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THE DIAMOND CROSS.

BY FRANK H. ANGER.

The most experienced and sagacious of detectives are not always successful. We of the force are, like other men, fallible, and even the best laid and most carefully followed plans, sometimes wholly fail to achieve their purpose. I have been many years in the business, and although I have aided in bringing a large number of noted criminals to justice, there have been several instances in which my better judgment has been blinded and my most elaborate traps eluded by the rascals of whom I was in search. It is a terrible aggravation to a detective to find his labor thus set at naught, but of all my failures I never had one that so filled me with chagrin and mortification as one that I once made in New York. It made me appear the more ridiculous because the case was a very simple one, and the chief actor in it was a woman. To be taken in by a male sharper is bad enough, but to have yourself and your profession laughed at by a woman, is too much for a detective, proud of his sagacity, to bear with equanimity. I don't often care to speak of it, but as I am not likely to be caught in a similar trap again, I don't mind telling you the story in confidence.

The present fashionable generation may not remember the firm of Stephens & Martley, jewelers, who formerly transacted a large business on Broadway, not far from Duane Street. Their store was one day entered by a very beautiful and richly dressed lady, who had left her carriage waiting at the door, and who asked to be shown some diamond crosses. The salesman exhibited a tray containing a large number of very valuable trinkets of that description, studded with gems of exceeding richness and purity. After considerable hesitation she finally chose one, and inquired the price.

"It is worth thirteen hundred dollars," replied the salesman.

"I will take it," said the lady. "Be good enough to do it up nicely."

"I will send it," asked the salesman, politely.

"No, thank you. I will take it with me," she tendered in payment two crisp new bills, one of a thousand dollars and one of five hundred. The salesman took them to the cashier, who examined them to see that they were genuine, and opened his drawer to return the necessary change. To his annoyance, he found himself short of small bills, and rather than pay out all his change, he sent the two bills back to the customer to ask if she had not the exact amount. The lady examined her portemonnaie, but was unable to find anything but three bills of five hundred each. These would not help the matter, and the cashier paid out his change with reluctance, dashed the two new bills into his drawer, and slammed it to in no very good humor. The lady took the diamonds, swept gracefully out of the store, entered her carriage, and was driven rapidly away. In fifteen minutes afterward the cashier, having occasion to open his drawer, was attracted by a peculiar line on the thousand dollar note. He examined it closely, and at once pronounced both bills to be counterfeit. The lady had cleverly changed the notes when they had been returned to her.

It was then too late to trace the fair swindler. I was sent for by the firm, and an inquiry into the facts of the case did not permit me to offer any strong hope of recovering the diamonds or the two hundred dollars. The salesman was sure that he would know the face again, and he remembered that the lady was dressed in blue silk with a lace shawl. He could recollect nothing more, except that he thought the carriage had wheels with gilded hubs and spokes. This was slight material, but I made the necessary notes in my memorandum book, and left the store.

For several days after that I kept a sharp lookout in the street for a carriage with gold wheels. I visited all the livery stables and hackney coach stands that I could think of, but my search was in vain. At last, passing one day through Bleeker Street, I met a carriage driving rapidly toward Broadway. Its description answered very well to that which Stephens & Martley's salesman had given me, but a glance inside showed me that it was empty. I stopped it, however, and cross-questioned the driver. The carriage was a public one, and the driver remembered taking a lady in blue silk, four or five days previously, to Stephens & Martley's. So far I was on the right track, but the trail was soon lost again. In answer to my questioning the man said that the lady had taken his carriage at Union Square, where it was then standing and after visiting the jewelry store, had been driven to a dry goods store on Chatham Square, where

she dismissed him. He did not notice whether she entered the store or not, and he had never seen her since.

I took the man's number, and looked well at his carriage and horses. Having thus mentally photographed his establishment, I gave him a quarter and let him go. There was nothing more to be done for the present except to telegraph a general description of the woman and the diamond cross, to the principal cities of the country, and to keep an eye on the outward bound steamers for Europe and elsewhere. This I managed to do without much difficulty while attending to other business. More important cases soon engrossed my attention, and the affair of the cross gradually fell into the background, when, after the lapse of several months, I received a telegram from a detective in Boston, stating that a note gambler called "Jumping Johnny," who had twice been seen in that city lately in suspiciously intimate relations with a woman residing in Columbus Avenue, who answered in some respects to the description of our heroine. The house in Columbus Avenue and the appearance of the woman were altogether too respectable for such close connection with Jumping Johnny, without mischief being in the wind.

