

The broker went out, and returned in less than five minutes with five thousand dollars' worth of the paper, which Stevenson seized, glanced at with a smile, and hurried to Moreton's counting-room, to whom he paid his five thousand cash and five thousand in "good, approved paper"—his own paper, on which the ink was not yet dry!

This was unpardonable. Wall Street rang with it for a week as a good joke. It was only strange that the quiet Joseph Stevenson could have done it so coolly.

That evening John Moreton, Senior, and his son took John the Third aside, and sternly forbade him ever again to enter the house of Joseph Stevenson, or speak to Alice, his daughter; and thenceforth there was no word too harsh or bitter for the old man or his son to use in speaking of the objects of their hate.

And pass, by one of those curious mutations of fortune, it came to pass, that within one year after the death of Adam Stevenson, his son and his daughter-in-law departed to be with him, and Alice—young and exquisitely beautiful—was left an orphan, without a near relative, in a pitiless world.

It has already been remarked that it is difficult to imagine how hate can so entirely possess a heart; and it is more difficult to conceive of its ending gratification in wreaking its vengeance on an innocent child.

At sixteen Alice found herself under the guardianship of her father's enemy, who was the husband of her nearest relative. Her slender fortune did not suffice to support her, and she was subjected to a thousand persecutions, under which a less spirited girl would have fallen. But she had strong though secret allies in young John, who loved her faithfully, and in his cousin, Mary Bolton, the daughter of his mother's sister, and who was, like herself, an orphan dependent in the house.

John Moreton the son died, and the family consisted now of the old man, his grandson and the two young ladies, who were his wards.

He was well aware of the love of John and Alice. He had watched it steadily for years; he had indeed nursed it, for in it he saw the means of his revenge. Mary, the poor cousin, was as nothing to him, but she might become the tool of his purposes. He had carefully kept her from education, or any visible means of earning her support, and had instructed John to believe that her sole independence in life would be on him, so that John regarded her as his own protegee; and while he loved her as his cousin, he pitied her dependence.

And now the time approached when John Moreton the older was to go to his reckoning. But even in the solemn approach of death he was troubled with the thought that he died unrevenged on his ancient foe, and he resolved to leave the imprint of his hatred on the life of the last descendant of Adam Stevenson. Fearing that his grandson would marry Alice when he was dead, and knowing that to prevent that effectually and forever would be the hardest punishment he could inflict on her, he resolved to see him married to his cousin Mary before he died, and to witness the desolation of Adam Stevenson's grand-daughter as one of the last scenes in his worse than worthless life. He had a strong hold on the grandson by means of his love for his cousin, and the threat to leave them both penniless was a severe threat, since John felt that Mary was thus injured by his conduct.

Withal, strange as it may seem, they both loved the old man; and many tender recollections of childhood, when they sat on his knees, conspired to prevent their wishing to offend him now. The hour of his departure was fast approaching, and his determination had been unfolded to them privately, and impressed on them with terrible force. Young John was a noble fellow; possessed of every trait in contrast with his father and grandfather. He was worth his weight in gold, and though he had all respect for his cousin, he was by no means willing to marry her, nor did she desire it.

In point of fact there was another man in New York whom Mary would have chosen, and who would have chosen her, had the old man left any choice open to them. But day by day he acquired fearful power over them, and they were fast losing all control over their own destinies, in the midst of the strong influences which the dying old man brought to bear on them in his loneliness.

It was at this time that my acquaintance with them commenced. Dr. Wilson, my old friend, and constant companion in early years, mentioned to me his desire to call on me for aid, some day, in a matter in which he wished me to place full confidence in him, and to do as he said, asking no questions. To this I readily assented, not knowing whereto his plans tended.

He had been the early friend, possibly the lover, of the mother of Alice Stevenson. He had been the only friend of the orphan out of the Moreton family, and had watched steadily every event in her life.

It was late in December, in the year 18—. Evening had closed in with a high wind, and all the appearances of a cold storm. I entered my house and closed the door behind me. I was thankful that the exposures of the day were over, and that a quiet seat by the fire, and a book of rare attraction were waiting me after dinner should be finished.

The table was not cleared—in fact, I had not half concluded my dinner, when Dr. Wilson was announced, and exercising his privilege as one familiar with the ways of the house, he came directly to the dining-room.

It was to drag me out into the pitiless night that he had come. I resisted; but resistance was vain. He stated briefly the circumstances which demanded my presence, and in ten minutes I was seated by him in his carriage, and we were driving rapidly down town. For at that day I lived almost out of town, while the wealth and aristocracy of the city was to be found below Canal Street, not having yet adopted uptown as their peculiar property.

My anticipated storm had commenced. It was drifting snow, dry, harsh and fine, for the thermometer was nearly at zero, and the weather had not yet moderated to the required temperature for a long snow-storm. We rolled our cloaks around us and over our faces and lips, while the horse sprang forward as if in haste to be stabled. At length the Doctor drew up in front of a large house near the Battery, and we alighted and entered at a door which a servant had open for us.

The change from the intense cold of the outdoor air to the delicious warmth of the house was at first all exposed began to tingle with sharp pain. Doctor Wilson went immediately up the staircase, while I was shown into a small library room, where I had leisure for reflection and examination of the curiosities which surrounded the walls.

I became at length impatient at the delay which kept me there, for an hour had passed, during which I had heard no sign or sound of life about me. At length the rattle of a carriage up the street attracted my attention, and, looking from the window, I observed that it paused before the house in which I was. By the dim lamp-light in the dining-room I could not recognize the single individual dismounting from the carriage, but a moment later, when he was shown into the room where I was waiting, I knew him as one of the most eminent clergymen in the city, with whom I had no personal acquaintance. Left alone in the room with each other, we naturally fell into conversation. Another hour passed by almost imperceptibly, and then we were interrupted in an interesting discussion by a summons to attend in another room.

Doctor Wilson met me at the head of the staircase, and, in a whisper, said, "Be cautious. There has been a terrible battle."

(Conclusion in our next.)

Cleanings from late Papers.

THE BRITISH EXPEDITION IN THE CRIMEA.

(From the Times Special Correspondent.)

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 7.—Heavy rains have fallen and the roads are severely tried, but on the whole they stand the test uncommonly well. The railway is nearly useless owing to the destruction of trucks. Trains have still to be traversed by thousands of animals belonging to the land transport corps, and many fall exhausted and die; thus renewing the horrors of last winter. The siege artillery is ordered home. The reports from Kerth favour the opinion that the enemy mean to attack it. The Turkish contingent is assuming shape and form every day, and will be able to give a good account of the Russians should they indeed assail such a formidable position as the Allies occupy.

The letter of the Times correspondent, dated Constantinople, Dec. 10th, contains some reference to Kara. A number

of men had died of hunger. Three months ago General Williams is reported to have said that the capitulation was but a question of time and stomach. The circumstances attending this event ought to produce a great sensation in France and England on account of the gross neglect of mismanagement in some quarter or other. Kara has been quietly blockaded ever since midsummer, yet large bodies of troops were kept idle and useless on the Bosphorus and elsewhere; and the formation of an army in Asia was delayed till winter was at hand.

Prince Gortschakoff reports (Dec. 10) that everything was going on satisfactorily in the Crimea.

The affair of Dec. 8th, mentioned last week in a despatch from Marshal Pelissier, is alluded to by the Prince. He says that the assailants drove back the French from their advanced posts to the Tekoraya, and that 20 prisoners remained in the hands of the Russians.

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

PARIS, Thursday, Dec. 21.—According to a report generally credited, France has sent in an energetic note to Prussia, requesting that a stop be put to exports contraband of war to Russia, otherwise the allied fleets will blockade the Prussian ports.

RUSSIA.

The Pays thus describes the danger Russia would incur by a refusal of the terms which are about to be submitted to her. If Russia refuses to entertain the new proposition communicated by the court of Vienna she exposes herself to the defection of Germany, and perhaps to an alliance between the latter and the Western Powers. She exposes herself to a rupture with Austria, and even to a declaration of hostilities. She incurs the danger of a campaign in the Baltic, where might, perhaps, co-operate the Scandinavian powers. She is, moreover, certain to lose the Crimea in the course of next spring. All these circumstances will, doubtless, inspire reflection in the minds of the Czar and his councillors.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL, G.C.B.—In the work just issued by Mr. Woods, late Crimean correspondent for the Morning Herald, he makes publicly known, now for the first time, that it was by Sir Colin Campbell's disobeying orders that the English army escaped annihilation at the battle of Balaclava; or rather, it should be so said, that by countermanding an order of General Airey, to withdraw a most important field battery, he prevented the enemy seizing on the town, which was their object to possess.

The Turkish Ambassador in Paris has just announced to Prince Napoleon, by order of the Sultan, that His Royal Highness is at full liberty to sell all the articles sent from the Ottoman Empire to the Universal Exhibition, for the benefit of the widows and children of those brave men who have fallen in the Crimea.

CHINESE EXECUTIONS.—Canton, 10th Oct., 1855.—From the month of March last, 35,000 corpses must have been borne from that execution ground—a small plot, perhaps 140 yards in length, and 15 yards in breadth—and laid in pits at the eastern outskirts of the city. Suspected or guilty parties are relentlessly hunted out, and hurried to this gory place of death. Not one single case of clemency has been reported to us, and only last month we heard that the narrow strip of ground had been enlarged, so that now 500 criminals may be ranged at once for execution. A robber of note was captured in the beginning of this month. When brought to the place of suffering the executioners commenced their cutting at the extremities of his body, the toes and fingers, and after keeping him, as one stated to us, near an hour under torture, his heart was torn out and offered before the tablet of a military officer, who had fallen whilst fighting against this man last year. It is believed that the manes of the deceased will be gratified by this proof of vengeance on his foe. It will hardly be credited at home that this execution ground is situated in one of the busiest localities of the suburbs; that some potters have continued to mould and fire their pots in that small plot of ground, whilst hundreds of human beings have been day by day decapitated before their eyes. But such are facts. We have seen them ourselves. We have seen the coolies walking amongst the headless corpses; and the almost opened coffins laid on the pathway; because they have been to there to be carried away before the street gates were closed. There has certainly been an exhibition in this civilised city fit only for barbarous savages; Chinamen appear unmoved by it.

Correspondent of the Watchman.

PIRATES IN CHINA.

Her Majesty's sloop Bittern and the merchant steamer Paoushin, which had been placed at the disposal of Captain Vansittart by her owners, for the purpose of towing, &c., left Shanghai on the 12th of Sept. to destroy a well-organised body of pirates, who for months infested the coast of China, stopping all native trade, attacking and occasionally capturing vessels under the English flag. On the 18th they boarded a suspicious-looking Ningpo junk without obtaining any information, but proceeding with all speed, and arriving at the piratical stronghold of Sheipoo, in latitude 29 deg. 10 min. north, and longitude 122 deg. 5 min. east, the harbour was found to be perfectly sheltered, and so strongly fortified by nature as not to be equalled in any part of the world, having three entries for ships, all of which are very narrow, with hills on either side rising from the water's edge to some height, which, if fortified, would render Sheipoo inaccessible to any fleet which might be sent against it. A fleet of twenty-two large piratical vessels were observed moored head and stern, fully prepared for an attack, their flags and banners flying at the mast-heads, guns pointed (one vessel had fourteen heavy guns on one side), and the decks crowded with men. At half-past 10 o'clock they opened a heavy raking fire upon the two ships as they entered the north-eastern passage, which is not 100 feet in width. Owing to the steamer towing the sloop of war at full speed, and a strong tide running in, they flew through the shower of round shots which were fired at them. The Bittern having been cast off by the steamer anchored with springs on her cable, and opened her broadside upon the piratical fleet with a beautiful accuracy of fire. The pirates kept up their desperate attack with great spirit, doing considerable damage to the hull and rigging, besides wounding several men, some dangerously. Shortly after twelve, the pirates ceased firing, and retreated. The boats were immediately sent to board the deserted vessels, and found only one able to float. She had been preserved from the Bittern's destructive fire by filling a large merchant junk with cotton bales, and sinking her to a required depth with ashes, so that the shots only entered the bales, without injuring the floating battery behind. She had 25 guns mounted on deck, three of them measuring upwards of 12 feet in length, and 20 smaller guns dismounted below. All the other vessels were so riddled and damaged as to be in a sinking state. They were set on fire, and burnt to the water's edge. All were heavily armed with English-made guns, varying in calibre from 6lb. to 32lb. Some of the pirates had belonged to the fleet which attacked the Bittern at Fuchau, in Leautang, in August last, and had arrived here about 14 days ago. The English and American missionaries' Ningpo boat was recaptured, and had still on board property belonging to them. The pirates having in great force taken possession of a joss-house, a few miles over the hills, Captain Vansittart, at the urgent entreaty of the mandarins, landed the marines and small-arms men under the orders of Lieutenant Brooker and Assistant-surgeon New-

ton, accompanied by Mr. Interpreter Sinclair, the joss-house being well situated for a defence on the summit of a hill commanding all approaches, and surrounded by trees and thick brushwood, among which a number of the pirates had taken up their position, well armed and determined to defend themselves to the last. They succeeded in killing several of the Chinese soldiery, who had followed the Bittern's men, commanded by a white-button mandarin. The pirates, however, found a difference when they charged the Englishmen, for they were invariably shot down or bayoneted. After skirmishing through the brushwood, the doors of the temple were forced, and the pirates discovered concealed in most singular places. Two coffins had been emptied of their proper occupants, and filled with the living, armed with short swords; others were found behind, over and under the idols, and a number under a stack of straw; among them were a few women, who were allowed to escape. Only four or five trifling injuries were received by the Bittern's crew, although many suffered from the powerful rays of the sun; a marine died from its effects a few days afterwards. Such a complete destruction of a piratical horde had never been previously heard of in China; all their vessels were destroyed and burnt; some hundreds, according to the evidence of a prisoner, were killed by the shot and shell during the engagement, while those who escaped ashore, and who would in a short time have manned another fleet, were followed and destroyed or captured. The only vestige of a piratical fleet remaining when the ships left Sheipoo were a few pieces of charcoal which the natives were collecting for firewood. The following were the principal casualties:—Mr. Turner, master of the Bittern, a wound in the right side from a round shot; died four days afterwards. Thomas Stevens, a marine, died of the effects of the sun. William Hanney, marine, lost of the right leg by a round shot. Thomas Ellis, ordinary seaman, loss of the left leg by a round shot. James Brownlie, boy, loss of the left leg. Several other men were wounded by splinters, &c.—none severely.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In your last Number, I read a communication signed "J. R. