

FIRE PROTECTION.

The Unsatisfactory Condition of the Water Service.

A Better System of Fire Alarm Absolutely Necessary.

When the hydrant nearest the Red Lion fire was found to be useless on the only occasion when it has been wanted, a feeling of dismay took possession of the few onlookers who were present when the firemen first got to the spot on Wednesday morning. To THE GUARDIAN the fact suggested the necessity for a thorough enquiry into the condition of the hydrants, so that the citizens might be informed as to what dependence was to be placed in cold weather upon their costly system of fire protection. Superintendent Burdell was first seen. He said:

"The hydrant was broken and frozen, and it is a lucky thing that it was frozen, for it might have played mischief with the water works."

"How so?" he was asked.

"The engineer did not know there was a fire. The Methodist bell rang some time before the City Hall bell did and the firemen opened the hydrant before the alarm had been sent to the engine house."

"The Superintendent was in a hurry and this ended the conversation." Later in the evening he was seen again, and in reply to the question: "How could the open hydrant affect the engine?" he said:

"I was wrong about that; I thought it might cause the engine to lose its suction but it would not do that; but it would have prevented them from getting a sufficient pressure."

"What was the matter with the hydrant?"

"There was a chip in the valve which prevented it from closing, so the water got up in the hydrant and froze there."

"Where did the chip come from?"

"When the pipes were put down chips were left in them."

"Could not this have been avoided?"

"It could have been if there had been a man to superintend the pipe-laying; but the cry was raised about the engine and the pipe-laying was not a good job."

"How many other hydrants are in the same condition as that on King Street?"

"I don't know!"

"Don't you test them?"

"Not very often, but I propose to make a thorough test to-morrow or next day."

"What do you think needs to be done to prevent such an accident as you anticipated from an open hydrant?"

"We want a complete system of fire alarm. It will cost something, but we must have it, or things will not be satisfactory. I am going to have notices posted for firemen not to open hydrants until the City Hall alarm has been sounded, so that there will be certain to be a sufficient pressure."

"Will not valuable time be lost on this account?"

"Yes sometimes; but I don't know what else can be done as to the hydrants."

The Chief Engineer, was seen later in the evening and asked about the condition of the hydrants. When told that the Superintendent had said he did not know how many hydrants were useless, he said:

"Well, he ought to be ought not to sleep to-night until he had tested every one of them. They won't let the Fire Department look after the hydrants."

One night last winter Fred Todd told me that the hydrant in front of the King Street engine house was frozen. We got a wrench and went round and tried a large number of hydrants. They were all frozen, and the full penalty of twenty dollars would be enforced against any one opening a hydrant. I explained to the committee what I had done and why I had done it, but was told not to do it again, that the Fire Department had no right to open the hydrants except in case of a fire."

"Mr. Burdell says we want a better fire alarm," says the reporter.

"Of course we do; there is no question about that. The first minutes at a fire are the most precious. Of course we want a better alarm."

"Why were so many alarms given at the last fire?"

"The fire pressure was taken off, and we needed the pressure to put out the fire which sprang up again twice."

"Why did you order the pressure off?"

"I did not, nor did I order it to be done, nor was I consulted about it, and I did not know it was off."

"I ordered it off?"

"The Superintendent I suppose; it was understood that he would do so when he was first appointed. I have nothing to do with ordering off the water, and have no key of the City Hall so as to get at the telephone. If I want the fire pressure for a few minutes I have to wake the whole town up."

Assistant Engineer Ross was seen this morning. He said it was impossible to hear in the water works engine house any alarm from the city bells. The only way in which they could get an alarm was from the City Hall bell, which sounded in the engine room.

"Then suppose a fire occurred at Waterloo Row, you would not know about it until some one came to the City Hall?" he was asked.

"Yes; although they could telephone up from the Sanbury street telephone, but that might ring half a dozen times before we could hear it."

"You think there should be a better alarm?"

"I most certainly do."

"Who orders off the fire pressure?"

"Superintendent Burdell."

Through the Ice.

Miss Lottie Cliff, daughter of Mr. G. Cliff, skated through the ice yesterday afternoon. She was rescued from the dangerous position by her brother, after being in the water about 15 minutes.

The Charlotte School School.

The Charlotte School School is fast approaching completion. The outside is all finished. Lathing is being vigorously pushed forward. M. Lockhart is doing the painting.

The Record Annihilated.

Capt. Currier, born in 1800, was on the ice yesterday afternoon, enjoying the skating. It is 65 years since the Capt. had the skates on.

RESTIGOUCHE NOTES.

Not a bad lot, if somewhat late in coming to hand.

Your Dalhousie correspondent has been somewhat remiss in his duty—as you have not had anything from him for some time.

Winter has set in, in good earnest, earlier than last year. We have quite enough snow (and ice) for good sleighing, and the river is full of drift-ice. A cold snap would close it up in a short time.

The steamer "Admiral" ceased running down the Bay about the usual time. It is understood that she did so against the protest of the I. C. R. authorities, who could not see why, with practically open navigation here, she should cease her trips. The fact appears to be that insurance cannot be effected on vessels running on Bay Chaleur or the St. Lawrence after 15th of November, and this together with the admitted great difficulty and risk of transferring goods and passengers between the steamer and ports on the route in autumn, there being no suitable wharves, no doubt was the real cause of the early laying up of the steamer for the season.

A large amount of work has been done about the station grounds of the Branch Railroad since my last, the wharf has been fully completed, as also freight shed thereon, intended more particularly for the use of the steamer. Experience has shown that the wharf will require to be enlarged at an early date, and that the proposed ballast wharf, a short distance to the westward, the construction of which has been strongly pressed upon. The departure of R. Moffat, M. P. is also a necessity, not only for the protection of our harbor, but also as a protection to the existing wharf during the time ice is running out in the spring. It has also been made apparent that in the near future the deep water terminus will require to be made closer to the town if full advantage is to be taken of the latest open water of the Bay Chaleur. A coal shed of large dimensions, engine house, turn table, etc., are about completed. Additional siding accommodations have been provided, and the part of track exposed to westerly winds and high tides has been carefully protected by stone work.

The mill here shut down for the season early in Nov. There has not been a large amount of lumber shipped. The depressed condition of the lumber trade has operated to prevent our leading market from pushing their business this season. It is understood that the work this season will not be over the average amount.

Our County Municipal Elections passed off quietly. The old Councilors were returned with two exceptions. McDonald Kerr of Colborne defeated by R. Conacher, and Mr. Murray Esq., Barrister of Addington, who could not be induced to offer again and whose place is supplied by A. E. Alexander of Campbellton. Mr. Murray was much missed from the Council Board. He brought to the deliberations of that body sound judgment, considerable experience in county matters and a legal knowledge which could always be depended upon. It has been rumored for some time past that an effort will be made by leading residents in the several Parishes of the County to induce him to offer at the next Local Election. He would a stirring representative. Mr. Kerr the late Councilor for Colborne is a gentleman whose knowledge of County accounts and matters generally, was of great value to the Council.

Drowned on his way Home.

Fred Clynick, son of Mr. C. Clynick, Baker, Regent St., was drowned while returning from St. Mary's last evening. He crossed the river to deliver a sled load of bread. On his return he slid into an air-hole opposite the City Hall. His cries for help brought some soldiers to his aid. The sled was pulled out but he had sunk and did not rise. Grappling was commenced at 8 o'clock and the body was found at 9:15 P. M. The unfortunate lad had \$25 in pocket which he had collected in St. Mary's. He was 14 years old and was an industrious and manly little fellow. His record is short but it is a good one.

The jury was held by Dr. Brown, Coroner. The jury were as follows:—C. A. Sampson, Foreman, A. W. Edgecombe, J. R. Grievies, J. W. Tabor, N. Smith, A. H. Jewett, and R. Boone.

They returned a verdict that Frederick Clynick came to his death by accidental drowning, while crossing the river on the evening of Dec. 3rd.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Sampson and seconded by Mr. Grievies, was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That they could not too highly commend the many and skillful part which Mr. George Burns and his friends took in their search for and finding of the body.

King Street Fire.

About 1:30 yesterday morning, a fire broke out in a building known as the "Red Lion," on King Street. It was occupied by Hattie Clark. The fire started from a defective fuse in the shop and spread to the room above, arousing the inmates. They at once gave the alarm to Mr. McDiarmid, who occupies the building adjoining. The fire spread rapidly through the building. The fire companies were soon at work and in a short time had the fire in check. Mr. McDiarmid's dwelling was slightly scorched. Several alarms were sounded but it was on account of fresh outbreaks of fire in the building.