I had not the pleasure of Jumping Johnny's acquaintance, but I started that same night for Boston to look at the woman, taking Stephens & Martley's salesman with me to identify her. I procured a couple of officers from the Boston force, and proceeded to the house in Columbus Avenue. It was a large handsome structure of brown stone, and I noticed that the curtains to all except the lower story were closely drawn. I suspected from this that the upper rooms were all unfurnished, and that the lower and basement floors only were occupied by the inmates, who had doubtless their own reasons for choosing an innocent-looking dwelling in a fashionable quarter, for carrying on a business that might not bear the scrutiny it would be subjected to in a more public locality. But this, of course, was all guess-work.

I posted an officer on the curbstone before the house, and another in the rear alley, with instructions to keep his eye on the back gate and the roof.

"I don't want Jumping Johnny," I explained to these sentinels. "I am after the woman who stole our diamonds. If you see a woman come out, detain her."

"I did not care to trouble Jumping Johnny because, firstly, I had no evidence whatever that he was implicated in the diamond swindle, and secondly, because I was employed to recover Stephens & Martley's property, and to find the party who stole it, and it was not my business to ferret out counterfeiters. I reserved that part of the affair for a separate job."

The name on the doorplate was simply "D'Orsay." I rang the bell, and after some delay, during which I detected a pair of eyes scrutinizing us from behind the basement blinds, the door was partly opened by a very angular servant with a shock of fiery-red hair, who placed her anatomy in the aperture and demanded our business.

"I would like to see Madame D'Orsay, if you please. Is she at home?"

"I don't know."

"Be good enough to find out, if you please. Our business is very important."

"What is it?"

I placed my finger on my lips mysteriously. "It wouldn't do to tell it here in the street," I said. "I saw a cop on the sidewalk out here."

The girl looked wise and returned my wink. "Oh! you belong to them, do you?" she observed.

"Well, walk in."

She ushered us into a large parlor, handsomely furnished, and left us alone. In a few moments we saw through the open door an elegantly dressed lady descending the stairs.

"By heavens!" exclaimed the salesman, starting. "That's the woman who bought the cross."

I was on the right track then, at last. She entered the room with a queenly step and stood still, looking at us inquiringly. She was certainly the most beautiful woman I ever saw, before or since. She evidently had no remembrance of my companion, or if she did, she concealed her recognition of him admirably.

"This gentleman," I said, rising and pointing to my companion, "is from the firm of Stephens & Martley of New York."

She turned very pale and grasped the back of a chair for support.

"I, madam," I continued, "am an officer of the detective police. We have called in relation to a certain diamond cross purchased by you from Stephens & Martley several months ago, which was paid for in counterfeit notes."

She sank into a chair, pale as death, and trembling in every limb.

"What is the penalty?" she asked.

"We will talk of that afterwards," I said. "Is the cross still in your possession?"

"It is," she said. "Will you let me go, if I return the cross and the money? O sir, please let me go. You only want the property back, surely. I will pay that and more too, if you will not take me away."

It was hard to resist this sort of talk. She sat there wringing her hands, and with her beautiful eyes suffused with tears—a picture to melt a heart of stone.

"You don't know what it is," she said, "to be forced to lead a life like mine. You don't know what it is to be compelled to it by one who owns your body and soul, as mine is owned. God knows I would be better off I could."

"Is Jumping Johnny your husband?"

She looked around her a little fearfully, and answered, "No."

"On object," I said, "is principally to recover our property, but I don't purpose to make any promise beforehand. Return the cross and the two hundred dollars, and we will consider your case afterward."

She arose to leave the room, and for the first time it struck me how short she was, even for a woman. Her proud queenly carriage had something to do, perhaps, with my first impression, for I had taken her for a tall woman. I now saw that she was of quite petite figure, hardly larger than a girl of twelve.

She passed into a room immediately back of the parlor, and closed the door. I told my companion to step into the hall and keep his eye on the other door, while I remained in the parlor. I had no fear of the bird's escape, for I had a pretty accurate mental plan of the house in my head, and I knew she could not leave it without being seen by my men outside. She was absent a very long time, during which I heard an animated discussion going on in the adjoining room, in which the shrill tones of a child's voice could be plainly distinguished. The words, however, were inaudible.

I had become thoroughly tired of waiting, and was on the point of making a disturbance when the door opened and a hideously deformed boy appeared, limping on a crutch. He was humped, and a dreadful scrofulous mark disfigured one half of his ugly face. As he opened and closed the door, I caught a glimpse of Madame D'Orsay seated in an armchair, with a large handkerchief to her eyes, evidently weeping.

"Mother told me to give this to you," said the dwarf, in the same shrill cracked voice which I had lately overheard. "She will come out herself in a moment. You won't arrest her, will you, sir?"

"I don't know," I answered shortly, taking the diamond cross and putting it in my pocket. "Where are the two hundred dollars?"

"I'm going out to get this changed," said the boy, holding up a five hundred dollar bill. "If you wait a minute I'll bring back the money."

