THE EXAMINER:

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."---Euripides.

Vol. XIV. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, September 19, 1864. New Series.---No. 42.

S. T.—1860.—X.

Persons of sedentary habits troubled with weakness, lassitude, palpitation of the heart, lack of appetite, distress after eating, torpid liver, constipation, &c., deserve to suffer if they will not try the celebrated

PLANTATION BITTERS,

which are now recommended by the highest medical authorities, and warranted to produce an *immediate* beneficial effect. They are exceedingly agreeable, perfectly pure, and must supercede all other tonics where a healthy, gentle stimulant is required.

They purify, strengthen and invigorate.
They create a healthy appetite.
They are an antidote to change of water and diet.
They overcome effects of dissipation and late hours.
They strengthen the system and enliven the mind.
They prevent miasmatic and intermittent fevers.
They purify the breath and acidity of the stomach.
They cure Dyspepsia and Constipation.
They cure Diarrhœa, Cholera and Cholera Morbus.
They cure Liver Complaint and Nervous Headache.
They make the weak strong, the languid brilliant, and are exhausted nature's great restorer. They are composed of the celebrated Calisaya bark, winter green, sassafras, roots and herbs, all preserved in perfectly pure St. Croix rum.

"* * * I have given the Plantation Bitters to hundreds of our disabled soldiers with the most astonishing effect. G. W. D. ANDREWS, Sup. Soldier's Home, Cincinnati, O."

"* * * The Plantation Bitters cured me of liver complaint, of which I was laid up prostrate, and had to abandon my business. H. B. KINGSLEY, Cleveland, O."

"* * * I owe much to you, for I verily believe the Plantation Bitters have saved my life. Rev. W. H. WAGGONER, Madrid, N. Y."

"* * * Thou wilt send me two bottles more thy Plantation Bitters. My wife has been greatly benefitted by their use. Thy friend, ASA CURRIN, Philadelphia, Pa."

"* * * I have been a great sufferer from dyspepsia, and had to abandon preaching. * * The Plantation Bitters have cured me. Rev. J. S. CATHORN, Rochester, N. Y.

"* * * Send us twenty-four dozen more of your Plantation Bitters, the popularity of which are daily increasing with the guests of our house. SYKES, CHADWICK & Co., Proprietors Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C."
&c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

Such are one in thousands of certificates daily received. They are immensely beneficial to weak persons and delicate females.

Be cautious of re-filled bottles. See our signature on a fine steel plate label. They are not sold by the gallon. They are only sold in our patent log cabin bottles, by respectable druggists, grocers, hotels, saloons, steamboats and country stores.

P. H. DRAKE & CO.
202 Broadway, N. Y.

Advice to the Farmers of P. E. Island.

AS the season for Harvest operations is approaching, and as the crops promise to be unusually abundant, the undersigned begs to remind FARMERS throughout the Island that he has just received an Invoice of his Stock of

Manny's Celebrated and Wonderful Mowing and Reaping Machines,

which save immense time, labor and money to those who use them, as is proved by the well established fact that they will enable a Farmer to save his crops four or five weeks sooner, and at less than half the cost, than he could do the work by the old fashioned Hook and Scythe, now rapidly going out of use, with the older and still more useless Flail. No enterprising or temperance Farmer should be without one of those wonderful Machines; the cost is comparatively trifling, and no man who is able to bear the cost should think of hiring one, as before it came to his turn to hire one of the Machines that might be in his neighbourhood, he would, perhaps, lose the chance of securing or selling his crop to advantage.

The MOWING and REAPING MACHINES were never in greater demand in the United States than at present. The scarcity of manual labor in that country, caused by the number of Farmers killed and wounded in the present War, renders such LABOUR-SAVING MACHINES more desirable than ever, and it will be almost impossible to secure a sufficient supply hereafter for the use of the agriculturalists of this Island. NOW IS THE TIME TO SECURE THEM. The undersigned, knowing that they would be in great demand, ordered a considerable number of them for the use of the Farmers of this Island, but could not get more than half he required, which he is prepared to sell for Cash or approved credit, for one or two years, if they are ordered before the 25th inst.

The following Agents will act for the Subscriber in selling those extraordinary and beautiful MACHINES which are so well adapted for saving labour and money; and the Subscriber hopes that they will send their orders immediately and use their best exertions to promote their sale, and thereby advance the best interests of the Colony. The Machines have JUST ARRIVED in the Steamer "COMMERCE," and one of them, together with some patent ploughs, will be on exhibition at the NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL, where an office will be opened for the sale of all such goods, during the season.

RICHARD J. CLARKE,
Of Orwell Cheap Store,
From a Needle to an Anchor.

July 11, 1864.

