

AN EXILE'S LAST THOUGHT OF ERIN.

O tell me not of farther lands,
Beneath a western sky;
Of streams that roll o'er golden sands,
Or flowers that never wither die.
My native Isle, my native Isle,
Though bleak and bare you be,
And scant and cold your summer smile,
Thou art all the world to me.
The dates of yon mountain's brow,
When wintry winds assail,
Securely sleeps beneath the snow,
Their cold but kindly veil,
Transplanted to a richer soil,
Where genial breezes play,
In sickly bloom will droop awhile,
Then wither and decay.
A long farewell to Avon's shores,
Dear flowery hills and vales,
Where Friendship binds the strongest heart,
Love tells the softest tales,
The generous heart, the virtuous maid,
Will still be dear to me.
Although the happy scenes of youth,
Never more shall see.
Through wild Daphne's rocks and woods
A wanderer now I stray,
Exiled from all I dearly loved,
A pilgrim by the way,
Where howling winds and screeching owls
Sounds sadly on the ear,
At eve they wake the echoes grand,
Through forests dark and drear.
How often to those grand old woods,
I lay me down to weep,
My heart still wanders back again,
To Erin's mountains high,
May dark oblivion drop the veil,
Around those scenes to me,
And Heaven's blessing fall that land,
I never more can see.
Life's stormy scenes will soon be o'er,
Then lay me down to rest,
With Heav'n and his angels on my grave,
And Daniel on my breast.
Let Erin's harp with wailing sound,
My last and dearest cry,
To my soul by yon sweet realms,
Of everlasting day,
Poland, Sept. 22, 1871.

WHEN MARY WAS A LASSIE.

The maple trees are tinged with red,
The hick with yellow glow,
And high above the orchard wall
Hang apples rich and mellow;
And that's the way through yonder lane
That looks so still and gray,
The way I took one Sunday eve,
When Mary was a lassie.
You'd hardly think that patient face,
That looks so mild and sweet,
Was once the very sweetest one
That ever looked so true.
But when I look through yonder lane,
That looks so still and gray,
Those eyes were bright, those cheeks were fair,
When Mary was a lassie.
But many a tender sorrow,
And many a pang and pain,
Has made those furrows on the face,
That used to be so fair.
Four times to yonder churchyard,
Through the very sweetest one,
We've borne and laid away our dead,
Since Mary was a lassie.
And so you see I've grown to love
The wrinkles more than roses;
Easier winter winds are sweeter far
Than all spring's dewy posies;
They'll carry as though yonder lane
That looks so still and gray,
Adown the lane I used to go
When Mary was a lassie.

THE QUAKER-DECK SPECTRE. FROM A SHIP-MASTER'S LOG-BOOK.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

Years ago I had command of the ship *Narcissus*, owned by Dexter & Cunston, of Boston. I had made two voyages in her to the East Indies when the owners concluded to send me to the Mediterranean. My first mate was shipped for the Mediterranean voyage on account of his knowledge of the Mediterranean trade, the officer who had come home with me from India having been promoted to a command.
John Carter was the name of this new officer; and I soon came to like him. Mr. Carter was a handsome man, possessing a firmness of character for its symmetry and its strength; and though there were sometimes flashes of the eye that would seem to denote impulsiveness of emotion, still I never heard him speak an angry word. To the men he was kind and gentle, and they loved and honored him. Of years he had some fifty, and this—his protection papers told the truth—and he had been more or less upon the water from his youth up.
Hour after hour, when duty did not otherwise employ him, would Carter peep up and down the quarter-deck, or sit in his stateroom, with his head bowed and his hands folded, seemingly utterly oblivious of all present things. Of course I wondered whether his thoughts could be ranging; but I had not the will to ask him.
One evening, after we were well at sea, and the ship was running smoothly before the wind, I sat at the cabin table, writing up my log, when I had been looking over our reckoning, and tracing it upon the chart, and as I turned from this work I fancied that a glass of sherry—and I had some excellent—would be agreeable, and as my steward was at hand, I directed him to bring it.
Carter came down just as I had put up my chart, and sat at a seat at the table. He had remarked to him that I was going to foot up our reckoning, and he had come to see the result. When I had answered him upon this point I filled a glass with wine and pushed it over to him, and then filled one for myself.
"Come," said I, "here's success to us and our voyage."
"I had drawn half my wine when my attention was arrested by the peculiarity of Carter's movements. He had raised his glass, but not to his lips. He held it a moment between his eye and the light, and then, with a pallor upon his face like death, and with a shudder and a gasp, he let the glass fall, and it was broken to atoms on the floor.
"Fardon!" he said, with a convulsive start. "It was an accident. Pardon me, Captain, and forget it. If you love me, never speak of this."
And with these words he hurried from the cabin.
I supposed Carter's injunction, and was silent upon the subject of the strange scene of the broken wine-glass; but the reader can easily imagine that it gave me many moments of perplexing thought. It was evident enough that at some time my mate had suffered from the cup; and I never again saw wine in his presence; for I was assured that the sight of the broken glass was so painful to him that he was not so attached to the wine as I could not easily and cheerfully make this assertion.
Our run out was a pleasant one, and we returned in the *Melancholion* was a pleasant one. We had seen in part of our