I let him go, and he limped out the front door and down the street, dragging his club-foot painfully after him. I was glad to have the hideous little monster out of my sight.

I waited some fifteen or twenty minutes after that, but neither Madame D'Orsay nor the boy put in an appearance. At last my patience became exhausted, and I tried the door leading into the inner room. It opened readily, but there was no one in the apartment except Madame herself, who still sat in the armchair before the dressing-table, with her face buried in her handkerchief.

"Come, come," I said, "this won't do. You've had time enough to cry in. Put on your things and follow me. I've some friends outside who are waiting for you."

A loud coarse laugh greeted his speech, and I tapped the woman gently on the shoulder. The handkerchief fell, and disclosed the features of the bony servant girl who had admitted us to the house. Her lovely person was dressed in her mistress's clothes, and her fiery shock of hair was concealed by a blonde wig, the exact counterpart of the madam's own hair, which was a wig itself, for all I know.

"You thought it was the lady of the house, did you?" exclaimed this interesting female, jumping up. "Well, go see it isn't. Thanks to your politeness in waiting so long, the madam has got well out of your reach by this time, if her crutch and that beautiful club-foot don't interfere with her speed."

"Ten thousand thanks!" exclaimed I, seizing her roughly by the arm and shaking her, "do you mean to say—"

"Yes, I do," she replied, with a broad grin. "You couldn't bring yourself to believe that pretty ladyship could make herself so ugly, could you? Mister Policeman, you're nicely sold."

I dropped her arm, and seizing the salesman as he ran through the hall, dragged him out of the house.

"The bird has escaped us," I said, as soon as we reached the sidewalk, and I could recover my breath. "Madame D'Orsay has given us the slip, but we have recovered the cross at all events."

I took the jewel from my pocket, and handed it to him. He took it, and turned it over and over in the sunlight.

"It's a beautiful thing," I remarked, looking over his shoulder.

"Yes," he said, "it is a beautiful thing. These diamonds are of unusual brilliancy—for taste! In fact they are the best imitation I ever saw."

"Isn't that your cross?" I exclaimed, in tones of triumph.

"The setting is ours," he said. "The diamonds are probably of Jumping Johnny's own manufacture."

It could not be helped. The clever woman had walked. The clever woman had walked off under my very nose, with her sealings in her pocket. We went back to New York that night, and I gave up all further attempts to trace her. From information that I afterwards received from Jumping Johnny, I suspected that the couple had gone to Europe. Perhaps Madame D'Orsay has ere this found her match among my brother detectives across the water.

The principal points which the Prince of Wales will visit, during his tour in the East, will be duly noticed. In the present issue we give a brief sketch of

BENGAL.

The British settlements in Bengal, were commenced subsequently to those on the coast of Coromandel, and in western India. In 1698, the English purchased a few small villages on the Hooghly, where Calcutta now is, and there established a factory. Changes often took place in the ruling princes, and complaints of unjust demands and unreasonable exactions were sometimes made, but the trade, here and at some other places in Bengal, was carried on with little interruption for more than 50 years.

On the death of Alivardi Khan in 1756, Suraja Dowla, his grandson became Nabob. This prince was ignorant and licentious, cruel and avaricious. Previous to the death of Alivardi Khan, on several occasions he manifested much dislike of the English. As Calcutta was exposed to be attacked and plundered by the French, the English began to erect or repair some fortifications around it. Suraja Dowla was greatly offended at their doing this, saying it showed a distrust of his power to protect them, or an intention to rebel against him. He began his march with a large force from Rajmahal towards Calcutta. On his way he made the English agents at Cossimbazar prisoners, and plundered the factory.

The English in Calcutta, on hearing that Suraja Dowla was on the way with a large army and plundered Cossimbazar, resolved to defend the place. He arrived sooner than he was expected, and commenced a furious attack upon them. It was soon apparent that the fort could not be defended. The women and children and some of the men (among whom were the Governor and two members of the council), found safety on board the ships, which went down the river.

There appears to have been indiscretion, indecision, and mismanagement among those who went away in the ships, or those who remained behind, indeed among all parties, the English soon obtained possession of the place, and exposed great indignation that they should attempt to defend it against him, the ruler of the country. The number of the men who became prisoners was 146. The confinement and sufferings of these persons is a remarkable portion of the history of the English in India. It occurred in June, the hottest part of the year in Calcutta, and the weather was unusually hot and sultry for the season.

The Black Hole.

