

WOOD GOODS.

An Industry which might be Advantageously Started.

How Times may be made Better and Money Brought into the Country.

Every body will admit without argument that times might be much better in Fredericton than they are. They might be worse, for happily it can be justly claimed that the standing of our business men is generally good and unless things become much harder than they now are, there will be few failures of any note. But as we have said before, it might be better than they are and yet not be booming. To make times better something must be done to bring money into the place, something must be produced here, which people elsewhere will buy, the raw material at hand and the labor of our people must be converted into articles for which there is a demand in other parts of the world. The larger the scale on which we can do this the better it will be for the business of the city. One industry which might well be established here is

The Manufacture of Wooden Ware.
There are certain lines of goods for which there is always a demand, such as packing boxes, large and small, fish boxes, tubs, pails, churns, step-ladders, brooms, hoes and tool handles, clothes wringers, wash boards, clothes pins, towel rollers, and so on, the variety is almost endless, the demand absolutely unlimited. In England and in the continent of Europe there is a sale for thousands of such goods as these, which are now imported in enormous quantities from the United States. Take the single article of boxes. One London house, such as Coleman's, the mustard maker, would consume more boxes in a year than could be made by the power employed in any factory in Fredericton, and as these great houses buy invariably

Where they can get their goods the cheapest if an establishment in Fredericton could give them boxes at a fraction under what they now pay, the contract would come here. The raw material is here in abundance; the facilities for the erection of factories are all that can be desired; the means of transportation to markets are equal to any, and there is enough money in the country to make a beginning with. Why then does not some one with the money take hold and set the matter on foot? Such an industry as this would be a gain to the country and the city in every respect, because it would take that which is worth little or nothing now, and by expending labor unemployed now would produce something which would sell readily for hard cash. A gentleman residing in Liverpool, G. B., and familiar with the wood and building trade says: "I am of opinion that if good material, through seasoned and properly worked up to modern requirements, is sent to this country, suitable for houses, offices, stores, etc.,

A Large Trade Might be Done.
"There are numbers of things which are in everyday use in building which could be manufactured and sent to this country. For instance, door frames, sash frames, and castings for both; sash bars, same for greenhouses and conservatories; single moulds, 1 inch to 3 inches; skirtings, bases, plinths, handrails, ballusters, plain and turned newels, moulds of all kinds, narrow boarding for casings, wood blocks for block flooring, white oak flooring, garden frames, cupboards and fringes, insulating, sash cells, etc. It would be much better for several manufacturers to combine and get one good representative than to appoint unknown men; for building work he must have a connexion among architects and builders, and he must be prepared for up-hill work at first, and the work he seeks to introduce might be in two qualities of timber but both equally well seasoned. I may name that recently a large company has been formed to extend the work of a man in Yorkshire, who has been making doors, cupboards, etc., and there are several such works now in operation in England, and they seem to pay well. With regard to white copery, etc., a large warehouse has been opened in this town for United States productions lately, though there was a smaller one previously; but a large number of traders throughout this country are now selling American goods, such as tubs, ladders, brooms, brush handles, butter bowls and workers, and an endless variety of manufactures."

Surely no better proof is required than this, that a good opening exists for our people, if they have the enterprise to take the advantage of it.

Deaths at Douglastown.
The river Miramichi opposite Chatham is still clear of ice, except along the shores. The people of Douglastown have enjoyed good skating for the last week. Many of both sexes have availed themselves of the privilege. Smelt fishing is being prosecuted with great vigor. The fish are reported to be plentiful. Messrs. Connell and Morrison of Bartibogue last week brought into town for sale, three fine otter skins and thirteen bears skins, besides some half dozen mink skins, the fruit of the falls hunting; which were purchased by Mr. J. McKnight, of Douglastown. They have also killed several caribou.

While Mr. Robt. Jessamin of Douglastown was skating along the shore of the river on Wednesday, the ice gave way letting him into the water. Fortunately he had a long pole with him, and by its aid was enabled to extricate himself without any serious results.