THE MASSACRE AT LOS ANGELES.

The San Francisco papers have been following particulars of the slaughter and plunder of the Chinese at Los Angeles. Funds existing between the two cities of the Chinese companies here, four of it is reported were brought from San Francisco by the last steamer to California, and the death of one of them. The attack was made on Monday and proved fatal to all the parties including their wives and children. On Monday evening, the Chinese were under heavy bonds, and then partitioned to their respective places of abode. About five o'clock another fight commenced, and Officer Biderias in attempting to quell it received a shot in the shoulder, calling for aid, to Dr. Thompson, who also received a fatal wound.

As with this explanation, my mate started up, I was conscious that some one was advancing from the foot of the ladder, and upon looking around I beheld Alpheus Dunbar, his snowy hair and his furrowed cheeks wet with flowing tears. He was tottering forward, with arms outstretched, and as the pale dead seemed ready to sink with terror, he cried out:
"Philip! Philip!—My son!—O, my son!"
The young man started up as from a dream; and he put forth his hand, and whispered:
"In God's name, what do you say? It is—it is—yes—it is—my father!"
"Thy father!—O, Philip! After all these painful years my prayer is answered. I shall have my sweet word of forgiveness ere I die."
"Forgiveness?—Forgiveness?" repeated the son, looking up from his father's embrace. "O, my soul! 'tis I who need forgiveness."
"No, my boy—no, no—I was all to blame. It was I who kindled the infernal fire, and furnished fuel for the infernal flames. You were but a boy, my Philip, when I led you, by my example, into the evil habit."
"I went on deck, and left the father and son to themselves; and when I returned to the cabin I heard Mr. Dunbar's story—how he had recovered from the blow which his son had inflicted; and how, filled with remorse for his own wrong, he had, when able to go out, instituted search for the missing one. He had searched far and near—had followed ships in which he fancied his boy had sailed—and upon this search he had been securing the reports of the Mediterranean when he came on board my ship.
"I will only add to my story that we reached Boston in safety, and that a month thereafter I went to New York to visit the Dunbars. I found Alpheus Dunbar grander than ever in his estate and respect. He had recovered from the blow which his son had inflicted; and how, filled with remorse for his own wrong, he had, when able to go out, instituted search for the missing one. He had searched far and near—had followed ships in which he fancied his boy had sailed—and upon this search he had been securing the reports of the Mediterranean when he came on board my ship.
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THE OPEN POLAR SEA.

The discovery of an open Polar Sea. The only further information to be had is that it is reported in the following telegram from Dr. A. Petrus, Götting, and published in the *Washington Dispatch* to New York 13th inst.—"The telegram, dated October 1, 1871, which announces the return of Captain Wey-Prent and Lieutenant Payer, of the Austrian Army, states that in the month of September, on open sea was found from forty-two degrees to sixty degrees east of Greenwich, to the northward of seventy-eight degrees north latitude. The northernmost point reached was seventy-nine degrees north on the meridian, forty-eight degrees east. Here we found the ice-barrier of the sea of the North Pole, with probable connection with the open sea north of Siberia, towards the east. This appears to be the most favorable route toward the North Pole. Dr. Petrus remarks in the last part of the telegram:—"I cannot understand, but I have reason to assume, that Carl Land, which was discovered last year by the Count Zell and Theodore von Hengier, extends southward to latitude 78.12 north." By examining the map, it will be seen that this would be about two degrees to the north of Nova Zembla, a group of three islands divided by the strait of Karskol from the north-western extremity of Siberia. Its climate and productions are not attractive. The average summer temperature being 35°, 51° and 33° degrees, and a half above freezing point, and that of winter 3°-21°; the only vegetation being moss and lichens, and in some places a few stunted shrubs. It is not, therefore, surprising that there are no settlements on the island. The abundance of fish, whales and walrus tempt the fishermen to visit the coast, and Russian hunters have frequented the islands for animals in pursuit of the fur-bearing animals, reindeer, Arctic bears and foxes being numerous.