AGENTS:
W. E. DAWSON and W. W. IRVING, Esqrs., Charlottetown,
F. P. NORTON and THOMAS OWEN, Esqrs., Georgetown.
Mr. THOMAS ANSEAR, Summer Hill, Montague,
Mr. J. McDOUGALL, Grand River Bridge.
Mr. J. T. TRUELOVE, Dundas, Lot 55,
Messrs. G. McKAY & SON, NEW LONDON,
J. A. McLEAN, Esq., St. Peter's Bay,
J. C. HALL, Esq., Tignish,
J. W. HOWLAN, Esq., and Mr. JAMES BRODERICK, Cascumpec.

A Good Chance

FOR AN INDUSTRIOUS MAN.

THE Subscriber offers for sale a FARM having a front of Twenty Chains on Kildare River, Lot 4, now occupied by John Kinch, containing about 120 acres, leased at 1s. per acre. About 40 acres are under cultivation, and the balance covered with fencing and hardwood. The Buildings consist of a Dwelling House, 14 x 20 feet, with a Kitchen attached, 14 x 14, finished outside, and a Frame Barn 20 feet square. Any quantity of Sea Manure, marsh and mussel mud, can be obtained close by. Terms easy.

For further particulars apply at the Office of Messrs BALL & SON, Charlottetown, or to GEORGE W. HOWLAN.
Cascumpec, July 18, 1864. isl 3m

FREE LAND

At Egmont Bay, Lot 15.

FOR SALE, 125 Acres, 20 acres upland cleared, and 20 acres Salt Marsh, fronting 19 chains on the Shore at Rocky Point Fishing Cove. The rear bats on the main road.

ALSO—50 aces of Land, 26 acres cleared, 16 acres of which are fenced and under crop, fronting 10½ chains on the shore. The main road leading to Rocky Point runs through this farm.

ALSO—45 acres near the Chapel, on the south side of a beautiful river, with about 20 acres cleared, 9 of which are under crop.

☞ Abundance of sea manure can be had on the shore of the farms. The terms upon which these farms will be sold are very liberal. Please apply to Mr. F. W. HUGHES, Examiner Office, Charlottetown, or to N. J. BROWN.
Brown's Mart, Egmont Bay, August 8, '64.

WHITE BEANS!

JUST RECEIVED, and for sale by the Barrel or Bushel—

5 bbls. Canadian WHITE BEANS.

N. RANKIN.
September 12, 1864.

SUMMERSIDE.

1864 New Goods. 1864

EX COMMODORE and W. W. LORD, from LIVERPOOL.—COL. ELLSWORTH, ARGONAUT, PEARL, COMET, MARY CLEAVELAND, and Steamer COMMERCE from UNITED STATES.

THE Subscriber has received a large and well-selected STOCK OF GOODS by the above named vessels,

Direct from the Manufacturers in England, and from first Houses in the United States,

which he will sell at his Store, SUMMERSIDE, for cash, or approved credit, consisting, in part, of—

Coburgs, Lustres, Alpacas, Delaines, Lamas, printed Muslins, Ginghams, Zerilla Checks; Repps, Prints, Grey and White Cottons, Striped Shirtings, Bedtick, scarlet, blue, white and fancy printed Flannels; Mantles, Shawls, Bonnets, Hats, Ribbons, Flowers, Cap Fronts, Parasols, Umbrellas, Gloves, Hoisery, Hair Nets; a large assortment of ready-made CLOTHING in Coats, Jackets, Pants, Vests, Flannel and Cotton Shirts, Paper and Linen Shirt Collars, Neckties and Handkerchiefs, Scarfs, India Rubber and Cotton Braces; Black and Fancy Doeskins, Blue and Black Broadcloths, Tweeds, Cassimeres, Stockuett, Russell Cord, Linen domestic, Jean, Velvets, Canada barging, Osnaburgs, Duck, Carpeting, Blankets, Counterpanes, Sheets, Verona, Serge, Old Clothes, Ladies' Collars, Handkerchiefs, Neckties, Stays and Corsets, Carpet Bags, White and Blue Cotton Warp, Tailor's Trimmings, Ladies' Dress Trimmings.

HATS AND CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES.

