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Volume VIII

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Number XV

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SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1841.

[17s. Gd. by Mail.

THE SHAKER LOVERS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS,' 'MAY MARTIN,' &c.

I was once, journeying on horseback, in New-Hampshire, when a dark thunder-cloud, rose up suddenly apprising me at once, that a thorough drenching was only to be avoided by an immediate flight to some place of shelter. I put my horse to his best speed, and fortunately succeeded in reaching a substantial-looking farm-house by the roadside.

The owner of the establishment asked me to stop for the night, which offer I readily accepted. After supper the conversation turned to the Shakers. Perceiving my host to dissent from some remark I had made I said to him:

"You believe them to be an industrious, quiet and honest people, surely, do you not, sir?"

"Industrious and quiet enough, doubtless, and just as honest as other people, but not a whit more so," he replied.

"Why, I had supposed them," I rejoined, "not only peculiarly honest and sincere, but in a great degree devoid of all those passions and vices that most move and agitate the rest of society."

"All that in the exterior they generally present, I grant you; but are you willing to take that as a criterion of their true character?" he asked.

"By no means," said I.

"Well, sir, could you lift the curtain, and see all that this sober and wonderfully honest exterior is sometimes made to conceal, you might perhaps be a little less inclined to exempt them from the common feelings and frailties of other people. I have half a mind to tell you a story of an affair which occurred some twenty years ago at the very establishment you visited, and which would show—"

"Now don't, husband!" interrupted my hostess, with a deprecating look.

"Only by way of argument, wife," briskly replied the man, casting an arch look at the other. "I want to show him that love and intrigue may sometimes be found under a broad-brim as well as a narrow one."

"Oh! pray let us have it; go on—go on, by all means," I eagerly interposed, delighted at the novel idea of a love story from such an unpromising source as that of the Shaking Quakers.

With another quizzical glance at this slightly disturbed though now acquiescent companion, my host, after a brief pause, began:

It was a delightful evening in the month of October, and the setting sun was throwing his parting beams over the yellow forests of the surrounding uplands, whose burnished foliage threw back the mingling streams of reflected light, and spread a red, quivering glow over the slumbering waters of the Mascomy and the beautiful meadows that lie stretched along its shores. Nearly the whole of the Shaker family, numbering at that time something less than a hundred, were in the field, a short distance from the pond, engaged in gathering the rare fruit of their extensive orchards—the women, with their hand-baskets, picking the choicer kinds for market or winter preservation, and the men, gathering and conveying to the teams, stationed at different points of the field for the purpose, that part of the fruit which was destined for the ordinary uses of the society.

The almost exact uniformity in the fashion and colour of their dresses produced a singular sameness in the appearance of them all; but this was more particularly the case with the females, whose neat, prim dresses of never-varying slate color, white linen kerchiefs, and snowy caps, surmounted by their low, plain bonnets, from which peeped their thin, pale visages, all seemingly marked with the same demure, downcast and abject expression might have moved an ordinary spectator, as they were disposed about the field as silent and gestureless as a band of automotons, to look upon them with sensations much resembling those we experience in beholding a flock of wild-fowls, where an inspection of one is an inspection of the whole.

A closer observer, however, in examining the faces and figures of each, would have discovered that here, as well as elsewhere, Nature had not forgotten to be partial in the distribution of her favors, and that here, as well as elsewhere, were those on whom the gift of personal beauty had not been so altogether clearly bestowed; and among the latter class there was particularly one whose rounded, symmetrical person, full and blooming face, and intelligent and sweetly expressive countenance, all strikingly contrasted with the drooping form, plain features and passive, unmeaning looks of most of her unattractive companions.

Just as the last rays of the sinking sun were fading from the lofty summit of the distant Kearsarge, the word was passed for the people to leave work and return to their homes. As the company were promiscuously, though in their usual quiet and unobscurable manner, retiring from the field, one of the men, a dark-eyed, compactly built young fellow of about twenty-one, bearing a large basket of apples upon his shoulder, contrived to cross the path of the young Quakeress just described. While doing this, and when directly before her at a

few yards' distance, he made a seemingly accidental misstep, which suddenly brought his basket to the ground, and sent its contents rolling over the grass around, till they met the feet of the approaching maiden, who instantly paused and smiled at the little mishap which had thus oddly interrupted her in her course.

The young man immediately threw himself upon his knees among the scattered fruit, as if intent only on gathering it up, but while his hands were busily employed for that purpose, his eyes turned with a quick, eager look upon the face of the girl.

"At the elm tree, Martha," he said, in a low, hurried tone: "meet me at the elm tree, at the lower end of the orchard, immediately after worship."

"It is dangerous—dangerous," Seth replied the maiden, slightly coloring, and casting no uneasy glance around her.

"Now I do beseech thee, Martha," he resisted imploringly: "I have matters of moment to impart to thee, and it may be the last time—yes, it will be, if thee refuse now. Will thou not come, then?"

"Perhaps," answered the girl, after a hesitating pause, in which she threw a look of inquiry and concern upon the youth, but seemed to suppress the question which rose to her lips—"perhaps, if I can get from the buildings unnoticed. But thee need not have spilled thy apples for so poor a purpose, Seth."

