securing the votes of the majority of a colonial legislature, can obtain the handling of the colonial revenue, and the dispensing of the patronage of office, in addition to the distinction which it confers, will scruple at any sacrifice of the public interests which may be necessary to secure these objects." If there is any truth in this somewhat plain-spoken summary of a colonist's political experience, it betokens no vice or malady in colonial society, but, on the contrary a general prevalence of industry, and an equal diffusion of wealth. It does, however, make it desirable, before instituting a great central government with a vast amount of patronage, and an unlimited command of money, to pause and inquire, whether under the existing conditions of colonial society competent and disinterested candidates for the places in that government are likely to be found. If they are not, it might be a sounder, though a less imposing policy, to be content with a simple federation for the purpose of mutual protection, confining the Federal Assembly to purely federal functions, giving its members as little patronage as possible, and assigning to them only the power of calling for the necessary contingents from the different States in place of the power of raising taxes by their own authority, and expending them with their own hands.

These reflections press upon us with peculiar force when we observe the extensiveness of the powers assigned to the General Parliament in relation to public works:—"Lines of steam or other ships, railways, canals, and other works, connecting any two or more of the provinces together, or extending beyond the limits of any province;" "lines of steamships between the federal provinces and other countries;" "telegraph communication and the incorporation of telegraph companies." All these, and the patronage connected with them, together with an unlimited power of borrowing money, as well as of raising it by taxation, are to be assigned to that particular class of men who in America and the colonies seek their fortune in political life. And their powers are extended by a sweeping provision to "all such works as shall, although lying wholly within any province, be specially declared by the Acts authorizing them to be for the general advantage." Either the Canadian press is extremely calumnious, or the apprehensions which on perusing these clauses reason suggests will not be dispelled by reference to experience.

Federal fortifications, and other military or naval defences, are, in truth, the only kind of public works which it is obviously necessary to place in federal hands.

The advocates of a simple federation will probably be met by objections derived from the present state of affairs in Germany and the United States: but the first of these examples is, in truth, irrelevant, while the moral of the second, if it be closely looked into, is the opposite of that which, at first sight, it may appear to be. In the case of Germany, the federation is completely overridden and in effect destroyed by the domineering influence of two great military monarchies, the territories of one of which, Austria, are mainly situated outside of the confederacy, and form the fulcrum of a force external to federal interests, though exerted with tyrannical effect in the federal councils. There is no reason to believe that, abstracted from these alien elements, and considered in its natural operation,

the federal compact fails to answer the purpose of its institution. As to the American Confederation, it may be thought, on a superficial view, that the present disruption is caused by the looseness of the tie; and such evidently is the prevalent notion among the Americans themselves, who are at this moment bent upon the abolition of State rights, and the exaltation of the Central Legislature and Government. But the fact is the very reverse. Had the United States been a simple federation, with a federal council limited in its functions to strictly federal subjects, Slavery, the subject on which they have split, never would have been a national question; nor would it have given rise to a struggle between national parties, culminating in a national election. Humanity can hardly deplore anything which has led practically to the destruction of slavery; but the moral to be deduced by the framers of constitutions from that which has taken place in the United States is that, where divergent interests or tendencies in relation to questions other than those of peace and war exist among the members of a confederacy, despotic coercion being out of the question in an association formed on the principle of freedom, the safeguard against disruption is to be sought in local independence rather than in centralization—in the elasticity rather than in the tightness of the federal bond.

The framers express their desire to follow the model of the British constitution so far as their circumstances will permit. Their circumstances are those of an American community, which, like the other Anglo-Saxon communities of America, has left behind it in its passage over the ocean, the elements of the feudal system—hereditary aristocracy, primogeniture, entails, and the Established Church—institutions peculiarly characteristic of the structure of British society, to which, under the general law connecting the political system of a nation with its social state, the British constitution is adapted. The Established Church has been deliberately rejected by the Canadians; and aristocracy, the introduction of which was distinctly provided for by Mr. Pitt's Canadian Act, has been, if not deliberately rejected, decisively repelled by the nature of the case. In no form has the hereditary principle, so essential to the orthodox creed of British constitutionalists, found its way into the colonies; for the impotence of the hereditary sovereign, who receives at a distance the nominal homage of a self-governed dependency, is delegated to a representative on the spot; and this representative is not hereditary, but the nominee of those who represent the majority in the British Parliament for the time being.