Plough Metals, Cut and Wrought Nails, Pit, Cross-cut, Hand, and Tenon Saws; Window Glass, Putty, Blister and Cast Steel, Pots, Pans, and spare Covers, Sad Irons, Gunpowder and Shot, Shot Bags, Powder Flasks, Gun Caps, Percussion Guns, Fishing Rods, Trout and Cod Hooks; Hoes, Shovels, Spades, Griffin Scythes, Scythe Stones and Rifles, Codlines, Manilla Rope, Frying Pans, Gridirons; a large assortment of Hinges and Screws, Plough Traces, Leading Harness, Halter Chains, Mullen Bitts, Backbands, Watering Chains, Rings, Buckles; with a large assortment of Harness Mounting of every description; Steelyards, Door, Pad, Chest, Cupboard and Chest Locks; Carpenter's Rules, Squares, Handsaw Sets, Latches, Sewing and Pegging Awls, Shoe and Stove Blacking, Bed Screws, Copper Nails, Pump and other Tacks, Jewsharps, Black and White Coffin Furniture, Spoke Shaves, Slide Bevils, Smoothing, Jack and Trying Planes, Screw Bitts, Gimblets, Firmer and Socket Chisells, Drawing Knives, Thompson Screw Augurs, American and English made Horse Nails, Coil Chain, Paint Brushes, Sash Tools, Whitewash and Scrubbing Brushes, Hair Brooms, Horse and Shoe Brushes, Sheep Shears, Preserving Kettles, Fine Tooth and Dressing Combs, Shoe Knives, Steel Pens, Table Knives and Forks, Carvers, Pocket Knives, Table and Tea Spoons, Salt and Mustard Spoons, Razors and Straps, Tooth and Shaving Brushes, Looking Glasses, Sheaths and Belts for sailors' knives, Chalk Lines, Shoe Thread, White and Yellow Closing Flax, Scissors, Violen Strings complete, Oyster Knives, Sail Needles, Carpenters' Brads, Trays and Waiters, Saucepans, Horse Rasps, Mill, Pit, Cross-cut, hand and Tenon Saw Files, Wood Rasps, best Boot Web, Whips and Whip Thongs, Slates and Pencils, Clench Rings, Spikes, Weavers' Reed's Paints, Oils, Red and Yellow Ochre, Blue, Glue, Borax, Washing and Baking Soda, Cudbear, Extract of Logwood, Alum, Log and Red Wood, Annatto, Indigo, Olive and Castor Oil, Epsom Salts, Sena, Seidlitz Powders, Sulphur and Brimstone, Pimento, Rosin, Raisins and Currants, assorted Candy and Lozenges, Cloves, Nutmegs, Lemon Syrup, Walnuts, Filberts, Almonds, Dried Apples, Ginger, Pepper, Mustard, Vinegar, Snuff, Saltpetre, Candles, Soap, Tea, Tobacco, Cheese, Crackers, Pilot Bread, Ginger Snaps, Seed Cake, Matches, Clocks, Pitch, Tar, Oakum, Round and Flat Iron, Tables, Chairs, Bedsteds, Washstands, Rocking Chairs, Settees, Cradles, Sole Leather, Bibles, Testaments, Catechisms, Prayer and other Books, Stationery, Buckets, Brooms, Hay Rakes, Scythe Sneaths, American Broad and Narrow Axes, Adzes, Hatchets, Wool Cards, Hoop Skirts, Cane for Hoops, &c. &c.

—ALSO—

1500 Barrels SUPERFINE FLOUR; and hourly expected 500 barrels EXTRA FLOUR: 100 barrels CORN MEAL, together with a great variety of other GOODS.

☞ The highest price always paid in Cash for OATS, EGGS, WOOL and SHEEP SKINS.

JOHN ANDREW McDONALD.
Summerside, June 27, 1864.

Cash Provision Store!

W. S SMITH,
Great George Street

FLOUR,
TEAS,
WINES,
SPIRITS
and GENERAL GROCERIES.

N. B.—W. S. S. would call the attention of Retail Dealers to his Stock of Wines, Spirits, &c.
Ch'town, May 23, 1864. isl & r w tf

QUEBEC PORTER & ALES.

St. Charles-st. Brewery, Quebec.
Thomas Lloyd, Proprietor.

ALES & PORTER, of superior quality, in Bottles and Wood, for sale by

J. ROBERTS ECKART,
Telegraph Building, Water-st.
Ch'town, P E Island, July 11, 1864.

First Instalment of SPRING GOODS!

Just arrived per Bark EDWIN & LIZZIE:

BONNETS,
HATS,
MANTLES,
HABERDASHERY,
&c. &c. &c.

WM. HEARD.
Queen Square House, May 23, 1864.

ON HAND!

Flour, Leather, Tobacco and Crackers,

WHICH will be sold low for CASH or approved 3 months' paper.

Fortnightly upon the arrival of the Steamer "Commerce," the subscriber will receive a fresh supply of **FLOUR**, which he will sell at low rates. Country Traders and others will find it for their interest to call.

I. C. HALL,
Peake's Brick Building, Water Street.
Ch'town, June 27, 1864.

For Sale! For Sale! For Sale!

THE Subscribers are authorised to SELL the OLD WESLEYAN CHAPEL, in Charlottetown, in LOTS; the wing next to the new Chapel to be moved off the premises by the 12th of November next, the other parts to be moved as soon as can be agreed on with the purchasers.

All the PEWS, GALLERY FRONT, and PULPIT will be disposed of in lots to suit purchasers, immediately after the opening of the new Chapel, which will be about the 20th October next.

By order of the Trustees.
RICHARD HEARTZ,
MARK BUTCHER.
September 5, 1864. 5in

Dissolution of Copartnership.

THE Copartnership hitherto subsisting between the Subscribers under the style or firm of D. G. & S. DAVIES, has this day been DISSOLVED, by the retirement of Mr. DANIEL DAVIES from the business. All persons having demands against the said firm are requested to furnish their accounts to Messrs. G. & S. DAVIES (who will continue the business,) for liquidation; and all persons indebted to the said firm will please make payment of their respective accounts to Messrs. G. & S. DAVIES, or to Mr. DANIEL DAVIES.

DANIEL DAVIES,
GEORGE DAVIES,
SIMON DAVIES.
Charlottetown, September 5, 1864.

REFERRING to the foregoing notice of Dissolution of Copartnership, the subscribers beg to intimate to the customers of the late firm, that they will continue the business under the firm of G. & S. DAVIES, and having purchased the STOCK IN TRADE of the late firm, which will be replenished by a very LARGE STOCK of BRITISH and FOREIGN GOODS—now being selected by Mr. Simon Davies—they will be prepared to supply wholesale and retail customers on the best terms.

GEORGE DAVIES,
SIMON DAVIES.
Sept. 5, 1864. 6w

FLOUR DEPOT
FOR
King's County!

Depot at Georgetown, King's County, P. E. Island,
FOR THE BEST No. 1 and 2
CANADA FLOUR,
warranted.

Also for NEW YORK, GENESSEE FANCY BRANDS, DOUBLE EXTRA SUPERFINE, and all other grades of FLOUR.

A large assortment of
BOOTS and SHOES,
now opening, and for sale Cheap.

F. P. NORTON.
Georgetown, July 25, 1864. 2m isl

ONE MONTH MORE!

THE CLEARING OUT
SALE OF STOCK
AT
DELANY & WILSON'S
WILL TERMINATE ON
the 10th September next.

Those in want of Goods would do well to embrace this, THE LAST, opportunity of purchasing them AT COST!

RENFREW HOUSE,
Charlottetown, August 15, 1864.

1864.

NEW GOODS

JUST ARRIVED
AT THE
LONDON HOUSE.
H. HASZARD

BEGS to announce the ARRIVAL of his SPRING and SUMMER STOCK of
BRITISH DRY GOODS,
Hardware, &c., &c.,

In all the varieties of the LATEST STYLES in fashion, and Material suitable for the season, having been carefully selected and purchased on favorable terms, will be sold

CHEAP FOR PROMPT PAYMENT.

Upper Queen Street,
Charlottetown, May 30, 1864.

FOR SALE!

300 BBLS. No. 1 Superfine
CANADA FLOUR,
150 Bbls No 2 DO DO
10 Puns Muscovado Molasses,
Bags Liverpool Salt,
Boxes Tobacco, 10s,
Bbls choice Biscuit,
Cases Claret, 'Montferrand,'
J. ROBERTS ECKART,
Telegraph Building,
June 27, '64. 6m Water-street.

GLASS! GLASS!!

JUST RECEIVED from ENGLAND, by the GAZELLE—
134 boxes GLASS, in sizes from 8 x 10 to 24 x 36,
2 casks HARDWARE.
W. E. DAWSON.
August 15, 1864.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE, at the subscriber's WAREHOUSE, in CHARLOTTETOWN,
2000 Bushels Liverpool Salt
50 Sacks Butter Salt
20 Tons ½, ¾ & ¾ Iron
3 Tons Navy Oakum.
JAMES C. POPE.
June 13 1864. tf

Just the things you want.

Call at Bell's Clothing Store,
QUEEN STREET,

WHERE you can purchase at MODERATE PRICES—
Beaver CLOTH, Felt, Tweed and Straw HATS, Cloth and Tweed CAPS, Shirts, Ties, Scarfs, Collars, Gloves, Braces, Underclothing, Socks, Oil Clothing, Sou'westers, Overalls, Jumpers; Trunks, Valises, Umbrellas, Water-proof COATS and LEGGINGS, and a

GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF
Ready-made Clothing,
Suitable for the Season.

ALSO,
A choice selection of Cloths, Tweeds, Doeskins, Cassimeres, Vestings, and
Tailors' Trimmings,
which will be made up to order at the shortest notice.

CHARLES BELL,
May 23, 1864. tf Proprietor

TO EXCURSIONISTS.

ROUND TRIP FOR $13.

TICKETS from CHARLOTTETOWN to PICTOU, TRURO, HALIFAX, WINDSOR, ST. JOHN, SHEDIAC, SUMMERSIDE, and CHARLOTTETOWN, or vice versa, and GOOD for ONE MONTH from date of purchase, may be had of J. S. CARVELL, Agent.
Charlottetown, June 17, 1864. tf

Cloth Factory!

THE SUBSCRIBER begs respectfully to inform the public that he will continue to manufacture CLOTH, &c., at his establishment in Tryon. Wool will be received in Charlottetown by H. J. Callbeck, Agent, or at the Mill.

☞ Cloth received for Dyeing and Dressing as heretofore.

CHARLES E. STANFIELD.
May 23, 1864. tf

On Consignment.