So saying she hastily turned away, and with quickened steps pursued her course after her retreating companions, while the other now proceeded in earnest to pick up his scattered apples. This being completed, he was about to rise, when, looking around him, he encountered the gaze of a man peering at him from under the low-hanging branches of a neighboring apple tree. A glance sufficed to apprise the young man of the character and object of the interloper; for, in the thick domed figure, little hooked nose, whitish, gloating eyes and ill-omened countenance of the man, he at once recognised one of the leaders of the society, and the one of all others whose notice at this juncture he would have been most anxious to avoid.

"Well, make the most of it, thou vile seeker of accusations," indignantly muttered the young man between his teeth, as, with a look of defiance, he shouldered his basket and proceeded homeward, followed at a short distance by the object of his aversion, who did not seem inclined to make any immediate use of such discoveries as he might have made with his eyes, for the distance precluded the possibility of his hearing a word that had been uttered.

But, before proceeding any further with our story, it may now be as well, perhaps, to speak a little more particularly of the different characters we have introduced, and advert to such circumstances of previous occurrence as may be necessary for a full understanding of the situation in which they relatively stood towards each other at the time chosen for their introduction.

Seth Gilmore had been an orphan almost from his childhood. At the death of his last remaining parent, he was taken home by an uncle, an old bachelor of considerable property, to which it was supposed the boy would eventually succeed. But, in the course of a year or two, another and much older nephew was taken home; and, being of a selfish, intriguing disposition, he soon contrived entirely to supplant the former in the affections of the changeable uncle, who, not long after, was induced to give the unoffending little Seth to the Shakers of the establishment, which we are speaking.

Here continuing to remain, he became, as he grew up, noted among the family for his faithfulness, activity, and capacity for business; and, before he had arrived at the age of twenty, he was acknowledged by all to be one of the most skilful and efficient hands on the farm. So far, nothing important had occurred to him to vary the dull monotony of the Shaker life. But about this time Seth began to think for himself, and became desirous of acquiring information—a very great error he was taught to believe by the leaders, who hold that "ignorance is the mother of devotion," and that the youth and all the common members of the family should yield implicitly to those who are gifted to think for them and instruct them in all that is necessary to be known. The young man, however, wilfully persisted in his notions; and, by the promptings of this heretical spirit, he sought the acquaintance of two or three young men of the world (as all without the pale of the society are termed,) who occasionally visited the establishment for the transaction of business or from motives of curiosity. Being eager of inquiry and quick to comprehend, he soon gained information from these which showed him the futility of many of the strange ideas and impulsive had here induced respecting society at large, and otherwise afforded him the means of judging from which he had been wholly debarred; for it is the settled policy of the leaders of this people, in order to make faithful and contented subjects, not only to instil into the minds of their youth the greatest possible abhorrence of the world, which is consistently represented as dishonest, treacherous and every way corrupt, but to guard with untiring vigilance every avenue of information

that might have a tendency to undermine or diminish the prejudices and opinions thus inculcated. Seth's mind, however, when once called into action, was of a cast not easily to be thus trammelled; and the doubts, which his own reason at first suggested, being constantly strengthened by the facts gathered in his intercourse with these young men, and the books that he borrowed of them, and secretly read, in spite of his masters' spiritual and temporal, at length became a confirmed disbelief in the creed to which he had been brought up, and began seriously to meditate on the expediency of surrendering the ties which bound him to the society.

But before his views became very definitely settled on these subjects, or any plans of future action matured, the Shaker leaders themselves made a move which was intended to anticipate or remedy any evils of the character just mentioned that might be growing; for these wary men, who watch the intellectual progress of their youth as anxiously as ever did a pedagogue his pupils, though with far different motives, began to perceive about this time that our hero's mind was becoming rather dangerously expanded; and, although not apprised of the means or extent of his information, yet judging from what they had noticed that he could not long be retained without more than ordinary inducements, they held a secret consultation, and finally came to the conclusion that Seth's merits were such as entitled him to promotion. Accordingly they proposed, unexpectedly to him, to make him an assistant deacon, or one of the overseers of business, naming some future day, not far distant, for him to enter on the duties of his office and be admitted to a seat with them in the council, which met from time to time to deliberate on the temporal concerns of the family.

This gave a new direction to his thoughts, and for a while quieted his growing discontent. Still extremely anxious, however, to know more of the world, he soon claimed the privilege of going abroad on missions of trade—a privilege which he knew was sometimes accorded to those exercising the office that had been offered to him, provided they were considered sufficiently tried and trustworthy; but in this fond wish of his heart he was unexpectedly doomed to disappointment, for which he was indebted, as he soon discovered, to the influence of one man, the person whom we have already introduced as playing the spy upon the young couple in the orchard. This man, who went by the appellation of Elder Higgins, had for some time manifested towards Seth an unusual degree of coldness and distrust, which the latter till now had little heeded. But this last act caused his ill will to be heartily reciprocated on the part of the young man, and circumstances soon occurred which made the breach irreparable. These circumstances were found to have reference to a third person—the young, innocent and lovely Martha, towards whom the Elder about this time began to pursue a course of conduct as strange as it was questionable.

