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# THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR,

ADRI ALTERAM PARTEM.

## OR REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES, AND RAILWAY AND MINING INTELLIGENCE.

Vol. 1.]

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1846.

[No. 3.

### Literature.

#### THE BURNING OF THE ST. LOUIS THEATRE, QUEBEC.

A Record of the Eminent Services of the Military.  
BY SIR J. E. ALEXANDER, KNT., K.L.S., 14TH REGIMENT.

"Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat."

In the Upper Town of Quebec—the queen of North American cities, and looking down from its rocky site on the broad St. Lawrence, whilst extensive plains, scattered villages, and distant mountain ranges, greeted the eye on all sides—stood the Castle of St. Louis, the residence of the Governors-General of Canada. This interesting edifice was burned to the ground in 1831. Subsequently the Earl of Durham caused the ruins to be levelled, and converted into a terrace, enclosed with a railing, and which, from the charming prospect it commands up and down the river (in summer alive with shipping), became the favourite promenade of the inhabitants.

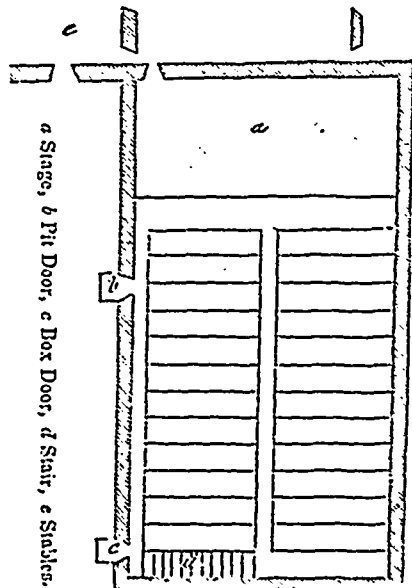
A wing of the old chateau still remained, also the guard-house at the entrance. Adjoining it were the Governor's stables, which were let to a livery-stable keeper, and next to them the St. Louis Theatre, formerly a riding-house, built by Sir James Craig. This was lately the scene of a fearful calamity, with which it pleased Divine Providence again to afflict Quebec, so severely chastened by the great fires of May and June, 1815. These, it will be remembered, laid in ashes the greater part of the suburbs, and deprived 20,000 of the inhabitants, or two-thirds of the population, of their homes. The seas of fire raged round the walls of the upper town on these fearful occasions, when the exertions of the military, under General Sir James Hope, the Royal Artillery, the 14th, 43rd, and 89th Regiments, were so very conspicuous, and so eminently useful in saving the upper town from falling a prey to the flames. The soldiers pulled down and blew up houses, drove before them those who still uselessly clung to their property, and saved the lives of many helpless women and children. The flames quite overpowered the firemen and the engines.

The St. Louis Theatre was a stone building, 60 feet by 40, and the walls about 30 feet high; the roof was covered with sheets of iron; along the upper part of the walls, and close under the eaves, were ten windows on each side of the building; there were no windows near the ground. Riding-houses have not usually windows below. When the officers of the garrison were allowed to sit up the building as a theatre, they found only two doors, one in the north gable, and another in one of the side walls. To gain access to the theatre, and also to prevent danger in case of fire, and give a ready exit, they got leave to make a third door in the side wall; they also suggested to the Corporation the expediency of having a fourth door in the opposite wall, but this was never carried into effect. However, over the side doors the officers placed strong porches, so that a person dropping on them from the windows above could easily save his life on an emergency; also below the stage there was an easy exit

for the musicians, and for the pit audience, if necessary; so that, with the stage door, the passage under the stage, the pit and box door, and the windows over them, the officers had arranged six outlets from the theatre, in case of an alarm; and whilst they found that, with the box or original door only open, it took half an hour to empty the house of a full audience, or 300, yet, with both pit and box doors open, three minutes sufficed to get every one out.

No accident had ever occurred during any of the garrison performances; the camphine lamps were then placed under the charge of a man who knew well how to manage them; there was always a fatigue party of strong artillerymen in attendance, and plenty of water; and no doors were locked.

On the 8th of June last, a Canadian artist, Mr. M. R. Harrington, hired the St. Louis Theatre from the Corporation of Quebec, for the exhibition of "illuminated dioramas." For this purpose the pit was boarded over, and the floor sloped upwards from the orchestra to the back part of the house; a centre passage was left as before between the seats, and from the upper and back part of the house a steep wooden stair, three and a half feet wide, led to the box door.



To illuminate his dioramas, Mr. Harrington unfortunately did not take into his employ the person who understood the management of camphine lamps; he merely hired four of his lamps, to be used with two hundred oil lamps. The camphine which is used in North America is generally prepared by distilling turpentine, and is a very dangerous fluid to handle; it is very light, floats on water, spreads rapidly all about if spilt, and water thrown on it only increases the danger without extinguishing the flame.

The insurance companies in Quebec will not now grant policies for buildings where camphine is used.

On the evening of the 12th June the theatre was crowded to the door. At least 300 people were present. The price of admission had been reduced to a quarter of a dollar. The audience was very respectable: heads of

families who would have hesitated to attend a theatrical exhibition, took their children to witness these interesting illuminated pictures. It was very properly objected by some that the awful scene of the crucifixion should not have been exhibited, with its accompanying darkness, gleams of light, &c.; yet an aged couple, named Tardiff, who had charge of the Court-House, were rich, and had never been in a theatre before, went to see the dioramas solely from religious motives.

At ten o'clock, the exhibition having finished, the band played the National Anthem, the audience were retiring well pleased with what they had witnessed, and a few young men at the upper part of the house were calling out, as a joke, for "Yankee Doodle," when a strong light was observed behind the green curtain. A camphine lamp had been upset by a boy, and the flame began to communicate with the baize. Some of the audience in the front rows sat for a short time, watching the progress of the flames. Lieut. Armstrong, 14th Regt., leapt on the stage and assisted to extinguish them, but nothing could master the camphine. The leader of the band, Mr. Savagau, quietly collected his music and instruments, and retired under the flames, telling his son to follow him. So little danger did Mr. Savagau apprehend, that, missing a favourite piece of music, he returned for it, and again retired in safety; but not so his son.

About 210 people had already quitted the house by the only door left open for them, namely, that by which they had entered, the box door; and now, when the thick camphine smoke began to roll round the walls, the 60 people, who still remained on the front rows, now suddenly got up, without uttering a word, and made their way to the stair. They seemed awe-struck. Their silence was fearful.

M. Dupuis, a French-Canadian, who was present with his wife, now showed great presence of mind. When he was entering the house he had remarked the porch over the pit door, which door was not used to admit any one, and now seeing a rush towards the box door he thought to try another mode of escape. Where he had seen a porch, he thought there must be a door; he therefore took his wife, who was greatly agitated, to a dark passage on the left, and found the pit door, but it was locked. He felt for the key; it was on a nail near; he applied it to the lock, the door opened, and he found himself inside the closed porch: but he soon kicked out a panel, and got himself and his wife out. Lieut. Armstrong also escaped by the same door. A boy, twelve years of age, named Shaw, who had taken his two little brothers with him to see the dioramas, also maintained his self-possession, and when the rush to the back part of the house took place, he held the children, and said, "Stop! we won't go there and be killed: we'll go out another way." And so they did so in safety.

Armstrong now ran round to the box door with some others; it was found closed; it was pushed open and all was darkness inside. He returned to the pit calling out "Fire!" which was carried on by others; he again entered the theatre, the flames were among the scenery, though the stage was still clear. Armstrong then kicked down a door commu-

meating with a passage between the pit and the box doors, when about twenty people rushed past him and escaped. He fell in the passage from the effects of a light-coloured vapour, but retaining his presence of mind he did not get up again, but crawled out of the pit door on his hands and knees, and saw the light cloud passing into the body of the house. He next ran for a light to the guard-room near, and got one; when taken inside the box door, dreadful screams and cries for help were suddenly uttered from a mass of human beings struggling, writhing, and interlocked on the ground and up the steep wooden stair.

The cause of their being in this situation is as follows. A number of people were clustered round the door at the head of the stair waiting to hear "Yankee Doodle" played. When the alarm was given of fire, Miss Brown, a schoolmistress, dashed past these people and fell head foremost from the top to the bottom of the stair. Her friends went down immediately to her assistance and kept the crowd back. While doing this, a rush of burning vapour and flame caused those in the rear to crush against those people stooping down over Miss Brown, pushed against the door, which opened inwards, and the whole became irretrievably mixed together.