Fredericton S. S. Union Temperance Meeting.
All the City Sunday Schools will meet in the body of the Methodist Church on Sunday 28th instant, and hold a union temperance meeting. The exercises will begin at 2.30 p. m. and close at 4 p. m. Mr. L. W. Johnston, Sup't. of St. Paul's S. S. has been requested to preside at the meeting. The following is the programme:—

Singing.
Responsive Reading.
Singing. Yield unto Temptation.
Object Lesson, by Miss Mary B. Smith.
Singing. Rescue the Perishing.
Anthem and Collection.
Address, Rev. F. D. Crawley.
Singing.
Prayer and Benediction, Rev. Mr. Mowatt.

Police Court.
Before J. L. Marsh, P. M., John Nugent, drunk on public streets, fined \$4 or 10 days jail. He went to jail.

"BLAIR'S BRIDGE."

A Correspondent gives his Mind about it.

To the Editor of THE GLEANER.—
Sir:—Once in a while we hear something said about "Blair's Bridge" intended as a term of derision. I am quite satisfied that the country in the vicinity of Fredericton will feel called upon, without regard to politics, to bless the day that gave to Fredericton a spirit to originate and carry through this work, which the present season of the year shows us to be of such great importance. If "Blair's Bridge" were completed, who can for a moment doubt the great benefit it would be to trade; instead of being cut off for some weeks from the opposite shore, our country and business people would be able to pass along a highway uninterrupted; instead of our trade being suspended for weeks at a time (fall and spring) we should have nothing to complain of on the score of non-intercourse. It was just so before the railroad was built. On the closing of navigation for weeks at a time the people of Fredericton were kept under an embargo between here and St. John, or until the hard frosts and snows of winter rendered the travelling upon the Nerepis road suitable. It was the same in the spring when the frost was coming out of the ground and left the roads almost impassable. For years and years we have been encouraged to believe that the river St. John here would be spanned by a bridge; but it always ended in talk. At length a gentleman comes to the front and talks too, but he acts also, determines to have no more nonsense, but to proceed with the work, and yet those who should encourage his effort have been loud in denouncing his work, and trying to impress upon the people that it was an interference with Dominion rights and treaty engagements—determined if possible to obstruct a work that every body wants and has been for years demanding. If Mr. Blair, during his presence in the government never does anything else the people of York must hold him in grateful remembrance for all time for the spirited work he has undertaken, the great necessity for which at the present season is more apparent than ever. I earnestly trust that we shall be able to use the bridge by this time next year, and thus save thousands of dollars to the business men of Fredericton, which they are now losing owing to the bad state of the ice ever since the stopping of the ferry boat. Even if the time for the completion of the bridge is not up, I trust it will be so far advanced that a temporary roadway will enable our farmers and others to cross from either side. My hope is that it will be christened "Blair's Bridge" in earnest, so that what is intended as a term of reproach will be turned into one of everlasting praise.

Fredericton, Dec. 8, 1884.

FARM PRODUCE.

Fredericton Market Rates.
Dec. 8, 1884.
The Fredericton market is very poorly supplied, and the demand is light. Eggs are particularly scarce. We quote the ruling rates:—
Pork, per lb. \$0.06 @ 08
Hams, " 0.12 @ 14
Sausages, " 0.12 @ 14
Beef, " 0.08 @ 09
Lamb, " 0.06 @ 07
Mutton, " 0.05 @ 06
Veal, " 0.06 @ 07
Chickens, per pair, 0.35 @ 06
Ducks, " 0.40 @ 50
Geese, " 0.40 @ 55
Turkeys, per lb. 0.10 @ 12
Lard, " 0.16 @ 18
Butter, " 0.17 @ 19
Cheese, " 0.10 @ 13
Eggs, per doz. 0.22 @ 25
Potatoes, per bu. 0.80 @ 09
Carrots, " 0.80 @ 09
Turnips, " 0.50 @ 60
Hay, per ton, 10.00 @ 14
Turkeys, per pair, 4.00 @ 6.00
Oats, per bush. 0.35 @ 35
Barley, per ew. 1.50 @ 1.75
Socks and mits, per pair. 25 @ 30

The Boston Produce Market.
We note a few favorable changes in the Boston Produce Market. Potatoes show a slight upward tendency, Houlton Rose commanding 55 cents as against 53 last week and the best grades of eastern potatoes bringing 55 cents. The poultry trade is dull, largely owing to the unfavorable weather, which is as unseasonable there as it is here.

