

Hector and Achilles fought it out in the same simple way, and "no arrests were made." Why were revolvers invented, except for this practical business-like mode of terminating differences?

This agreeable interchange of literary amenities took place in Louisiana—at least, so we read the curt but obscure abbreviation "La." "Westward the tide of Empire" and of the duello "seems to flow." In Arkansas—that delightful State in which the Speaker of the Assembly once shot a representative by way of calling him to order—we have editorship in perfection. In Paris, some years ago, it was, after the Girardin affair, necessary to keep a *redacteur* especially devoted to the fighting department of journalism. In America, where matters are more economically managed, the proprietor and editor is expected to find himself in powder and ball. From the *Memphis Whig* we, as they say in the States, "clip" a rather telling paragraph. It seems to be quite a matter-of-course and every-day occurrence; and we doubt not that the heading is, in the language of the printing-office, kept standing:—

"AN ARKANSAS FIGHT.—The parties met in front of Myett and Moore's store. Mr. Rice, in company with his brother-in-law, Dr. Merritt, had been there for some time waiting for Hindman. About ten o'clock Hindman passed in company with Claiborne; Mr. Rice stepped to the door and asked Hindman if he was the author of the article in the *Democrat*. He made no answer, but put his hand in his bosom to draw his revolver; Rice also drew a single-barrel pistol, and both fired simultaneously. Rice was not wounded; Hindman was struck in the right breast, the ball coming out of his back near the shoulder-blade. It is supposed that the ball passed through his body, but our informant could not positively say whether such was the case, or whether the ball passed around his body, being diverted by the bones. Hindman fired several other shots at Rice, none of which took effect. Dr. Merritt was standing in the door of the store, looking on, when Hindman fired at him, the ball taking effect in his back. Merritt then turned again, and, resting his pistol on his left arm, at Claiborne, the ball striking him on his left side, just above the waist, and, passing through, lodged under the skin on the right side. Hindman then stepped back some twelve or fifteen steps, and called on them to come out in the street and fight it out, and Claiborne then raised a cry for "shot guns," which it appears were provided near by in anticipation of an affray. A Mr. Palmer was approaching with a double-barrelled shot-gun when he was stopped by Mr. Castle. Rice, on seeing Palmer approach, and having no weapon, ran to the house of his friend, Major Baldwin, where he had been informed he could get a gun. On getting a gun he returned to the street, but had no occasion to use it, the opposing parties having fallen from exhaustion, occasioned by their wounds and the interference of their friends. Mr. Rice was not injured, and left Helena in the evening for his home in the country. Mr. Hindman's condition was considered somewhat favourable, though still precarious. Dr. Merritt and Mr. Claiborne are considered mortally wounded, though Dr. Merritt thinks he will recover. The recovery of Claiborne is scarcely possible."

Of course accidents will happen in the best-regulated families, and we learn without surprise that slight mistakes occasionally occur in trans-Atlantic "shooting affairs;" but these mischances, when they do arise, only illustrate the perfection of the social machine. In the best chronometers there is an adjustment for correcting casual errors; and the following *morceau* from the *Louisville Journal* shows with what grace and tact our American friends rectify little irregularities in the use of powder and ball:—

"We learn that a shooting affair came off at Lake Providence about a week ago. A man named Jones shot a man named Patterson, mistaking him for one Pennington. Patterson, after being shot twice, one of the balls lodging in his breast, drew a pistol and was about to shoot Jones, when the latter begged his pardon, saying he had mistaken his man. Patterson generously accepted the apology. His wounds are not mortal."

Here we see civilization and refinement at their highest pitch. One man shoots another by mistake—a mistake which he does not, however, discover till he is about to receive a complimentary reply. He then politely begs pardon of the man in whose breast he has lodged a ball; and we are asked to admire the well-bred courtesy of the murderous ruffian, and the chivalrous generosity of this poor victim with a ball in his body, accepting the apology. We can quite understand that unfortunate Mr. Patterson had enough for a single morning's work.