The new North American Parliament is to consist of two Houses. The Upper House is called the Legislative Council; the Lower House is called the House of Commons—a relative term, in itself unmeaning, to which the authors of the scheme would probably think it too adventurous to give a meaning by calling the Upper House a House of Lords.

The members of the Legislative Council are to hold their seats for life, and are to be nominated by the Executive. This arrangement certainly avoids the objection to which a double chamber in a popular government is generally liable as a futile attempt to make the sovereign people put a check upon itself, which is apt to result rather in a dissipation of the sense of responsibility than in the imposition of a real restraint upon the action of the Lower House. But, on the other hand, it is one of the nature and consequences of which ought to be fairly looked in the face before it is irrevocably adopted. It involves, as we before hinted, an important, though indirect, and, perhaps, unconscious fulfilment of the wish expressed by the framers to perpetuate the connexion of the dependency with the mother country. The absolute nomination of a whole branch of the Legislature by the Executive may, perhaps, be endured while the power is exercised by the representative of a monarch, and in the monarch's name. But such a power, exercised by the Executive nakedly and without disguise, would scarcely be tolerated by any community accustomed to responsible government and attached to popular liberty. If the governor-general should ever be withdrawn, this part of the constitution remaining as it was, nobody could step into his place but a king.

The members of the Council are required to have a continuing qualification of four thousand dollars; and (except in the case of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland) it is to be in real property. The political distinction between real and personal property was, of course, intelligible enough in feudal times, and as connected with feudal duties and services; and it is not surprising that it should be found remaining, together with cases of feudalism, in the semi-feudal constitution of England. But with reference to modern institutions it would seem to be obsolete, and devoid of meaning. Real property no longer discharges any duties to the State which are not discharged equally by personal property; and the holder of a sum in railway stock, or (still more palpably) the holder of a sum in the public funds, has just as great a stake in the welfare of the country, and offers as sufficient a guarantee in every way for his integrity, and patriotism, as the holder of an equal sum in land. Even in England this fact has been perceived, and not only have we accepted chattel interests in land as property qualifications, but the recent projects of parliamentary reform have contemplated the admission of stock and deposits likewise.

And assuredly it is not on the ground of special certainty or stability that, in a colony like Canada, political distinctions in favour of real property ought to be drawn: for there are few places, we apprehend, where the value of land and houses is more uncertain and variable. The value of real property in Toronto, for example, has fluctuated enormously within the last twenty years. Any kind of stock or funds would, in truth, have been a far more solid possession. But there seems to be a notion that because land itself is stable, property in it, though it may be the wildest of all possible speculations, is stable also: a mere illusion, as we need scarcely observe.

The object, however, of this peculiar provision is no doubt to be explained simply by the desire of imitating the British constitution. It is an attempt on the part of the framers to create a territorial aristocracy, so far as their circumstances will permit. Perhaps they are scarcely aware how adverse those circumstances are, or how truly their instinct guided them when they refrained from styling their Legislative Council a House of Lords. In England we have a social and proprietary order of men really eminent for wealth as the holders of large, entailed, and in many cases ancestral, estates. Out of this number the bulk of our peers are chosen; and they have a real qualification as members of a great plutocracy (for that is the true designation of the body,) independent of their mere nomination by a Minister of the Crown. In a colony such as Canada, no such proprietary or social order exists; no set of men there are really eminent for wealth; no property is ancestral or entailed; and the riches even of the wealthiest are but the creation of the day, which in the strange vicissitudes of colonial trade may again vanish on the morrow. The highest property qualification which the framers of the Constitution venture to name for their purpose almost a nullity. Twenty thousand a year strictly entailed is wealth if it is not merit. The qualification of persons who have no higher territorial position than this will rest upon the minister's nomination, and upon that alone.

It is constantly said by the advocates of the House of Lords that it is a representative institution; and this statement is true in every important, though not in the most popular sense. The members of the House of Lords do represent, and most effectually represent the interests of the great class of landlords, upon the support of which, as well as on their personal wealth and position, their authority is based. In a colony there is no such class, and therefore the strength derived by the House of Lords from its virtually representative character would be entirely wanting to the Legislative Council.