The following is the most particular account of this horrid affair which I have seen: "The place fixed on for their confinement, was the corner room of the fort, called the black hole. It consisted of a space 15 feet square, with only two small windows, barred with iron, opening into the close veranda, and scarcely admitting a breath of air. Into this narrow receptacle, the whole of the officers and soldiers, 146 in number, were compelled to enter, among that number was Mr. Holwell the governor, and on their venturing to remonstrate, the commander ordered every one who should hesitate to be instantly cut down. Thus were they forcibly thrust into this fearful dungeon, into which the whole number could with difficulty be squeezed, and the door was fastened from without. Their first impression on finding themselves thus immured

was the utter impossibility of surviving one night, and the necessity of extorting themselves at whatever cost. The form-lars or Indian guards, were walking before the window, and Mr. Holwell, seeing one who bore on his face a more than usual expression of humanity, adjured him to procure for them a room in which they could breathe, assuring him in the morning 1,000 rupees. The man went away, but returned saying it was impossible. Thinking the offer made too low, the prisoners without waiting to ask questions (estimated 2,000 rupees). The man again went and returned, saying the Nabob was asleep and no one dared awake him; the lives of 146 men being nothing in comparison to disturbing for a moment the slumbers of a tyrant.

Mr. Holwell has described in detail the horrors of that dreadful night, which are scarcely paralleled in the annals of human misery. Every moment added to their distress. All attempts to obtain relief by a change of posture, from the painful pressure to which it gave rise, only aggravated their sufferings. The air soon became pestilential, producing at every moment a feeling of suffocation, and while the perspiration flowed in streams, they were tormented with the most burning thirst. Unfortunately, as the stations near the windows were decidedly the best, the most dreadful struggles were made to reach them. Many of the prisoners being foreign soldiers, and now released from all subordination, made the most frightful efforts, and the sufferers as they grew weaker, were in some instances squeezed or actually trampled to death. Loud cries for water being raised the humane janaceer pushed through the bars several skins filled with that liquid, but this produced only an increase of calamity, owing to the very violent endeavors made to obtain it. The Sepoys without, found only a savage sport in witnessing these contests, and even brought lights to the window in order to view them at greater advantage. About 11 o'clock the prisoners began to die, sixty-four of Mr. Holwell's intimate friends sank at his feet, and were trodden upon by the survivors. Of those still alive, a great portion were raving or delirious. Some uttered the most incoherent prayers, and others the most frightful blasphemies. They also endeavored by furious invectives to induce the guards to fire into the prison and to end their misery but without effect. When day dawned, the few who had not expired were most of them, either raving or insensible. In this last state was the Governor himself, when about 6 o'clock, Suraja awoke and inquired for him. On learning the events of the night, he merely sent to ascertain if the English chief still lived, and being informed there were appearances as if he might recover, gave orders to open the fatal door. At that time of the 146 who had been inclosed, 68 breathed only 23.—[Murray.]

A man of Fort Street going home at a late hour in the night, saw that the occupants of a house standing flush with the street had left a window up, and he decided to warn them and prevent a burglary. Putting his head into the window he called out, "Hello! poor fellow!" That was all he said. A whole lot full of water struck him in the face, and as he staggered back a woman shrieked out, "Didn't I tell you what you'd get if you wasn't home by nine o'clock?"

MARRIAGE OF MR. IN FISKE.—Miss Marion Fiske, daughter of M. W. Fiske, the comedian, was recently married to T. J. Martin, an actor, who was playing in the same company with her at Sim's Park Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y. The affair," says a Boston paper, "has been kept very shady."

A NOVA SCOTIAN ABROAD.—The Halifax Chronicle is sorry to learn that Clements, the Toronto ex-Albany, arrested for procuring the abortion in the case of the unfortunate girl, Gilmour, is a Nova Scotian, and that he is a native of that province.

A Eloquent Speaker is like a river—grates at the mouth.

Why is a surgeon, since the discovery of ether, like a swindler?—Because he cuts off without paying (pain).

What is that which a person likes to have and to get rid of as soon as possible?—A good appetite.

Why does a butcher stick up signs of meat in his meat?—To show it for his customers.

A Rosting.—When is a tired man like a thief?—When he needs arresting.

White bait—White's caps.

Telegraphic News.

Ottawa, Dec. 13.
A gentleman telegraphed to Ottawa that Mr. Geoffrion is perfectly recovered in health.

Orders were sent from the Meteorological Office this morning directing the storm drum to be hoisted at Halifax.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 13.
Mr. George R. Everett, a prominent resident of Digby, and well-known in St. John, died to day after a brief illness, aged 68 years.

London, Dec. 13.
The Earl of Stafford offers to give a life boat to Harwick if the local authorities will provide the crew and keep the boat in repair.

A telegram from Bremerhaven says the steamer Moselle was much damaged by explosion, and the Solier will probably take her place; four of her passengers were killed including Hermann Cramer (of Iowa), and six wounded, among them Rudolf Witte, of New York. An official investigation shows total number killed by explosion to be sixty, and wounded forty. China will not send an embassy to England till next summer.

