CAPT. SLEIGH'S NEW WORK.

CHAPTER 5, (Continued.)

CAPES TORMENTINE AND TRAVERSE.

THE ICY PASSAGE.

During the previous winter, one boat's crew, commanded by our friend Young and Arthur Allan," got into this difficulty, and were for thirty-six hours out in the Straits, lost and bewildered. At sunset they turned the boat over in a sheltered inlet, and made a tent of an iceberg, well to the lee of the wind; snow fell and covered them in and with the assistance of the oars, paddles, and seats, cut into chips with a knife, and freshly made into a fire, with a slight fire was kept burning all that dreary night, and the smoke from it assisted in keeping warmth and life in the bodies of the little forlorn band. Their escape from death and destruction was a marvel which no one can explain, save by referring it to the interposition of a merciful Providence. Tom Allan had several of his fingers and toes frozen off, and on reaching the shore three out of five of the survivors shortly afterwards died from the effects of the exposure.

To resume my narrative. We at last succeeded in reaching an extensive field of ice, upon which we again propelled the boat. After a long running at full speed, I felt the surface beneath me give way, and with a loud shout from all, the boat sank, and in an instant we were struggling up to our shoulders in the water and among ice. Now the utility of the strap and chain was manifest: it kept us tied to the boat, and the hand on the gunwale, still firmly grasped, saved our lives, dragged into the boat a mass of broken ice, and sucked under by the current. Irving as an instant manfully disengaged himself, and clambered into the boat; then cautioning all to remain still, he crept on all fours out of the water, drenched to the skin. The intensity of the cold I shall never forget: it chilled me to the very heart: my clothes became in an hour as hard as if made of iron. I had not been for a glass of raw brandy, twice repeated, all round, nothing, I verily believe, could have caused our congealed blood to circulate again through our frozen veins. We had scarcely dug the boat again on the ice, out of the flaw we had fallen into, and, succeeding in this effort, the exertion once more gave renewed life to the system. We were obliged to pass onwards a-foot to proceed many hundred yards before we again broke in, though, from the caution our last accident taught us, in this instance we clung with both hands to the gunwale, and only got up to our thighs in water. Our career was at last one continued series of breaking down and floundering, which only terminated upon reaching open water, which we did after being eight hours out.

Irving was of opinion that the water before us would be bounded on the other side by the shore-leg, and, if so, that we should get over to the Island without further difficulty. He calculated the distance at about four miles. We all got into the boat, the oars were out, and with a hearty pull all together, we flew over the water, hoping to reach the consolation in another hour or two. But human calculations are destined to disappointment, for we had not rowed above a mile, when a breeze suddenly sprang up, which it frequently does in these northern regions in a few moments; it increased to half a gale, and the boat began to ship an icy spray over her bows. The build of our craft, flat-bottomed, rendered her unfit for rough or open sea; indeed Irving said he durst not proceed, or we should be all swamped. At my request we continued on for another quarter of an hour; but the ice shipping very much, she filled with water, and we were obliged to put her head about for the ice-field we had left, I bailing out as fast as my hands were able, bucket-full after bucket-full, for the water shipped as we shipped less water, and soon found ourselves among the floating masses I had hoped we had an hour before left behind for good.

Nothing is surprising in the sudden and almost instantaneous change which the Straits at times present. In an hour there has been known a free expanse of water of six to eight miles in extent, and before another hour the whole of that space has been covered with enormous masses of ice,—field-ice, detached blocks, and mountainous bergs. Our return towards New Brunswick was resolved on by Irving, in consequence of the gale which had sprung up, and with sundown not more than an hour and a half off, it would have been dangerous to have remained out any longer, or otherwise we should have had to pass the night out in the Straits, on some migratory berg. We found a total change in the appearance of the ice: the masses were more open and separated, the large fields had passed to the south, and between the floating blocks, narrow passages, small lakes, and tortuous canals, enabled us to make good way. We went over in three-quarters of an hour the same ground we had passed in nine hours in crossing. On approaching the shore-ice, the abrupt and rugged ridge over which we had to clamber in the morning had disappeared, and we found no difficulty in coming running along the ice, and before half an hour we were once more under Cape Tormentine, after having been eleven hours out,—a period of excitement and peril I shall never forget. Once more I found myself in old Mother Allan's kitchen, and the fat pork which was the day before treated by me with disgust, was now eagerly devoured with a relish which only the five that repast, however, I had changed my saturated habiliments, and enjoyed the comfort more than I can express.

It was dark, the wind howled in fearful gusts, the crew sat around the fire silently smoking their pipes, Arthur Irving and myself discussed a cigar, while Mrs. Allan, to enliven the scene, cruelly threshed a poor idiot boy of a grandson of hers, whose mournful wailings and lamentation by no means soothed my spirits, or reminded one of the "music which hath charms to soothe the savage breast." That idiot old lady, to complete the evening's amusement, which she was anxious to afford me, gave first a distinct—painfully distinct account of the scalding to death of some poor child, its agonies, its cries, its writhings described minutely and ludicrously described. This pleasing anecdote was followed by the garrulous dame's experience of all the people she remembered to have been frozen to death, or lost in crossing the Straits; how many were now minus fingers, or arms, or legs, from frost-bites; where the widows and the orphans bewailed their loss; the whole wound up with an opinion from her that I looked out of the window on the bleak expanse around, and that the weather prognosticated something "nasty"—the Straits would be in a "nice mess in the morning;" and, from some old prophecies, and the little-repeated screech of a neighbouring night-hawk, somebody was destined to be "nutton before long."

This strain of conversation soon "cleared the kitchen," for one by one, "old folk, young folk," cooped,—"Poor Tom" to his wife and chaney, the crew to drink a little in the mansion of that excitable individual, and I, following suit, was most heartily of peat dangers in a sound sleep. During the night the wind howled in fearful blasts, and the bare idea of such a night spent on an iceberg in the Straits made me shudder.

I was up early in the morning, and found Irving scanning the horizon: to my extreme satisfaction he reported the appearance of the Straits as favourable for a passage. The previous night had pretty well cleared the field of ice, and nought but shore-ice leading to open water was to be found on this side. By seven in the morning we were down by the boat, and harnessing ourselves to drag her over the shore along the ice, so as to cross over the open water before the wind might spring up again. Our little craft was good about; and on a surface not presenting a foot of ice, we pulled away for about an hour and a half, when we approached white streaks of loose ice, which we easily pushed through. But every mile the ice increased in density. At noon of the preceding day had driven it all over from the New Brunswick shore to that of Prince Edward Island, and the storm must have been one of considerable force, from the ideas we "lollies" had of it.

"Lolly" is the term applied to a conglomeration of minute particles of ice, which is found some four feet deep in extensive patches, and which is neither to be pushed through by the oars cannot be out, and the boat-hooks are useless: nothing but the paddle employed with great strength could move us along. Then the surface of the water, which looks like a means of being caught by a nip is carefully guarded against. The lolly, which now boils and bubbles, will before night become a congealed consistency, and freeze the boat.

At ten in the morning we had approached to within three miles of the Island, which could be now seen, the shores fringed with pine-forests, and the land undulating, with the ice-hills piled stretched along the coast. This arose from the colour of the soil, which is most peculiar, and we had often seen bergs, the tops covered with red dust, blown from the shores: they had a singular appearance.

We had our renewed struggles of yesterday over blocks of ice and sharp boulders, which were hoisted, shoved, and hauled, pushed and dragged, the boat again on the ice, out of the flaw we had fallen into, and, succeeding in this effort, the exertion once more gave renewed life to the system. We were obliged to pass onwards a-foot to proceed many hundred yards before we again broke in, though, from the caution our last accident taught us, in this instance we clung with both hands to the gunwale, and only got up to our thighs in water. Our career was at last one continued series of breaking down and floundering, which only terminated upon reaching open water, which we did after being eight hours out.

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THINGS TALKED ON IN LONDON.

For the Gazette.