THE HALIFAX POST-OFFICE ROBBERY.

The release of Campbell, the Post office clerk, who, on his own confession, has been guilty of extensive mail robberies at Halifax, is an event that naturally excites much unfavorable comment, and not a little popular indignation in the Province of Nova Scotia. That feeling, if we are not much mistaken, will be shared by the people of Canada generally. The question will be very reasonably asked, how long can we permit to punish crime committed by ordinary offenders, if wealth or influential connections are to shield great culprits from justice? And a perusal of the story of Campbell's offence and the proceedings which have resulted in his escape, tend to no other possible conclusion than that Campbell has been suffered to go immediately from punishment out of deference to his social position and the relation of his friends to those who should, in the public interest, have taken that not even a suspicion of unfairness attached to their mode of dealing with such a matter.
The facts of the case are, we believe, substantially as follows:—For a considerable time past letters containing considerable sums of money have been missing in the Nova Scotia post-offices, and it was ascertained with tolerable certainty that they had been stolen at Halifax. Among them was one mailed from the Bank of Montreal at Montreal, in Miramichi, and addressed to the Halifax branch naturally caused a good deal of annoyance to the clerks in the Halifax post-office, and some, we believe, even threw up their position in order to escape from the unpleasantness thus connected. Among the clerks was John C. Campbell, son of Mr. Stewart Campbell, M. P. for Guysboro'. Campbell had been nine years in the office; he had received during that period, a salary of \$800, recently increased to \$900, with prospects of further promotion. He was married, and through his wife was also well connected. His attention was first attracted by Campbell by his style of living being altogether beyond his official income. The serious nature of the robberies, and the necessity of putting a stop to such grave irregularities, led to the appearance at Halifax, from Ottawa, of Mr. Dewe, the Post-office Inspector. That gentleman, on his arrival, appears to have satisfied his own mind of Campbell's guilt, but to have formed the opinion, fortified by that of a local solicitor, that he had not at command sufficient legal evidence to convict Campbell in a court of law. A search of Campbell's house did not result in the missing property, which was discovered, although the fact that such a search was actually made, shows how strongly suspicion was attached to him as the thief.
We are not disposed harshly to condemn Mr. Dewe for hesitating to give a man into custody of whose guilt he was not certain, but it is hardly credible that so efficient a public officer should, on his own responsibility, have determined to take a step which amounted practically to a condonation of the crime. He promised Campbell that the Government would not prosecute if he would restore the stolen money and make a full confession. Campbell then admitted stealing the Bank of Montreal letter, with its enclosure of \$1,735, but declared that he had since burned both letter and contents. He also acknowledged stealing letters containing sundry smaller amounts. What makes Mr. Dewe's conduct seem the more extraordinary, and strengthens the conviction that he was acting under orders from others, is that he appears to have made this promise without consulting the Bank of Montreal, who, of all persons, was most entitled in such a case to forego all chance of prosecuting the offender, and thus by the force of example protecting the Company from similar robberies in future.