After all this, Brooks's assault on Mr. Sumner in the Senate House was a very tame affair. We can quite understand the contempt with which it is very properly regarded in the Union. There was no vigour in such a dull and paltry transaction. Merely to cow-hide a gentleman while he is quietly writing at his desk in the National Assembly, appears to us a proceeding quite unworthy of the spirit and energy which characterize political discussion in those freer and more genial solitudes where the great American mind has space to fulfil its noble purposes. Kansas, for example, at the present moment, illustrates on a considerable scale the virtues of free institutions. The great controversy of the model Republic is there characteristically working itself out. Pharsalia, Tours and Vienna have at different times settled the history of the world—Armageddon is to be a final contest of principles—and in Kansas we have already as much strife, fraternal hatred, murder, and lawlessness as can be looked for even by the most bellicose students of the Apocalyptic prophecy. The South is set in array against the North, and we are assured that compromise is impossible. The Federal Government is powerless—or rather, the Executive itself assists in the civil war. The evidence on the Missouri invasion was only smuggled with difficulty into Washington, and it seems that whichever side receives an adverse decision must go to war. Yet all this is but an Arkansas fight on a large scale. It is only fitting that the social state in which revolvers and bowie-knives are the habitual weapons of argument should dissolve itself in this way. The United States must go through this severe but wholesome stage of purification. Fermentation and decomposition are a social law. European civilization only grew up after the rapine and robbery and corruption of the middle ages. There seems no remedy for it, and we can only say that we wish the Union well through its disunion.

We have heard a good deal of late about America fulfilling the destiny assigned to her by Providence; and we have been assured that such destiny is to enlarge her borders, and to acquire preponderance North, West and South. Shall we be pardoned for saying that, before a house is enlarged, it might be well to see that it is tolerably habitable—that before we talk of conveying to others the message of civilization, we ought to be certain that we have any civilization to impart. The little domestic narratives which we have above quoted prove that bloody murder and open mid-day assassination are a recognized form of American life. Habitually and as a matter of course, men go about the ordinary concerns of life, armed with weapons which can have only one object and use. The organs and guides of public opinion are conspicuous for duelling as it is called—murder as we should less politely designate it. This murder is reduced to system, and has its conventional laws and technology. And the State only reflects society. Politics are but social morals expanded—the Kansas civil war reproduces the Bayou Sara outrage on an extended scale. So long as the United States choose to permit this sort of thing, whether on a large or small scale, within their own federations, it is no particular concern of ours; but if these

manners and morals are to be carried out in the affairs of the world, America must make up her mind to expect the same kind of combination which her own citizens adopted against the Mormons. The great European family of mankind is not prepared to exchange its institutions and civilization for the social morality of the revolver.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., SEPTEMBER 1, 1856.

A MODERN ILLUSTRATION OF AN ANCIENT FABLE.

A letter appeared in the *Islander* of the 22d August last, to which our attention has just been directed, signed "A District Teacher," and dated "Barrett's Cross Roads, Aug. 7," which for baseness exceeds even the usual publications of that print. Its libellous character is too conspicuous in almost every sentence to be mistaken, but on the ingratitude with which it teems we shall offer a few observations. *Æsop* or *Gay*, or some other of the *Fabulists*, gives a story of a viper which a woodman found frozen in the woods, and brought to a fire, that its suspended vitality might be restored. The first use which this reptile made of its returning consciousness was to dart its venomous tongue into the hand which had succoured it. The "District Teacher" is the viper—the woodman is Mr. Coles.

Does this viper remember when his pittance for one year's services was but fifteen pounds? and does the venomous reptile forget that his income now—at least fifty pounds per annum—was procured for him by the persevering exertions of Mr. Coles and his party, but emphatically of Mr. Coles, the parent of the School Bill? Does this enemy of mankind not know that before the advent of the present Government, the Treasury, being permanently needy, and the issuing of Warrants being permanently profitable to those who administered its affairs, paid Schoolmasters in no other manner than by giving them Warrants on which they invariably and always paid discount, as did the road warrants before they were converted into cash, so that the holders of both the one and the other sustained certain periodical loss. Will the "District Teacher"—for we suppose he is qualified as an arithmetician—sit down and begin at the year 1846, or any other year, and calculate what he or any other Teacher received, during a period of five years, after paying discount to get his warrant cashed? Will he then sit down and tell us what he has received for the last five years, and thus exhibit himself as a monster of ingratitude towards Mr. Coles and the Government? We will take the trouble to assist him in making this calculation:

FIRST PERIOD.	
Five years' salary at £15.....	£75 0 0
Deduct 5 per cent. discount, far less than often paid, when the depreciation by taking store goods is considered,.....	3 15 0
	£71 5 0
SECOND PERIOD.	
Five years' salary at £50.....	£250 0 0
5 per cent. discount, loss on £25, (though the "District Teacher" does not say he lost it),.....	12 5 0
	£248 15 0

Now let us take £71 5s. 0d. from £248 15s. and we have, in favour of the ungrateful reptile, a balance of £177 10s. 0d. as the result of Mr. Coles's exertions. Before Responsible Government he had, in a given period of five years, the sum of £71 5s.; in another period of equal duration, since the advent of Responsible Government, he has had £248 15s.