We quote:—
Butter, Northern Creamery, 25 @ 29
" Western Creamery, 20 @ 26
Eggs, New Brunswick, 26 @ 27
Potatoes, Houlton Rose, 50 @ 55
Other Eastern, 50 @ 55
Hay, Good to extra, \$17 @ 18.50
Oat Straw, 16 @ 18
Turkeys, 13 @ 17
Chickens, 14 @ 16
" fair to good, 10 @ 13
Geese, 12 @ 14
Rabbits, per pair, 25 @ 26

Windsor (N. S.) Notes.
The concert given in the Reform Club Hall on Thursday evening, by the Hayden Quintette Club, of Halifax, was a grand success. Mr. Taylor elicited much applause in the solo, "Good Bye." The flute solo, by Mr. Higgins, "Killock of Killock," was frequently applauded by the appreciative audience. On Thursday and Friday evenings, the 11th and 12th of December, the Windsor Amateur Troupe will give the opera "Carmen of Esther," in the town hall. This company consists of 100 voices, many of whom have already distinguished themselves in the role of "Love-sick Maidens" in the "Patience" Operatic Co., of Windsor.

The Windsor Curriers held their annual meeting last week for the appointment of officers for the ensuing season. The curriers are this year much better equipped than ever for a successful season of the popular sport. Mr. Robert, our popular American consul, is, we are glad to state, rapidly recovering from his recent illness.

The troubles at the University are still the topic of general conversation. The Associated Alumni of the University held a special meeting on Thursday, 27th instant, purpose to accept the resignations of five of the Governors of the College. A vote was taken on the subject, and the result was a sweeping majority in favor of the resignation of the five. The meeting adjourned, a vote was taken on the part of the Faculty, to suppress the publication of the "Kings College Record," the independent organ of the students, is the latest novelty "on record." By many it is maintained that this is beyond the immediate prerogative of the Faculty.

THE ALMS HOUSE.

Something about its Condition in Former Times.

The Superintendent Expresses His Views on Its Present Condition.

A gentleman who has been about the Alms House for twenty-eight years, and had excellent opportunities of observing the state of things, says that during the time Mr. and Mrs. Fleming were in charge of that institution there were no vermin there, that occasionally some men would show themselves, but the house would be at once cleared of them. Every effort was made to see that the inmates were clean. On being admitted all were compelled to wash themselves and put on fresh clothing, under the supervision of the superintendent and his wife personally. Regular weekly baths and changes of clothing were insisted upon. He also says that Mr. or Mrs. Fleming had no help paid for out of the public funds, except during the last year of Mrs. Fleming's time a washer-woman was employed, who was paid in full for her service. The salary during the latter portion of Mrs. Fleming's superintendency was only \$300 out of which she had to pay for any help employed at the Alms House except as above stated. He said that if the former superintendent and his wife had been in charge, the inmates would have been in a much better state of things than they are now, in view of this, things at the Alms House are as reported in the GLEANER, the present overseer seems to be at fault.

Mr. Phillips's Letter.

To the Editor of THE GLEANER.—
Sir:—I wish to comment upon the article in your last issue headed "A Crying Shame," etc., etc. I am reported as saying that the condition of the bed of the woman referred to was "overstated." On the contrary, I said it was exaggerated. When the unfortunate woman was brought to the Alms House, on the 12th of June last, her mind had become so weakened, that not a trace of "education or refinement" was discernible, and I question if she has ever realized that she is an inmate of the Alms House. Since that time frequent fits have rendered her habits such that she has to be looked after like an infant; at times she has been so unreasonable that being a heavy person, it has been very difficult to manage her. It matters little what her antecedents were, when she was brought to the Alms House she was on the same footing with the other inmates. She has lost all strength for want of proper nourishment since coming to the institution. She has always had wholesome and nutritious food, as have all the inmates. I candidly believe that there are hundreds of women in the city of Fredericton to-day who have not such good food regularly as the inmates of the Alms House. Since the beginning of this woman's present sickness, her appetite has partially failed, so that she frequently refused food for many days.