It will perhaps be said that in the case of a House not hereditary, but consisting entirely of members nominated for life, there will at all events be no "tooth-transmitters of a foolish force;" and that personal merit will supply the place of territorial and social distinction. But, unless a complete change comes over the political spirit of these communities, the chief seat of power, and the scenes of the great party struggles, will always be in the popular branch of the Legislature, and a minister will not be able to afford the removal of his most effective supporters into the Upper House. The most he will be able to afford to that calm repository will probably be respectable mediocrity and superannuation; and if a more powerful man sometimes demands a nomination as the price of support at a political crisis, this will not materially mend the matter. Cromwell, as Protector, finding his Parliament difficult to manage, thought to alleviate the difficulty by creating an Upper House of nominees, into which, to give it respectability, he was obliged to transfer his most eminent supporters. The consequence was, that the Lower House became utterly uncontrollable, and the Parliament broke up in a storm.

Local and other Items.

FINANCIAL RETURNS.—We are glad to observe that during the past year the people of this Province have heartily endorsed the sentiment "nothing like leather," the amount of sole leather imported in 1864 being twenty-five per cent greater than that imported in 1863. More than half a pound of sole leather has been imported for every man, woman, and child in Nova Scotia, whereas in 1863, five ounces a head was deemed sufficient. The quantity of "raw sugar" imported was more than two and a half per cent less than in the previous year, whereas the amount of "crackers" that have been swallowed is positively alarming—nearly thirty per cent greater than in the year immediately preceding the delegation year. We note an increased import of "ale and porter," and a decreasing manufacture of home-brewed, and it is cheering to find that in the matter of "beef and pork" we are becoming less indebted to foreign markets than formerly. The amount of "beef and pork" imported in 1864 was not much more than half that imported in 1863. The consumption of brandy, cordials, geneva, and strong waters, would seem to be steadily increasing, and the import of rum shows an excess of no less

than 16642 gallons. Increasing railway traffic who thought "rum and partiality for molasses taste for cultivating the bulk of the population, it is gratifying to see that in 1864, increased by nearly cent to duty during cent of home manufacture, being common pleasant to find No preference, albeit reminds us very much green tea to almost the consumption of more than 1000 tons past year was consistent increase on du

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than 16642 gallons. This fact, taken in connection with our increasing railway traffic, must be very distressing to the gentleman who thought "rum and railways" the curse of Nova Scotia. Our partiality for molasses would seem to be on the decline, while our taste for cultivating onions has been largely developed. Assuming the bulk of the population to be as fond as formerly of this tasty root, it is gratifying to find that we have grown 13,478 lbs more of onions than in 1863. The home manufacture of tobacco has increased by nearly twenty per cent, and the whole tobacco subject to duty during the past year shows an increase of three per cent of home manufacture. This is highly satisfactory. Green tea, being commonly supposed less wholesome than black, it is pleasant to find Nova Scotians giving to the latter a most decided preference, albeit the suddenness with which we changed our minds is very remarkable. In 1863 we consumed one pound of green tea to almost every forty pounds of black, whereas in 1864, the consumption of black tea was to that of green as something more than 1000 to 1. The importation of Coffee during the past year was considerably less than that of the year 1863. The total increase on duties collected is \$127,060.14.

The Report of the Chief Commissioner of Railways for the year 1864, is tolerably satisfactory. The traffic receipts of the line for the nine months ending last October, show an excess of \$16,438.22 over those of the corresponding period of 1863. The total number of passengers carried was 86,090, exclusive of 920 distinguished individuals, and 6,929 teamsters, whereas the number carried in 1863 was only 82,613. The Road Inspector reports "that up to 31st September 1864, a total of 36,312 new sleepers were put into the road, exclusive of new sleepers used in the construction of sidings." Eight new cattle cars have been built, and are now running, and two horse boxes will be finished and placed on the road at an early date. Three engines have been thoroughly repaired at a cost of \$3960.35. Two fatal casualties are reported, and two porters are recovering from serious injuries. "The location and survey of the Extension of the Railway from Truro to the waters of Pietou Harbor, are rapidly progressing, and the work will be put under contract at an early day." At Windsor Junction "an additional wood shed has been built, one hundred and fifty feet, by twenty-four,—calculated to hold 400 cords; this building will supply the want long experienced at that station."

CANADIAN PLEASANTRIES.—The following extract gives us an insight into the manners and customs of the great men of Canada. We are by no means astonished that the *Unionist* should have been evinced surprise and delight, on learning that Mr. G. BROWS, a gentleman doubtless accustomed to such scenes as those narrated, should have been favorably noted in England.