It is evident, in fact, by what followed that Campbell proposed to leave the country, and that Mr. Dewe, who had been made aware of the fact, had obtained a warrant and had him arrested on board a steamer just about to sail. Of course the confession of the prisoner to Mr. Dewe could not be used, as it had been obtained under a distinct promise that no prosecution should follow. But Campbell had repeated the statement to a police sergeant, who was ordered to watch him, and it was sought to make the sergeant's testimony supply the needful proof to warrant a complaint. After a long argument the Stipendiary Magistrate held that the evidence was insufficient to warrant a complaint, and Campbell was accordingly discharged. There is, of course, nothing to prove whether his story about burning the bank letter is true or false. If false, he may still enjoy whatever benefit such ill-gotten gains be to him. The Bank of Montreal has neither the power nor the inclination to prosecute. Clear that the thief, who, by the latest advice, had with a little delay as possible, quitted the scenes of his exploits for the United States. He has left, it is true, some little property in Mr. Dewe's hands, but that may have many claimants, as persons whose letters have been plundered. Clear that his assets are in the hands of the Government.
There seems to us to be something terribly wrong in all this. The law very properly regards the stealing of a letter by a Government official, as one of the highest in the category of crimes against property. No one requires to be told that the stealing of a letter by a Government official is a more heinous crime than that of guarding against any breach of confidence in the Post-Office department. It would be easy to imagine, whilst still keeping within the bounds of reasonable probability—consequences the most terrible to individuals, associations, or even whole communities arising from the violation of the trust confided to the Post-Office servants, and it is due to a respectable and hardy worked body of men that they should be protected as well as the public from the danger arising from the presence among them of the dishonest and unscrupulous. It is difficult to believe that if time had been allowed, no clear connecting Campbell with what he confessed to have been a whole series of robberies, could have been discovered by Mr. Dewe, as we are forced to conclude under the directions of superior authority, was in the highest degree unsatisfactory. But people regard the affair as we said at the outset, as an indication of something even more detrimental to the public interests than the failure of the Post-Office department, and equal administration of the law has always been our boast. We are apt to point not without cause, to a neighboring country where corrupt men have often controlled the bench, and protected culprits, who, without such intervention, would have been consigned to a fitting punishment. We do not doubt that Campbell has been brought to trial, and would have received the reward due to his crime, if there had been good and sufficient proof of his guilt. But we have here the representative of the Government stepping in, releasing a public offender, and thus setting at naught the action of the courts, and setting the example of allowing a great criminal to go unpunished of justice. Can it be any longer that we have one law for the rich and poor alike, when men who are the expressly appointed executors of the law show favor to the wealthy and powerful, which they would never dream of granting to the more humble.
The Government of the Dominion is fast educating the people of Nova Scotia to a full knowledge of its morality and claims to their respect or confidence. The bringing of Legislative Councils, and the Government to such a state of affairs, which of felon was committed by those who enjoy their patronage, are acts that cannot be overlooked or forgotten. The last one is one that strikes home to the minds of all, no matter whether Nova Scotia or any other Province count them as its citizens. We repeat that the determination to apply one law to the rich and another to the poor is the principle enunciated in this last transaction, and it is in that light alone that it will be regarded.—*Globe*.