Madras, Dec. 13.
The Prince of Wales arrived this morning, and was enthusiastically received.

New York, Dec. 13.
A London despatch says the President's message has removed the suspicion that trouble was impending between America and Spain, and has relieved American bonds of a heaviness felt by those manipulating them.

Gold 114 1/4 @ 114 1/2.

Strength of Presbyterianism.

Recent events have directed more than ordinary attention to the position and prospects of the Presbyterian body throughout the world. In the first place, there have been the schemes for union, promoted in the United States, in Canada, and in Great Britain; and in the next place, there has been the little excitement arising from a sort of internecine struggle in various places on various questions, and from the foolish and unjustifiable assaults which have been made upon it by opponents outside.

No religious denomination occupies a prouder position, or has before it a brighter prospect than the Presbyterian Church at the present time. For a number of years past it has steadily increased in number and strength until now in its various ramifications, it is one of the largest and most influential of all the Protestant churches in the world. At the Presbyterian Council held in London, England, in July last, to devise plans for a general confederation, there were representatives present from different Presbyterian churches whose united pastors amounted to 13,199, and with whom there were not less than 15,116 congregations. In addition to these there were about 4,950 congregations with at least 2,741 ministers not represented on that occasion. According to these tables there are thus a total of 15,940 ministers, and 17,557 congregations. In these there is a fair representation of the talent and wealth, and influence of the different countries; and it is therefore easy to form an idea of what a powerful organization it is, and of what an amazing influence it may and does exert.

The history of the Presbyterian Church has ever been characterized by an unshrinking maintenance of evangelical principles; and a vigorous enterprising spirit in the promotion of education and Christian missions. No community has done more to check the progress of infidelity, and to counteract the errors of Popery, whilst in Sunday schools and colleges, and by home and foreign missions, it has, and is still, promoting the diffusion of those principles by which alone society can be reformed. In the united forms which are now being brought about, it will have still larger resources, and greater facilities for fulfilling its evangelical mission; and it will be cause for profound regret if through any feelings of pride or pique the beauty of the union should be marred, or the efficiency of the body weakened. These are times when above all others, unity and energy are needed on the part of the churches; and to secure these in the great Presbyterian body in a more eminent degree, and thereby to render it a still stronger and more efficient organization, every member should be willing to forego personal and party considerations, and to consider only that by which the general interests of the body can be best promoted. — Scottish Am. Journal.

SPECIAL FREIGHT TRAINS TO ST. JOHN.—For the purpose of affording better facilities for the forwarding of European goods imported into St. John via Halifax, the managers of the Intercolonial Railway have determined to run special trains from Halifax to St. John once a fortnight, immediately after the arrival of the Allan steamers from England. This arrangement, which takes effect at once, will be of considerable advantage to importers in our city, and give an impetus to the import trade via Halifax. Though designed to carry imported goods, the trains will carry all freight that offers.

The Globe, from which this is copied, might have added that the arrangement would benefit importers throughout the Province, now that there is railway connection with the principal centres of business.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—In Halifax on the 10th instant, a private of the 60th Rifles named F. Burgess, was engaged in arranging a drawer in Lieut. Herbert's room, at the Citadel barracks. There was in it a seven-shooter Smith & Wesson revolver.—Taking it and saying to himself, "See how I could shoot myself," he pointed it at his forehead, when in some way it became discharged, and the ball entered his brain, killing him instantly. He was one of the last batch of recruits that came out from England, and was about 19 years old.

ACTIVE MILITIA.—Capt. Charles McGee, V. B. St. George Infantry Co., is gazetted Brevet Major from 13th July, 1875.

The Standard.

SAINT ANDREWS, DEC. 15, 1875.

Publisher's Notice.

Persons indebted to the STANDARD OFFICE for the paper, advertising, &c., will please pay our collector, and those at a distance can remit by mail. Many owe us for a year and upwards, and we trust that they will liquidate their accounts without delay.

THE EXAMINATION of the Public Schools of the Town, will take place on Monday and Tuesday next, the 20th and 21st inst.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE at the opening of the United States Congress on the 7th, is a formidable document, and although he stated it was his last, as President, it was not the least important. The relations of the United States with other countries are peaceable, and the internal government of the States is represented as prosperous. Rabid politicians opposed to the party who elected Gen. Grant, are unsparing in their criticisms, claiming that he still hankers after a "third term," but there appears no hint in the message, which will warrant such an assumption. On the subject of free education, the President speaks out in terms which cannot be misunderstood. Advocates of free (nonsectarian) education in all countries, will applaud his sentiments on so important a topic. Alluding to the country being about to enter upon its second centennial, and taking a retrospect, and urging that all should be possessed of education and intelligence, he says:—

"As the primary step, therefore, to our advancement in all that has marked our progress in the past century, I suggest for your earnest consideration and most earnest recommendation, that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, making it the duty of each of the several States to establish and forever maintain free public schools, adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birthplace, or religion; forbidding the teaching in said schools of religious, atheistic, or pagan tenets, and prohibiting the granting of any parts thereof, either by legislative, municipal, or other authority, for the benefit, or in aid directly or indirectly, of any religious sect or denomination, or in aid or for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever."

CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL CALENDAR.—T. W. Price & Co., of Philadelphia, have published a neat illustrated calendar for 1876, which contains a large amount of information that may be useful to persons who intend being present at the grand celebration of the Centennial Exposition. The hotels, railways, places of amusement, descriptions of public buildings and charitable institutions are given, and other interesting information.

The Weekly Globe (Toronto) is a large, well filled quarto of 16 pages, containing news from all parts of the world, at the low price of \$2 per annum, postage paid. Specimen copy may be seen at this office.

TEMPERANCE.—The semi-annual meeting of the St. Andrews Catholic Total Abstinence Society, was held on Tuesday evening, 14th inst., when the following officers were elected for the ensuing six months, viz:—

Rev. W. J. Foley, P. P., President.
Mr. James Scallan, Vice do.
Thomas Finlay, Rec. Secretary.
Charles O'Donnell, Fincl. do.
Charles Bradley, Treasurer.
Charles Judge, Usher.

The society is at present in a flourishing condition, has sixty-nine members, has effected a good work, and promises to be a valuable aid to the young men.

Mr. Gove's barn was broken open on Saturday night last, and a large horse stolen. Several petty thefts have been committed of late, and people will require to look sharp after their property.

CHRISTMAS SALE.—E. Lee Street offers for sale a variety of fancy and elegant arti-

cles—just the kind for Xmas presents, at prices to suit the times. The selection is such as will give satisfaction to all.

Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Charlotte County Agricultural Society.

The following proceedings of the Meeting and Report, handed us by the Secretary, we cheerfully publish.

The Annual Meeting of the Charlotte County Agricultural Society, was held in Stevenson Hall, St. Andrews, Thursday last, the 9th inst.; there was an unusually large attendance of members; the President, Robert Stevenson, Esq., occupied the chair. The minutes of the last annual meeting, as well as the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of management for the past year were read, and approved. The report of the Treasurer John S. Magee, was submitted, showing a balance to the credit of the society of 145 dollars and 54 cents; the report was referred to the audit committee, who reported, "After a careful examination of the above account, we find it to be strictly correct, signed J. R. Bradford, T. Hipwell, Thomas Finlay, committee." The report of committee was on motion, regularly moved seconded, and put to the meeting, and by an unanimous vote adopted.

The Secretary, John S. Magee, Esq., read the following Report.

Another year with all its opportunities lost or improved, has passed away since our last report was written, and the Charlotte County Agricultural Society has reached its fifty-fifth year. The committee of management has during the past year met as occasion required, and exercised their best judgment, in conducting the affairs of the society, practicing strict economy in financial matters. Since we last met in annual session, the Provincial Board of agriculture has been by Legislative enactment abolished and the management of its affairs vested in the Provincial Government with Julius L. Inches, Esq., as Secretary. Whether the change will lead to any improvement, time alone can tell. The Society is well qualified to fill the position, being a practical business man and thoroughly posted in agricultural matters. The committee of management in the early part of the season received a circular from the newly created Department of Agriculture, informing them that the government had decided to appropriate half the Provincial allowance granted to the local societies, to supplement the amount voted by the Legislature, for the importation of stock; the societies however having the right to purchase stock at the sale by auction, of such proposed importation, the amount stopped from them to go to their credit as payment on purchase. The societies were also invited, if they chose, to authorize the department to use all of their respective grants for the purpose before mentioned, repayment to be made in similar manner provided, however, that any society not purchasing at proposed sale, should forfeit the amount retained by the department from their grant. The Committee were called together to consider the proposition, and after due deliberation, unanimously decided to authorize the appropriation of all the provincial grant to this society. At a subsequent meeting, after reception of notice of the arrival at Fredericton of the stock purchased by the Government, and the date of the day of sale, the committee appointed Messrs. James Russell and John Curry, delegates to proceed to Fredericton, and purchase an Ayrshire Bull, heifer or heifers, sheep or pigs, or as many of all or each as they may be able to purchase for the amount of money placed at their disposal, which amount was fixed at four hundred dollars. These gentlemen proceeded to Fredericton and purchased an Ayrshire bull, Lord Athol, a magnificent specimen of his breed, and a very superior Ayrshire heifer and heifer calf, the whole costing \$383, to which, adding the freight and other expenses, amounted to four hundred and thirteen dollars. Several persons, who are admittedly judges, stated, as their opinion, that the bull, Lord Athol, was well worth what the entire lot cost. The committee, at a special meeting, by resolution unanimously adopted, thanked Messrs. Russell and Curry, and expressed their full and cordial approval of the purchase. Both the gentlemen named stated that a finer lot of cattle than those imported by the Government would be difficult to get together. In accordance with the regulations, the bull and two heifers were put up at sale by public auction, on the day of the Society's Annual Cattle Show and Fair, and sold subject to the terms laid down by the Government. The bull, Lord Athol, was knocked down to Mr. James McFarlane, for \$85. From the careful way in which Mr. McFarlane kept the bull, we have no hesitation in saying that Lord Athol could not have fallen into better hands. Mr. George H. Bartlett purchased the heifer Gipsy 7th at \$35, and James Russell, Esq., the heifer call Beauty of Stanstead for \$25. Both of these gentlemen understand how to keep stock and do it. It will be seen that the Society has lost by this operation two hundred and thirty-two dollars, but the gain to this district, by the further improvement of stock, through the introduction of new blood, will repay ten-fold the Society's financial loss.