This "District Teacher," however, does not write as if he were an ignoramus; he therefore knows full well, we do not doubt, that the cause of his taking home his warrant—which we suppose was marked for interest, and consequently not sustaining any loss—was the unexpected delay in the issuing of the paper of the new Bank, in whose coffers were locked up £16,500 cash, taken out of the circulation of the Island; and we know that some of the officers of the Government had, in cases when they wanted cash, to pay for having the warrants for their quarter's salary discounted. A "District Teacher" also knows that the causes which rendered him and others liable to these consequences, are neither permanent, nor could they be foreseen. But then he is some paltry party tool, or perhaps he got his warrant cashed, as a consideration for his libellous letter.

If he were the friend to education, which every district schoolmaster ought to be, and not the turbulent partizan, which we regret to say, a few of that class and a very few are thought to be, he should know that he has been elevated in the scale of society by the very individual whom he maligns; neither would he be indifferent to the fact, that a larger proportion of the rising generation are receiving instruction here than anywhere else—that one sixth of the whole population is actually in course of training under district schoolmasters, who absorb a great proportion of the revenue, and derive each not only a maintenance but a stipend, increased from £15 to £50.

Find us a viper with a baser sting.

Although it is a thing apart from the base ingratitude of the writer, of whose letter we have already taken more than due notice, we may offer a word or two of explanation in reference to his observation on the remarks which fell from the Colonial Secretary in his place in Parliament last Session, to the effect, that there were £10,000 then in the Treasury, with part of which, he thought, the Government would be willing to aid the establishment of the Bank. What the Colonial Secretary stated was perfectly correct—there were £10,000 at that time in the public chest, but as the Bank shares had been all taken up by private individuals, the Treasurer, by order of the Government, very properly called in Warrants and Debentures to the amount of the cash in hand, which relieved the money market, and assisted materially the Bank shareholders to pay up the required proportion of their stock; but the unforeseen circumstance of all this cash being uselessly locked up for a far longer period than was expected, necessarily produced a temporary scarcity of specie in the Treasury.

ENGLISH MAIL.

We received here on Wednesday last the second English Mail for the present month, but the papers received do not furnish much important news, except some slight indications of revolutionary movements in Italy, and evidences of bad faith on the part of Russia in complying, or rather not complying, with some of the conditions of the Treaty of Paris. We give ample extracts from our latest papers.

BOMBASTES FURIOSO.

The hide-bound brains of the editor of *Haszard's Gazette* having, on Saturday last, given birth to an article on the subject of the Bill passed last Session for increasing the number of representatives, and we, having been credibly informed that the *lying-in* parent is doing as well as can be expected, shall amuse ourselves by briefly directing the attention of our readers to some of the principal features of the ranting.

The editor (there was a good old woman spoiled when he assumed the chair editorial) prefaces his remarks with an allusion to what he styles "the bombastic effusions that from time to time appear under the editorial head of the *Examiner*." It may be that we unconsciously indulge in "self gratulation" and "self laudation," as is attributed to us, but the interesting old lady will excuse us if we remind her of her own high-flying effort in that direction, when she lately expatiated so warmly on the transcendent merits of her second self the Recorder.

The editor has seriously laid to our charge as a misstatement what we never asserted. It is stated, he says, in the last *Examiner*

"that Mr. Robert Bruce Stewart has sought an interview with the Colonial Office for the purpose of preventing the Royal assent being given to the Act for increasing the representatives. Nothing can be farther from the fact; Mr. Bruce Stewart knows nothing of any such petition being in the progress of signature, nor did we ourselves until a day or two since. The *Examiner* calls it a 'silly remonstrance,' but, like most of his assertions, directly opposite to the truth."

Now, in the first place, we never stated any such thing. What we did say, however, was as follows:

"We saw a notice in some of the papers about a month ago, to the effect, that Mr. R. Bruce Stewart of this Island had an interview with the Colonial Minister in Downing Street. The Obstructives no doubt hope, from this auspicious event, that Mr. Bruce will have sufficient influence to delay the decision of the Imperial authorities regarding the Representation Bill, until such time as their silly remonstrance shall reach England."

Now, if *Haszard's* editor cannot understand common English when he reads it, (we have melancholy proofs of his inability to write it), he is to be pitied for his mental incapacity, and can only be considered as *lying under a mistake*, but if otherwise, he lies and no mistake.