CITIZEN.

Had the Best
I could and she suffered for nothing. On the 1st of November a woman, with a young child, came from another parish. I immediately put her in her care, with instructions to attend faithfully to all her wants. My questions were always satisfactorily answered and from anything I could see or learn I thought the woman in attendance was doing her duty. It was a matter of surprise and regret to me when I found there was any cause for complaint with regard to her bed. Her room was always clean. I immediately had everything changed from the bedstead to all upon it. Louisa was washed and clean clothing put upon her, and since that I deny any cause whatever for complaint. Having no one who could stay into the room with her at night, for three weeks I have myself gone to her room twice every night to see if anything was wanted.

On the 24th of November 1883 and again on the 26th of February 1884, I made the following among other suggestions to the Alms House committee:—
"If the Alms House is to be a Hospital also, as it has been since I have been keeper, I think it highly important that there should be separate wards for the sick of both sexes and that nurses should be furnished."

But while others of my suggestions have been acted upon, this, the most important, has not yet been carried into effect. To give an idea of how much a hospital institution is, I would say that nearly four hundred prescriptions have been written the past year. We have the sick, the lame, the insane, the lame and the blind. I have no servant, and for over three months before this woman from another parish came to do any work and she is

Subject to Temporary Fits of Insanity.
Notwithstanding the great scarcity of help the washing has always been done regularly and the building kept clean.

In the use of the word "vermin," if my reporter meant bedbugs, they are to be found in the apartments of the inmates, although every effort has been made to exterminate them. The fact that every inmate is compelled to take an all-over bath fortnightly (some weekly) and put on clean clothing, is abundant proof that no quarter is given to other vermin. Whatever the outward apparel of the inmates may be they have always good and abundant underwear.

However galling the article in Saturday's GLEANER is, I am conscious of no remissness whatever in my duty, as I have always done the very best that could be done under the circumstances. I would be glad to have every citizen interested in these unfortunate people visit the institution and see for himself its defects and needs. Now that this matter is before the public I hope it will result in fair play to the institution.

There are other points I should like to notice but have already taken up too much space. I shall cheerfully furnish you with some interesting statistics concerning the home of the poor.

Yours Respectfully,

R. H. PHILLIPS.

The Coming Dramatic Season.

Mr. Lytell is expected home on Friday on a visit preliminary to the opening of his dramatic season in the City Hall, on January 5th.

THE C. P. R.

What an Eye-Witness Tells About the Work in the Mountains.

A Road which Cannot Possibly do a Freight Business.

Mr. George Kitchen has returned with his party from British Columbia, where he has been engaged in the work of constructing the Canada Pacific Railway, having quite a large contract on the road among the mountains. The contract was not quite completed when Mr. Kitchen left, but his son remained behind to finish it. From Mr. Graham of Prince William, one of the members of the party who spent the summer in the mountains, the following interesting particulars have been gleaned.

The operations of Mr. Kitchen's party have been among the mountains, and a large force of men is now at work there under the supervision of Mr. Kitchen, who is rapidly ahead, in the hope of completing the road by August next.

"What do you think of the road?" Mr. Graham was asked.

"It is

A Very Poor Road

Indeed, if I am any judge of a road. Much of it is built on sliding hill sides, where the soil is gravelly earth, and I don't believe that it will stand when the frost gets into it."

"How about the grades?"

"Some of them are very steep, one particularly, coming from the first crossing of the Columbia to the summit, that is coming east, where there is a rise of from 44 to 56 feet in a hundred. When I came home I was in charge of our luggage, and it was put in a box car, and did not take up much room. There were all together seven box cars in the train, with nothing in them but our luggage except myself, besides the train hands. You may say the cars were empty. Well, two locomotives could not haul the train up that grade, but had to jerk it up."

"Is not this very unsafe?"

"Yes it is; but the company have safety switches all along, and when the train passes which he can get disconnected at the switch, so that if the train should start to run backwards it can be carried up into the woods and so get a start by which it can

Have at Home.

Two locomotives can only hold back three loaded cars of freight going down this grade."