The annual ploughing match was not held this year, although it was advertised to take place. One of the reasons why it was abandoned was that the farmers seemed reluctant to give a field in which to hold the competition, in most cases we are induced to think—deterred by the fact, that in accordance with the usual custom, the owner of the field was expected to provide a dinner for the ploughmen.

The annual Cattle Show and Fair was postponed from the day first announced, so that time might be afforded to get the stock proposed to be purchased at the Government sale, down for exhibition and sale at the Fair. The Fair was a great success in every particular; the day was fine, the spectators present numerous, and the articles exhibited good, particularly in the neat cattle department. The number of young animals first-class and grades, was greatly in excess of last year, and were a great improvement on those shown in previous years. The Society's purchases were very much admired, and favorably commented upon, as were also a fine Durham bull, the property of Hon. Dr. Tupper; a Durham bull, property of M. I. C. Andrews, Esq.; a Jersey bull imported by the Society and now owned by the Commissioners of the Alms House, and St. Patrick, a noble Ayrshire bull imported by the Provincial Board, five years ago, bought by the Society and now owned by Mr. James McFarlane. There were several pure bred Jersey cows and Durhams, the property of Geo. S. Grimmer, Esq., Joseph Mears, R. Dinsmore and others. The horses were not so good as the lovers of that noble and useful animal would like to see. It seems a pity that some steps could not be taken by clubbing together the funds of all the Societies in the County, to secure a good stud horse; either by purchase, or the service of one by giving a bonus.

The roots shown, were not so good as have been exhibited at former fairs, which is accounted for by the fact that during the past summer the prevalence of rain and cold weather retarded the growth of the root crop.

The awards made by the judges, were, as a rule, satisfactory. The best of order was maintained throughout the day, the credit of which to some extent is doubtless due to Mr. Russell and his staff of constables. The following is an estimate of the various crops raised in the parishes of St. Croix and St. Andrews during the past season, collected from the most available sources of information:

	Bushels.
Turnips.....	30,083
Potatoes.....	25,000
Carrots.....	3,000
Beets.....	2,000
Total.....	60,083
Grain of all kinds, 45,000 bushels; hay, 21,000 tons; butter, 21,800 pounds; neat cattle, 1,744 head; horses, 325; sheep, 1,500; hogs, 300.	

The wheat crop fell short; cause, the wetness of the season, coupled with the ravages of the army worm, and wheat midge. Potatoes were cut off by the early appearance of their old enemy—the rot.

The Secretary regrets to say, that there is good reason to believe, that a few unprincipled persons, impose upon the Society, by entering for competition, old grain, which has been shown year after year, and that some persons exhibit articles, not their own property. To put a stop to these practices, the co-operation of all the right thinking members of the society is requested. When any member has good and sufficient reason to believe that a fraud is being attempted, it is his bounden duty to inform the committee of management, who will, when so informed, cause due investigation to be made, and faithfully put the law in operation against all offenders.

The Secretary cannot close his report without a reference to the death of the late James W. Street, Esq., who was for so many years a member of the society, and who took peculiar pleasure in meeting with its members at the annual dinner. The Secretary would urge upon all the members the necessity that exists for each one to strengthen the society, by inducing their friends and neighbors to enroll themselves as members, and subscribe their dollar. With a big push, the members should be increased to at least one hundred. The financial position of the society, is not so good as it was last year, which is entirely due to the loss upon the sale of stock, but it has still vitality and means enough to carry on its work. For a few months the practice of a rigid economy, will be necessary.

The President is ever found faithful at his post exercising a strict supervision over its affairs, and if, with him, all the members will put their shoulders to the wheel, give a long push, a big push, and a push altogether, there is no doubt but that in the future, as well as in the past, success will crown all its efforts—efforts put forth in the interest of the tillers of the soil, who are the back bone of the country.