Derby Day and the Dublin Exhibition have given our gossips a good deal to talk about, and helped newspapers to a few columns of information that were sure to find readers. Seeing that our legislators took a holiday to go to the race, we must of course look upon it as a national affair; and all the silly people who lost by betting on horseflesh, may console themselves in the fact, that it was not made under the eyes of parliament. The Exhibition may be regarded as a sign that the Irish are going to help themselves. Having brought together the products of their industry, and their minerals, and compared them with those of other nations, it will be their own fault in future, if they do not seek to multiply and turn them to the best account especially the valuable copper mines lately discovered in Achil. What better stimulus can they need thereunto than the fact that the Exhibition itself is due to the munificent energies of one of their own county, who, a few years ago, was literally one of the labouring classes? Those, who will, may find in the career of William Dargan an encouragement to perseverance and industrious enterprise.

An official application has been made to the Treasury by the French government, inviting contributions of British manufactures for the Exposition which is to be held in Paris in 1855. Here may be another triumph for Peace. To bring things to light, so that they can be seen, appears to be one of the tendencies of the time. Necessity first compelled people to read and education, as a means of cultivating thought, is becoming more and more apparent, and Glasgow and Sheffield have been holding a correspondence on the subject of the propriety of the establishment of a Museum of Inventions in those towns. Trade is increasing, and it will not do for the traders to be found below the intelligence of customers. "Let the dead bury their dead," whatever be its form, they must learn to manufacture according to the laws of true art. The aggregate tonnage of British vessels entered in 1851 was 3,772,000 tons, and in 1852, 3,280,834 tons. With such a rate of growth, there will be no lack of ways and means. Steam communication with Africa has widened our prospects: we now get steady supplies of oranges and pine-apples from the Canaries.

The second course of lectures to working-men at the School of Mines has been as well attended as the first. There were more applicants for tickets than the rooms could hold. There is a sort of mania at present for lectures, just as there is for table-turning, and such like mystical phenomena. We have had lectures on poetry, on poetry, on literature, and on the relations of different branches of art to each other; and so forth. It is, perhaps, a phase of that disposition which is seen in literature to polarize all subjects, and to make them easy, as shewn by the number of books put forth with apparently no other object than to waste time—so little do they contain to awaken thought or stimulate research. Mr. Grote's *History of Greece*, which has just reached its eleventh volume, is an exception. Such a work proves, that the spirit to write a great book is not yet dead, and that there is room for a genius of more to come. For the present, the United States government declines to enter into a treaty for an international copyright; and so literary pirates, of all kinds, may still shelter, may still exercise their predaceous propensities without fear of the law. Russia pursues another course: in that country, the duty on all books imported has just been doubled, and it excites a strange feeling in the present day to read, that Macaulay's *History*, the *Scripture Lessons* of the Irish Education Board, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, are prohibited by the Russian edition of the *Index Expurgatorius*. The history of literature records many similar facts, and shews that such is not the way to put out the light.

There is talk of forming libraries in districts, so as to admit of the books circulating through a group of villages. This plan has, to some extent, been carried out, as shewn by the travels of the "Book-pedlar" throughout the Union, but with indifferent success. The villagers, with few exceptions, will not read—they do not want to be enlightened; and, unless the report belies them, they do not even relish the grossest animal enjoyments. If it be hard work to convict adults of ignorance, the friends of education must devote themselves the more hopefully to the minds of the young. So far the free libraries in town have prospered; but who would have thought that such places as Exeter and Birmingham would, in these days, have refused, by large majorities, to provide themselves of a free library and museum! Apart from what is doing in England, they may perhaps be induced to re-consider their vote, by the statement, in a recent number of the Malta Valparaiso, that 'a free school had there been opened for the education of artisans, on the plan of the English schools, which promises to be of great service to the working-class.'