Just before the dinner recess yesterday afternoon, a fracas took place on the floor of the House of Assembly, between the Hon. Mr. Cauchon and Mr. Dufresne, of Iberville, which led to quite a lively excitement and no little commotion. The galleries were immediately cleared, and the House sat with closed doors from six until nine o'clock, but what transpired within can only be indefinitely guessed at. The cause of the altercation was substantially as follows. During the afternoon sitting, Mr. Dufresne, of Iberville, in pursuance of previous notice, moved for a return of all orders issued to Messrs. Cote & Co., proprietors of the *Journal de Quebec*, by the Departments for printing, binding, &c., during the last eighteen months. In the debate on this motion a good deal of crimiatory and recriminatory language was indulged in. Mr. Dufresne asserted that the quantity of work sent to the *Journal* office was enormous, in some cases as much as 100,000 blanks at a time, and 50,000 of the same description of blanks a week or so afterwards. Mr. Cauchon became heated and as he was about leaving the chamber by the side door near the Speaker's chair, and near Mr. Dufresne's seat, he whispered to him that as motions to fish out corruption were the order of the day, he too would move for a Committee to investigate the working of some Mutual Insurance Companies in Lower Canada. Mr. Dufresne being connected with one, which Mr. Cauchon said were nothing better than robbing swindles. Mr. Dufresne replied that he lied, or that whoever said so lied, whereupon Mr. Cauchon drew his hand and hit him slightly on the face. There was an instant rush of members to the spot, the Sergeant-at-Arms was called upon by the Speaker, and there were cries from every part of the House to clear the galleries, which was soon done, and for the three subsequent hours a heated

discussion took place within, which resulted, we believe, in the matter being placed upon the journals of the House without an apology.—*Daily News*.

Having so often expressed our opinions regarding the evil effects of Responsible Government, in a colony such as Nova Scotia it is gratifying to find that the *Unionist* (an organ professing attachment to the party which secured Responsible Government) heartily endorses our views. The journal in question thus forcibly describes our present pitiable condition: "It is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that we are fearfully demoralized, as a people. We are travelling downward on the same road which the neighboring States have trodden before us, to be finally engulfed in almost ir retrievable ruin—in much bloodshed, and suffering, of which we can have no adequate conception. An organization exists, which, had it the power, would to-morrow oust from public life all those whom we have been accustomed to look up to, and who certainly embody the intellect and ability of the country. Their places would be filled by whom? By men without a tittle of their intellect, and no public experience whatever. Thus it was in the United States in the last years of their prosperity. Their great statesmen were never able to obtain the chief magistracy of the nation, (the italics are our own); but some obscure, unknown, bar-room politician; a flat-boatman; perhaps, a rail-splitter, or a pettifogging village attorney, was selected by the wire-pullers of the party and elected; whilst Webster, Everett, and other statesmen of acknowledged ability were left in the cold shadow of public neglect." This melancholy picture of the present political state of Nova Scotia must commend itself to all thinking men. It is well drawn, vividly colored, and, we fear, only too true.

The *Express* informs us that: "Claptrap, and misrepresentation, and abuse, will not do at St. James." Our contemporary is perfectly right, as regards "misrepresentation and abuse," but is in error regarding "claptrap." We venture to assert that nothing but the most transparent claptrap finds favor at St. James' Palace, which is never opened save for the purpose of holding "levies" or "drawing-rooms." Our contemporary probably meant to allude to Whitehall, or St. Stephens'. If we remember aright, it was the *Express* that defined the position of the "chief clerk of the House of Commons" as "perhaps more important than that of the Speaker himself."

NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTE.—We observe with deep regret that, at the last meeting of the Institute, Mr. Gossip and Sir Charles Lyall are at variance on the subject of the "Antiquity of Man." Mr. Gossip should at once put himself in communication with Sir Charles upon this important matter. There can, we fancy, be no doubt whatever that the great Geologist would be as much moved by the force of Mr. Gossip's arguments, as the venerable Professor Owen was not long since, by the valuable collection of bones forwarded to him by our never-too-much to be commended Society.