Martha, had been brought up to this establishment when 8 or 10 years of age, by her parents, both of whom at the same time joined the family, turning into the common fund the whole of the little property they possessed. All the acknowledged relations between parent and child from that moment entirely ceasing, the little girl was left wholly to the guidance and instruction of the elders and eldersesses, to whom the care of the youth is intrusted, and through her docility and her meek and confiding disposition she had readily imbibed the doctrines and, for the greater part of her childhood, implicitly trusting in the creed that was taught her, exhibiting in her exemplary conduct a bright pattern of all that was esteemed good and lovely among the family. But as she verged upon womanhood and began to give herself to reflection, her natural clear and discriminating mind, moved, perhaps, by the aspirations of her childhood that still hung about her, or the observations she had made upon the conduct of some of the leaders, for of them her questions and doubts were never allowed to pass unheeded, she began to feel that the doctrines of the creed that she had been taught to believe, and which she had so long and so implicitly trusted in, were often rejected as the delusions of Satan; but they as often returned to disturb the quiet of her pure and gentle bosom, and at length, in spite of her struggles to the contrary, she also became, though less decidedly than the youth we have described, a disbeliever, at least in many dogmas of that creed which she had been taught to look upon as infallible.

Such was Martha's history; and it was nothing strange that two such young persons of the different sexes as she and Seth, in the daily habit of seeing each other, and possessing characters as congenial as they were in many respects distinguished from those around them, should attract each others' particular notice. Nor is it much less to be wondered at, perhaps, that such notice should be followed by the springing up of mutual sympathies in their bosoms, though the sympathies should be defaced and acknowledged by their true names, and made known by reciprocal avowals, was indeed, at such a place, a rare occurrence.

But Love is a cunning deceiver of occasions; and, as difficult as it might be in this case, he

at length found a way by which the young couple in question eventually discovered the nature of those feelings that were silently drawing their hearts toward each other. For a long time, however, no word or communication ever passed between them, save that which was conveyed in the language of the eyes. But after awhile the silence was broken, as they casually met in the yard, by a simple inquiry for some third person, and as brief an answer. This was followed, after another interval of perhaps a month, when they accidentally met, by the interchange of a few words on some common topic, and at length, on a similar chance occasion, succeeded a proposal on the part to loan her a book which, after some hesitation she accepted, with a promise to peruse and return it at a time and place which he proposed for the purpose. An excuse for meeting being thus found, occasional interviews followed, though at none of them was a word breathed by either or expressive of those feelings of which each felt a trembling consciousness as the true secret of their being thus brought together. These interviews, moreover, were of the briefest kind, and indulged in but very rarely; for, aware that it was one of the distinguishing articles of their creed that "the corruption of man is the attachment of sexes," & consequently that all intercourse which might lead to such attachment should be strictly forbidden, they knew how closely they were watched, and how surely penance of some kind or other would follow a detection of their meetings, however innocent the object; and such had been the extreme caution with which this intercourse had been managed, that they felt sure it could not have been discovered; they supposed that it remained wholly unsuspected. In this supposition, however, they soon found they had overconfidently counted. Something in their demeanor, some unguarded look when they publicly met, or some brief absence of both, at the same time, had attracted the notice of the prying Higgins; and, his jealousy being thus aroused, he commenced a system of secret espionage upon the young couple which would have conferred credit on a minion of the inquisition; the result of which was, that he became convinced of the existence of a forbidden attachment growing up between them, and strongly suspected them, though wholly unable to ascertain it for a fact, of holding clandestine interviews.

This personage, whose manner was as hateful as his countenance was disagreeable, and whose character was a strange compound of the fanatic, the Jesuit and the voluptuary was an elder in the church, in which, through his pretensions to leading gifts or direct revelations from above, and his intriguing and ambitious disposition, he had gained an influence even greater, perhaps, than the Elder Brother himself, as the chief ruler of each Shaker family is denominated; and, his ambition being not content with his spiritual dominion, he aspired to and by similar means obtained, an equal ascendancy in the management of the business and temporal concerns of the establishment. Exactness the most rigid obedience from all, requiring the most implicit faith in all the ultra doctrines of his creed, and ever untiring in searching out delinquencies in others, while he shielded his own under the very convenient dogma handed down by Mother Ann Lee for the special benefit of the peculiarly gifted, like himself, that "to the pure all things are pure," he had become fairly an object of dread among the people. For these reasons, then, if they had no others, it will be seen how much our two young friends had to fear from the sanctimonious elder; but they had additional reasons—He had for some time shown himself remarkably sensitive in every thing that related to Martha; and no sooner were his suspicious fairly awakened respecting the attachment of her and Seth, than she was summoned to meet at the confessional alone, and in one of the most secluded rooms of the buildings. This was several times repeated, to the great horror of the distressed maiden and the agonizing fears of Seth, who became apprised of the circumstance, and but too well comprehended the secret motives of the Elder in summoning her, instead of him, to meet him in private, though what passed on these occasions he had no other means of judging than by the mingled expression of grief and outraged feeling that very visibly marked the tear-stained face of the poor girl for hours after her return from the scene of her trials.