DEATH IN THE PIPE.

The Japanese, it is said, have always been overmatched in diplomacy by Western nations, and as a consequence have had fastened upon themselves a treaty of a very one-sided character. Fortunately for them they are shrewd enough in one point—they have insisted in all their treaties a clause making them terminable on a certain specified notice. That notice has been given to all and sundry of the parties concerned, and by the first of July next Japan will stand clear of all treaty obligations. She will then be ready to make new arrangements, but this time with a better understanding than before of how to bargain with foreigners.

THE RED RIVER AFFAIR.

We have hesitated for some time to believe the story which has come to us from Red River that Her Majesty's representative—for so we suppose we must consider Mr. Archibald—actually degraded his Government so much as to shake hands with Riel and Leprieux. We have private advice, however, which admits of no doubt as to the truth of the public reports; and we must say that we have seldom known anything more scandalous. We make this admission with the more frankness, because we were not among those who were directed to call for his wrath upon the head of these two persons for their political offences. We thought that they, in common with the people of Red River in general, were treated with a cavalier disregard as well in substance as in form, of their best asserted rights, and that they had justly rebelled against, but unquestionably patiently resisted to the self-sufficient officials who were sent from Canada to possess the land. It was quite another thing when the insurgents proceeded from mere resistance to plunder, desecration and murder; by the produce of their robbery, and by the sale of the property of an innocent man, against whom they do not profess to allege any offence which is not absolutely ludicrous, when pronounced as a ground for capital punishment. Riel was the murderer of this unfortunate man Scott; and Riel has been the defender of the country by one who calls himself the governor for the Queen. We are not concerned to inquire into all the necessities of Red River. It may be, as alleged, that Riel inflicted the ridiculous Fenian invasion with the ambiguous design of joining it, and so preventing the usurpation of the whole presidency in his own person, if it were necessary, or of playing the part of a defender of the Government, if it should show that it must fall. These sort of intrigues are natural to a state of society such as prevails in that community, and it is natural to charge opponents with the intention of usurping the whole presidency in his own person, if it were necessary, or of playing the part of a defender of the Government, if it should show that it must fall. These sort of intrigues are natural to a state of society such as prevails in that community, and it is natural to charge opponents with the intention of usurping the whole presidency in his own person, if it were necessary, or of playing the part of a defender of the Government, if it should show that it must fall. These sort of intrigues are natural to a state of society such as prevails in that community, and it is natural to charge opponents with the intention of usurping the whole presidency in his own person, if it were necessary, or of playing the part of a defender of the Government, if it should show that it must fall. 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to recommend Mr. Archibald's elevation to the seat of justice. He knew well enough that Riel and the band of followers who surrounded him were accessories in O'Donoghue's and O'Neill's joint enterprise. He knows that but for the failure of this wicked attempt there might have been civil war in his province. Yet he could go with the meanness and not covetousness of personal dignity and his duty to the law of his country, and with open arms, receive the insolent but confident criminal who came to take his own advantage of Governor Archibald's inexperience and weakness. Robber, murderer, and traitor,—with his crime unparagoned and unexampled,—he has been the recipient of the grasp of Governor Archibald's hand a grand act of condescension. It may be possible to dismiss the Governor who stooped to this degradation, but it is no longer possible to punish the man who, with words inciting to insurrection still on his tongue, was welcomed as an ally and an equal. Who is to enforce the outraged laws of the country against him, now that the executive officer of the law has given him absolute pardon? He did not come over alone. He had the Governor at the head of his troop of followers, that might witness the honors due him, and see how complete was his triumph. He may do what he pleases now; aspire to be a power in the Province, to sit in the Legislature; to represent Manitoba in the Canadian House of Commons; to be a member of Executive or even Privy Council, or he may prefer to bide his time for a more independent and less constitutional course of action. He may be to Manitoba within what General O'Neill is to Manitoba without—ready at any moment to create trouble and difficulty, in the hope of obtaining some fresh concessions for himself or those who will more than ever have cause to regard him as a leader. In that great and sparsely populated region he can harness new settlers, drive them from their lands, keep back the progress of the country, and render its Government a burden where it should be a source of wealth and prosperity. It is certain whatever kind of conduct he and those who influence him mark out, it will be one of deadly hostility to Great Britain and to Canada.

Governor Archibald's hand shaking with Louis Riel inaugurated in Manitoba a new era for the struggle for French domination. He gave, so far as any act of his can do it, an open and official invitation to Riel and his colleagues to persevere in their struggle for the mastery. He administered at the same time the foulest insult to men who have suffered both in person and estate, and are striving with all the energy in their power to make the great Northwest all that Canada has a right to expect from so noble an acquisition. We have now it would seem, reached the climax of Condition policy in the North-west.—Blundering, gross and stupid almost beyond conception, characterized our first relations with these three companies, and a shameful bargaining with rebellion marked the final admission of Manitoba into our political system. A flagrant violation of good faith towards the whole English-speaking population of Canada has distinguished every act of the administration since Manitoba has become a Province of the Dominion. Now, at the hands of Governor Archibald, the willing instrument of his patron's perfidy, the seal has been put to the unrighteous compact with Governor Archibald, under circumstances that may well make the blood of every loyal subject of the British Crown boil with indignation.

Governor Archibald with the Queen's commission in his hand, embracing Louis Riel over the mangled body of Thomas Scott while Governor Archibald, O'Neill, O'Donoghue, form an approving group of speculators, would form a cartoon no less telling than just. Each one of them thinks, no doubt, for the moment that he has gained his wish and Riel has obtained what is worth more than any money. Governor Archibald believes he has carried more than his thirty pieces of silver; Sir John has pledged Sir George by this grand concession; Sir George can exhibit triumphantly to his followers the result of his paramount and successful mission to the Dominion Council; O'Neill, O'Donoghue and other speculators of their class can see no end of opportunities for obtaining notoriety and creating mischief.—Globe

machinery is simple and less complicated than the steam locomotive. Whether the inventor expects to adapt his plan to stationary power, where no informed; but if he means to put it in use in the most important of the most important, it is an improvement of the utmost importance.