The astronomer-royal has published an able and emphatic paper in favour of the decimal system of coinage. The Geographical Society have given one of their medals to Mr. F. Galton for his explorations in Southern Africa, and another to Captain Inglefield for his voyage to the Polar Seas. The latter award has excited much question, as to whether for rescuing Sir John Franklin's party and back be a sufficient claim for the golden distinction. There are other arctic navigators who have done much more than this, and who have a much better claim to be again talked about; and if it come to anything, a congress of philologists is to be held at Paris, to prepare an alphabet as the first measure. Such a congress of the world, if it be written about some hundreds of years ago, but as yet we appear to be no nearer the desideratum. A Frenchman announces, that he has found manuscripts of Shakspeare, which were written by the negro monarch himself, while shut up in the fortress of Joux, and in which he vindicates his character from the aspersions cast on it, and shews how he came by the money he entertained of him by Bonaparte. Apart from other considerations, the work will be interesting, when published as a production of African intellect—that is if it be not a mere rant to have not been manufactured. The world has not yet grown so virtuous as to make such a trick impossible.

Late news from Australia reveal the fact, that deaths have occurred in the streets of Melbourne from 'destitution and starvation.' Such a catastrophe might have been predicted in the face of so great and so deliberate rush to the colony, and with bread at sixpence a mouthful. In pursuance of their wiser arrangement, the government have agreed to pay £1000 to the owners of the *Greyhound* a clipper built for the conveyance of the mails to Melbourne, Port Phillip, and Sydney, in eighty-two days. This is a grand improvement on the old method; and more so, as steam appears to be hardly yet competent to a quick passage to the antipodes. Perhaps, before steam does it, one of the new powers, electro-magnetism or caloric, will have become formidable rivals. Some of our scientific men admit, that both are possible; but our Civil Engineers have debated the point as regards caloric, and come to an unfavourable conclusion.

A paper has been read before the Asiatic Society, which contains matter to interest geologists and traders to the East Indies. It is on a process changed in the bed of the Ganges; and it appears, that these are much greater than would generally be believed. Owing to the quantity of mud carried down, the wearing away of banks, and the alteration of the main route to Calcutta by the Hooghly will become impassable in the course of a few years, if the present rate of deposit be continued.

A new method of making labels for plants has been introduced by Mr. Bohn: at one end of a slip of paper, he prints the name of the plant or tree, and at the other, the colour of the flower or other peculiarities. These are then folded, and pasted back to back, and cast inside a flute tube of glass, and thus a perfectly legible and impenishable label is formed, at a 'cost of not more than 1d. each—paper, print, and glass included.' The chemistry of vegetation is attracting much attention, and it is expected that the results of some highly important experiments will shortly be made public.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.—The accounts from the manufacturing towns during the past week are all satisfactory, and show the extent to which the vigour of our country depends upon independent of politics. Business appears to have been fairly active in all the markets, but the export trade has necessarily suffered to some extent by the unfortunate state of affairs between Russia and Turkey. The home consumption of the general articles of Birmingham manufacture continues large, with continue orders for the Australian settlements have also been unexpectedly required for the River Plate, although the latest accounts received from thence do not indicate the resumption of any extensive operations for the future to come. The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week show a considerable decrease. The shipments of manufactures and ordinary descriptions of merchandize present a large diminution, and the rates of freight continue to exhibit a declining tendency. By the last advices received from South Australia we learn, that a Adelaide money was worth from 10 to 12 per cent., gold being quoted £3 15s per oz., and the yield of the various gold districts being steadily progressive. A statement has been recently put forth as to the discovery of gold in the Peruvian territory, although the amount of precious metal may be found to be too small to remunerate the searchers for their trouble, as is the case in Guzzas. The usual rates of war risks to the Baltic and the Black Sea are maintained, and for vessels clearing immediately, the demand is 1 per cent. for the former, and 2 per cent. for the latter, per voyage.

DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF HAWTY.—This venerable nobleman died on the 17th inst., at his town house in Chapel-street, aged 92 years.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH BETWEEN ENGLAND AND HOLLAND.—A great stride in submarine engineering has just been successfully accomplished, by the establishment of a telegraph between England and Holland, wires having been carried from Orfordness, on the coast of Suffolk, to Scheveningen, on the Dutch coast, a distance in a straight line of 114 miles. The cable, however, is 130 miles in length, and weighs 300 tons. Three vessels were engaged in the operation. The squadron left Orfordness at nine o clock in the morning, and at sunset, the cable, whether being then propitious; but at midnight, there rose a fresh gale of wind, which made the task of unwinding the cable very difficult and dangerous.