The argument urged by the anile editor against the Bill, namely, the smallness of the majority by which it was carried in the House of Assembly, is that of all others on which its advocates rely for a justification of the measure; and we will ask, assuming the figures given in *Haszard's Gazette* to be correct, if it had been introduced as a Government measure, and had been lost, whether there was any party in a position to have formed a Government to succeed the present, whose resignation would have followed as a matter of course? Every one who knows anything of the state of parties in the Island, knows there was not. Now, the object of the Bill was to obviate such a dead-lock, by introducing such an addition to the number of members as would, on all important questions, ensure a working majority to either one party or another, and not keep the ship of state in the situation of Mahomet's coffin. The inconvenient results likely to follow from a small number of members in the popular branch of the Legislature, was used as an argument against the concession of Responsible Government to the neighboring Colony of Newfoundland by a politician whose opinion is entitled to nearly as much weight as *Haszard's* editor, namely Earl Grey, at the time Colonial Secretary,—in consequence of whose objections the number of representatives was increased; and then, and not before, the people were admitted to govern themselves. Indeed, we believe that Earl Grey also alluded to the smallness of the number of our representatives, in the course of the correspondence which took place with respect to the introduction of the new system in this Island, owing to which, his Lordship was of opinion, the working of that system would be attended with inconvenience; and the result has shown that the noble lord was not far astray in his apprehension.

We next come to the most melancholy instance of mental imbecility that we ever remember to have read, seen, or heard of. We are gravely informed of "a very melancholy fact," but this is so rich that we must quote the passage in full:—

"It" (meaning the Petition) "states a very melancholy fact, that while there is this attempt to increase the number of representatives, the population of the Island is decreasing in a most alarming ratio, and this is no gratuitous assertion, for it quotes the returns of the census made by order of the Government.

	POPULATION.	INCREASE.
1827	23,266	6.46 per annum.
1833	32,292	do.
1841	47,034	6.52
1848	62,678	4.75
1855	71,496	2.01!"

Now, how the assertion that "the population is decreasing in a most alarming ratio" is proved by the fact of its having increased in seven years by nearly 9000 souls, we are at a loss to conceive. If the editor had meant to convey the idea, that the ratio of increase had diminished in that period, his figures would have borne him out. But that state of affairs may possibly be accounted for on several grounds, besides the probability of the fact, that the editor has of late years been a practical, if involuntary, disciple of Malthus.

In the hurried notice we have given of the article in question, we omitted to allude, in its proper connection, to the modesty with which the editor states how two absent members of the Assembly would have voted in the division on the Representation Bill, had they been present. We were not aware that he was the keeper of their consciences; and if he does hold that office, he was no doubt selected for the post by the knowledge they possessed, that the control he exercised over his own afforded him ample time to attend to those of his neighbours. We suppose, however, that he is unconscious of the light in which his lucubrations are regarded by the few who read them, or he would endeavour, how painful soever the effort might be to him, to write with a certain regard to truth and Lindley Murray, and not, as at present, suggest a comparison between his head and that of the old Highlander, who lost his after the battle of Culloden, and whose widow, reciting the story of his decapitation, concluded the melancholy recital by the sympathizing remark: "It was nae great things of a head at any time, but it was the best he had, and was a sair loss to him, poor man."

We have not thought it worth while to answer the twaddle about perpetuating power in a "tyrannical compact," as we do not think it necessary to repeat the arguments used in the Assembly, but shall be happy to hear from our venerable friend the mode of reasoning by which he establishes the position, that an increase of popular representation and control

limits the popular influence, and hands the Government of the country over to a few individuals. The only compact, of the existence of which we are aware, is that of the old Tory faction with the Proprietors; and perhaps the editor of *Haszard's Gazette*, who claims to be so "intelligent a well wisher to the prosperity of the Island," will inform the people whether he did not assist in rivetting their chains, when he accompanied one of the proprietors—no other than Mr. Bruce Stewart—in his travels, for the purpose of inducing poor and uninformed settlers to become his tenants, when he knew that they were entitled to their lands in freehold, of which Mr. Stewart could not deprive them. This was done by Mr. Lawson, and if he supposes that it has been forgotten by the parties so grossly imposed on and stripped of their property, he is labouring under a strange misconception, which has probably induced him to believe that his antecedents are forgotten by the public as conveniently as his present conduct seems to prove that they have been by himself.

ROWDIES AND ROWDYISM.