The money-taker's table and the lamp at the door were overturned. Two or three strong men at the top of the stair rolled down over the faces of the mass and were dragged out. Mr. Macdonald, the editor of the *Canadian*, a stout person, was squeezed out of the mass by the pressure around him, and escaped; the rest, men, women, and children, were closely wedged together, and though their heads and arms were mostly out, yet their lower extremities were firmly fixed.

There was no more screaming heard after the first burst. The helpless sufferers saw that vigorous efforts were made for their relief, and kept quiet. An axe was got, and an attempt was made to knock down a partition which separated the stair from the ladies' cloak-room below. Lieut. Pison, of the Royal Artillery, who had been walking near the theatre when the alarm was given, after several vain efforts, dragged out a Mrs. Stansfield. Lieut. Leslie Skynner, 89th Regiment, was also on the spot and assisted the others. Mr. Hardie, an oil and colour merchant, assisted by Mr. Kimlin, the Editor of the *Quebec Mercury*, and others, (Messrs. Shea, MacDonald, Todd, Lepper, Beck, Bennet, Stewart, Captain Von Zuille, commander of the 'Ocean Queen,' &c.) released, by powerful exertions, Mrs. Wheatley and Mrs. Roy. Mr. Hardie remarked among the crowd of sufferers Lieut. Hamilton of the 14th Regt., who had gone to the theatre with two daughters of Assistant-Commissary-General Rea, to the elder of the two (Julia) he was about to be married in a few days. That morning she had been arranging her wedding clothes. The younger sister was lying farthest out, and Lieut. Hamilton's arms being free, Mr. Hardie said "Assist me to get out this young lady. Hamilton did so, and she was pulled out with difficulty. Mr. Hardie then said, as he carried her out, "I'll come back and try to release the other;" Hamilton said "For God's sake do so!" but it was too late. Mr. Stewart Scott, an advocate and clerk of the Court of Appeals, and father of a large family, was in the crush with a little daughter; his brother tried, with others, in vain to free him and the child. One of Mr. Scott's arms was actually pulled out of the socket. He said "Save the child! it is useless to try to save me!" It was a most heart-rending scene. Both were obliged to be abandoned. Mr. Hardie and Mr. Kimlin were both seized by sufferers and nearly dragged among them, and were obliged to strike to release themselves. One in the lower tier offered me all his worldly wealth for release

A little boy had previously made a singular escape. He had been sent to the theatre with a maid who was accompanied by a young man who was attached to her. The boy fell sleepy before the performance was over, and said "One of these big lamps will fall down and burn us! I want to go home." The young man took him home, returned, and he and the young woman were now in the dead crush.

Comparatively few people were present to assist. The sentry outside and the policemen thought at first that all had escaped, before the flames appeared at the doors and windows, but all this time they were raging round the interior; the wooden lining of the walls (the building had once been used as a racket court) quickly caught fire, also the sloping floor and benches; black and stifling smoke from the camphine rolled down the fatal stair and hid the victims for a moment, and drove those courageously assisting outside, then the smoke would roll back and disclose the agonized countenances of those doomed to destruction; then at once a stream of flame ran down from the top to the bottom of the stair, every head seemed on fire, and they were painfully and helplessly moved about, the swollen tongues preventing utterance; it was an appalling sight. Again, another cloud of smoke, the roof fell in, and forty-five human beings, lately in health, ceased to exist.

The Rev. Mr. O'Reilly, a Roman Catholic priest, in the conscientious discharge of his sacred office, stood in the doorway, and prayed over them to the last. To the last they were sensible. How fearful must have been their mental agonies!

Living at the time in St. Lewis Street, I was soon at the scene of the dreadful calamity; though I was not aware at first that any one had been left in the theatre. I saw the horses and carriages saved from the livery stables which the fire was approaching. The bells began tolling and the bugles blew loudly 'The Assembly.' I worked at first with the 89th Regt. (which was quartered in town in the Jesuits' barracks), to get water for the military engines. Colonel Walker, R.A., the Commandant of the Garrison, was on the spot. Colonel Thorpe, commanding the 89th, was actively directing the energies of his men, and was ably seconded by his Adjutant, Lieut. Knappe.

At first there was a great delay in getting water. The fire companies brought up their engines, but they were useless for some time; at last the neighbouring wells were tapped, and water-carts brought up a supply from the river. A good deal of struggling now took place between the military and the civilians in their eagerness to get water, each party for their own engines; no blows were struck, there was only an excess of zeal. Mr. Okill Stuart, the Mayor, was present and busily engaged, as were Mr. McCord, and Mr. Russell with the police force, and Mr. Wells, the Inspector of the Fire Department.

I met Lieut. Armstrong in the crowd after his escape; he told me of those burning inside. I ran round to the south gable where ladders were being planted. Some British sailor had, with an axe, knocked out a hole in the wall near the box door, but the opening was made too late to be of use; but those who made it are deserving of every praise. I saw Mr. Alexander Bell, a merchant, and Mr. Jessopp, a collector of customs, carrying a young lady (Miss Rea) down a ladder. I ascended another and carried down a respectable looking woman, who was scorched, yet who in the midst of her agitation cried out for her bonnet! I saw a poor man, near the door, who had been rescued, crying in despair for a young woman with whom he had gone to the theatre, and who was nowhere to be seen. The building was white and red with flames inside. The

charred victims of the fire were in a heap inside, and the smell of roasted flesh was sickening.

A strong detachment of the 14th Regiment came from the citadel with the engines, hooks, and ladders. Major Watson, commanding the regiment, was present with most of the other officers. The men, in conjunction with the Royal Artillery and 89th Regiment, formed streets to pass supplies of water, and by means of their united efforts with the hooks and ladders, they dragged the roof off the stables, and saved the guard-house. Among them worked vigorously Captain Ingall, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General. Nothing could exceed the devotion and energy of the soldiers; they fearlessly exposed themselves to danger from falling timber and their clothes to injury; and it is the opinion of those who lost relatives on this occasion, that if the soldiers had been present to assist those who so courageously tried to save the sufferers, that all might have been got out.

The wing of the chateau began to smoke. I was interested about it, to preserve it as a relic of the palmy days of Quebec. On the outer wall is a cross of St. John of Jerusalem, cut in stone, and with the date 1647. I got an axe, and hewed down part of a wooden spout at an angle, to prevent the fire from running up to the roof. I was immediately surrounded by three of the corporation, who thought there was no danger; but danger there was, for a ladder on the roof quickly caught fire from the sparks brought by the fire-wind which began to rise, though before this the night was fortunately calm and the moon shining brightly on the scene. I ran upstairs, with an active corporal (Garlin, 14th): we found that the fire was not inside. A bold fireman, Thomas Andrews, climbing on the roof, cut away the burning ladder, and hurled it over the eaves. Water thrown on the windows prevented further danger.

The appearance of the fire and the surrounding objects was now awfully grand. Under the black canopy of smoke, the flames rose high in the air, illuminating the tin-covered roofs and spires of the churches and buildings around, and showing the large body of military at work, the helmeted firemen and their bright painted engines, and a great multitude of anxious spectators in the Place d'Armes. Among them were those who ran about, and who cried distractedly for their lost relatives or friends—for those who were never again to cheer the domestic hearth.

The progress of the fire was most rapid, yet it was at last got under, when there was nothing left to burn. The gongs of the engines signalled for more water ever and anon; and, about two in the morning, one by one they left off working, each company, unnecessarily, giving three cheers; silence was best after such a scene of distress.

The energetic magistrate, Mr. R. Symes, had directed that the bodies should not be touched till daylight. I went to bed for a few hours, and rose early to search for my brother officer. The blackened remains of the sufferers were brought out, and laid on the grass of a small terrace at the south gable of the theatre. Forty-three at first were found in a heap, ten feet long, four broad, and four in height; two others were afterwards found but mere trunks: forty-five victims in all.

Most of the heads, the chests, and the arms were consumed by the fire; the lowest of all were tolerably entire; the legs were twisted and distorted in every possible manner, some drawn up to the chest, others stretched out, the feet and legs in one line; in some the clothes were almost all burned off, in others the gowns and trousers were entire. By the dresses and shoes and boots the bodies were made out. One body, that of a man, was covered with long brown hair,

trunk and limbs! It was two hours before I could identify poor Hamilton. At last with the assistance of the Hospital Serjeant Hadford, Corporal Rundall, and some of the men of the regiment, we recognized the remains, and had them carefully removed; a lady's black scarf was under the left arm; the watch had stopped at twelve minutes to eleven. It was most distressing to witness those who came in search of relatives—the intense grief which blinded them as they spread a sheet over the miserable remains of mortality, and removed them to their residences for the corner's inquest.

Besides those already named, there perished Mr. H. Carwell, a merchant, and two of his children; Mr. Sims, a druggist, with his eldest daughter and a son; the wife and daughter of the Editor of the *Canadien*; Mr. Hoogs, book-keeper Montreal Bank, and two sons; Mr. T. Harrison, brother of owner of the diorama; Mrs. Molt and two sons; Mrs. Atkins and her son; Mrs. Gibb and daughter; Mr. Marcoux, a bailiff; Mr. Devlin, a watchmaker; Mr. Wheatley, a stationer; &c. The aged pair Tardiff, formerly mentioned, were among the rest, arm in arm.

On the Sunday following the fire, the tolling of the bells was heard from an early hour, and funeral processions traversed the streets all day. Fifteen coffins were laid out at one time in the Roman Catholic cathedral, and an air of melancholy reigned over the city. For a considerable time after the late distressing event people could talk and think of nothing else. Lieut. Hamilton and Miss Julia Rea were buried in one grave, "wedded in death."

Some useful lessons may be derived from this fire. That there should always be very easy modes of egress from public buildings, and doors opening outwards, according to the laws of Holland, in which a theatre was burnt sixty years ago, attended with loss of life. In Richmond, in Virginia, December 26, 1811, six hundred persons were present at a theatre, of whom seventy-two perished by fire, among whom were the Governor of the state and the Mayor of the city. Last year, in Russia, three hundred are said to have perished under similar circumstances. Again, fire companies should be frequently drilled, exercised, and directed to act without noise or confusion, and the captains should have, and *should use*, speaking trumpets; above all, the supply of water should be ample. There are no water works at Quebec, though they are proposed (as is also lighting the streets, which are still in total darkness); the water at present is got from wells, by introducing suckers, and in water-barrels or carts from the river. This last is a very rough way; much is lost, and long delay arise.

In the West India Islands there is an excellent arrangement for water. Large upright tanks, made of plates of cast iron, which stand up against the public buildings, like immense octagonal sentry-boxes, twelve or twenty feet high, and are supplied by rain-water from the roofs. The pressure of the water sends a powerful stream through the cock below when the key is applied, and the water is useful for household purposes—after filtering, for watering the streets, or for extinguishing fires. In Canada, by casing the tanks, the frost might be kept off; but even if they were useless during five months of the year, they might be of essential service during the other seven months, and there is only a trifling expense attending their construction.—*United Service Magazine*.

#### REPEAL OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

We copy, from a recent number of the *Niagara Chronicle*, the following sensible remarks on the necessity for placing the commercial relations of this colony on an entirely

different footing from those which now exist, and which cramp and paralyze its energies. The subject is one of the deepest interest, and every thing that tends to bear upon it must have its proportionate weight. The remarks of the *Edinburgh Reviewer*, embodied in the strictures of the *Chronicle*, are particularly worthy of perusal:—

The last arrival from England brought us intelligence that the Imperial Parliament purposes, as some compensation to the colonies whose interests will be injuriously affected by their legislation on the Sugar question, to allow the Legislatures of these colonies the privilege of abolishing the differential duties imposed for the protection of British manufactures. This is a necessary consequence of the "free-trade policy" which it has pleased the metropolitan Parliament to adopt; and as the necessity for conferring this power on the Canadian Legislature is as least as obvious as it is in any West-Indian case that can be produced, no fear need be entertained that it will be refused. It is an act of simple justice; for if the produce of Canadian industry can only enter the home dominions on the same terms as the produce of foreign countries, it would be miserably unjust—a glaring specimen of selfish tyranny—to give British manufactures an advantage of 10 or 15 per cent over those of foreign countries in the markets of Canada. The Imperial Government must have been fully alive to the fact, that they could not legislate on one principle for the United Kingdom, and on its opposite for the colonies; that if they adapt their commercial law-making for the former to enable its inhabitants to purchase what they need in the cheapest market, irrespective of all other considerations, they by that act place themselves under the absolute necessity of either sacrificing the good will of the colonies, or of shaping their legislation for them in such a way as to enable their inhabitants also to purchase what they need in the cheapest markets.

We are happy to find this doctrine fully sustained in an article headed "Colonial Protection" in the July number of the *Edinburgh Review*, a publication generally regarded as the organ of the arts now in power. The article is too long for reproduction, but the Reviewer enables us to present his sentiments in a very brief space, as he concludes his article with the following comprehensive and satisfactory paragraph:—

"The following is, in a few words, a summary of the principles upon which the relation of England to her colonies—especially with reference to her colonial trade—ought, in our opinion, to be regulated. It should be constantly borne in mind, that each colony is a separate and distinct community, occupying a territory distant from England though politically dependent upon the Imperial Government. Owing to this separateness and remoteness, its local and subordinate government ought to be conducted as much in accordance with the opinions and wishes of the inhabitants as is compatible with the condition of political dependence, and the maintenance of the supremacy of the British crown. For the expenses of its military and naval defence, England must not expect any direct compensation. Nor ought she to subject the trade of the colony to any restrictions for her own exclusive advantage. She ought to assume no preference in the markets of the colony, and should rest contented with the establishment of a perfectly free trade on both sides. She ought to permit her colony to trade freely with all the world, and open her own ports to its products. But, on the other hand, she ought not to sacrifice her own interests, by levying at home discriminating duties for the supposed benefit of the colony; a system of fiscal privilege which excludes cheaper and better foreign goods from her own markets, and gives just offence to foreign nations."

With such views before us as Lord John Russell has himself avowed in his place in Parliament; with such sentiments meeting

our eye as those above quoted from the great Whig organ; coupled with the doctrines broached by the late government in the despatches of Mr. Gladstone, and with the fact that they set on foot negotiations with the Washington Government for the establishment of "free trade" between that country and this; who can reasonably entertain any fear that the British Government and Legislature are indisposed to do full justice to Canada? The only thing, it seems to us, that we have to be solicitous about, is this: that provincial action shall be so shaped as to induce the home authorities to bring the views they entertain into immediate operation. We cannot imagine that a matter of such immense importance has been overlooked by the colonial authorities, the legitimate guardians of our interests; and we wish to believe that amongst the duties which would engage the attention of the Inspector-General in England, this would be a prominent one.

#### TREATMENT OF LITERARY MEN.

The soldier, the sailor, the architect, the painter, are all within sight of the most lavish prizes of public liberality. Parliament has just given titles and superb pensions to the conquerors of the Sikhs. The India Company has followed its example. We applaud this munificent liberality in both instances. Two general officers have thus obtained a peerage with £7,000 and £5,000 a year. They deserved those rewards. But the whole literary encouragement of the British empire, with a revenue of fifty-two millions sterling, is £1,200—little more than the tenth part of the pension allotted to those gallant men. £1,200 for the whole literary encouragement of England! There can be no greater scandal to the intellectual honor of the country. The pettiest German principality scarcely limits its literary encouragement to this sum. We doubt whether Weimar, between literary offices and pensions, did not give twice the sum annually. But, named in competition with the liberality of the leading sovereigns, it is utterly mean. Louis the XIV., two hundred years ago, allotted 80,000 francs a year to his forty members of the academy—a sum equivalent in that day, and in France, to little less than £5,000 a year in our day, and in England. Frederick II. gave pensions and appointments to a whole corps of literary men. At this moment there is scarcely a man of any literary distinction in Paris who has not a share in the liberal and wise policy of government, either in office or public pension. But if we are to be answered by a class, plethoric with wealth and rank, that literature ought to be content with living on its own means, must not the obvious answer be—Is the author to be an author down to his grave? Is there to be no relaxation of toil? Is there to be no allowance for the exhaustion of his overworked faculties?—for the vexations of a noble spirit compelled to submit to the caprices of public change?—and with its full share of the common calamities of life, increasing their pressure at once by the inevitable sense of wrong, and by feeling that the delight of youth must be the drudgery of age? When the great Dryden, in his seventieth year, was forced in the bitterness of his heart, to exclaim, "Must I die in the harness?" his language was a brand on the common sense, as well as on the just generosity, of his country.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to "A QUERIST," we state that our contemporary of the *Times* has been, as many others have been before him, completely duped in regard to GENERAL VÉGA.—The following are the facts of the case. A party of young men from the Havannah have been making the tour of the *United States and Canada*. One of these rejects in the same name with the celebrated General, and this having appeared on the hotel books in one or two places in the United States, he was at once taken for the latter, who it is known has been set at large. Several gentlemen of influence called upon him, and paid him every attention. This exceedingly amused the party, most of whom are very young men, and they prevailed on their companion to carry on the joke, they themselves always addressing him as "General." At *Saratoga* the bait took exceedingly; and as a X was generally added after "Véga,"—the Christian name being so written as to resemble the word "General,"—the curiosity to see the prisoner of Capt. MAYNE became very great. At *Nagara*, on their proceeding towards the Falls, some American dignitary of consequence called upon the "General," and invited him to his residence, where he had prepared rooms for him, and paid him very marked attention. But the guest he had so honored could not bring himself to deceive a man who had acted with so much kindness and generous attention. He could not altogether undo what he had done, but he disclaimed his title to the character which had been ascribed to him, by announcing himself as being only, the cousin of the Mexican General. At *DONQUANA'S*, where they have been for some days, the same impression has been entertained in regard to the Signor VÉGA, which he, of course, took no pains to disavow, the "General" being always addressed as such at table.—This statement may be relied on, for it was communicated to us, in such glee, and as a capital joke, by one of themselves, so that it will be seen the Spaniard,—or rather his descendant,—is not so taciturn or of so serious a disposition as not occasionally to come out a fully as well as his neighbours. How the cheat was not detected before, we think, is somewhat singular; for our informant, who knows General VÉGA, described him as being a tall, thin man, while his "double," although not short, is rather stout.

"QUERCKER" is informed that we know no "Esquire," of the Regatta Club, of the name he mentions, and to whom he wishes to appeal about a contested race. We are not certain of the fact, but we think we have heard that some relation of the "Perpetual Secretary" had come out from Ireland, in the expectation of an appointment under Government. This may be the same party.

"ASPI CARMAN" acquaints us that on the evening of the day when the last number of the *Expositor* came out, the Police were observed to be exceedingly diligent in ordering cabs from the front of *DONQUANA'S* Hotel, but that since then no attention has been paid to the matter, and that the nuisance still continues. We have made a similar remark, and can only say that if the same spathy prevails in the removal of an obstruction of which every one complains, we shall next week enter more fully into the subject. If the Police performed their duty properly, they would take the number of every cab standing before the door of the hotel not actually engaged, and have them fined before Colonel ERNSTMEYER, who, we are confident, would soon prevent a recurrence of one of the greatest nuisances which infest the city. If a stand is wanted nearer than the market-place, why not select the lower part of the Rue Bonsecours? This is a subject we shall not drop while the evil remains unremoved.

W. H. COLBY'S request will be attended to; but we are not aware that anything has been sent to him from the office of the *Expositor*. Will he more particularly state to what account he refers.

We shall be glad to hear from our excellent friend at *Quebec*, who was to have communicated with us through a party leaving *PAYNE'S* Hotel some weeks ago.

THE  
WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1846.

## THE 'TORONTO GLOBE.'

The "ponderous levity" of this ponderous paper is, in the highest degree, amusing. It reminds us of the dancing days of *Maiselle Djeck*, the female elephant at the *Adelphi*; or the attempt at sportiveness of the huge, misshapen, and unwieldy grampus when heavily playing, amid the stirlless

waters of the tropics—stirlless, apparently to the eye, everywhere without the immediate orbit of its own clumsy actions—and spouting forth streamlets which end (alas,) in "bubbles." The *Globe* is admittedly the leviathan of papers in Canada. It weighs the heaviest of the newspaper tribe. Some people are charitable enough to attribute this to the physical bulk of the sheet itself before it is stained by the wit of its elaborate editor. Others again malevolently say that, the dullness of the matter which fills its columns is the true cause. We offer no opinion ourselves, but leave the question to be decided by those who are inclined to pronounce between these conflicting impressions.

Putting aside all metaphor, however, we will at once proceed to give the whole of the article with which the magnificent *Globe* has been pleased to honor the "WEEKLY EXPOSITOR," and, in so doing, we shall obey a Christian precept, and return good for evil. Few people here ever heard of the *Globe*, and at this we entertain no surprise, for the leaden wheels on which it moves, can scarcely have brought it so far as Montreal, in the few years which have elapsed since its first establishment in Toronto; and we therefore trust that the Leviathan will, as in duty bound, be sensible of the benefit we confer upon him by thus anticipating his introduction to the Montreal public:—

"THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR."—A new paper, under this title, has made its appearance in Montreal. We infer that the funds for carrying it on have been subscribed by a number of individuals, and it states that "the most wealthy and influential of the Conservatives of the country" are numbered among the supporters of the paper. The object it proposes is "to denounce all abuses, whether of the Government or other public departments." A very amiable, agreeable, and sufficiently arduous undertaking. The *Expositor* gives us to understand that his powerful quill has been called forth by "the almost tyranny—altogether absolutism—which has marked the conduct of the present Government"; and after bemoaning the sad pass to which the great Conservative party has been brought, he says, "we particularly note, as an additional evidence of the unpopularity of the acts of the present Administration, that none but the names of Conservatives are on the list of those who have contributed to the establishment of this paper." He pronounces the Ministry "the least popular that ever presided over the affairs of a country, not even their immediate predecessors excepted."

The whole thing is really a most amusing production. It is throughout characterized by that delightful self-possession, that happy tone of assumption, that "Whose dog are you?" sort of air, which gives a charm to every man or thing fortunate enough to emanate from the city of Montreal. It is half snob, half tiger,—a species of cross between the *Montreal Herald* and *Col. Gully*.

The *Expositor* has a wonderful idea of the power it is about to wield in the body politic, backed as it is by the "most distinguished for their wealth, their probity, and their intelligence," in the province. The Montreal Tories always put "wealth" before "probity" or "intelligence"! If his supporters are so eminent in these walks, what will they think of the morality which their organ propounds in the first paragraph of his very first leading article? He says, "their (the Ministry's) conduct is marked by that absence of honesty and dignity, which most tend to bring a government into contempt with the people"! If Mr. Draper or Lord Metcalfe had pronounced the sentiment that honesty and dignity tend to bring a government into contempt with the Canadian people, we could have understood it; for they are qualified

to testify that gross dishonesty, and a total absence of anything like dignity or decency received, in their persons, distinguished applause from a large portion of the Canadian people! But that the *Expositor*—that "denouncer" of all deception and wickedness—should absolutely promulgate such a sentiment as good morality, is another melancholy proof of the sad condition of public sentiment in Montreal!

But what do our esteemed Tory contemporaries in Montreal say to all this? How do they like to be told by "the most distinguished for wealth," &c., that they are mere cyphers, that in fact there exists a "strong necessity for the establishment of a journal wholly independent of Executive favour, yet Conservative in its principles"? So all the Montreal papers are "dependent on Executive favour," the "wealth, probity, and intelligence" cannot trust them, and the new aspirant is to cut them all out!! and all this to be publicly announced by one of themselves!

Well, Mr. *Expositor*, you are a real Montrealer, but we think something may be made out of you, until a Governor arrives\* who gives you good wine and a snug office. It is satisfactory that you have clearly proved your true Conservative extraction; your wicked little luts at "Sweet William" and his colleagues will tell like thunder; and it will save the Opposition a wonderful deal of trouble to have the blowing-up of the Administration "done to a turn" by their own friends. Go on, dear *Expositor*; we mean to patronize you; we shall always extract your fat bits.

Oh! wonderful *Globe*, what matchless powers of discovery—scarcely equalled by those of thy brother monster, enabling Lord Ross to dissect the moon, cold, and fluty, and soulless, and barren as thyself. Thou hast indeed, by the aid of thy powerful lens, ascertained the amazing fact that a continent—no, a consonant—has been blotted out, expunged, evaporated for ever,—that a truant and hissing "s" has absconded from a verb in the last line of the leading paragraph of our introductory remarks to the public: and like the vulture on the dove—like the man-of-war bird of the tropics on the young pelican, when seeking to make him disgorge the superabundant tiny fish that half protrude from his overcharged nostrils—even like these hast thou darted (wanting only the activity) on the weakness of thy newly fledged inferior, and taken from it, what it can well afford to spare, one solitary spoil. Thou hittest on a susceptible point, oh mighty *Globe*, in this thy rough attempt at playfulness, but not on us should thy facetious humor be expended, but upon those who wield the destinies of devils. They are the guilty parties, or rather they are those who have been the marvellous cause of eliciting wit from you who ever had been guiltless of wit before. But to be serious, if one really can be so on such an occasion, who but a profound searcher of the minute in the art typographical such as is the sage editor of the *Globe*, would have even dreamt of noticing that which is of almost daily occurrence—the neglect of compositors in correcting their proofs. Any one, not a dunce, must have been aware that in the sentence "their conduct is marked by that absence of honesty and dignity which ever tends to bring a Government into contempt with the people," the word absence is the nominative to the verb, incorrectly set up. Yet, we did believe that there were such obtuse minded persons, particularly as we had it in contemplation to send the

\* Charles Buller for instance.—ED. LX.