The Ottawa Citizen of the 8th inst., says: Mink skins are being brought in to the furriers for sale; but as a general thing they were caught before the proper season, and the fur is consequently thin and light. The law against killing dark fur bearing animals is not half strict enough, and even the existing law is seldom, if ever enforced. Furriers say it is a pity to see such a number of skins brought to them for sale every day, caught in the summer months and kept until the trapping season commences, so as to evade the law. It is easy to detect fur that is caught in the wrong season, and persons who are so reckless as to kill a mink when its skin is worth only 25 cents should be severely punished for it. The prices given below are for prime peltries only:—

Mink, each	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.00
Martin, " "	1.50	2.00
Otter, " "	0.90	1.10
Beaver, per lb.	1.50	1.75
Red Fox, each	.08	.10
Muskrat, " "	1.00	1.25
Black Fox " "	25.00	30.00
Silver Grey " "	40.00	50.00
Wolf, " "	1.25	1.50
Bear, " "	4.00	10.00
Raccoon, " "	.15	.40
Wolverine, " "	1.00	1.50

THE ANDES INSURANCE COMPANY.
(Extract from the Cincinnati Daily Times and Chronicle, Oct. 26, 1871.)
"The financial statement of the Andes Insurance Company, which we publish herewith, is a highly satisfactory exhibit of its affairs, under the terrible ordeal of the Chicago fire. Its Chicago losses amount to \$850,000, and when paid will leave a clear capital and surplus of \$1,225,148.46, by far a larger amount than any other American company possesses, and fully equal to the best of those in the East—indeed, far superior to many of them. This is irrespective of the Amazon or Triumph, which united capital is \$1,000,000, unimpaired by any loss. The great London fire of 1666 has done little to the system of fire insurance, and it is a safe prediction that the Chicago fire, which in every way surpassed that of London, will stimulate the business of strong American companies. Especially will this be the case with companies like the Andes, whose stockholders do not hesitate to subscribe \$500,000 in cash to preserve their capital unimpaired. The capacity and the actual of Mr. Bennett and his backers have been more than equal to the emergency. The volume of business now flowing into these three companies exceeds an average of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 per annum. It is a cause of congratulation that a business of this magnitude is attracted to this business center."

The Herald.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT \$1 A YEAR.
CARLETON PLACE, NOV. 15, '71.

Our advertising friends will please bear in mind that the lowest rates are given in consideration of advance payment.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION.

As our readers are no doubt aware, negotiations have for some time been in progress for the union of the various Presbyterian bodies throughout the Dominion. A joint committee named by the various churches, met in Montreal in September, and with the greatest unanimity adopted a basis on which to be submitted to the negotiating churches. On doctrinal grounds there was no difficulty, as all Presbyterians hold the same views on these matters, and the main difficulty was felt to be of an educational character, a number of the Canada Presbyterians being opposed to the principle of the church having anything to do with higher education, and wishing to do away with the Arts, Faculties of Quebec, and Morris O'Leary, in the event of these institutions being taken under the control of the united body. Even at this point the committee found no difficulty, for having discussed the question in all its bearings, they unanimously resolved to recommend that the different educational institutions of the negotiating churches should be preserved, and hold the same relation to the united church that they did to their own before the union. Forthwith the *Globe*, with that selfishness for which it is so characteristic, and wishing to centre the entire weight of the controversy on the Province in Toronto, commenced an onslaught on Quebec's College pronouncing it a failure, not hesitating to state positive truths in order to make out a case. The would be intercessor has displayed a rare inconsistency in this matter, and branching out into a great variety of side issues, which he always charged against those who successfully refuted his statements, has done his utmost to destroy Quebec College, an institution which has done good work for the thirty years of its

existence, and which after passing through several crises which imperilled its existence, is now fairly endowed, and has before it a brilliant and prosperous career. We are pleased to think that the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian church, which met in Toronto last week, for the purpose of receiving and taking action upon the report of the Union Committee, have refused to be dictated to by the *Globe*, but have adopted the basis of union. The Synod of the Church of Scotland meets there on the 29th of this month, for the same purpose, and as there is no doubt that they will adopt the report of the committee, the Union of all the leading Presbyterian bodies in Canada may be looked upon as an all but accomplished fact. Numerically they will then be the strongest religious body in the Dominion, and they cannot fail to exercise a powerful influence for good, if their energies are directed in the proper channels.