With Seth a different course was taken; and, though no rebuke was administered, no word hinted to him respecting the offence of which he, in common with Martha, was suspected to be guilty, he yet soon found that he was not for that reason any the less marked for punishment. He soon discovered that the Elder was secretly attempting to undermine his character with the family, which a system of petty annoyances was made to impel him in every thing he did, till his mind became one of constant vexation and misery, and, being no longer tempted by the promises of office without the coveted privilege of going abroad, he began to meditate upon leaving the society. But checked in this wish by a want of confidence in his ability to succeed in the world of which he was so lit-

tle informed, and above all by his love for Martha and his apprehensions for her safety, marked as he believed she was as the victim of the licentious Elder, he here also became the prey of conflicting emotions. The treatment of his malicious persecutor, however, at length drove him to a final decision; and, having formed a new plan in regard to his fair friend, whom he had been so reluctant to leave, he waited only for an opportunity of seeing her alone (from which, through the precautions of the Elder, he had been for a long while debarred,) before carrying his resolve into execution. With these remarks we will now return to the events which form the action of our story.

On returning to their buildings, after the labours of the field were over, the family as usual soon repaired to the rooms allotted to their daily repasts. For this purpose three tables were always spread in separate buildings—one for the ordinary male members, one for the females, and one for the leaders; the two former of which are furnished with plain, substantial food, while the latter is loaded with the best that the land is capable of affording, and not unfrequently with foreign luxuries; for these dignitaries, if they do not always go on the principle of indulgence involved in the reported saying of the Elder, whose authority we have before quoted, that "spiritual liquor is one of God's good creatures," have at least no hesitation in acting generally on the assumption that the gift of good living is peculiarly their own.

Immediately after supper the whole family assembled for worship in the house especially consecrated to that purpose; but so well known is their meaningless mode of worship (their long drawn, nasal chant of Hottentot gibberish, set to the inspired, tune of perhaps Nancy Dawson, for their tunes as well as their words they contented are inspired)—their formal, unvarying kangaroo-like dance, performed with uplifted hands and various contortions of features—or the occasional exhibition, by some freshly inspired elder or eldersess, of a new gift for lapping the hands, for shaking, jerking, jumping, stamping and groaning—so well known are all these things to us, that we will pass over them for matters more immediately connected with our story; and for this purpose we will now repair to the trying scene of the persecuted lovers, who had generally, as now, fixed upon for their interview the hour immediately succeeding worship, which was allowed the family for attending to their individual concerns, and which, therefore, afforded opportunity for an absence less likely to be noticed by the Argus-eyed leaders.

The broad, bright harvest moon, rising majestically over the eastern hills, was beginning to pour down her floods of quivering light upon the quiet scene—now striking upon the taller, then the shorter shrubbery of the field, and seemingly converting its pendant boughs into glittering tissues of silver—now bursting in brightness upon the waveless waters of the pond, and now glancing abroad upon the whole of the surrounding landscape, and lighting it up with her dim and solemn splendor.

The young man, the first to reach the spot stood pensively leaning against the trunk of a wide-branched elm standing but a short distance from the margin of the water. As the moonlight gleamed across his face, tokens of deep and struggling emotions were there visibly depicted; and even a tear might be seen to start out and glitter upon his cheek.

Presently the white, fluttering robe of a female was seen glancing along among the obstructing trees of the orchard, and gliding toward the spot. In another moment the light of their heads were dropped on each other's shoulders, and for a brief interval, not a word was spoken.

"Oh Martha, Martha!" at length uttered the young man in tones of deep and troubled feeling, and again was silent.

"There seems much to grieve thee, Seth," said Martha, in a meek manner, after waiting awhile for the other to proceed.

"I am, Martha," replied he: "my heart is indeed tried, most sorely tried."

"And why art thee thus disquieted, Seth?" again asked the girl: "and why," she continued, in a tone of tender expostulation, "wilt thou hasten to grieve me to this meeting, when thou knowest that I am not without my doubts and misgivings about commencing with thee in this manner, and when, also, thou so well knowest the great risk we both run of being discovered and punished, and if of being brought to shame before the people, or in other fearful ways?"

"I know—I know all, Martha; and I should be grieved to be the means of causing thee trouble." But as she thus spoke, her hand pressed her forehead, and she said, "I had so much to desire, I was so near to thee, that I could not find it in my heart to go away without seeing thee."

"[To be continued.]

My dear, said a lady of a fine spirit, who is the matter with your husband? Start was the rebellious fever, man! A somewhat common disorder among married women.

Be just, and fear not.

EUROPEAN SUMMARY.

From papers by the Acadia.

WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES

Of all nations in the world, France, the United States, and England, have at all times the most substantial reasons for the preservation of peace. But at present these 3 States have special political internal causes why they should respectively avoid war, as the greatest evil that could befall them. From war France has to dread another political revolution; engaged in war, slavery in the United States becomes a mighty political evil, and the not improbable cause of a predilected rebellion; while to this country in war, discontent in Ireland and Chartism in Britain become ripe for revolt. Yet France and the United States court and England is likely to be forced into war.

In England the people wish for peace, simply because their best interests are wholly dependent on peace; the French, fancy themselves insulted, at present we say not without cause, and believe themselves obliged to measure swords with Europe; but the self-governed citizens of the United States are actually taxing their ingenuity to discover reasons how to compel England to go to war with them.

For England there is no recession with honour: her course is clear and plain; she cannot give way one inch. The trial of Mr. M. Leod will be a breach of nation law—submission to which would be degradation indeed. On the decision of the United States, therefore, depends peace or war.