"Expositor" to the *Globe*, more with a desire to contrast the Brobdingnag with the Lilliputian, than with any other definite object in view, and we were most particular in correcting what certainly, in its then state, made nonsense of the paragraph. We have never troubled ourselves about it since, conceiving that the guilty deserter had been restored to his place in column. On referring to the number however, this morning, which we did after perusing the article in the *Globe*, we find the deficiency had not been supplied, while no vestige of the corrected proof can be found.

We are however, surprised that, the discovery of the magnanimous *Globe*, has been limited to this mere oversight of the printer.—Had he dipped as deeply into some other parts of the editorial matter, he would have found more legitimate cause for criticism. It is not our province to point out to others what occurred to ourselves, even before the edition had issued from the press, and we therefore leave it to the microscopic eye of the Leviathan to detect where the principal error lies.

We very much incline to think however, that, had the "WEEKLY EXPOSITOR," while professing its hostility to the acts of the present Administration, proclaimed its adhesion to the Radical ranks, the powers of wit of the *Globe* would never have been strained in the manner we have seen in the paragraph, or rather article, above quoted from its columns. It is for the simple reason that it is Conservative, without being the organ or advocate of the present Government, that the "WEEKLY EXPOSITOR" is termed a "nondescript." The "half snob, half tiger" appellation given to it we confess we do not quite understand.—Of the meaning of the former word we are ignorant,—it is not in any dictionary into which we have looked, but we assume, that it is intended in a complimentary sense, and with a view to qualify the tiger-like attributes. For this at least we are indebted to the courtesy and good taste of the *Globe*.

The remarks which have been elicited on the subject of the wealth, probity, and intelligence of the leading men of this city, are perfectly correct, and apply we believe to all parts of Canada. "Wealth" gives education,—education "intelligence,"—and the result of intelligence is, or ought to be, "probity." We have no doubt it is much the same thing in Toronto that it is in Montreal; but rather than appear obstinate in the eyes of the great *Globe*, we will, on any future occasion of the kind, and when we find it necessary to make allusion to the subject, transpose the words as he may be pleased to suggest. We are only a humble minnow among tritons, and glad to escape being swallowed up in their capacious maws, on any terms.

We cannot but feel that we have given a great deal of space to this subject, which might have been devoted to a better topic; however, we have an object in this.—It was our design, from the first, not to have noticed any attack whatsoever made upon the "WEEKLY EXPOSITOR," where the slightest

personal matter was introduced, by those who might differ from us in their political views. Nor should we have done so here, had the *Globe* not aimed his lance at a most sensitive point. We are not inclined to yield our claim to a knowledge of the grammatical construction of the language in which we usually write to any one, and it therefore became an imperative duty not less to the public, for whom we do write, than to ourselves to offer an explanation, which has, in a great degree, been drawn from us by the false position in which the *Globe* sought to make us appear. Ninety and nine men would, of course, understand and account for the error wittily pointed out by our contemporary, but we can ill afford that even the solitary hundredth should question our claim to that which constitutes at once our treasure and our pride.

We therefore trust that the *Globe* will be more generous in future, and abstain from making a subject of unfavorable comment that which he himself must know to be a typographical error, and to which his own and all other papers are equally subject. If we are again attacked, that attack will fall upon an unresisting enemy.

We cannot but return our acknowledgments to the *Morning Courier*, for the prompt manner in which it has thrown its protecting wing around us, and fired its heavy guns in defence of the "little *Experiment*"—or rather the little "EXPOSITOR."

#### MORE GOVERNMENT BUNGLING.

It is truly surprising that, considering the general dissatisfaction that prevails throughout the Province against the existing Government, and more particularly against that branch of the public service which they have so immediately under their own control,—the Board of Works,—some steps are not taken by them to redeem their character from the imputation, either of wilful wrong, or culpable neglect. Let our readers judge from the following paragraph, taken from the *Church*, how bitterly, and in the voice of one, they are cursed by the whole District. But, negotiations with these he fears may yet supplant him in power torn the principal occupation of Mr. Draper—not the means of redressing the grievances of the country, or removing the seeds of desolation and death from their homes. But are not his own days numbered? What a picture to look upon! The corn ripe, but no one to gather it! for the mismanagement of the Government has prostrated all the physical energies of those whom it has not absolutely cut off from the human race:—

"A correspondent has lately furnished us with a deplorable account of the state of health in some of the rear townships of the Colborne District. He writes as follows, and we take the liberty of quoting from his letter, because we conceive the Government ought to take so grave a matter into their earliest consideration:—

"Our part of the country (the neighbourhood of Fenelon Falls, is one unvarying scene of sickness and death. The cruel malady (severe intermittent fever,) broke out amongst us all at once. I attended the sick all round for miles every day, with medicines and such assistance

and consolations as God had been pleased to enable me to impart; but at the expiration of a week, I was prostrated myself, and have been so now for about ten days without any apparent alleviation of the disorder. I have to prescribe for myself, and not a soul to consult with; to weigh out my own medicines, and for my sick neighbors too. I think it would be difficult to imagine a scene more truly melancholy. . . .

The grain is dead ripe, and there is no one to gather it in. My own man was, for some time, pretty well, and was kept employed a great part of some days digging graves for the public: now he is sick; and my crop of oats, the forthcoming winter's supply, is falling to the ground.

"The cause of this is unquestionably the *Nob-cagean Dam*. It floods the country for three quarters of the year; and then as soon as the dry season commences, the works being so imperfect, the water all runs off, and leaves a vast extent of mud and decomposed logs, exposed to the intense rays of the sun; and thus the seeds of death are scattered amongst us.

"Had the Government left us alone, we might have been in a perfectly healthy country, or had their work been done properly, so that the water were retained, the salubrity of the air might not have been decreased. But as it is, we have only to contemplate a "job," which is a benefit to no one, and a local curse. The works, which cost thousands, and which were never of any use, but rather a nuisance, after six or seven years have gone to ruin, leaving a grave-yard around them!"

"It is needless to lament what cannot be remedied,—the profligate expenditure of thousands—there as in other places, from which there will never be any return. But it is possible to remove the causes of this annual pestilence, either by leaving open the usual course of the waters or keeping the dam in a state of efficiency. The health of the population of several townships is a matter of much weight and concern, and we trust not a moment will be lost in applying some effectual remedy to the great and fearful evil complained of.

#### THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

There is no department under the Government, next to the Board of Works, against which there is more universal and bitter complaint than that of the Crown Lands. But not only the people of Carleton themselves cry out against the system as one destructive of the best interests of individuals—a lazy interminable attempt at the fulfilment of one of the most important, yet most neglected, public duties; but even a sister colony raises her voice in indignation, not at their supineness in this instance, but at the actual fraud with which the department is charged. As the paper from which we extract the subjoined truly remarks, a close investigation should be made into the merits of the serious charge which has been preferred against those who preside over the Crown Lands Office:—

We mentioned in our last that a case had just been tried at the Circuit Court in this city—Tibbets and others against the Crown—which in some measure involved the right of the respective Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick to cut timber on that part of the territory lying on the borders, now in dispute. Several of our lumberers—among whom were Mr. Tibbets & Company—professed to have obtained permits from Canada to cut timber on the disputed territory. This province—through which the timber must necessarily pass on its way to the ocean—forbade the parties from cutting the timber, and threatened, if they persisted, to confiscate it. Subsequently, the Executive—acting in accordance with the power delegated to them by one of the provincial acts—considering probably that confiscation would not only tend to trouble with Canada, but also prove ruinous to the parties engaged, issued an Order in Council that the timber should be allowed to proceed to port, and there

be shipped, upon payment of a stumpage duty of three shillings per ton. The timber connected with this suit was stopped in St. Johns by Mr. Allan, seizing officer, upon which it appears Mr. Tibbets pleaded the virtue of his license from the Crown-Land Office of Canada; but finding this did not avail, he subsequently sent his attorney to Mr. Allan, offering him the amount of duties claimed by this province, *under protest*; and that officer was at length induced, believing that there would be no further difficulty about the matter, to sign a receipt for the amount, as paid under protest. The action was brought for the recovery of this sum. Mr. Allan, it appears, did not see the Canada license, but it was produced in Court, and turned out to be *non-official*, simply purporting to be from the Crown-Lands Office of that colony, *but without the seal of the office attached, and signed by the Clerk!* Of all the instances of swindling on record this is the most *mean, cunning, and outrageous*. For many years this state struggled for her rights against the State of Maine, and was finally deprived of *three-fifths* of the territory in dispute by the Ashburton Treaty. And then Canada, for the first time, claimed nearly the whole of that which was left. Next, instead of waiting until the Home Government could decide between the claimants, she endeavours to pocket all she can out of the territory, and render it valueless to New Brunswick, by granting permits to lumber on it on payment of the pitiful sum of *one shilling and eighteen pence per ton*, while the Americans were paying from *one dollar and a half to two dollars per ton* in the immediate vicinity! This fact is damning evidence against her claims; for had Canada herself placed any confidence in their justice, she would never have thus sacrificed the source of so much revenue. But then, after driving this Province into the measures of self-protection, and creating differences and ill-feeling among our people, and giving rise to law-suits, it turns out that the *license* (so-called) is a non-official document, signed by a clerk. What is this but an acknowledgment that she has no claim to the territory, and that she coolly determined to commit a most disgraceful act of swindling! She determined to swindle New Brunswick if possible; and failing therein, to swindle the lumber merchants who trusted to her good faith. She could easily foresee what the result of a law-suit in this province must be, and knowing that the British Government would never suffer a man to pay *twice* for the same Crown property, and therefore will no doubt make her disgorge the ill-gotten spoils, she shrinks from the responsibility by making it appear as the unauthorised act of a subordinate! Well might Mr. Brown, in his seat in the Assembly, call it a *rascally act*; it is a *rascally act*, and thoroughly disgraceful to the parties implicated. We sincerely hope that Mr. Draper, and the British portion of the Executive Council of Canada, will be able to clear themselves of this stain, and that it may prove to be of *French origin*. Surely Mr. Papineau must stand implicated, for we cannot imagine that any clerk in his office would undertake to grant permits for parties to lumber in New Brunswick, without his knowledge and consent. We have one consolation, however, independent of the honest verdict of the jury, which is, that this transaction cannot fail to influence the Commissioners who are appointed to run the boundary line.—*New-Brunswick Loyalist*.

### SINGULAR POLICE CASE.

A rumour lately reached this city that considerable excitement prevailed in the parish of Varennes, in consequence of a murder which was supposed to have been committed there on the 3rd ult. Colonel Ernatinger, Inspector and Superintendent of Police, was ordered to proceed to the spot to investigate the case, which led to the removal of all suspicion against the individual supposed to have committed the crime, and the arrest, for sacrilege, of the individual assumed to have been murdered.

The circumstances are these:—About 8 o'clock in the evening of the third of August, a farmer named Novion, residing at a

place called "Le Grand Coteau," in the said parish, was leaving the village on horseback, and was asked by one Loizeau if he would take him up with him. To this Novion assented; and, as he was to get a cart at about two miles from the village, they both mounted the horse. On the way they met a man on foot, who carried under his arm a black parcel about the size of a hat. Loizeau saluted him saying, "Bon soir, Baptiste." The stranger seemed offended, and used offensive language to Loizeau, who dismounted and went towards him. Immediately Novion, who was still on horseback, heard Loizeau exclaim, "Oh, he has stabbed me in the hand with a knife." The latter then seized a piece of fence-rail, when the stranger took to the fields, followed by the wounded man. Novion then heard several blows struck, and shortly afterwards Loizeau returned, having in his possession the stranger's coat and cap. Novion charged Loizeau at once with having murdered the stranger; but this was denied by Loizeau, who said, "Oh! I gave it to him in good style, but I left him scampering off: I did not kill him." Loizeau then went to the owner of the farm where this had occurred, and there lodged the coat and cap, with instructions that enquiry should be made of the owner as to who and what he was, if he should come and claim these articles. Loizeau then told his companion, Novion, that he would proceed no further with him, but would return to the village. They separated; and Loizeau was not seen in the village at all. This excited a suspicion in Novion that Loizeau was desirous of making away with the body, a belief that soon gained ground, as no stranger appeared to claim the clothes, or was even heard of. The circumstance of Loizeau himself not being of very good repute, and having been seen immediately after with bloody hands, tended much to confirm the suspicion of his guilt.

Such was the state of the case when taken up by the authorities. But on making further enquiry, Loizeau's innocence was fully established, and his supposed victim found among the living. Loizeau proved that he had, immediately after leaving Novion, met one Eusebe Roy, of Longueuil, with whom he had driven to Boucherville, where he had slept at his mother's; that on the fifth of the month, being at home, he had seen an individual (without hat or coat) carrying a black parcel, whom he recognized as the same individual who had stabbed him; that he had again pursued in order to apprehend him; that the party when too hotly pressed had thrown his parcel into a field of grain, and had effected his escape; that he had returned to look for the parcel with one Comptois, an Innkeeper, but could not find it. That one Brunelle, (the owner of the farm,) a few days subsequently had found the said parcel, when mowing his grain, which contained silver vases of value, used in Catholic churches, broken and partially disfigured.

The coat and cap having been brought before Loizeau when examined, there was

found in the coat pocket a small piece of silver, gilt on one side, which had the appearance of having been torn off a larger one. This naturally went far to corroborate the account given by Loizeau in connection with the parcel thrown in the field by the stranger when pursued.

At this stage of the enquiry it was ascertained that two individuals (one of them a German) had been apprehended at Chambly, and sent to gaol by the magistrates of that place for offering silver church ornaments and vases for sale. Loizeau was brought to town and taken to gaol, where the gaoler was directed to bring up four prisoners, and among them the two arrested at Chambly. This being done, Loizeau at once identified the German as the individual who had stabbed him, whom he had beaten at Varennes on the 3d August, and who had thrown the black parcel in the corn field.

The church ornaments so found, have since been identified and claimed by the Curate of Repentigny, whose church was broken into on the 31st July last. The German's name is Henrich Koreng, and he now stands committed for sacrilege. Hence it is seen that Loizeau is delivered from the imputation of murder, and Koreng stands committed for sacrilege.

Thus, had the German not been detected and committed by the magistrates of Chambly, the unfortunate fellow, Loizeau, who by the way rejoices not in the possession of the best of characters, would in addition to having been stabbed by Koreng, have labored through life under the imputation of murder.—*Communicated*.

Too much credit cannot be given to Col. Ernatinger, for the trouble he has taken in eliciting the true facts of the case from a very confused mass of evidence and conflicting circumstances.—E. W. E.

### THE DRAMA IN MONTREAL:

Without at all changing our opinion in regard to the high prices of admission to the theatre, but on the contrary, more and more impressed with the belief that a reduced charge would fill the now half deserted seats, we cannot but qualify our remarks, if not absolutely "read our recantation," in regard to the capability of certain of the actors. Entertaining, as we did, a belief that the company at the Olympic were like all other companies we had seen in Canada, of very mediocre talent, we had never ventured into the house, until the night when Mr. Maywood appeared as Sir Giles Overreach, a cast of character in which we had ever admired the wondrous working of the passions of the inimitable Kean, and some parallel to which we sought to trace; and here we may remark that we differ from our contemporaries who have described the representation of the character by Mr. Maywood, as a total failure. He was certainly far from being equal in the piece as a whole, but there were one or two scenes in which the wily and honor-sacrificing ambition of the knight, were portrayed with much truth.—We allude particularly to the scene in which he counsels his daughter as to the

manner in which she should receive Lord Lovell, and that in which he tells his lordship he shall possess the lands of Lady Allworthy if he but desires them. Critics like doctors do not always agree.

We had, we confess, always believed that the high eulogia bestowed by our contemporaries on the acting of Mrs. Skerrett, had been more the result of personal prepossession in her favor, than of the excellence of her artistical skill. We are well pleased to admit our conversion from error. On Monday evening she appeared in the afterpiece of "Scenes in India," and the naïve and un-studied grace of her acting irresistibly impressed us—although not indisposed to find room for a little criticism—with admiration of her powers. Nothing could be more true to nature, more simple, more free from mannerism, or more convincing, if we may use the expression; while the vivacity of a very laughing, almost roguish, eye, gave an enjoyment to the light characters she played that rendered them life-like in the extreme. In *Ophelia*, which she played on Tuesday, we liked her better in the closing than in the earlier scenes. Mrs. Skerrett's forte is essentially Comedy. The solemn dignity of Tragedy sits not naturally, and therefore not gracefully, upon her smiling brow; while her somewhat petite figure clashes with one's idea of the majestic, that should prevail in the more severe delineations of the female histrionic character. *Ophelia* is, however, perhaps an exception to this rule; and the touching madness and sweet and simple outbursts of song which melt the heart, and enchain the sympathies, were effectively given by Mrs. Skerrett. In the afterpiece, however, and subsequently of course to her "resurrection from the dead," Mrs. Skerrett was literally again alive, and played in the farce of "The Rendezvous" with even more of the ease and fascination we had witnessed on Saturday, ably supported as she was by her humorous husband, and Mr. De Walden, who is both a comic and a gentlemanly actor.—But we must defer what further remarks we intended to make until the ensuing week, when we shall offer some suggestions which we think may be of benefit both to the public and to the proprietor himself, in the event of the latter taking, as we understand he intends to do, the large theatre now in the course of erection near Dalhousie Square.

Since penning the above strictures, we have had an opportunity of seeing Mrs. Skerrett under a new exhibition of her very versatile talent. If she speaks English slipantly and charmingly, not the less does she fascinate with her Scottish accent—so much the more perfect and natural, from having, we understand, passed much of her early youth in the land of the heather. She appeared last night in "The Man of the World," as the daughter of the dissipated Lord Lumbercourt, and certainly lent a winning interest to the character. But her *chef d'œuvre* was Maria Darlington, the favorite part of the present beautiful and fascinating Countess of Harrington when Miss Foote. Indeed, the whole of the characters in this piece were excellent, and especially Mr. De Walden as Sir Alfred Highflyer. The house was anything but well

filled, yet the audience, thin as it was, was convulsed with laughter. The performers themselves seemed to share the contagion, and to be fully alive to the amusing absurdity of the piece to which they certainly did ample and entire justice. This is one of the best farces on the stage, and worthy of frequent repetition.

#### WOODEN RAILWAYS.

At a moment like the present, when public interest is almost exclusively absorbed in the Railway about to be commenced, it is of consequence that the pressure should fall as lightly as possible on those of the inhabitants whose means have not permitted them to subscribe for more than a couple of shares at the utmost. We ourselves are in possession of a secret for the preparation and induration of wood, which we conceive would, if adopted, prove an infinite saving to the country. So far back as 1832, it was submitted, by command of His late Majesty, King William the Fourth, to the Lords of the Admiralty, but was refused to be entertained by them, because we would not give up our secret or take any action in the matter,—although Woolwich dock-yard was offered to be placed at our disposal by Sir William Symonds, the Surveyor of the Navy,—unless the Admiralty should previously enter into a conditional guarantee of compensation; that is to say, to remunerate us *only* in the event of the remedy being found to be efficacious. Next week, we shall publish a correspondence which we think will be found worthy of the attention of every subscriber to the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road. A saving of more than one half of the expense incidental to the iron rail would thereby be effected. We especially call the attention of the Directors to the subject, and shall submit to them samples of the wood which is alluded to in the correspondence, and the character of which, so hard and impervious has it become, timber merchants and carpenters will not find it easy to determine. The remedy is abundant in Canada, and wood prepared in it might be obtained at a cost of less than one fourth of that of Kyan.

The American mail of this morning brings no account of the steamer; nor is there anything of moment from Mexico. Below we give the latest New York prices of Flour and Ashes:—

Flour, &c.—The receipts of Western Flour are light, which enables receivers to be very firm. Sales of Michigan, Ohio, and Genesee, were made at \$4 to \$4 06½. Southern Flour is not quite so active; Richmond County, Baltimore, Howard-street, and Georgetown, may be quoted at \$4 12½ to \$4 25; Brandywine, \$4 37½ to \$4 50; Fredericksburgh, Petersburgh, and Baltimore City Mills, \$4. Sales of mixed Corn were made at 53 to 54 cents.

ASHES.—Sales of Pots were made at \$3 56¼ to \$3 62½, and of Pearls at \$4 12½ to \$4 25.

CHAMPLAIN AND ST. LAWRENCE RAILROAD.—A change has taken place in the hours of departure of the steamer *Prince Albert*, as well as in the Rail-Road arrangement.—The *Prince Albert* leaves Montreal at 9, 12, and 4 o'clock for Laprairie—and the Cars leaves St. Johns at 9 and 1 o'clock.

It will be seen that we have given, as promised in our last, and for the information of such of our subscribers as have not had an opportunity of seeing it, the very interesting account, written by Sir James Alexander, of the recent destruction of the St. Louis Theatre at Quebec.—It is a record worth preserving.

Amongst the names of the gentlemen on whom the degree of L.L.D. was conferred at the Harvard University, is that of the Hon. Henry Black, of Quebec.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

SIR,—In your last publication I noticed some editorial remarks relative to the opening of druggists' shops on the Sabbath day, in the course of which it is said,—“A man may be taken ill and die here, on Sunday, before he can find his way into a druggist's shop, to obtain the means of relief.” This statement arose, I doubt not, from a misapprehension of the fact that the physicians of this city, with very few exceptions, keep drug shops of their own. This being the case, it would, in my opinion, be altogether unnecessary to give persons who might be ill on Sunday the opportunity of obtaining medicine from an apothecary, which they would on any other day of the week, procure directly from the physician prescribing it. No person need suffer the least inconvenience, as medicine can be obtained at all times from the shelves of the doctor's surgery.

Were it otherwise, I admit, it would be imperative for dispensing shops to be constantly open, day and night; but as long as the present system continues, the opening of an apothecary's shop would be a direct violation of the divine precept, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” simply because there is not the least necessity for it.

Trusting you will excuse the liberty I take in explaining my views on the subject,

I remain, your obt. servant,

2nd Sept. 1846.

MEDICUS.

#### NOTICE.

THE Partnership heretofore existing between HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO., was this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

All Debts due to and by the said Firm, will be settled by JOHN YOUNG and BENJAMIN HOLMES.

HARRISON STEPHENS,

JOHN YOUNG,

ROMEO H. STEPHENS.

Montreal, 31st August, 1846.

#### NOTICE.

THE BUSINESS hitherto carried on by Messrs. HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, will be CONTINUED by the Subscribers, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO.

JOHN YOUNG,

BENJAMIN HOLMES.

Montreal, 31st August, 1846.

THE SUBSCRIBERS offer for SALE:—

Bright Muscovado Sugar in Hhds.

White Crushed Sugar in Tierces

Pilsa Port Wine

Punchons Cuba Honey (Clear)

Bales Cuba Tobacco for Cigars

Rondelet Coffee in Barrels

Green do in Bags

Seal

Cod

Whale and

Dog

Barrels No. 1 Arichat Herrings

Digby Herrings in Boxes

10 M Superior Cuba Cigar

Bees' Wax, Fustic

Mahogany, Cedar

Zinnento in Barrels

Jamaica Preserved Fruits, &c. &c.

W. H. LEAYCRAFT & CO.

Sept. 3.

N. 79, St. Nicholas Street.



CHAMPLAIN AND ST. LAWRENCE RAIL-ROAD.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

ON and after MONDAY next, the 31st inst., the starting of an EXTRA TRAIN from St. Johns, on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS...

Table with 2 columns: From Montreal, From Laprairie. Rows include times for mail and passengers.

RAIL-ROAD CARS.

Table with 2 columns: From St. Johns, From Laprairie. Rows include times for cars.

ON SUNDAYS.

TILL FURTHER NOTICE. Prince Albert, from Montreal. 3 o'clock, P. M.

N.B.—By the above arrangement the public will observe that Passengers for the Old Line of Steamers on Lake Champlain must leave Montreal at 9, A. M., instead of half-past 12, as at present.

F A R E S.

First Class Passengers, 5s.; Ditto, over and back same day, 7s. (provided they state their intentions on taking their Tickets).

ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC RAIL-ROAD.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

PROPOSALS will be received, at the Office of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, No. 18, Little St. James Street, in the City of Montreal, until the TWENTY-FOURTH of SEPTEMBER next...

PLANS, PROFILES, and SPECIFICATIONS will be exhibited, and the requisite information given, at the Engineer's Rooms, in the Company's Offices, at Montreal, on or after the 15th of said month.

Persons offering to Contract for the said Work, or any part of it, will be required to accompany their proposals with satisfactory references.

By order of the Board, THOMAS STEERS, Secretary.

Office of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, Montreal, Aug. 25, 1846.

ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC RAIL-ROAD.

NOTICE.