TO ARRIVE per Schr. *Adino* from HALIFAX—
15 Hhds. Bright Sugar,
10 Tierces do do.
20 Puncheons Molasses,
10 Chests Tea,
10 Bags Rice,
40 Bundles Oakum.
For sale low. P. W. HYNDMAN.
August 29, 1864. 5in

Wanted! Wanted!

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, a GOOD COOK, also a Young Man to take charge of Stables as Hostler. Liberal wages will be given. Enquire at the *Examiner* Office.
Ch'town, Sept. 12, 1864.

STUBBS HOTEL,

(Opposite the Custom House)
146 Prince William street,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

JAMES McINTOSH,.....PROPRIETOR.
August 29, 1864. 1y

Grain! Grain! Grain!

THE highest price given for BARLEY and OATS, at
Coles's Brewery and Distillery,

☞ Constantly on hand, at prices cheaper than can be purchased in the market, the best of Rum, Brandy, Gin, Whiskey, and a superior article of Malt Whiskey. Also—X, XX, and XXX Ale,
Charlottetown, June 20, 1864.

LITERATURE.

THE VILLAGE HOME.

A village home, a village home
By a smiling village lea,
With the calm rich life of its tranquil scene,
And the joy that smiles through its ancient mien,
And its daily flowers and its olden treen
That sigh and lean o'er the graveyard green—
Oh a village home for me!

Oh a village home! where all,
From the babbling village brook
To the village sky that shines on high,
Hath the same sweet village look!

And the sun hath a face for that happy place,
Which never he knows elsewhere;
As a villager gay, in his harvest array,
He strides through the morning air.

Pane by pane, through hamlet and lane,
He peppeth in every one;
And right fair speech hath his lover for each—
That brave old neighbourly sun!

A village home for me—
And the village peace that plays
Through the calm delights of its holy nights,
And the thoughts of its quiet days.

And a village home for me
When my village life is o'er,
And the village hum at eve may come
On my twilight ear no more.

That sleep so calm and sound
How the weary heart would love,
When the village graves around,
And the village bells above;

And the village blessing borne
On balm of Sabbath air;
And tears in simple eyes that mourn
At village hour of prayer,
As they point to the stone with moss o'ergrown,
And think of the sleeper there.

A village home, a village home
By a smiling village lea,
With the calm rich life of its tranquil scene,
And the joy that smiles through its ancient mien,
And its daily flowers and its olden treen
That sigh and lean o'er the graveyard green—
Oh a village home for me!

(From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.)

ENTERED FOR THE PLATE.

MY WIFE'S INHERITANCE.

'We must really have a civility dinner next week. There are the'—here my wife enumerated some half-dozen or so of acquaintances, who had not ripened into intimates—'to whom we are in debt.'

'Then let us settle the score as soon as possible,' I replied. 'Send out your invitations, and give me the number that I may know what wine to order from Bookay and Baddy.'

For I blush to confess that I had no cellar. I had twice attempted to 'lay down' wine, but it would keep rising up again with such pertinacity, that I gave up the experiment. I believe, however, that though cellarless, I am rather of a hospitable disposition, and like playing host, so that I spoke with a cheerful accent, which rather aggravated my spouse.

'Ah,' she said, and with perfect truth, 'it is easy enough to order the wine; but if you had before you the task of looking after the collection of the silver, with the bother, and anxiety, and responsibility which I feel till it is all returned safely, you would not be so pleased at the prospect. Let me see: there is Cousin Mary's dozen of forks and spoons, Mr. Tompkin's epergne, Louisa's fish-slice,' and the little woman soon made out a list of the friends who were to supply us with the silver requisite to make our table sufficiently imposing in the eyes of comparative strangers.

For on ordinary occasions we ate off sipped out of, and stirred with electro-plate. With the exception of a few bachelor teaspoons and a tobacco-box, bearing an inscription which tended to perpetrate the remembrance of the grace and dexterity with which a certain under-graduate was once wont to handle an oar, there was not an article of silver in the house. It is true that our tea-pot has hitherto always borne the credit of being genuine, but that was owing to a ruse of mine; for, learning at an early period of hymeneal initiation that plated tea-pots were distinguished by the thickness of their nozzles, I had our's fitted with a silver spout, and *did* the gossips.

We were not wealthy or titled, it is true; but most people with our income and position have some little poverty sunk in precious stones and metals; while I do not believe that the most enterprising pawnbroker would have advanced twenty pounds upon our united stock of rings, brooches, chains, watches, and other trinkets. We were married with the joyous approbation of our respective relations, yet our wedding presents were not so handsome as those often bestowed by them on comparative strangers on like occasions, but ran mostly to Illustrated Byrons, paper-machie knives, and cut-glass butter-coolers. Our children had been god-fathered and god-mothered in a genteel and Christian manner, yet their little mugs were made of delf, not silver. The fact was, that no one cared to give us, nor did we feel inclined to buy, either plate or jewellery, because at most it was only five to one against my wife being heiress to about the largest collection of gold and silver articles, and, above all, of emeralds and diamonds, possessed by any private individual in England; in a word, she was the favorite neice, and the promised inheritrix of Sir Peter Sparkles.

An astrologer who once cast Sir Peter's horoscope said that he was born when the Gemini were in conjunction with Aquarius, which accounts, perhaps, for his instinctive perception of the fineness of the water of precious stones and the mania he had for their acquisition. This taste, which in very early life had been comparatively harmless, had become developed and fostered by an accidental opportunity which occurred to him while serving against Tippo, in India, of purchasing looted jewels of inestimable value for a hundred pounds or so; and having thus formed the nucleus of a collection, he devoted the remainder of his life to his own considerable fortune, and that of the two wives whom (for virtuous reasons, principally) he had at different times married, to its increase and enrichment; so that at the age of seventy-five he was a childless and solitary old man, with an annuity, which he had taken the precaution to purchase, of two hundred a year for his sole support; but with plate which might have furnished the mess table of a volunteer regiment officered by the Rothschilds, Barings, Childs and Couttses, and jewels enough to set a couple of monarchs up in regalia, all in an iron-bound fire-proof closet at the back of his bed.

While he was somewhat like other men before he had secluded himself from his fellow creatures, and spent his last ten thousand pounds upon a sapphire which had caused two wars, and three coups d'etat, he had taken a great fancy to the daughter of his favorite sister, who had died under somewhat affecting circumstances, had the only child to stay with him on several occasions, and had spoken of her as holding a prominent position in his will. Better still; when that little girl grew up, and married the present writer, she received a letter from her crotchety uncle on her wedding morning, apologizing for not sending her some little ornament, on the plea that it would spoil the collection, but consoling her with the promise that it should all be her's one day; and so we contented ourselves with mother-of-pearl studs, ivory brooches and silken watch-guards; our fingers and ears were, with one unavoidable exception, ringless, and our plate was all make-believe, pending the time when we should make our selection from Sir Peter Sparkles's hordes, prior to converting the bulk into three per cent annuities.

One chance of inheriting was certainly a good one, but not so hollow a thing as it might appear at first sight. There were four other competitors entered besides my wife, and of whom were 'well in,' and doubtless each stable thought the chances of its own horses were the best.

First Paul Sneezinski, the son of Sir Peter Sparkles's first wife by a former marriage. This young man had a sort of moral right to the magnificent head-dress and stomacher of brilliants, which had belonged to his Polish mother; and Sir Peter had, in writing, admitted the claim.

Secondly, Don Estaban de Santiago, a South American gentleman, had certainly been disappointed of inheriting a number of emeralds of rare size and water, which would probably have come into his possession had not his foolish old aunt been caught by the attentions and the tête, (the value of which she somewhat overestimated) of the English baronet; and as the Don had reframed from even attempting to pistol or stiletto the intruding uncle, that gentleman had felt the extent of his obligations towards him, and had promised that he too should find himself all the better for his forbearance when that death befell which he had refrained from anticipating.

Thirdly, Lord Montechristo, a rival collector of rare jewels had once proposed to Sir Peter Sparkles that the one who died first should leave his to the survivor, and so, at all events, dispersion of the gems, which it had taken so much time, labor, and expense to gather together; and Sir Peter had seemed pleased by the idea, though he would not positively pledge himself to the arrangement.

Fourthly, Keziah Buggins, Sir Peter's house-keeper, was supposed to make him very comfortable, and to be an artful designing woman. She certainly had done her best of late years to prevent the old man's relatives from obtaining an interview with him; but that might have been in deference to his express orders. However that might be, her chance was considered a good one, and she was quite a favorite (in the dialect of the betting ring, mind you, and by no means in any affectionate sense of the term) amongst those who watched the event with interest.

Four to one on the field would have been very safe betting, for we were all 'dark horses;' and though we were standing figuratively, cap in hand, round the old man's jewel closet, it would have puzzled Admiral de Rous himself to have handicapped us.

This was the state of the odds and latest news at the (chimney) corner on the morning when my wife was reckoning up all the friends whose silver she could borrow; but while she was absorbed in her calculations, the post came in, and a black-bordered letter was placed in my hands, which quite dispersed all her plans.

'I do not know any one who has fish-knives,' she was saying at the moment I opened it, 'which is a pity, for I like the fashion vastly. Do you think you could hire any?'

'It will not be necessary to do so now,' I rejoined, 'nor will you be able ever to borrow plate again, for we shall either have a superfluity, or be left without excuse for not providing ourselves with what is needful from our own resources.'

'What! Uncle Peter?'

'Is dead.'

'Poor old man!'

But when a man is very old and very cracked, and one has not seen him for years, one cannot feel inconsolably grieved at his decease, even if he be one's mother's brother, especially while it is uncertain whether he has left one anything. My wife is not a humbug, so she did not cry, but turned very pale, and the next thing she said was: 'Now we shall know!'

All the horses came to the post, or rather to drop the sporting metaphor which struck me so whimsically at the time, that I am unable to help introducing it while telling my story, all five expectants were at the funeral.

What a demoralizing thing that greediness is; the solemnity of death, the hopes of immortality, the thought that the poor body which we were hiding away in the earth was but the other day living, talking, planning, as we then were, and that in a few short years at the furthest, we should be helpless, senseless, dark like it; the moral lesson taught by the little good the dead man had derived from his hoarded treasures, seeing that a penny given to a beggar (lent, we are told) would be of more value to him now than the Koh-i-noor—to all this we were deaf and blind; the one thought which dinned in our ears, and swam before our eyes was, who will inherit? I felt it myself, and I saw it in the eyes, and especially in the lips of my companions; that was only our thought. We returned to the house, and gathered in the sitting room; the lawyer opened the will. I wonder whether the principal end and aim of all legal wills is to spoil as much parchment as possible before coming to the point; if so, they are marvellously successful, and the present is a master-piece; at last the name Montechristo surged out of a sea of words, and this is an abridgement of what followed: 'I know that there was a sort of understanding between Lord Montechristo and myself, that the one who died first should leave his collection to the survivor, and this I at one time fully intended to adhere to; but the serious consideration upon death and responsibility called up by the making of my will, and putting down in black and white what I desired might be done when I was no more, together with a chapter in the Bible, upon which I accidentally hit, about a man who hid his talent in a napkin, diverted me from an act of so great injustice; and if Lord Montechristo has fulfilled his part of the proposed agreement, to which, however, he must remember that I never pledged myself, I can only beg his forgiveness.'

Lord Montechristo turned scarlet.

'Forgiveness!' he cried. 'Why, it is a breach of contract, a swindle, an attempt to obtain money under false pretences. Why I have left him on my side every diamond, every——.

'Pardon me, my Lord,' said the lawyer: 'This outburst is hardly opportune. If you have any legal remedy, bring it forward afterwards; if not, remember that it is hardly reasonable to expect the present company to sympathise with your disappointment.'

He was right; we were delighted; one horse was out of the race, and the odds were a point less against each other of the remainder. The reading of the will was continued.

'I feel that Paul Sneeninski ought to have his mother's jewels; but I neither like the idea of any property which has once belonged to an Englishman going out of the country, except for value received, nor can I bear to break up the collection with my own hand. If my heir likes to make them over to him, or to compensate him in any other way, she is free to do so.'

It was evidently Paul Sneezinski's first impulse to tear his hair and use bad language, but he remembered that some one had to be conciliated, and restrained himself.

'The same remarks apply to Don Estaban de Santiago, though of course, his claims to compensation are infinitely inferior to those of the Pole.'

Don Estaban smiled bitterly, bowed elegantly, drew himself up to his full height, and commenced twirling his moustaches.

The race now lay between Keziah Buggins and myself. I do not know how I looked, but my heart throbbed at a tremendous pace, and there was a look of triumph in the full and rosy (not to say 'bloated') face of my opponent, which made me fear the worst.

'To my Housekeeper, Hesiah Buggins——'

'Yes sir, that's me; go on quick, please!'

'I bequeath all that she has robbed me of during the years that she has been in my service, so that now she can with truth call herself an honorable woman; may she remain so; for any disappointment she may now feel, she drove me to deceive her. She must have feathered her nest comfortably; let her be content. Finally to my niece'——

In short I was left sole heir. All the gold, silver, diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, topazes, &c., were bequeathed to me. I say 'to me,' because husband and wife are one, more especially in the case of property accruing to the latter.

I sent off at once for my wife, according to agreement; and considering the great value of the property, and the public attention which had been drawn to that fact, and all the other singular circumstances of the case, I applied to the authorities for a policeman to remain in the house until I could get the will proved, and the valuables removed; and I determined not to leave myself before I could take them with me. So I sat up all night in the room in which the old man had lived and died, with a box of cigars and a bottle of whiskey on the table, a bright fire, and a simmering kettle on the hearth, and a document which had been folded up with the will in my hand. I had had the bed removed, and the door of the iron closet could be seen from where I sat. My wife, more philosophical or weary than myself, slept on a sofa in the adjoining drawing room; the policeman was in the dining room down stairs. Altogether, considering the watch that was kept, and the fact that the house was in a row in a frequented quarter, I felt that my property was very safe.

The difficulty threatened to lie in getting at it, for the paper which had been tied up with the will, and which was in Sir Peter's own handwriting, ran thus: 'The person who opens the jewel closet must be careful or he will inevitably be shot. I have always had a great taste for mechanical contrivances, and some skill in locksmiths' works; and for the last ten years I have devoted all my time and ingenuity to the perfection of an apparatus so fixed within the closet that the outward movement of the door for the space of more than two inches should cause six pistol-barrels to explode simultaneously: one upwards, one downwards, two latterly, and two straight to the front. The iron rod which connects the door with the trigger, any pressure upon which will fire the machine, was to have been raised, and so rendered harmless, by pulling a wire, the end of which I intended to hang on a nail just inside the left top corner of the door, and easily got at when the door was opened one inch, thus leaving the margin of an inch for the benefit of burglars, as, unless the door revolves on its hinges two full inches, it is utterly impossible that the barrels should go off. My latter years have been wretched by the perpetual fear of robbers. The infirmities of age crept upon me; I felt myself growing weaker and weaker; I could not trust my servant; and it was with feelings of delight and triumph that, not quite a year ago, I completed a work which had cost me so much time and labour, and which a skilled blacksmith could have done for me in a few days had I known one whom I dared to trust, I arranged the apparatus, and quietly closed the door until, when there was only the exact gap of two inches left, I heard the iron rod clink into its place. I was standing on a chair with the end of the wire, which, when pulled, would render the instrument harmless, in my hand, and I now proceeded to hitch it by a loop which I had twisted on the further end on to the appointed nail. At that moment some one came to the door of the room; I started and dropped the wire, which sprang into the interior of the closet, and rattled down upon the gold and silver dishes.

'It is nine months and three days since I have seen my treasures. My diamonds, that a prince might covet; my emeralds, that sparkled in the sword hilt of the warrior; my goblets, carved by Benvenuto Cellini; my loves, my children, to enjoy which, perpetually and undisturbed, I have seperated myself from my kind, and became a sort of mammon hermit, are there, separated from me by a mere plank, and I cannot see them, cannot gloat over their glittering beauties, cannot touch them, cleanse them, polish them!'

There was a good deal more. The poor old man had evidently thought of sending for his niece and myself to take care of him and his treasures, while he entrusted some workman with the task of extracting them for him, but determined to wait until he was worse or better before he took this step. He lamented his illness and weakness, and moralized a bit, taking himself for a text. But there was nothing new or original about the composition, and I do not think that it would be generally interesting *in extenso*. The details which I have extracted were excessively interesting to my wife and self though; and when I was fully entitled to take possession, I sent for a clever locksmith, the lawyer and a detective—the last I thought might be useful in suggesting plans for the avoidance of danger—and held a grand consultation upon how to crack our nut and get at the kernel.

My confidence in the detective was not misplaced; he listened to all our ingenious devices, in judicious silence, and when we had quite done, said: 'Would it not be simpler to break in at the back of the cupboard?'

Of course it would; we all saw that now. It was the old story of the leather portmanteau which can be ripped up with a penknife, though secured by a Bramah lock of labyrinthine intricacy. On examination, we found that the closet was built against the partition-wall so that the back could not be got at without going into the next house, which was occupied by a city clerk and wife, young people who had been there a month, and were not likely, one would hope, to prove cantankerous. The police-officer offered to 'square it,' as he said, with them, and having done so in a remarkably short space of time, we proceeded to the next house, leaving one of the party behind to guide us by knocking against the wall to the right spot for commencing operations. We soon found it; it was in a bedroom, the nuptial-chamber, unfortunately, but that had been already conceived and considered in the compensation. Quickly was the bright fresh paper torn from the wall, and easily did the locksmith and a workman whom he had called to his assistance effect an entrance. Too easily, alas! for some thief had caught the same idea as the detective; and when we gained admittance into the closet, we found a complicated arrangement of pistol barrels, but nothing else—not a brilliant, not a ruby, not an ounce of gold or silver.

I investigated, I inquired, I threw much good money after bad. The present tenants were proved innocent; the former ones could not be traced; and to this day no one knows who the very dark horse was that actually carried off the plate.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

We do not know who is the author of the following extract which we clip from a paper published in the far west. It contains hints that may be useful to some persons in this degree of longitude:—

"Take care of them. Do not let them stir without watching. They may do something wrong if you do. To be sure you never knew them to do anything very bad; but it may be on your account they have not. Perhaps if it had not been for your kind care, they might have disgraced themselves and their families a long time ago. Therefore, do not relax any effort to keep them where they ought to be; never mind your own business, that will take care of itself. There is a man passing along—he is looking over the fence—be suspicious of him; perhaps he contemplates stealing some of these dark nights; there is no knowing what queer fancies he may have got into his head.

"If you find any symptoms of any one passing out of the path of duty, tell every one else you see, and be particular to see a great many.

"It is a good way to circulate such things, though it may not benefit yourself or any one else particularly. Do keep something going—silence is a dreadful thing; though it was said there was silence in Heaven for the space of half an hour, do not let any such thing occur on earth; it would be too much like Heaven for this mundane sphere. If, after all your watchful care, you cannot see anything bad, perhaps, in an unguarded moment you lost sight of them—throw out hints that they are no better than they should be—that you should not won