Then again, should that decision be for peace, the danger of bloodshed in some paltry affair in the disputed territory is imminent, and would compel the retaliatory intervention of Great Britain. If the Harrison Cabinet, be sincere in endeavouring to preserve peace, the British Government ought immediately to offer for their acceptance a convention by which each Government will undertake to restrain their respective subjects from occupying this territory, until the boundary question be settled by the decision of a neutral power—say Austria.

Trusting that the preservation of peace is compatible with the honour of our kindred and ourselves, we forbear to speculate on the probable results of war.—*London Journal of Commerce.*

Dispute with America.—In the House of Lords on the 8th of March, the Earl of Mountcashell said he rose to put a question to the noble Viscount opposite respecting some information which had, it appeared, just been received from America, and which was of great importance to this country. That intelligence, he understood, had created a great sensation in the city, and had caused a fall in the price of the public funds. He alluded to a report from the committee of foreign relations, made on the 13th of last month, to Congress, and he wished to know whether any confirmation as to the document in question being official had been received by Her Majesty's Ministers? It was not his intention on the present occasion, to submit to their Lordships any motion on the subject, as he was most desirous not to cause a greater division between the two Governments than that which unfortunately now existed. But when a report such as that to which he had referred was promulgated, it was proper that they should receive information, as to its authenticity. For his own part, he thought it could not be genuine. He believed that it must be an invention, and there were many persons who would be glad to propagate such a report for stock jobbing objects. He felt very great doubts as to the authenticity of this report, and why?—because, aware of the good understanding of the inhabitants of the United States, he could not think that they would maintain such doctrines. He was convinced that if the inhabitants of the United States would but consider—if they would look around to the situation of their own finances—if they would recollect that there were 3,000,000 of negro slaves in their country, and a great body of Indians in the back settlements, who might be induced, in consequence of the wrongs they complained of, to take a part in the contest—if they cast their eyes towards Canada, where there was a loyal set of men as any in the empire, and asked, "Had they not the power of getting into their hands individuals belonging to the United States?"—and also, if they recollect that the very large body of regular troops we had in Canada, and efficient naval force which was now at our disposal, in consequence of the Eastern question being settled—they would, if they considered these points, anxiously abstain from hostilities. They were a calculating people, and they would see that they must sustain an immense loss by such an event. For these reasons he was of opinion that the document was not a true one. He, therefore, asked the noble Viscount whether Her Majesty's Ministers had received any official information respecting this report. Under all the circumstances, he felt that he was perfectly justified in putting this question. The report had appeared in the public papers, and it was necessary that some information should be afforded respecting it. At the present moment he did not think it right to make any observations on the subject; but if they were given to understand that the report was not to be considered as official, he should feel it to be his duty, at a proper time, to bring the matter before the house, for a document more insulting to this nation could not possibly be conceived.

Viscount Melbourne said, he was unable to give any other answer to the question of the noble earl than by stating, that he was not aware whether any communication had been received that morning from Her Majesty's Ministers in the United States relative to the subject referred to. But he apprehended, from the form in which the document appeared, that there could be no doubt of its authenticity.

Colonial Duties.—In the House of Commons, on the 12th March, Mr. Labouchere moved the order of the day for a committee of the whole house to consider the Customs Duties in the West Indian and North American Colonies. He said that every advancement towards a liberal treatment of our Colonies had encountered the most violent opposition, yet each step in that course had been attended with marked success. On many articles of primary necessity to the West Indies, the duties were at present tantamount to a prohibition. Fish, not the produce of our own Fisheries, were absolutely prohibited; and staves, flour, and salt provisions, if the produce of foreign countries, were liable to duties equivalent to an ad valorem charge of from 20 to 40 per cent. His wish was to open the colonial trade to foreigners in as ample a manner as Mr. Haskisson had intended. With respect to staves, shingles, salt provisions, &c. which were of such vital necessity to the West Indies, he thought the present duties immoderate and excessive. He should propose a new tariff, which would subject these articles to charges equivalent to ad valorem duties of from 12 to 15 per cent. He felt the importance of protecting the British fisheries, on the prosperity of which depended so important a nursery of our military and commercial marine, and, therefore, while he did away with the absolute prohibition, he should propose to substitute high protective duties, of certainly not less than 25 per cent. Salt fish he would subject to a duty of 2s 6d per cwt. and pickled fish to 5s per barrel. Wine was now subject to a great variety of capricious duties, all of which it was his wish to do away with, and to substitute a uniform ad valorem duty of 7 1/2 per cent. Tea at present could be imported into our West Indian and North American Colonies only from Great Britain, or from some place east of the Cape of Good Hope. It was found, however, that, notwithstanding this regulation, three-fourths of all the tea consumed in Canada were smuggled into the Colony from the United States. He proposed, on the recommendation of Lord Sydenham, to legalize the importation of tea from the United States into Canada, subject to an additional duty of one-tenth, as compared with the tea imported by sea. There was an anomaly in the law regulating the trade of the Channel Islands, which he proposed to remedy, by allowing those islands to trade to the colonies on the same terms as to the mother country. The right hon. gentleman, after expressing a conviction that the proposed changes would not be found materially injurious to any British interest, concluded by moving a resolution in the usual form.