Mr. Graham was then told that the friends of the company claimed this to be only a temporary road, but he said, "It is part of the through line. There is another line located higher up the mountain, which I have seen, but it is not being built and this, the lower line is that for which the company are getting the money."

"Is it true that there is any difficulty about pay?"

"Well, it is this way; the July pay came in September, the September pay in the last of October. If men want to leave before the paymaster gets around he gets a time check which he can get discounted at the bank, or the track. I understand that Mr. Kitchen has not had all his pay yet; but I suppose he will get it."

"Who does the discounting of the time checks?"

"It is generally thought that it is done with the company's own money." "How do you like the country?" Mr. Graham was asked.

"Well it is hardly fair to ask a New Brunswicker such a question, for there is

Nothing in the Northwest as good as we have here.

I tried to take a common sense view of it though, and while there is a lot of good land on the prairies, it seemed to me that the cost of buying a farm, building on it and getting it settled in the Northwest was enough if interest in New Brunswick to keep a man on the interest. There is no fuel, fencing or building material. Many farms are now mortgaged for the cost of implements and the like, and will have to be sold."

"Is there any farming land in the Columbia Valley?"

"I did not see much of the Valley, but in the parts that I did see there is not much land good for farming except on the islands, and these, though not large, are quite numerous and the soil is of excellent quality."

"What about mining?"

"There are a good many prospectors at work and they all claim to be doing well, but not one of them has been able to do it. I do not know what the business of the road is going to be if the mining does not come to something."

"Is there much difficulty in getting provisions through the mountains?"

"Not any difficulty, but it costs a great deal of money to do it. There may be trouble with the snow when the snow begins to come and ice to form on the track."

"Summing the whole matter, what do you think of the railway?"

"I don't think much of it. I don't believe the company will ever run it, and I am confident that it will cost more to maintain the track after it is built than it did to build it."

An Open Season.

On December 15th about 1846, the ferry-boat "Lady Colebrook" brought Lady Colebrook, the wife of the then Lieutenant Governor of the Province, from St. John to this city, and landed them at Government House Point. The river remained open for some time afterwards, and only became fairly closed by Christmas.

Brought Home to be Buried.

The remains of the late Thomas Barry were interred this afternoon, in the Catholic Cemetery. He died in the Rocky Mountains of Mountain fever, being sick but a few days. Mr. Barry left here last spring to take a contract on the Canadian Pacific Railway. His body was brought home by Mr. Kitchen.

Hand Injured.

On Friday, at Glassville, Mr. John Tobey, while working at a threshing mill, had one of his hands so badly injured that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed by Dr. Atkins.

Sanbury Election.

The hearing of the Sanbury election petition is postponed until Judge Fraser returns from Bathurst.

Heavy Rain.

Owing to the heavy rains of Sunday and Monday, the crossing on the ice was again made dangerous.

A Queer Contest.

(Special to Gleaner.)
DURLEY, Dec. 9.—The City Council, at a meeting last night, by a vote of 31 against 12, resolved to change the name of Sackville Street to O'Connell Street. A deputation of tradesmen appeared at the meeting and protested against the action, whereupon D. T. Sullivan, M. P., warned them that they were opposing the wishes of Irish people. This was construed as a threat to boycott them. The tradesmen are raising a fund to test the legality of the action of the corporation.

The Congo Question.

Special to Gleaner.

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—The National Gazette states that the powers have agreed that the members of the Conference regarding the occupation of the unoccupied territory shall only take practical effect after a lapse of a specified time. The object of this is to avoid a race between the powers that wish to annex African territory.

The Death Penalty.

Special to Gleaner.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—Capt. Dudley and the mate of the wrecked yacht Mignonette, who were found guilty of murder in killing the boy Parker for food, were to-day sentenced to death. It is believed that they will certainly be pardoned.

A Championship Decided.

(Special to Gleaner.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—A match for \$600 and the mixed wrestling championship of the world between Duncan C. Ross and Tom Cannon, took place last night, and was won by Ross, who won 3 out of 5 falls.

Fire Alarm.

A burning chimney in Mr. F. Coy's house Queen Street, was the cause of an alarm of fire on Saturday evening.