Says the *Journal*, with reference to P. E. Island—"Whatever they think of the measure on the Island, they treat the delegates as gentlemen, and not altogether unworthy of public confidence." This is a sad admission, implying as it does, that in this Province the reverse would seem to be the case.

Extracts.

THE VAMPIRE. (Concluded.)

I saw him with some sharp instrument open a vein in the boy's neck, and applying his lips, he drank a long draught of blood! In a moment all was explained: the pallor of his companions; his own strange manner. Saunderson was a vampire! I had read of these monsters, and had regarded them as the creations merely of a popular superstition. Now, at that midnight hour, I found myself face to face with one, and with one,

too, who was destined to be my near companion, perhaps for years.

Meanwhile, the boy-vampire had quitted his first victim, and, to my inexpressible horror, was smacking his lips and rubbing his stomach, after the manner of a drunkard who has taken a draught of more than usually generous wine. He passed on to the next bed, and repeated his loathsome operation.

Five beds did I see him visit in this manner, while the power of motion seemed dried up in me with very horror. I struggled to shout, but the sound died upon my lips. I struggled to leap through the window and fall upon the monster, but, luckily for me, or murder might have been the result, an unseen power seemed to rivet me to the spot. Suddenly I turned, and fled down the corridor like a maniac.

To arouse the doctor was the work of a moment. I tried to explain it to him in a few hurried words, but my agitation was so great, and my speech so incoherent, that I must have appeared to be wandering. I dragged him into my room, and pointing to the open window, I left the terrible facts to speak for themselves.

A moment afterwards I saw him leap through the window and alight at Sanderson's feet. I saw the boy raise his lips from the sixth victim, and meet the gaze of the doctor. I saw him fling himself at his feet, and heard him crave in piteous accents for mercy.

"The impulse was upon me," he said: "I could not resist it. Doctor, I loathe, I hate myself more than you can loathe or hate me: but I cannot resist it. Oh, I am miserable—miserable!"

His wail was so piteous that I felt my loathing fast turning into commiseration. Yes, I pitied this monster. This was the terrible secret that he bore about him: this was the curse that, more surely than the leprosy of old, separated him from his fellow-beings, and made his inmost soul cry out "Unclean, unclean!" Surely he *was* to be pitied.

I looked into the doctor's eye to read there if his feelings were akin to mine, but he was little accustomed to allow his face to be an index to the soul within. I could see nothing. He merely said, "This must be seen to." Then he added, "Mr. Merton, you are agitated; you had better retire." He left the room with Sanderson, and I heard the key of the turret-chamber turned.

The vampire was in solitary confinement, with no blood to play upon but his own!

I turned into bed, and tried to compose myself to sleep; but it was not to be. I felt a shock as of an earthquake, and the next moment I awoke up in the coach, which was joggling over the rough stones of C— High Street.

"I fear you have been dreaming sir," said my opposite neighbour.

I had indeed.

But the most curious part is yet to come.

In due time I really did reach N—. The coach put up, at the White Hart, so I had no need of a boy, vampire or otherwise, to show me the Grammar School. I met with a kind welcome from the doctor, and supped with him and his wife in private. In the pleasures of the social meal I could afford to laugh at my strange dream, merely noting that the doctor was singularly like the doctor my fertile brain had conjured up, and that what I saw of the school on alighting bore an equal resemblance to its phantom counterpart. But then I had had a very minute description both of the one and the other, so no great wonder after all.

"The boys are gone to bed," said the doctor, rising and lighting my candle, "and I daresay you will not be sorry to follow their example. I have had a bed prepared in my dressing room, so that you may not be disturbed. To-morrow night you can take charge of your dormitory. There are twenty-five boys under your supervision."

"What a singular coincidence," I thought as I retired, and I indulged my brains in vain to recall if any one could have revealed to me this item of the internal economy of N— Grammar School. In this process I fell into a profound and dreamless sleep, from which I was recalled in the morning by the six o'clock bell.

After prayers, I took my class, and there sure enough straight before me was Sanderson, the vampire! I never was so utterly and hopelessly confused in all my life. There he was no mistake at all about it, only he appeared to be nervous and shy, rather than burdened with conscious guilt. I could not take my eyes off him. I fairly stared him out of countenance. He took refuge in a scrutiny of his shoe-string, and the likeness was complete!

"Sanderson, construe."

"Who sir?" asked a dozen voices.

"That boy," I said, indicating the vampire.