Election campaigns in the United States are usually times of great political excitement but we do not remember having seen an election contest carried on with such extraordinary interest, as the November State elections which have just terminated. No doubt this is partly evoked by the near approach of another Presidential election and is the result of the careful organization which political parties are making in view of the great election of next year. In New York a special interest has been attached to the past election on account of the great municipal frauds which have been perpetrated by the nominees of the Tammany organization. The electors have manifested their strong revulsion of feeling that these frauds have been produced by casting much heavier votes against the Tammany candidates than have been cast before, and by defeating a great many of these nominees. There is, however, a glaring exception to the march of retributive justice in the instance of the re-election of Senator Tweed, the "Boss" as he has been styled, of the New York City. He has been returned for one of the lowest wards of the city in which a corrupt and venal body of electors, the least intelligent and most perverse of all the citizens of New York, have a majority, which has been commanded by Tweed's great wealth. But the general verdict is a verdict against Tweed and against all the dishonesty in city government to which he has been a party. It indicates a very low state of morality and honesty of purpose in the community, when, in the face of the glaring frauds which have lately been exposed in the New York City Government, Tweed has been able to command a majority of votes, amounting to from fifteen to twenty thousand.

It appears evident that, at no time in the history of the American people has the plague of low politicians been more mischievous than at the present period. It is the effect of the extreme length to which party politics are carried. When religious or political bigotry, prejudice and party feeling and animosities enter into municipal elections, and control every petty little contest in which no vital questions of politics or government are concerned, they become a pest, and the evil results are now manifest in every part of the United States. A candidate for the bench is never taken up there because of the good qualities of which he may be possessed or the amount of legal lore with which he may be endowed. Paramount above all this in the minds of the electors is the candidate's record as a party man. If he is a Republican, he may expect nothing but abuse and slander from the Democrats; if he belongs to the latter party he will get no mercy from the Republicans. Thus it is that men with no education, position or character in the community, are frequently elevated to the guardianship of the interests of morality and rectitude, and as a consequence have better opportunities of pandering to their corrupt desires. The American newspapers devote their attention mainly to the discussion of local politics and would fain have their readers believe that the men already in office, or those who are candidates for public honors, as the case may be, are a set of rogues, dishonest and untrustworthy. The President himself has been more calumniated than any other prominent office holder, and if we were to swallow as truth all that is said of his character, no one would come to any other conclusion than that he is an admixture of both knave and fool. All this does not certainly tend to inspire the people with profound respect for their chief ruler, and the high office which he holds.

It would perhaps be well for us in Canada if we could learn a lesson in wisdom from the folly of our neighbors. The time for the election of Aldermen, Reeves, Councilors, Trustees and other officials, educational and municipal will soon be at hand; and we would again advise our readers to leave mere party politics as much out of the question as possible. If Canada is to be kept free of politicians who make a trade of their party principles, the more that is thought of a man's fitness for municipal honors and the less of his views as a political partisan, the better it will be for the country.

Another heartrending tale of suffering and death comes from sea. The steamer "Moses Taylor," just arrived at San Francisco from Honolulu, reports having boarded the brig "Shetland" in a waterlogged condition, and found all on board dead, save the Captain. From the same source we also learn that a large number of vessels belonging to the Arctic whaling fleet have been lost in the ice.

The Mechanic and Builder is a monthly which ought to be in the house of every mechanic; it is really a most valuable work. Western Co., publishers, 37 Pa. Row, New York, \$1.50 in advance, \$2.00 after January 1872.

A very interesting contribution to geographical knowledge has just been made by the publication of the results of the German Polar Expedition. This expedition has had the good fortune to penetrate further north than any of the daring voyagers who have preceded it in their explorations towards the North Pole, and it has confirmed to the fullest extent the fact long suspected and theorized upon, which was first made known by the illustrious Dr. Kane—who discovered the existence of an interior open Polar Sea. Surrounded by an almost impenetrable barrier of ice over which Kane crossed on sledges, his progress northward was at length arrested by the vast open sea which expanded before him, and which he could not navigate as he had no boats or appliances with him for making a voyage on its heaving waters. That this was a sea communicating with the greater ocean was sufficiently proved by its obeying the law of the tides. Although within five hundred miles of the pole, its temperature was surprisingly warm, being about thirty six degrees, or eight degrees above the freezing point of salt water. Dr. Petermann, of the German expedition, had the good fortune to sail into it and on its bosom, acting upon the suggestion of those who have endeavored to account for the open Polar Sea discovered by Kane, by attributing it to the vast currents of warm water borne northwards by the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean, and by the great northern current of the Pacific. As Kane observed, so Dr. Petermann found this Polar Sea swarming with animal life. Great schools of whales abounded, and the fishes and fawns of the Arctic regions were in full possession. The warmth of this sea is now fully believed to be due to the agency of warm oceanic currents, it being fully established that there is a complete circulation of water going on between the equatorial and the polar regions. Thus while the Gulf Stream carries in its current the floating vegetation from the coast of the West India Islands, and the timber-trunk and drift wood of the North Atlantic, and deposits them on the polar shores, so the icebergs of the polar regions are carried down towards the equator by the great southern current of the Atlantic.