The Dutch coast, however, was reached on Tuesday night without accident; but so heavy was the surf on the beach that a landing was not effected until the following morning. At the end of the cable was then got on shore. Communications between the Hague and England were effected for the first time at 9.15 A. M., and messages were transmitted between the King of Holland, and from Sir Ralph Abercrombie, British Minister at the Hague, to the Earl of Clarendon; and numerous other official communications took place through the day.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—A Warsaw journal contains the following statement of the force of the Russian army:—It consists of 72 regiments of infantry, divided into 32 battalions, and 24 regiments of cavalry of 192 squadrons; the artillery consists of six corps and 690 guns. The total number of the active army is 290,000, without counting the reserve. The reserve is composed of six divisions of infantry and six brigades of cavalry, and forms a force of 80,000 men, without counting the Cossacks.

ITALIAN BRIGANDS.—On the 10th instant, an English gentleman named Brand, and his wife, an Italian lady, travelling by the *malle-poste* from Florence to Rome, by the Siena road, were attacked by three brigands within a mile and a half of the town of Monterosi (25 miles from Rome), at half-past eight in the evening. The lady met with that courtesy which real brigands are traditionally said to observe towards the fair sex, but the English gentleman and the courier in charge of the mail bags were compelled to alight, and travel down in the road, whilst the demand for their money was enforced by the approximation of a brace of pistols to their temples. All the courier's money was taken from him, and two or three Napoleons from Mr. Brand—the latter, however, had no fewer than eighty gold Napoleons in a secret pocket round his body; which the brigands, in their hurry and apprehension of the patrol, did not discover, so that their victim escaped, with but small pecuniary loss, although very great bodily fear.

A SWEDENBORGIAN UNIVERSITY.—The *Cincinnati Commercial Advertiser* says: "It appears that the new University at Urbana is established, and is to be sustained by the disciples of Emanuel Swedenborg. This, we believe, is the first educational establishment in the country, of the rank of a university, devoted to the propagation of Swedenborgism. Professor J. W. Jenks of Boston, and Professor N. G. Williams of Urbana, were to be inaugurated into office on the 19th and 20th inst.—the first as Professor of Languages, and the second of Science. A female department is also to be connected with the University."

Hats worn on the heads of a discourse, the bucket that hung in "All's well," and fragments of the nose have been burnt into tears, are said to be the last curiosities found.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE

Wednesday July 13, 1853.

Near the close of the proceedings on Thursday day after Mr. Coles had left, but his own people around him, and when all the opposing Candidates had left the hustings, he took up our paper with the two Certificates refuting his assertions, and read to the house of Assembly that our establishment had been twice put forth during the same work. He there stated, it seemed to him after looking over the two volumns, that they were printed from the same type, and just because it might be done he thought it was a fact. The incontestable certificate of two honest and disinterested workmen, then employed in J. D. Hazard's office, shewed that when the certificate was given were at work at Mr. Whelan's, and still are there employed, at once proves the untruth of Mr. Coles assertion, and the boldness with which he not only asserts a lie, but the impudence with which he attempts to evade evidence it. When it has been brought home to him.

We dare say our word would be taken quite as soon as Mr. Coles's, by an impartial tribunal, but we have to deal with that with this, and we thought the certificate of two uninterested persons, who are now employed in our opponents office, would be more conclusive and more satisfactory. We hope that Mr. Coles brings as good evidence to contradict the charge brought against him by Mr. M'Lean, about the defalcations in the Whiskey returns! If so, he has as yet kept it back. We hope he would have been used for the two purposes we allow, if the work had been done at the same time, but this was not the case, the one was done in the spring and the other in the summer.