Mr. C. Palmer admitted the great importance of the subject, but thought it ought to be referred to a committee of inquiry. Mr. Ewart regretted that the same principles which were now about to be extended to the colonies had not been carried into operation in their own country in the first instance.

Mr. A. White thought the hon. gentleman took too much credit for the reciprocity treaties. The shipping interest would have been greatly distressed by them, had it not been for an increase of trade. (Cheers and laughter.) The British could not build their ships so cheaply, nor, with our present corn laws, (cheers) could we keep them so cheaply, therefore we could not compete with foreigners.

After a few remarks from Mr. Goulburn, the debate was adjourned.

In a debate on the Army Estimates, in alluding to the case of Mr. McLeod, Sir Robert Peel said, it would never be to the interest nor honour of the country to purchase a hollow truce by conceding to aggression, and he therefore hoped that full justice would be insisted on.

The London Globe of the 18th publishes a "Memorandum of instances in which the United States have pursued enemies or alleged criminals on neutral territory," compiled in April, 1838, from State papers. By describing the course pursued by the American Government under circumstances perfectly analogous to the burning of the Caroline, this document at once condemns the Americans in the proceedings they have adopted against Mr. McLeod, (even assuming his participation in the destruction of the Caroline,) and fully justifies the British Government in adopting the act as national. The American Government, adds the Globe, must first pronounce condemnation on its own acts in the instances narrated, or admit what is manifest upon the very face of those acts, justified as they were by them at the time they were imposed and complained of, that they were "founded on the purest patriotism; that their vindication was written in every page of the law of nations, as well as by the first law of nature—self defence."

The Navy and Army estimates for the current year have passed the House of Commons.

The Army.—The following relief of regiments on foreign service are positively determined:—8th Foot from Nova Scotia; 36th Foot from New Brunswick; 37th Foot from Nova Scotia; 75th Foot from the Cape of Good Hope; and further, the 60th from New Brunswick, and 87th from Mauritius, if possible.—*United Service Gazette.*

The Boy Jones in the Palace again.—Edward Jones, the youth who has been twice punished for intruding into the Palace of Her Majesty, and whose term of imprisonment for his last offence only expired on the 2nd inst. was on the morning of Thursday last, again found secreted in the Royal abode. Since this strangely disposed youth was last found within the Queen's residence, several additional policemen have been placed there, and a very strict surveillance of the passage and apartments is kept up. Notwithstanding this, the youth effected his entrance, as he has frequently declared he could do at any time. He was, however, quickly discovered by one of the officers, who hearing a noise

behind a glass door, went to see what occasioned it. Jones was regaling himself with some cold meat which he had obtained from the larder. The policeman, not a little surprised, exclaimed, "What, Jones, is that you?" "Yet, it is me," replied the youth. "And how did you get into the palace?" inquired the constable. "The same way as before," replied Jones. "And how long have you been here?" asked the constable. "All day," was the answer. This turned out not to be true, however, for on examining his shoes, they were found to be wet and muddy. The intruder was conveyed to the Station house, and at ten o'clock to Bow st., where it was expected he would be examined. He was, however, taken from thence to the Home Office, where Mr. Hall attended, and where the examination was taken in private. It was generally believed that the prisoner had been again imprisoned for three months to imprisonment and hard labour in the Totterdell Bridewell. The prisoner is the son of a poor tailor residing in Bell-yard, York street. During his last imprisonment, Mr. Hall sent for his parents, and endeavoured to persuade them to suffer the boy to enter on board a vessel of war. His mother would not assent to this proposition, and the lad himself, it is said, was unwilling. It appears that he has been very steady since his last imprisonment. He did not leave his parents till Monday evening after supper, and the first intimation they had of what occurred was when they heard on Tuesday morning that he was to be examined at Bow-street. It is generally supposed that he got over the wall in Constitution-hill, into the gardens, and from thence made his way into the palace, but through what entrance is not known, as no marks or traces of footsteps were discoverable.

Spain.—According to the Constitution, the Government was engaged in drawing up a bill to regulate the liberty of the press.

The Regency, it is said, will refuse the demands of the Barcelon Exaltados to maintain their patriotic associations. Madrid appears as if it was in a state of siege, such is the assemblage of troops. The new battalions who were to relieve the garrison, were encamped in the public square, the barracks not sufficing to quarter the reinforcements. There were some vague reports of Ministerial modifications. It was feared in Catalonia that some of the principal Carlist chiefs might re-enter Spain in the spring, and precautions had been adopted to arrest them.

India.—Tranquillity prevails. Nusser Khan and all the Beloochee tribes are suing for peace. General Brookes with his troops was to arrive at Baughon the 17th ult. where arrangements for a general pacification of these districts were to be made. In Afghanistan there is some confusion; the Duranes are dissatisfied with Shah Soojah, who is said to be in delicate health. Dost Mahomed and his family having passed through Lahore, are now in India. The Government of Herat is disposed to treat the British with justice and kindness, particularly as Persia is likely to excite great attention, as a rebellion and an attempt on the throne are about to break out there. The news from the Punjab represents matters there as undecided.