"I'm poisoned! Run for the doctor! Give me some mustard!" frantically cried Mrs. Butler, yesterday morning, says the Chatham World when she saw "Poison" on the label of a bottle from which she had just taken a few drops. She shrieked and shrieked with pain, swallowed a great dose of mustard and water, and sent in hot haste after a physician. Two were soon found, and when they reached the house Mrs. Butler was lying on the floor apparently in the agonies of death. They examined the bottle from which the fatal dose had been taken, and found that it was tincture of arnica. She had taken a drop or two, and taken all that was in the bottle it would not have hurt her. Fear and mustard combined had laid her low. Half the town had arrived by this time to witness the dying agonies of a poisoned person, and the other half got there in the course of an hour or so.

Marriages.

At the residence of the bride's father, on the 26th Nov., by the Rev. J. C. Herdman, D. D., Albert J. H. Stewart, youngest son of the late David Stewart, Esq., of Bathurst, and Accountant in the employ of Messrs. K. F. Burns & Co., Bathurst, to Annie K. Kerr, third daughter of Thomas Kerr, Esq., merchant, Campbellton, N. B.

Deaths.

At Bear Island, Queensbury, York Co., on the 26th Nov., Mrs. Isabel Hagerman, aged 55 years.

'84 FALL '84

OWEN SHARKEY

Has now on hand a full stock of Staple and Fancy DRESS GOODS, comprising

Ladies' Dress Goods, French Merinos, Cashmeres, Serges, Costume Cloths,

and a great variety of other Dress Goods suitable for the season:

Cloth Mantles, Ulsters, Shawls, Corsets, Scarfs, Squares, Wool Hosiery, Cashmere and Kid Gloves, Kid Mitts, Fur Caps.

MEN'S YOUTHS' AND BOYS' CLOTHING.

—IN—
Ulsters, Overcoats, Reefers, Coats, Pants and Vests.

Felt and Fur Hats, Scotch Knitted Caps, Fur Caps in South Sea Seal, Persian Lamb, Beaver, Bad Seal and Coney.

Knitted and Fancy Wool Shirts, white and colored Dress Shirts, Linen Cuffs & Collars, ribbed and Plain Undershirts, Knitted Wool Gloves.

Lined Kid Gloves, Kid Mitts, Scarves, Ties, Cardigan Jackets and Braces.

Gray and White Cottons, Cotton Warpings, Swandrums, Tickings, Trowelling, Table Linens, Osmaburgs, Grey, White, Blue and Fancy Flannels, Grey and White Blankets.

Horse Blankets, Camp Blankets, ingo, Wool and Hemp Carpets, Japanese Slings, Robes, Buffalo Robes, Lined and Unlined, Buffalo Trimmings, &c., &c.

TRUNKS, VALISES, and TRAVELLING BAGS. All of which I shall sell at prices low as lowest in the City.

Always on hand a good stock of Tweeds, Ulster Cloths and Worsted Coatings.

OWEN SHARKEY.

Dec. 9, 1884.

WIN

more money than at anything else by taking an agency for the best selling book on the market. Send for a copy. None fail. Terms free. HALLIDAY BOOK CO., Portland, Maine.

A PRIZE

Send six cents for postage, and we will mail you free, a valuable sample box of goods which will help you to more money right away than anything else in this world. All of either succeed from first hour. The broad road to fortune opens before the workers, absolutely sure.

Send for working people. Send 10 cents postage, and we will mail you free, a valuable sample box of goods which will help you to more money right away than anything else in this world. All of either succeed from first hour. The broad road to fortune opens before the workers, absolutely sure.

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Send for working people. Send 10 cents postage

THE GYPSY QUEEN'S VOW.

By JANIE O'BRIEN.

(Continued.)

"No, no! Hope for nothing but to forget one so miserable as I am. O Lord Ernest! I will be your friend—your sister, if I may; but I can never be your wife."

"Maude, is there guilt, is there crime connected with this terrible secret of yours?" he demanded.

She rose to her feet impulsively. "And you think me capable of crime, Lord Villiers?—of guilt that needs concealment?" she said, with proud scorn. "You, Maude? No; sooner would I believe an angel from Heaven guilty of crime, than you. O Lady Maude! must this secret, which involves the happiness of my whole life, remain hidden from me?"