Neither the Commissioners, the Government nor ourselves, had any control at that time to make the type once set answer the both purposes, because the Revised Statutes were printed and the other had not progressed far enough to make them both answer. But the following session 1852 we made a proposition to the members of the Assembly, through the Speaker, to incorporate that session on the Revised Statutes which would have made a saving of some money to the public, and which was of more importance, we were told, it would have exceeded the statutes somewhat complete as the session of 1852 contained some new and important acts. This offer however was not heeded because it would take work from Mr. Whelan which was contracted to be done a little cheaper. We shall at a future time, shew the public more particularly how some work costing over £800 has been rendered somewhat unsatisfactory, and further, how badly the Majority of the House of Assembly could serve any persons who would not be bound to support their partial proceedings.

No. 2

CHARGES of the present Queen's Printer, E. WHELAN, compared with that of his predecessor in the Office, J. D. HAZARD.

Since we put out the statement of the charges of the present Queen's Printer E. Whelan, as compared with my own, when I had that appointment, by which it appears that in 36 items of account the charges were exceeded by nine, by 100 or 150 per cent.—I have, for the first time, carefully perused some of the Speeches respecting this question which were made in the Assembly, by the members of the House of Assembly, when the Salaries Bill was under the consideration of the House; and I have, indeed, been surprised, to find how *strongly* these speeches, as compared with the *indisputable* facts in the statement of the Queens Printer's Accounts, published in the Journals of the Assembly—corroborate the assertions of the *honorable gentleman, viz. "That, in a few instances, the charges of the Accounts of the present and the late Queen's Printer, it was evident that their rates of charging were nearly the same; although, in some instances, those of Mr. Hazard were considerably higher than those of Mr. Whelan!"*—and what a proof the comparison affords of the *fidelity* with which those *honorable* Members of the Government, on whom the duty devolved to make the comparison between the present Queen's Printer, and compared them with those of his predecessor in office !!!—The comparison shews that, in 36 items of Account for *one* quarter in a single session, the present Printer's charges exceed those of his predecessor by an increase thereon of from 100 to 150 per cent! How will this sustain the assertion that "*the charges of the present Queen's Printer and the late Queen's Printer were nearly the same!*" And how *groundless* must the suspicion now appear, which some have *foolishly* entertained, that Members of the Government, and Office-holders, having seats in the Assembly, being bound together by one common tie of *private* interest, would *unscrupulously*, should the propriety of the official conduct of any of their friends be brought in question—defend and bolster up the cause of the accused.

It is not my present intention to dwell upon this *beautiful* comparison, but I cannot but *triumph* which the simple exhibition of it in *Hazard's Gazette*, of the 30th April last, must have afforded to them and their friends; just now I mean only to dwell upon the conduct of the leader of the Government, upon the *accuracy* of his statements and his *impartiality*, when the interests of his friends or himself, stand opposed to those who have been driven from his party.

I find by the published Reports, that, at a certain stage of the Debate on the Salaries' Bill, the Hon. Mr. Palmer, stated that the present Queen's Printer, had, in order to swell his Accounts against the Government, republished matter which had been previously published in the old Gazette; and that he held such publications, on the part of the present Queen's Printer to be unnecessary; and the charges made for them to be *improper*.

To this statement and declaration of the hon. Mr. Palmer, the Hon. Mr. Coles replied, "They were published, then, by Mr. Hazard when he very improperly assumed to himself the right of continuing to issue the Royal Gazette."

Now, it is known to every one, that Coles spoke on this occasion, and *how little* he was influenced by a desire to serve Mr. Whelan, or protect himself, I will submit the simple facts of the case, *knowing* I have stated, in a former article, which a consideration of them, in connection with his *unheeating* and *prompt* assertion as above quoted, cannot fail to give *to his credit* for uprightness, and honesty of purpose, in the Hazard's Gazette, of the 30th April last.—The fact that I had in hands, and that I had until the 4th September to do so. I had commenced publishing, and had the Government contract for the Session 1851; and, before the 14th July, the date of the first Gazette printed by E. Whelan, I had them all published but one.—A month afterwards Mr. Whelan unnecessarily published some of the same Acts over again.

In my next I shall pay my compliments to the Hon. Mr. Warburton, and, by reference, to the other *indisputable* facts, *satisfactorily established*, generally the claims of the present Government