China.—By the arrival of the overland mail, we learn that on the 6th Nov. Admiral Elliot issued a notice at Chusan to the British there, stating that a truce had been concluded with the Chinese, binding them within certain limits, the British boundaries being Chusan and the small islands adjacent. This notice was accompanied with a recommendation to endeavour to conciliate the Chinese. The other Plenipotentiary, Captain Elliott, issued a circular declaring that the interests of the British at Chusan should be attended to during the negotiations. In the mean time a dreadful mortality diminished the troops there. The admiral with a considerable portion of the squadron, arrived on the 20th Nov. at Tongkoo. On the 21st, Captain Elliott proceeded in the Queen steamer towards the Bogue forts, in order to deliver a letter for Keshen. A boat was sent off with a flag of truce flying, but it was fired at by the Chinese from the forts. The boat returned, and several shots were fired at the steamer, one of which struck her. Two shells were thrown into the fort from the steamer, which then rejoined the squadron. Captain Elliott went subsequently to Macao, and by some secret means contrived to send the letter. An apology was demanded for the insult to the flag of truce, which, after some delay, was assented to by Keshen. On the 26th of November preparations were made for an attack on the Bogue forts, as Keshen was suspected of producing unnecessary delay. He, however, made his public entry into Canton, having taken care to give previous notice of his arrival to the Admiral. On the 29th November the Admiral, on the ground of serious indisposition from palpitation of the heart, resigned the command of the expedition to Commodore Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer, and sailed for England on board the Volage. The proceedings at Canton have since been strange. Keshen, on the ground that the people were opposed to his going to communicate in person with the outside barbarians, is said to have declared that he had no interview with them at Peiho, and sent two subordinate mandarins to confer with Capt. Elliott. Efforts were made to liberate Mr. Stanton, which were successful. Nothing is known of the other prisoners. Threats are stated to have been used by the Commodore, whose nomination to the command has been hailed by all the British at Macao, that unless Keshen would begin the negotiations in reality, recourse would be had to hostilities. The 14th and 17th of December had been named as the days of attack; but, on the 13th, Capt. Elliott went to Macao, and told the merchants that the negotiations were still open. Great anxiety is felt at Bombay about the results, for, while some pretended that Keshen is sincere in his efforts to make peace, others denied the fact, and stated that

hostilities would become imperative.

Extensive Seizure of Spurious Tea.—At the Court of Exchequer on Saturday, Edward Glover, of West Ham, Essex, was prosecuted for having in his possession upwards of 2,000 lbs. weight of fabricated tea. Thomas Frankish, an officer, stated that having received a warrant to search the defendant's premises, he and two other persons proceeded there a short time ago, and discovered an immense quantity of leaves closely resembling China tea. Some of it was in sacks and hampers, and a great portion was laying about for drying, for which purpose the place was fitted up with the necessary stoves and utensils. The Court, after consulting, ordered the defendant to pay a penalty of £200.—The penalties were laid at £1,000. A warrant was issued for the burning of the leaves, and another for the recovery of the penalty. In default of payment the defendant will suffer imprisonment, with hard labour, for the space of twelve months.

New Difficulties with Egypt.—Paris letters alluding to the protocol which had been signed in London by the representatives of England, Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Turkey, and which was to be considered as embracing the final settlement of the Eastern question, observe that France was not a party to it because of the lately published hatti-scheriff, which would go to impose on Mehemet Ali terms so harsh that no French Ministry dare concur in. All had been going on satisfactorily in London previous to the receipt of the hatti-scheriff. Much progress had been made on the preparation of a treaty, to which France would become a party, when that unfortunate document reached the French Ministry, who instantly declared their inability to sanction the terms contained in it. The blame or the praise belonging to this utter extinction of Mehemet Ali's independence is universally considered to belong to Lord Ponsonby.

A Message of Capt. Cook and Lord Nelson.—There is at present in Water-lane, in this city, an old sailor, aged 89, who sailed with Captain Cook. We believe that he is the only one living that can make such a boast. In consequence of having taken a part in the mutiny at the Nore he is without a pension; but we feel satisfied, that if his case be represented to our most Gracious Sovereign, the gallant old tar will not be allowed to die in poverty. His name is John Bennet Welsh. He sailed in the Resolution with Captain Cook in 1773; also in the Discovery in 1799, when Captain Cook was killed. He has the mark of a spear wound received at that time. Served in the Barfleur with Lord Hood, and was wounded by a splinter in the action with the Ville de Paris. He was in the Captain at Cape St. Vincent, Feb. 11, 1797, and was wounded in the head. In the Bellerophon, at the battle of the Nile, 1798, shot in the arm; in the Arethusa when she engaged the Bell-Poule. He served 30 years; but being one of the delegates of the Collieries, at the Nore, has no pension.—*Yorkshireman.*

The Weather.—Such genial weather at this season has seldom been experienced. It has all the amenity of summer, without its oppressive heat.—*Scottish Standard.*

Ireland.—Mr. O'Connell has addressed a long letter to the people of Ireland, in which after enumerating the various hardships to which that country is exposed, and expressing an apprehension that the Tories will speedily regain their long lost power he earnestly urges them to agitate a repeal of the Union, as the only measure that can save Ireland.

Timber.—Liverpool, March 19.—Yellow Pine, per foot, 1s 4d to 1s 9d; Red do. 1s 7d to 2s 1d; Pine Planks, per foot, of 2 inches thick, 2 1/4d to 2 1/2d; Lathwood, per fath. £4 10s to £6.