Her tone was very sad, as she replied: "Some day, my lord, I will tell you all; but not now. Let us part here and never let this subject be renewed between us."

"O Maude, Maude!—do you love me?" "I do! I do! Heaven forgive me!"

"Now, why Heaven forgive me? Maude! you will drive me mad! Is it such a crime to love me then?"

"In some it is," she said in her low sad voice.

"And why, fairest saint?"

"Do not ask me, my lord. Let me go, I am tired and sick, and very unhappy. Dearest Ernest, leave me, and never speak of this again."

"As you will Lady Maude," he said, turning haughtily away.

But a light touch was laid on his arm, and the sweet voice of Lady Maude said: "I have offended you, my lord; pray forgive me."

"I am not offended, Lady Maude. Percy; neither have I any thing to forgive," he said, "You have rejected me, and I presume the matter ends there."

"But you are offended, O Lord Villiers, if you know how unhappy I am you would forgive me the pain I have caused you."

Her tone touched him, and taking her hand gently, he said: "It is I who should ask forgiveness, Lady Maude. Yes, I will accept the friendship you offer, until such time as I can claim a better reward. Notwithstanding all you have said, I do not despair still."

He pressed her hand to his lips and was gone.

"Excuse me, your lordship," insinuated a footman in his ear, "but there is an individual down stairs who persists in seeing the earl, and will not take no for an answer."

"Who is it?" inquired Lord Villiers, impatiently.

"A gipsy, my lord, a desperate-looking old tramp, too."

"What is that about gipsies?" said the unceremonious little Miss Jernyngham, passing at that moment. "You must know, I fairly dote on gipsies, ever since I saw that charming young man they are going to transport."

"How I wish I were a gipsy!" said Lord Villiers, gayly, "for such a reward."

"Pray spare your pretty speech for Lady Maude Percy, my lord," lisped Miss Jernyngham; "but about this gipsy—is it a man or a woman?"

"A woman, miss, they call her the gipsy queen, Keturah."

"A gipsy queen! oh, delightful!" cried the young lady; "my lord, we must have her up. I insist on having my fortune told."

"Your slave hears but to obey, Miss Jernyngham. Jonson, go and bring the old lady up."

"Yes, my lord," said Jonson, hurrying off.

"George—George! do come here," exclaimed the young lady, as her brother passed; "I want you."

"What's all this about?" said the guardsman. "My dear Clara the way you do get the steam up at a moment's notice is perfectly astonishing. What can I do for you?"

"Do you want to have your fortune told?"

"If any good sybil would predict for me a rich wife, who would pay my debts and keep me provided with kid gloves and cigars, I wouldn't object; but in any other case—"

His speech was cut short by the sudden appearance of the footman with the gipsy queen, of whom he seemed considerably afraid.

"I wish to see Earl De Courcy," was her abrupt demand.

"And we wish to have our fortunes told, good mother," said Lord Villiers, "my father will attend to you presently."

"Your father!" said the woman, fixing her piercing eyes on his handsome face, "then you are Lord Villiers."

"You have guessed it. What has the future in store for me?"

"Nothing good for your father's son," she hissed. "Give me your hand."

He extended it with a smile, and she took it in hers and peered into it. "Well mother, what has destiny in store for me?"

"Much good or more evil. This night decides thy destiny; either thou shalt be blessed for life, or if the scale turns against thee—then woe to thee! stand aside—the earl approaches."

A tall, distinguished-looking man of middle age approached, and looked with grave surprise on the group before him.

"A word with you, lord earl!" said the gipsy confronting him.

"Speak out, then."

"I must be in private."

"Where are you?" said the earl, surprised and curious.

I am called the gipsy queen, Keturah, said the woman drawing herself up.

And what do you want of me, woman?"

"I tell you I must speak in private. Is your time so precious that you cannot grant ten minutes of it to me?" said the woman.

"This way then," said the earl, as he turned and led the way across the hall to a richly furnished library.

Seating himself in a softly-cushioned lounging chair, he waited for his singular visitor to begin.

CHAPTER IV.

THE GYPSY'S VOW.