The southern drift of the iceberg is known to every transatlantic voyager, while the influence of the Gulf Stream in moderating the climate of places in northern latitudes within its influence is an accepted fact. It is now established that the immense ocean currents carry sufficient heat to the polar regions to maintain the fluidity of water in a climate in which out of the influence of these warm currents, mercury freezes and the frost never leaves the ground. In Dr. Kane's voyage, the temperature some five hundred miles to the south of the Polar Sea was very much below that of the Polar Ocean,—some 40 degrees below zero in fact.

The feasibility of the North-west passage which English daring and devotion has done so much to prove, now stands some strong chance of being established. Sir Leopold McClintock demonstrated the existence of such a passage, but his discovery was regarded as merely accidental while Dr. Petermann has had the good fortune to point out the precise route by which the North-west passage may be effected. There are so many dangers hovering in active voyaging, that this discovery may not lead to the use of the open channel as the highway of commerce between the Atlantic to the Pacific, much as it is projected by some strong chivalry of navigators. The only practical benefit that will follow, is most likely that of a fresh field for the white fishery now prosecuted by the Scotch and Norwegians. But the geographical knowledge which is thus extended is none the less important, and if we gain in nothing else there is great scientific gain in knowing that the forces of nature are working on so grand and majestic a scale in maintaining the equilibrium of climate, and that the compensation which is even seen in nature when its aspects are fully understood, operates alike at the pole as at the equator and in the temperate regions. The students of climatology, as well as geographers, will take much interest in this actual confirmation of a scientific theory, as applied to the physical geography of the earth.

MURDER OF CHIEF JUSTICE NORMAN.

The murder of a Chief Justice while ascending the steps to his own High Court, in a great metropolis like Calcutta, is not a common occurrence, and it is no wonder that the event excited much speculation as to the motives which prompted the act. The facts of the murder, as we now have them from the pen of the *Times'* Calcutta correspondent, are extremely simple. At eleven o'clock on the morning of the 20th of September, Mr. Norman, officiating Chief Justice of Bengal, left the carriage in which he had driven up to the Town Hall, and proceeded towards the entry to the High Court, where he was to sit for his hearing. He had just ascended a flight of eight stone steps, and had turned round to give some direction to his servants, when the assassin, who had been concealed behind the doorway, sprang out with a sharp, bright knife in his hand, and stabbed him on the left shoulder, dividing the eighth rib, and passing through the diaphragm. The Chief Justice turned round, when the knife was again plunged into his abdomen. The blows were aimed with such ferocity that the Indian assassin proved famed, and either stroke would have caused death. On being struck the second time the Chief Justice ran down the steps, pursued by the murderer, who brandished his knife with such ferocity that some of the natives who stood around dared to approach him. The wounded Judge ran on about ten yards, and then picking up a brick flung it in the assassin's face. At this moment, a native workman rushed up to the murderer and struck him with a bamboo. Others then closed with him, and he was thrown to the ground and securely bound. The Chief Justice, in extreme suffering, was removed to a neighboring shop, where he died at one o'clock on the following morning.

This terrible outrage upon an official occupying so exalted a position has a

striking effect upon the community. It was not supposed at the moment, however, that the act had any political significance. The general impression was that the murderer was a wild fanatic, and that the Chief Justice was a man of a noble and heroic character. The impression was shared at first by the *Times'* correspondent, but in his issue of the 22nd ultimo, he says he has had reason to change his opinion, and that the assassin was undoubtedly one of a band of murderers, and that, having been chosen by lot to kill the Chief Justice, every thing was prepared for striking off his head, and presenting it to the public as a trophy of his success. The appearance of the prisoner seems to be the matter most relied upon. He is described as short and strongly built, with a Jewish nose, which gives an appearance of firmness to his features. His eye is "a most like glass," with a cold, deadly gaze, indicative of a cold-blooded and remorseless fanaticism. 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