THE STOCKHOLDERS of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, having, at their Special General Meeting, held on the 2nd instant, unanimously resolved upon the immediate commencement of the Rail-Road...

By order of the Board, THOMAS STEERS, Secretary.

Office of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, Montreal, 25th August, 1846.

NOW OPENING, AND FOR SALE, By the Subscribers:

ONE Thousand Pieces ALPACA LUSTRES, 2500 Pieces 3-4 and 6-4 Plain and Twilled CASHMERE, 1500 Pieces Black and Colored ORLEANS, 500 Pieces GALA PLAIDS, 1000 Pieces WINTER BONNET RIBBON.

August 23. ALISON & CO.

WANTED,—for the Expositor Office,—TWO CARRIER BOYS, who have been in the habit of taking round papers.

BOOK, JOB AND ORNAMENTAL PRINTING.

J. W. HARRISON, Corner of McGill and COMMISSIONERS STREETS, is prepared to execute (at the time promised) every order with which he may be favored...

TO SURVEYORS AND EXPLORERS.

THE Subscribers have lately received a Large Assortment of FRENCH PRESERVED MEATS, WARRANTED TO KEEP. FARDINS A L'HOULE. TOTTED FISH. ANCHOVY PASTE. FARINA OF VEGETABLES, for making all kinds of VEGETABLE SOUP. ESSENCE OF MILKS. ESSENCE OF CELERY. PORTABLE SOUP. WAX MATCHES, not affected by Damp. GERMAN TINDER. All kinds of PORTABLE MEDICINE CHESTS, CHEMICAL TEST CASES, &c., Fitted up to Order.

S. J. LYMAN & CO. Chemists and Druggists.

PLACE D'ARMES, Montreal, 20th Aug. 1846.

DONEGANA'S HOTEL.

THE Proprietor of this UNRIVALLED ESTABLISHMENT, in returning thanks to the Public for the liberal share of patronage bestowed upon his uncle (Mr. Rasco) and himself, during the twelve years they conducted the Establishment so well known as "RASCO'S HOTEL," begs to inform them that he has now removed into that

SPLENDID BUILDING

in Notre Dame Street, formerly the Property of WILLIAM BINGHAM, Esq., and the Vice-Royal Residence of Lords DE RHAM and SUDERMAN, which has been greatly enlarged and fitted with

EVERY CONVENIENCE & ORNAMENT (with Comfort and Luxury can desire.

THE SITUATION is central, and within an easy distance of the Champ-de-Mars, the Cathedral, Bishop's Church, the Banks, the Government Offices, the Court House, and other Public Buildings. The openness of the site, and the elevation upon which the Hotel stands, ensures it abundance of light and air, while it commands an open view of an Excellent View, including the River, the Island of St. Helene, and the opposite shore, the Mountain, and the adjacent Picturesque Country.

THE Establishment has been furnished throughout with NEW AND COSTLY FURNITURE, and fitted in every way worthy of what it is—

THE FIRST HOTEL IN BRITISH AMERICA!! Among the conveniences will be found SIX BATHING ROOMS and a BILLIARD ROOM.

THE TABLE will be supplied with EVERY DELICACY of the Season; and while the Proprietor will spare no expense to give satisfaction to all who may honor him with their patronage, the large number which the extent of the Establishment enables him to accommodate, will admit of making his CHARGES VERY REASONABLE.

CARRIAGES will be always in attendance, to convey parties to and from the Steamboat Wharves, and the Upper Canada and other Stage Offices. And the Proprietor will spare no exertion to make his New Establishment worthy of the liberal patronage he received as Lessee of Rasco's.

J. M. DONEGANA.

CALEDONIA SPRINGS.

THE Undersigned begs leave to inform the Public that he has leased from the Proprietor of the CALEDONIA SPRINGS,

THE CANADA HOUSE,

which is now Open for the reception of Visitors.

The House has been recently thoroughly renovated, and the Subscriber pledges himself to spare no pains in making his guests comfortable.

The Caledonia Springs present the great advantage of a variety of Waters, acknowledged to be, each of their kind, unrivalled in the efficacy for the cure of disease and invigorating qualities.

For several years past they have been approved by the highest of the Faculty, and thus acquired a well merited reputation which is increasing far and wide.

The Salt and Sulphur Baths will be in full operation, from the use of which so many visitors have derived extraordinary benefits.

Mrs. MURRAY will, as usual, preside over the female department.

SPRINGS will leave the Depot, A Place d'Armes, Montreal, EVERY MORNING, at half past 11 o'clock, and arrive at the Springs, by 3 in the afternoon; and passengers leaving the Springs, at 9 o'clock in the Morning, will arrive in Town the same day. The fare each way will be reduced to 12s. 6d.

The Charges at the CANADA HOUSE will be as follows:—By the Month ..... 25 0 0 By the Week ..... 0 5 0 per diem. By the Day ..... 0 7 6 "

HENRY CLIFTON.

Caledonia Springs, June 20, 1846.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

THE DEPUTY POST-MASTER GENERAL, being authorized to extend the Northern Mail Route in Upper Canada from its present terminus (Penetanguishene), to the SAULT STE. MARIE, the Public is informed that the FIRST DISPATCH will be from Penetanguishene, on the FIRST SEPTEMBER next. Letters for this Mail should be posted in Montreal on or before the 25th.

The communication is intended to be Monthly, leaving Penetanguishene on the 1st of each month; with this exception, that, commencing next Summer, during the months of June, July, August and September, it will be Semi-Monthly, and the despatch will be from Penetanguishene on the 1st and 15th of those months.

POST OFFICES will be established at the following places, viz.:— OWEN'S SOUND, MANTOWANING (on the Grand Manitowin), LA CLOUHE, ST. JOSEPH, and SAULT STE. MARIE. General Post Office, Montreal, 22nd August, 1846.

WINES.

MAITLANDS, TYLEE & CO. have RECENTLY LANDED: 100 Baskets of FERRIER, JANET & Co.'s First Quality CHAMPAGNE. 100 Baskets "JACQUESSEN'S" First Quality CHAMPAGNE. 150 Cases of BARTON & GUERIN'S "Superior CLARET. 6 Hogsheads Fine "St. GEMIN'S" BRUNY. 75 Cases Curacao, Maraschino, and assorted LIQUEURS. 18th August 1846.

FOR SALE.

TEAS: Twohky, Young Hyson, Gunpowder and Souehong, in boxes, Molasses, Heavy, Healy's Cognac Brandy, Scotch Whisky Wine, Bull and Raw Linseed Oils, Olive Oil, English Ghee, Plug Tobacco, Pimento, and Pepper.

Patent Sperm Candles, from the Manufacturer. STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO. 20th August, 1846.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the respective INSURANCE COMPANIES, represented by the undersigned, will not, in future, be responsible for loss or damage by Fire to Buildings or Property contained in them, where CAMPHENE OIL is used, unless the use of it has been privileged previous to this date. And also that in all cases such privilege shall cease at the expiration of the policy.

R. GERRARD, Agent, Alliance Insurance Co., doza.

RYAN, CHAPMAN & Co., Agents, Globe Insurance Co., London.

J. L. LETOURNEUX, Secretary & Treasurer, Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

WM. MURRAY, Manager, Montreal Insurance Co.

J. H. MAITLAND, Agent, Quebec Fire Insurance Co.

GILLESPIE, MOFFATT & Co., Agents, Phoenix Insurance Co., London.

JOSEPH JONES, Agent, Ems & Protection Insurance Co., Hartford, Connecticut.

JOSEPH WENHAM, Agent, British America Insurance Co.

Montreal, June 25 1846. 10

NEW RAIL-ROAD JOURNAL.

The Weekly Expositor, OR, REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES; And Railway and Mining Intelligence.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS having for their object redress of grievances, and well-founded complaints against any Public Department whatsoever, as well as those treating of Railways and Mining Speculations, are requested to be dropped in the Post Office, addressed to the Editor of the "Weekly Expositor"; and all Advertisements (which are especially solicited from those who are interested in the prosperity of an independent Paper) may be left at the Office, corner of St. Francois Xavier and Great St. James Streets. The names of communicators of flagrant abuses or injustice will not, unless they desire it, be made known. Terms of Subscription.—Two Dollars per Annum in Montreal, and Two Dollars and a Half in the Country, payable in Advance. Montreal, August 11, 1846.

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR, BY DONOGHUE & MANTZ, Chapter's Buildings, 112, Notre Dame Street.

PUBLISHED BY T. TENNISON, At the Office of the Proprietor, No. 1, SAINT FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET, CORNER OF GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

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