"Oh, sir, Norris."

The difference of name seemed to remove an incubus from me. Norris *alias* Sanderson, *alias* the vampire, essayed to construe, but he broke down hopelessly, and took refuge in the shoe-string. It was Sanderson: there was no denying it. To-night I should see him "tapping" the dormitory boys, and smacking his horrid lips over the loathsome draught. I hated Norris religiously.

"Norris," said the doctor in the afternoon, "show Mr. Merton the town." I was obliged to submit. "One of my best boys," he whispered, as we passed out. I shrugged my shoulders.

Norris showed us everything N— could boast of, and to do him justice, he evidently strove hard to please; but I found him

as taciturn and monosyllabic as my dream had foreshadowed, and, as you may suppose, I took no trouble to draw out a vampire.

At night I had some business to transact with the doctor, and when I sought my chamber the boys were in bed and asleep—twenty-five boys—and Norris just under my window! Before putting out the lamp I looked at each. They were as healthy-looking a set as one could desire to see. I almost resented their good condition. What business had four-and-twenty boys to look fat and well-liking when they slept with a vampire?

I visited Norris last. There he lay, just as I had pictured him, one hand on the quilt, and the look of peaceful innocence on his face. One thing was certain, Norris was very handsome. I may add that the arrangement of the dormitory and of my own room were precisely similar to that portrayed in my dream. I should have felt the same uncertainty as to whether I had heard of it beforehand, as I did with regard to the number of boys in the dormitory, were it not for the utterly inexplicable resemblance between Sanderson and Norris. I worked myself into such a fit of nervousness that I added yet another coincidence by sitting up in the window, whence I fully expected to see Norris arise and practice his blood-sucking. But though I heard the clock strike not only eleven, twelve, and one, but all the hours up to six, nothing of the kind happened. After a while, though a settled aversion to Norris remained, out of which I found it impossible to reason myself, I ceased endeavouring to catch him in overt acts of vampirism, and even the singular pertinacity with which I persisted, at least once in the course of the day, in addressing him as Sanderson, and the strange dislike which I bore him, and which was only too apparent to all, at length ceased to cause any speculation.

Months passed on, and brought with them various changes. I was comfortably settled at N—, and still had from my window the supervision of the "North Dormitory." But Norris's place knew him no more. He had not gone into solitary confinement in the turret-chamber as a convicted vampire. He was dying in a deep decline, and I, as a religious duty, was battling strongly and manfully with my aversion. One day he sent for me. I found him in his favourite position, one arm thrown over the coverlet. It was the well-known position of my dream.

"O thank you," he said, bursting into tears. "Oh, Mr. Merton, why have you disliked me so, when I have always prayed that you might like me? Why have you shunned me as you would a vampire?"

What could I say? I could only blubber as a child.

"When I get well will you promise to like me?"

Of course I promised, and did bitter penance in spirit for my injustice. But I never had the power of fulfilling my word. He died in a few days.

His simple cross in N— Churchyard—I visited it the other day—bears the inscription.

WALTER NORRIS,

IN PEACE,

AGED TWELVE YEARS.

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 184—.

I begged his mother, to whom I related all the circumstances, to allow me to erect it to his memory, and for years my hands planted and tended the flowers at its base. In an old desk, among the relics of the past, such as the coldest among us hoard up, one of my dearest treasures is a lock of light curling hair, and a boy's necktie, the paper attached to which is labelled with the suggestive word, "Sanderson."

I should not have recorded this dream were it not for the strange coincidence attached to it. I must leave scientific men the explanation of the mystery. Can it be that my mindiness was a necessary discipline for Norris, and that the dream was permitted for his good? Who can say?

NEW BRUNSWICK. MONEY ORDER NOTICE.

MONEY ORDER INTERCHANGE will commence between
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The offices authorized to issue and pay Orders, under such Interchange, are:—The Money Order Offices of Nova Scotia, and the New Brunswick Offices at—Bathurst, Bead, Chatham, Dalhousie, Fredericton, Grand Falls, Hillsborough, Newcastle, Richibucto, Sackville, Shediac, Saint Andrews, Saint John, Sussex Vale, Woodstock.

Commission:—Same as that between Canada, P. E. Island, and Newfoundland. J. S. THOMPSON, Supt.

M. O. Office, Halifax, Nova Scotia, }
16th March, 1865. }

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