The financial depression at present existing in the Dominion, has been felt here, particularly by the curtailment of the circulation of money, but has not so far caused any serious stoppage of the channels of trade. As a consequence, farmers are not getting as good prices for some products of the farm, as they did last year, but the loss, in this direction, is in some measure counterbalanced, by the great reduction in the prices of manufactured articles, which they require to purchase. The dawn of better days approaching is becoming visible. Our Dominion is daily increasing in wealth and importance, its natural resources being developed more and more, every day. Peace and health, and we may add on the whole prosperity prevails throughout our borders, for which blessings our thanks are most justly due to God, who always rewards those, who in reliance on his aid, industriously, endeavor to pursue

the right path. His promise of seed time and harvest, summer and winter, while the world lasts is ever sure.

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant.

JOHN S. MAGEE, Secretary.

It was moved by A. W. Smith, Esq., seconded by John Curry, that the report just read by the Secretary, be adopted and placed on record, which motion was carried unanimously. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

ROBERT STEVENSON, Esq., President.
ALEX. T. PAUL and JAMES RUSSELL, Esq., Vice Presidents,
JOHN S. MAGEE, Esq., Secy. and Treasurer.

COMMITTEE—A. W. Smith, Esq., and Messrs. James McFarlane, John Curry, B. Pettigrove R. Dinsmore, C. Kennedy, George Mowatt, William Rollins and John Emery.

On motion it was resolved to hold the annual dinner on Thursday next, the 16th inst., at Kennedy's Hotel, dinner to be served at 6:30 p. m. Tickets one dollar each. After the transaction of some routine business, the meeting was adjourned. So long as such unanimity of sentiment exists amongst the members of the society, as was exhibited at its annual meeting, so long will we have to record its successful progress. The President of the society displayed a great deal of tact in the performance of the duties of his office.

DR. COCKBURN, whose card is published in another column, intends practicing his profession in this community. He has had, we learn, about four years of practical experience in hospital, and devoted some time to the study of nervous and mental disease, which is very prevalent of late years. The Dr. is a native of this County, and will, no doubt, receive a share of patronage from his many friends in the town and country.

Terrible Boiler Explosion in Halifax.

Yates' boot and shoe factory is situated between Upper Water and Lockman st. It is surrounded on all sides by vacant land. The factory hands go to work at 7:30 a. m. At the usual hour this morning, the engineer had made the usual preparations, and was sitting a few feet by the side of the boiler. There were about 40 lbs. of steam on, when without any warning whatever the explosion took place. The whole side of the building in which the boiler was, was blown out en bloc—indeed the whole structure was razed to the ground. The boiler went out in one piece as far as the main part was concerned, and after rising some little distance ricocheted along the ground, turning end over. About fifteen yards away was a barn, the corner-post and end of which it took completely away, wrecking the structure. Continuing its progress, it landed finally against the inside of a house on the corner of Gray's Lane and Water street, falling in the yard, resting on the building, almost fairly at the angle, having traversed a distance of 150 feet. The engineer was knocked senseless for a moment, and on emerging from the ruins was covered with soot and dust. He was scalded slightly and contused about the body.

As stated before, the main part of the boiler was carried to inside the buildings at the corner of Gray's Lane. There it lay, in front of a house whose windows had been rattled by the flying debris—pieces of iron weighing from 5 to 20 lbs. were scattered around. Most of the people in the two houses were in bed at the time, and although bricks and other projectiles went through into their rooms, nobody was hurt. The engine-house was a one-story brick building adjoining west of the factory. The lower part of the boiler, or that over the fire, must have gone through the roof and completely over the factory, probably 40 feet high, and thence about 120 feet west till it lodged on a fence in the yard attached to Rev. Mr. Ancient's house on Lockman street, and split it to splinters.

There was not one of the hundred people employed in the factory at work. The windows on the end toward the engine house were all smashed in, and a half load of bricks were thrown in, which must certainly have injured if not killed, several persons had the explosion occurred a half hour later. The windows of the storey above, where the girls worked, were also broken in, and a quantity of bricks and broken boards were found on top of the high factory.

The cause of the explosion is not given, but is apparent that it was owing to defect in the boiler, which in some places was worn thin. Mr. Yates' loss is estimated at nearly \$2,000, on which there is no insurance, his policies not covering damage in this way.

RAILWAY IRONCLADS.—Cologne is to be surrounded by a chain of forts in the same manner as Metz and Strasbourg. The works, which are now in the course of construction, are connected with each other by a protected circular railway, which, now used for transporting material is designed as an additional means of defence, as it will convey portable ironclad batteries from point to point. Within the outer fortifications there is to be a second line, and a series of revolving turrets.—Scientific American.

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