We have been not a little amused by the perusal of a letter put forth by the Common Enemy on Friday last, over the signature of "Sentinel,"—subject: the necessity of petitioning the Queen without consulting the local government, praying Her Majesty to send us a detachment of troops to keep down rowdies and rowdyism,—tone: fiery and warlike. An ordinary mortal might suppose the writer to be some fire-eating, dangerous fellow, just emerged from the trenches of the Crimea, full of the spirit of fight, and revelling in the destructive effects of "villainous saltpetre" and musket balls. "Sentinel" affects to believe that troops are necessary here, for the purpose of securing "life and property" and "maintaining the supremacy of the laws," but we are inclined to believe that there is no one who would be more ready to trample the laws under his feet than the same doughty "Sentinel," if he only had the power to do so, and the laws were such as to interfere with the accomplishment of his factious designs. He says that troops "would have been here by this time, had we a Government that dared to ask for them at head quarters. No, Sir," continues this law-abiding but fire-eating "Sentinel," "the Government to whom rowdies have given birth—which governs for the chief benefit of rowdies, and which looks to rowdies and ruffians as its principal supporters, is not one likely to ask for a supply of troops for the Colony, abundant as they now are, and easy as they are to be got." This is a fine specimen of that kind of literary bombardment to which the Common Enemy frequently resorts, and by which it is supposed the present Government may yet be smashed into atoms. A man so full of fight as "Sentinel" appears to be, cannot be expected to pause in his sublime career to listen to the arguments of a more peaceful antagonist; let us therefore put a few questions to others who may be less maddened with—saltpetre. When, where, and how did the Government show its sympathy for, and attachment to, "rowdies and ruffians?" Was it on those repeated occasions when they laboured to remove from the minds of Her Majesty's Ministers the damaging impression left upon them by the mischievous despatches of the late Sir Donald Campbell—the pet Governor of the Tories—who represented the inhabitants of this Colony as the promoters of desertion, and recommended the withdrawal of the troops? Or was it when they embodied a small detachment of troops, and maintained them for several months out of the public finances, and would have continued them in effective organization, if the land proprietors' rent rolls could have been made to contribute to their maintenance? When did rowdyism and ruffianism ride more rampant than when the Tories, at the last general election, spurred on their desperadoes to prevent the return of liberal candidates, who are now members of the Government? And who more particularly distinguished himself for his propensity to rowdyism than a certain individual, who was lately a candidate for a high civic office, when, on a memorable occasion, he tried to raise a mob to go and pull down the Government House, and could only be kept from mischief by being thrust into jail by some of his own friends; and who, on another occasion, is said to have declared his readiness to shoot the Colonial Secretary with as little compunction as he would shoot a rabbit or a dog? Was he one of the rowdies to whom the Government has given birth, and for whom the Government is administered? But, on the contrary, is he not a favorite of the Tory party, who marshalled and drilled their forces, and used every stratagem and effort to crown him with civic honors? If Master "Sentinel" has any influence with the Commander-in-chief of his own army, let him prevail upon him to hang or shoot all the rowdies and ruffians that hover about his own camp, before he presumes to lecture his enemy on the enormity of retaining such characters in the service.

A NEW HAND AT THE BELLOWS.

The Obstructive organ, in its issue of Friday last, shows that the New London "feelosopher" is not the only person who grinds dull music for the faction under the dignity of the editorial "We." The short article in reply to our observations on the petition against the Representation Bill has only one quality characteristic of the editorials which usually appear in that paper, and that is—the utter disregard of truth. The gentleman who blows the bellows on small occasions seems to consider it of no consequence how much the music may be out of tune so long as a noise is made. After informing his readers that our somewhat jocular observations were "bitter invectives" against the Petition referred to, he proceeds, in the following correct and elegant strain, to deny that the petition originated with the Obstructive party:—

"Had the editor of the *Examiner* ever seen the Petition, of which we have some doubts, he must have known what he asserts is incorrect; for the Bill in question being at acknowledged variance with the well understood wishes of a large portion of the electors of this Island, they indeed petitioning the Queen to suspend her decision thereon until public opinion shall have been tested at the next general election on a matter of so much importance—a prayer to which even the *Examiner* himself we think can have no objections."

The style of the foregoing extract is beneath criticism. Our Devil once generously presented the *Islander* establishment with some school books, but as the publisher acknowledged to have sold them for liquor, we cannot suppose their perusal was attended with any benefit to that establishment. But let us ask the elegant writer, on what grounds does he assert that the Representation Bill was introduced and passed at "acknowledged variance with the well understood wishes of a large portion of the electors of this Island?" When and how