"May the grass wither from thy feet! the woods deny thee shelter! the earth, a home! the dust! A grave! the sun, his light! and heaven, her God!"—BYRON.

"Well, madam! I am waiting," said the earl after a pause.

"Lord Earl, behold at thy feet a mother who comes to plead for her son!" said the strange woman, sinking on her knees at his feet.

"Madam, I do not understand," said the earl, surprised, and feeling himself obliged, as it were, to use a respectful form of address, by the woman's commanding look.

"My son is in your power! my darling, my only son! my first-born! Oh, spare him!" said the woman holding up her clasped hands.

"Your son! Madam, I do not understand," said the earl knitting his brows in perplexity.

"You have condemned him to transportation! And he is as innocent of the crime as the angels in heaven," cried the woman in passionate tones.

"Madam, I assure you I do not understand. 'Who is your son?' said the earl more and more perplexed.

"You know him as Germaine, but he is my son Reginald—my only son! Oh, my lord! spare him!" wildly pleaded the gipsy queen.

"Madam, rise."

"Not until you have pardoned my son."

"That I will never do! your son has been found guilty of wilful robbery, and has been justly condemned. I can do nothing for him," said the earl, while his brow grew dark.

"My lord, he is innocent!" almost shrieked the wretched woman.

"I do not believe it! He has been proven guilty," said the earl coldly.

"It is false! as false as the black hearts of the perjurers who swore against him! He is innocent of this crime, as innocent of it as thou art, lord earl. O Earl De Courcy, as you hope for pardon from God, pardon him."

"Madam, I command you to rise."

"Never, never! while my son is in chains! Oh my lord, you do not know how I have loved that boy! I had no one else in the wide world to love; not a drop of kindred blood ran in any human heart but his. O Lord De Courcy, I have suffered cold and hunger, thirst and hardship, that he might never want; I have toiled for him night and day, that he might never feel pain; I have stooped to actions I loathed, that he might be happy and free from guilt. And when he grew older, I gave him up, though it was like rending body and soul apart. I sent him away. I sent him to school with the money that years unceasing toil had enabled me to save. I sent him to be educated with gentlemen. I never came near him, least any one should suspect his mother was a gipsy. For twenty-three years my life has been one long dream of him; sleeping or waking, in suffering and trial, the thought that he was near me gave me joy and strength. And now he is condemned for life—condemned to a far off land, among convicts and felons, where I will never see him again! O Lord De Courcy! mercy, mercy for my son!"

A spasm of pain passed over the face of the earl; but he answered sternly: "Woman, your son is guilty. I cannot pardon him."

"He is not guilty! Perish the soul so base as to believe such a falsehood of my high-hearted boy!" cried the gipsy.

"He, my proud, glorious, kindly-hearted Reginald, stoop to such a crime! Oh! sooner could the angels themselves be guilty of it than he!"

"Woman, you rave! Once again I tell you, rise."

"Pardon, pardon for my son!"

"Madam, I cannot. I pity you. Heaven knows I do! but he is guilty, and must suffer."

"O my God! how shall I convince him?" cried the wretched woman, wringing her hands in wild despair. "O Earl De Courcy, you too have a son, handsome, gallant and noble, the pride of your old age, the last son of your proud race! For his sake, for the sake of your son, pardon mine!"

"Once more I tell you, I cannot. Your son is condemned; to-morrow his sentence will be executed, and I have no power to avert it. And madam, though I pity you deeply, I must again say he deserves it. Your son deserves his fate; all the more so for his ingratitude to you, after all you have done for him. I deeply pity you; as heaven hears me, I do!"

"Oh, then, for my sake, if there is one spark of pity for me in your heart, do not kill me! For, Lord De Courcy, it will be a double murder, his death and mine, if this sentence is executed."

"The law must take its course! I cannot prevent it, and once more, madam, I beseech you to rise. You should kneel to God alone."

"God would forgive him, had I pleaded to him thus; but you, tiger-heart, you will not! shrieked the woman. "O Lord earl, I have never knelt to God or man before; and to have my petition spurned now! You hold my life in the hollow of your hand, and you will not grant it!"

"I tell you I cannot."

(To be Continued.)

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