The "Red Lion" is insured in the Commercial Union of London, J. L. Inches agent, for \$800. The insurance policy is held by Mrs. J. Hayes.

Mr. McDiarmid had no insurance on his furniture. There is a policy for \$1200 on the house in one of Mr. J. Black's companies. \$15 has been awarded to the owner of the building for injuries done by the fire.

Arrivals.

QUEEN HOTEL.—Wednesday, Dec. 3rd.—R. Percy Crookshank, M. D., H. A. Drury, St. John; M. Macdonald, Jas G. Stevens, Jr. St. Stephens; A. B. Cummings, Portland; R. Williams, Colaba; H. H. Harned, Fred A. Jones, and wife, J. A. Charters, St. John; J. P. Kingsport, N.S.

Thursday, Dec. 4th.—C. Fred Venning, Upper Sheffield.

Piano Tuning.

Mr. Garrison, piano tuner, is again in town, and will commence work to-morrow. Dec. 5th. Orders left at Hall's book store will receive due attention.

Personals.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Jones are at the Queen. Mr. Jones is son of Hon. T. R. Jones. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were married at Sussex yesterday.

L. Col. and Mrs. Munnell were in Woodstock yesterday.

CITY COUNCIL.

A Great Amount of Routine Business Transacted.

The City Hall Gallery.—Resignation of the Mayor.

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday night; present a full board. The Auditor's Report, No. 2, was submitted, and the following bills ordered to be paid:

Roads and Streets, \$17 87
Fire Department, 64 75
City Hall, 5 50
Administration, 5 50
Contingent, 14 26
Public Works, 1 47
Market, 53 75
Sewerage and Water, 141 86
Wharf, 5 40

The Report of the Appeal Committee.

recommending that the prayer of the petitioners, J. McDiarmid and Robert Coyle be not complied with; that Joseph Noble be relieved of 1884, he not being a resident this year; that Wm. McCain be relieved of poll tax for 1885 on paying all other taxes due by him before 20th inst.; that petitions of T. A. Armstrong and Elizabeth McBurney stand over for further information; that Mrs. J. McGill be relieved of poll tax due by her husband's estate, balance of taxes to be collected; that Patrick Gallagher be relieved of the relief of taxes of 1881 on paying 1884 tax promptly, was submitted and adopted.

Ald. Guter presented an account of T. A. Barker which was referred to the police committee.

The monthly report of the water committee was read and adopted recommending the payment of load of coal \$2.80.

The committee appointed to revise the list of defaulters of taxes (for 1884) thinking of names of those dead, removed and others that cannot be collected 1878-1880-1881-1882-1883. They submitted a list of 200 or 300 names to be struck, the amount struck off being \$21.60-34.

The report of the committee was adopted. The City Clerk submitted a report on the rents placed in his hand for collection but not collected. On motion the report was ordered to stand over until next meeting.

Ald. Farrell submitted a memorial from Mrs. Lucy Jones

signed by two hundred leading citizens of Fredericton, recommending her claims to the favorable consideration of the Board of Education and Government.

Ald. Parker moved seconded by Ald. Edgecombe, the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the memorial of Mrs. Jones be referred to the Board of Education with the request that the Board will give the matter such consideration as they may see fit.

Road Surveyor Casey submitted a report on the enclosed lot belonging to John Macpherson on Westmorland Street. The report was received and Road Surveyor directed to have the same to be enclosed at the expense of Macpherson as the laws directs.

The City Clerk reported an encroachment on the city streets by one Arthur P. Tippet and submits with the report the correspondence with Mr. Tippet and the City Engineer's plan of the trespass. The report was received and referred to the Road Committee with power to act.

The Street Lamp Committee reported that the Gas Company are not prepared to put down the 6 additional Street Lamps required this season because of the large amount of excavation required. They recommend the matter stand over until next Spring.

The Police Committee reported recommended the heating of the Police Court by steam radiators.

The Fire Committee reported that on the 6th of Nov. Chief Lipsitt and department met on Phoenix Square and tested the hose in connection with the hydrants. The hose and water power were found very satisfactory. The Mayor recommended the purchase of a limited amount of new hose.

The City Hall Stage.

Ald. Farrell submitted a report from the committee on City Hall alterations, and the plans thereon prepared by Alex. Mitchell; the committee refer the question as to which plan to be adopted or what shall be done, back to the City Council.

Moved by Ald. Parker, and seconded by Ald. Calder, that the report be received and laid on the table. Moved as an amendment and seconded by Ald. Wiley.

Resolved, That the report be received and the committee instructed to ask for tenders for improvement of gallery according to plan No. 2, and report at the next meeting of Council.

The Mayor made the following remarks:—

The Mayor thought that as Mr. Mitchell, an architect of standing had been called in by the committee, because unable to agree among themselves and as he (Mr. M.) had given his time to a full consideration of the proposed alterations, his judgment as to what is best to be done should have weight with the Council. These plans were proposed by Mr. Mitchell, and he reports upon two, which he calls No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 furnishes seating accommodation in the gallery for 222 persons; No. 2 for 122 persons. Now if we adopt No. 2 we shall have less seats in the Hall by 100, whereas if we adopt No. 1 we shall have all the seating capacity of which the hall is capable. For example, we lose 48 or 50 seats down stairs, in extending the stage 9 feet front—indeed, he would be a party to the carrying of it out. If you go to the expense of according to the gallery, it should be done in the best possible manner, such as a practical and experienced man like Mr. Mitchell suggests. If not, better allow the gallery to remain as it is and save the money. If you adopt No. 2 plan the Hall instead of having more seating accommodation will be the loser of one hundred seats. He, as Mayor, felt it to be his duty to the citizens and to himself to make this statement.

The amendment was carried after discussion on the following vote:—

YEAS. Ald. Wiley, " Farrell, " Edgecombe, " Calder, " Davis, " Moore, " Richey, " Black.

His Worship the Mayor having declared his intention of resigning from the committee on account of his not approving of the plan adopted for the alteration of the gallery.

It was moved by Ald. Parker seconded by Ald. Calder,

Resolved, That Ald. Wiley be appointed to committee in place of the Mayor resigned. Resolution carried. Yeas 6—Nays 4.

The following petitions presented and referred to the assessment and appeal committee to be conferred upon. J. G. Gill, Charles

Biggs, John O'Brien, Gilbert Russell, James L. Blizard.

On motion of Ald. Farrell a lease was ordered to be issued to Messrs. John B. Edgecombe & Sons of the portion of Alms House lot now occupied by them for a term of 10 years, at an annual rental of \$15 with power for the City to terminate the lease at any time on notice, if the premises are required for Alms House or Railway purposes.

Ald. Black submitted an application from J. A. Edwards for the purchase of a small piece of land in the rear of No. 4 Hose Station. Application received and referred to a special Committee consisting of Ald. Calder, Gunter and Edgecombe.

Ald. Farrell submitted a proposition from Michael Shannon to keep Maryland Road open for the ensuing winter season, which is referred to the Road Committee with power to act.

Ald. Farrell submitted the claim of Wm. Carr which is referred to the Road Committee.

Crowded Out.

A communication from "One who was present" has been unavoidably held over until Saturday.

County Court.

Carleton County Court will open on Tuesday next, Judge Stevens presiding.

HANLAN IN AUSTRALIA.

The second of the two rowboats which Edward Hanlan ordered W. W. Riddock of Boston to build and forward to Sydney ready for London was boxed and ready for shipment by the Furness line steamship the latter part of last week. The conditions under which Hanlan finds himself as to matches to be rowed in Australia before he returns to this country may be judged by the following figures which have been decided upon, according to latest mail advices: 1. Hanlan to row Clifford for £5000 on Feb. 7, as previously agreed. Beach to row Clifford on Feb. 23 for £2000 a side and the championship of the world, as previously agreed. 3. In the event of Beach defeating Clifford, he (Beach) is to row Hanlan for £2500 a side and the championship on March 28. 4. In the event of Clifford defeating Beach, he (Clifford) is to row Hanlan for £2500 a side and the championship on April 18 next. It will be seen, therefore, that the conditions are not only in his favor, but that the odds are heavily against him in his training, and gets his boats in season and in good condition, there is every prospect that he will return to America with honors not only equal to those he held when he left the Pacific coast, but with an additional credit of having rowed every sculler of note in Australia and defeated them all. Still he will be compelled to keep in constant training for nearly four months, as it is quite possible that Beach may be defeated for the championship by Clifford, who is a strong, powerful row and a good sculler. Clifford has just begun training in his row he weighed 224 pounds. He has not yet reached the front rank of scullers by any public performance of note, yet his immediate friends are already backing him very heavily against Hanlan for the race of Feb. 7, and the impression is that the big fellow has shown some wonderful time and stamina in private trials. With regard to Hanlan making so many matches to be rowed within so short a time, a well known English sculler, who has been in the business for many years, says that he has never known a man make so many matches in so short a time, and that the odds are much the worst of it, "for, in the first place, it may mean nearly four months' training should Clifford happen to be able to defeat the champion, a state of things that is not calculated to enhance his chances of success. It must be borne in mind, too, that the Canadian will have to keep in work during the two hottest months of the Australian summer. It is probable, owing to the niggardly action of the steamboat proprietors on the occasion of the Hanlan-Beach match, that the whole of the club contests which may be decided over a new course on the George river, instead of the recognized one on the Paramatta." In a recent letter to his wife, Hanlan wrote very hopefully of his future, and laid great stress upon the importance of his not racing again being shipped as soon as possible, and meaning them so strongly that they will reach him in good condition.

GLEANINGS.

Extracts of interest taken principally from our Provincial Gleanings.

No. 2 of the body of Patrick McManus has not yet been discovered. The Portland police have investigated several rumors but without obtaining any additional information from that already gleaned.

The death is announced on Monday evening of Wm. Cunningham, the keeper of the St. John Alms House. He occupied that position for 23 years and was a very efficient officer. The deceased was 80 years old at the time of his death.

Men excavating for the water works are using dynamite on George Street St. John, and not having their blast properly covered, a stone weighing about fifty pounds about one hundred feet in the air, landing on Messrs. Foster & Son's cement work, making quite a large hole, and narrowly escaping through the window among the machinery.

Senator Mulholland is reported very low, and the doctors hold out very little encouragement as to his recovery. Should a vacancy occur a number of applicants have already filed their claims. Hon Peter Mitchell's friends wish him to accept the office himself, and it is reported he intends doing so. If that be a fact, says the *Transcript's* correspondent, it behooves the Liberals of Northumberland to be on the alert, and not allow this constituency to go by default, as in 1882, A Liberal Association is very much needed, and last winter there was talk of forming one, but the matter fell through.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday evening in the Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of making arrangements for submitting the Canada Temperance Act in St. John. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity. The following resolution was adopted:—

That in the judgment of this meeting, it is advisable to organize at once, with a view to arrange for submitting as soon as practicable the Scott Act to the electors of the City and County of St. John.

What is Done in Ireland.

(Special to *Ireland*.)

DUBLIN, Dec. 4.—Mr. Parnell will enter the contest in this city in general elections. The sum of \$10,000 is asked by his friends.

Roseberry Frees His Mind.

Special to *Gleaner*.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 5.—At a banquet last night of the Reform Club, Lord Roseberry, said the three great questions of the day, the Navy, Egypt and Redistribution should not be made party questions. He counselled the House of Lords to initiate their own reform and declared his belief that the hereditary principle was wrong.

Chinese Successes.

Special to *Gleaner*.

LONDON Dec. 4.—A Tientsin despatch states that the Chinese claim the following successes.

Oct. 2nd.—The Chinese captured the forts and city of Long Nan Hsien, in Tonquin, and sunk a French gunboat, after an engagement. The Elders of over 20 Christian villages have tendered their submission to the Chinese commander.

Oct. 8.—The French were defeated at Hoo W. Tonquin. The French commander shot himself, the troops were demoralized and fled.

Nov. 14.—The Black flags repulsed three French attacks upon Sen Kwan. The same day the French were defeated at Tamsui.

Nov. 19.—The French, including the Turcos, were forced to take refuge in the woods near Sen Kwan at Formosa. The fighting continued for six hours. The French losses were very heavy, including two superior officers. They lost several guns and were pursued to the water side where four French launches were set on fire.

Nov. 7.—The Chinese in Kanigor a Province of Tonquin succeeded in defeating the French the latter losing seven officers and their general being severely wounded. The same day the French made an unsuccessful attack upon the Chinese position at Kwan Gin Kio.

African Affairs.

(Special to *Gleaner*.)

LONDON, Dec. 4.—A Berlin despatch says England has opened negotiations with the African association with a view of obtaining a formal recognition of a Hamburg firm has started a trading company with a capital of £250,000 to operate in the district in Africa, between River Benue and the coast. The explorer, Plegel, will act as pioneer for the company. At yesterday's session of the Conference, Sir Edward Malet declared that England pledges herself to place the merchant ships of all nations on the same footing as British vessels on the Niger and will accord equal protection to all ships engaged in commerce, provided they conform to the regulations of the river navigation to be free.

NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS, marked TENDERS for PUBLIC WORKS, Fredericton, until

MONDAY,

December 15th, 1884, for

Ninety Cords of Good Merchantable Hardwood, best quality, for PUBLIC OFFICES and 15 cords for Government House.

P. C. RYAN, Chief Commissioner.

Board of Works Office, }
December 1st, 1884.

York County Municipality DEBENTURES For Sale by Tender.

TENDERS will be received at the office of H. E. Balfour, Secretary-Treasurer, Fredericton, until 12 o'clock, noon, on FRIDAY, the 12th inst., for the purchase of York County Municipality Debentures, to the amount of \$100,000, in the sum of \$1000 each, the first day of December instant (with Coupons attached for the payment of the interest at six per cent. half yearly, at the following times:—

\$1000—payable in 4 years.
900 " 6 "
800 " 8 "
700 " 10 "
600 " 12 "

No Debenture will be issued for a less sum than \$200. The Tenderer will state the amount of Debenture he will take, and the premium in addition to any amount interest he will give therefor. Tenders to be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of York County, Fredericton, and to be enclosed in a sealed envelope, marked "Tender for Debentures."

THOMAS H. COLTHER, Warden.
HENRY B. BALFOUR, Secretary-Treasurer.
Sec. Treas. Office, P. O. Box, Dec. 2, A. B., 1884.

Ladies' Prepare For Christmas.

I most respectfully beg leave to inform you that I have prepared for the Holiday Trade a variety of articles in new designs suitable for Embroidered and Worsteds Needle Work.

Tables, in Circular, Octagon and Clover Leaf Tops, Foot Rests, Slipper Boxes, Slipper Jacks, Towel Racks, Ottoman and Fire Screens, &c.

Also, Pedestals, Cabinets, Music Stands, Children's Furniture, Rocking Horses, Sleds. J. ADAMS.

While thanking you for the very liberal patronage during the past years, I would have state that having no store expenses for this year, prices will be found to be very much lower, and I solicit an inspection of the above Goods, at the old Stand, County Court House.

J. ADAMS.

THE GYPSY QUEEN'S VOW.

By JANIE O'BRIEN.

(Continued.)

"Certainly—certainly, Mr. Harkins," said Mr. Toospegs, drawing out a purse well filled with gold and opening it nervously. "Three—five—ten dollars, and two for the drive's twelve; and one to buy sugar plums for your infant family—if you've got such a thing about you—is thirteen. Here's thirteen dollars, Mr. Harkins. I'm very much obliged to you."

"Same to you, Mr. Toospegs," said Mr. Harkins, pocketing the money with a broad grin. "May you ne'er want a friend nor a bottle to give him," as the poet says."

"Mr. Harkins, I'm obliged to you," said Mr. Toospegs, grasping his hand; which Mr. Harkins resigned, with a grunt. "You have a soul, Mr. Harkins. I know it—I feel it. Everybody mightn't find it out; but I can—I perceived it from the first." Mr. Harkins heard this startling fact with the greatest indifference, merely saying "Humph!"

"And now, how far do you suppose we are from the city, Mr. Harkins?" said Mr. Toospegs, in his most insinuating tone.

"'Bout a mile or so."

"Could you recommend any hotel to me, Mr. Harkins. I'm a stranger in the city, you know, and should feel grateful if you would," said Mr. Toospegs, humbly.

"Why, yes, I can," said Mr. Harkins, brightening suddenly up. "There's the 'Blue Pig,' one of the finest hotels in Lunnon, with the best o' accommodations for man and beast. You've hearn o' the 'Blue Pig' over there in Hamerica, hain't you?"

Mr. Toospegs wasn't sure. It was very likely he had; but, owing to his bad memory, he had forgotten.

"Well, anyhow, you won't find many 'otels to beat that 'ere. Best o' accommodations—but I told you that afore."

"Where is it located?" asked Mr. Toospegs.

"St. Giles. You know where that is, in course—everybody does. The nicest 'otel in Lunnon—best o' accommodations. But I told you that afore. My hold frien' Bruin Bob keeps it. You'll like it, I know."

"Yes, Mr. Harkins, I dare say I will. I'm very much obliged to you," said Mr. Toospegs, in a somewhat dubious tone. "That 'ere man's the greatest cove a goin'," said Mr. Harkins, getting enthusiastic. "Been married ten times if he's been married once. One wife died, one left his head board, and run hoff with a better dragon; one was lagged for stealin' wifes, an' he's got three livin' at this present writin'. Great fellar is Bob."

"I haven't the slightest doubt of it, Mr. Harkins," said the proprietor of the free-lance, politely, "and I anticipate a great deal of pleasure in making the acquaintance of your friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bob. But, good gracious! Mr. Harkins, just look there—if that ain't a woman hurrying on there afore," said Mr. Toospegs, pointing, in intense surprise, to the form of the gipsy, as she darted swiftly away from the cottage.

"Well, what o' that? Some tramp a goin' to Lunnon," said Mr. Harkins, gruffly.

"But, Mr. Harkins, a woman out in such a storm at this hour of the night? Why, it ain't right," said Mr. Toospegs, getting excited.

Mr. Harkins picked up his hat, turned down the collar of his coat, faced abruptly round, and looked Mr. Toospegs straight in the face.

"Do call to her to get in, Mr. Harkins. There's plenty of room for her on the back seat," said Mr. Toospegs, unheeding Mr. Harkins' astounded look at his philanthropy. "A woman traveling on foot in such a storm! Why, it ain't right!" repeated Mr. Toospegs, getting still more excited.

"Mr. Toospegs, Hamericans don't never be a little hout their mind, do they?" said Mr. Harkins, blandly.

"Not often, Mr. Harkins. I'm very much obliged to you," said Mr. Toospegs with his customary politeness.

"Because if they did, you know," said Mr. Harkins, in the same bland tone, "I should say you wasn't quite right yourself, you know."

"Good gracious! Mr. Harkins, what do you mean?" exclaimed Mr. Toospegs. "You don't think I'm crazy do you?"

"Mr. Toospegs, I don't like to be personal; so I'll only say it's my private opinion you're a brick," said Mr. Harkins, mildly. "I thought you was very sensible a little while ago, when you gin me them two poun'."

"I'm very much obliged to you for your good opinion," said Mr. Toospegs, blushing. "And if you will only call to that woman to get in the wagon I'll be still more so."

"And have your pockets picked?" said Mr. Harkins, sharply. "I shan't do no such thing."

"Mr. Harkins!" said Mr. Toospegs, warmly, "she's a woman—ain't she?"

"Well, wot if she be?" said Mr. Harkins, sullenly.

"Why, that no woman should be walking at this hour when men are riding; more particularly when there is a back seat with nobody in it. Why, it ain't right," said Mr. Toospegs.

"Well, I don't care!" said Mr. Harkins.

"Do you s'pose I have nothing to do but buy wagons to carry sick lumber as that 'ere. Likely as not she's nothin' but a gipsy, or something as bad. This 'ere waggin ain't goin' to be perilled with no such trash."

"Mr. Harkins," said Mr. Toospegs, briskly, "what will you take and bring her to London?"

"Hey! 'A fool and his money,—hum! What'll you give?"

"There's a crown."

"Done!" said Mr. Harkins, closing his digits on the coin. "Hallo you, woman!" he shouted, raising his voice. The gipsy, who, though but a yard or so ahead, was indistinguishable in the darkness, sped on without paying the slightest attention to his call. "Hallo there! Hallo!" again called Mr. Harkins, while Mr. Toospegs followed with:

"Stop a moment, if you please, madam."

But neither for the order of the driver, nor the request of Mr. Toospegs did the woman stop. Casting a fleeting glance over her shoulder, she again fitted on.

"You confounded old witch! Stop and take a ride to town—will you?" yelled Mr. Harkins, reining in his horse by the woman's side.

The dark, stern face, with its fierce, black eyes and wildly streaming hair, was turned, and a hard, deep voice asked what he wanted. "A gipsy! I know it!" muttered Mr. Harkins, shrinking from her glance. "Ugh! What a face!" Then aloud: "Get in ma'am, and I'll take ye to town."

"Go play your jokes on some one else," said the woman curtly, turning away.

"I ain't a jokin'. Nice time o' night this to stop and play jokes—ain't it?" said Mr. Harkins. "This 'ere young man, which is a Hamerican from the New Knighted States, has paid your fare to Lunnon. So jump in, and don't keep me waitin'."

"Is what he says true?" said the dark woman, turning the sharp light of her stiletto-like eyes on Mr. Toospegs.

"Yes, ma'am, I'm happy to say it," said Mr. Toospegs. "Allow me to hand you in."

And Mr. Toospegs got up to fulfil his offer; but Dobbin at that moment gave the wagon a malicious jerk, and dumped our patriotic American back in his seat. Before he could recover his breath the gipsy had entered the wagon unassisted.

"I know that tramp," said Mr. Harkins, to Mr. Toospegs. "It's the gipsy queen, Ketura, from Yetholm; most wonderful woman that ever was, 'cept Deborah, the woman the Bible tells about, you know. Heard a minister take her for his tes' once. Our cow's name's Deborah, too," said Mr. Harkins, absently.

"And she's a gipsy queen? Lord bless us!" exclaimed Mr. Toospegs, turning around in some alarm. "Does she tell fortunes?"

"Yes; but you'd better not hark her to-night. Her son's in prison, for robbin' the plate of the Heart De Coucey. He's goin' hoff with a lot of hother's airy to-morrow mornin'. Now, don't go exclaimin' that way," said Mr. Harkins, as he gave his companion a dig in the side.

"Poor thing!" said Mr. Toospegs, "Why, it's too bad; it really is."

"Served him right, it's my opinion," said Mr. Harkins. "Wot business had he to go for to rob Heart De Coucey? His mother sot him up for a gentleman, and see wot's come hof hit. She, a hold gipsy queen, goin' and sendin' her son to Eton and makin' believe he was something 'bout the common. And now see wot her fine gentlemen's come to. Wonder what she'll think of herself, when she sees him takin' a sea voyage for the good of his 'ealth at the 'expense o' the Government to-morrow!"

"Poor thing! poor thing!" said Mr. Toospegs.

"Poo! hold thing, indeed!" said Mr. Harkins, contemptuously. "Served 'im right, I say s'n. That 'ere son o' 'ern was the most stuck hup chap I ever clapt no hyes on. Hafter he left Eton, I seed 'im, one day, in the streets, 'hass' guess who wif? Wy, with nobody less than young Lord Williers, hoply son o' the Heart De Coucey, as he has gone and robbed. There's his ingratitude for you! I didn't know 'im then, but I recognised him hafterward in the court-room hat 'is trial."

"How could he afford to go to Eton—he, a gipsy?" said Mr. Toospegs, in surprise.

"Dunno! Hold woman sent 'im, I s'pose—lowever she got the money. He was a fine looking fellow, too, I say, though rather tawny, but 'andsome as Lord Williers himself. Hold Ketura was 'andsome once, too, though you mightn't think it now. Time changes folks," said Mr. Harkins, in a moralizing tone. "What made him steal if his mother was so rich?" said Mr. Toospegs.

"His mother wasn't rich, no more'n I be. 'Spose she made enough tellin' fortunes, poachin', and stealin' to pay for 'im at school, hand then, when he growed hup, and his cash gave out, he took hand stole the heart's plate. He denied it haff hat 'is trial; but, then, they'll haff do that. 'Twas no cash, though hand hover the water he goes to-morrow."

"Poor fellow! I'm sorry for him—I really am," said Mr. Toospegs, in a tone of real sincerity.

The gipsy, who had not heard a word of the foregoing conversation, had wrapped her coarse cloak closer around her, while the gaze of her devouring eyes grew more intense, as the lights began to appear. One by one they came gleaming out through the dense fog with bug-like stars, here and there; and in every direction.

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(To be Continued.)

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210 Bundles Navy and Hand Picked Oakum.

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