Appearance of the Wheat Crop.—Some fears were entertained lest the wheat crops might have suffered from the severity of the winter. It gives us much pleasure to state that the crops never looked better.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

The melancholy intelligence contained in the announcement below has produced a general gloom in this community. After the enjoyment of the highest office in the nation for the space of one brief month, he has been suddenly removed from the honourable and arduous situation to which the voice of his country had called him.—*N. Y. Paper.*

The following circular was issued from the Heads of Departments at Washington.

City of Washington, April 4, 1841.
An all-wise Providence having suddenly removed from this life, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, late President of the United States, we have thought it our duty, in the recess of Congress, and in the absence of the Vice President from the Seat of Government, to make this afflicting bereavement known to the country, by this declaration, under our hands.

He died at the President's House, in this city, this fourth of April, Anno Domini, 1841, at thirty minutes before one o'clock in the morning.

The people of the United States, overwhelmed, like ourselves, by an event so unexpected and so melancholy, will derive consolation from knowing that his death was calm and resigned, as his life has been patriotic, useful and distinguished; and that the last utterance of his lips expressed a fervent desire for the perpetuity of the Constitution, and the preservation of its true principles. In death, as in life, the happiness of his country was uppermost in his thoughts.

DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State,
THOMAS ERING, Secretary of Treasury,
JOSEPH BELL, Secretary of War,
J. J. CRITTENDEN, Attorney General,
FRANCIS GRANGER, Postmaster General.

Extensive Fire in Boston.—A fire broke out in Boston, on the morning of the 3d inst. in a factory in 32d st. 9th avenue, which de-

stroyed 10 large buildings, and 10 others were much injured.

We learn, from a letter received in town, last evening from Head Quarters, that our reported new Governor, (Sir W. Colebrooke,) and the new Commander of the Forces in Nova-Scotia, (Sir J. Dickson,) had taken passage in the Mail Steamer of the 4th April. As Sir William had not been gazetted up to the latest dates, it was currently reported in London that there was a probability of Sir John Harvey being still continued in the Government of this Province.—*Courier.*

COMMUNICATION.

For the Standard.

Mr. SMITH,
I received the annexed letter by mail yesterday, and as this is the time for the appointment of Parish Officers, I know no better way of serving the writer than handing the same to you for publication, which, if not too late for your paper this week, will confer an obligation on all concerned.

And oblige Yours, &c.
JAMES BOYD.
St Andrews, 15th April, 1841.

St. Stephen, April 10, 1841.

DEAR SIR—
The noble stand which you made in the House of Assembly the last session, as it respects Aliens holding office in the Province, deserves the lasting gratitude of all loyal subjects in it, and especially those that reside on or near the lines; for it is a certain fact, that they are enemies to our country and our noble constitution, and are bold in declaring the same openly; and yet those men are coming into office one after another, and unless there is a check put to the same, in a few years they will overturn every thing that is morally honest and pure among us. As it respects this Parish, some of our Commissioners of Highways are Aliens, Overseers of Highways are Aliens, and a number of our Surveyors of Lumber are Aliens; one more especially who for those few years past, claimed the privileges of a subject; but, being summoned as a jurymen to St. Andrews, and for his non-attendance being sued for his fine, as well as his Militia fine, to get clear of both, comes forward and cries "Alien," gets clear of the two former suits and pays his alien tax; and yet this same man is as we are informed, on the Parish list as a Surveyor of Lumber.

We could bring forward a number of cases similar to the above, but time and space will not permit us to do so; but we do sincerely hope, that as you have begun a good work, you will still continue to use your influence, and if you cannot amend what has been done, you may lay the means of preventing it for the future, and of putting a stop to those proceedings which every loyal subject must consider an infringement on his right.

Your compliance with the above will ever confer an obligation on your constituents.

THE STANDARD.

SAINT ANDREWS, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1841.

Charlotte County Bank.
Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.
Director next week—E. Wilson, Esq.
DISCOUNT DAY—TUESDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 2.

BILLS AND NOTES for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday, otherwise they must lie over until next week.

Alms and Work House.
Commissioner next week—T. Sims.

Marine Assurance Association.
Director next week—John Wilson.
Office Hours from 10 till 3 o'clock, every day, Sunday excepted.

Saint Stephens Bank.
WILLIAM PORTER, Esq. President.
Director next week—G. D. King.
DISCOUNT DAY—SATURDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

BILLS AND NOTES for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day.

LATEST DATES.

London, March 18 Montreal, April 6
Liverpool, March 19 Quebec, April 6
Edinburgh, March 16 Halifax, April 11
Paris, March 16 New-York, April 10
Toronto, April 7 Boston, April 11

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM SHIP ACADIA.

The Royal Mail Steam Ship ACADIA, arrived at Halifax on the 5th inst. having sailed from Liverpool on the 19th ult. The Acadia has not experienced the least disaster, tho' the passage across has been one of the stormiest ever made. She brings dates from London of the 18th and Liverpool of the 10th March. The Columbia steamer, arrived in the river Mersey at half-past four, on the morning of March 15, having made the passage home in 11 1/2 days.

The news which the dates by the Acadia afford, will be found in other columns. She brought 72 Passengers.

Sir Jeremiah Dickson, K. C. B. is appointed to the command of the troops in Nova Scotia.

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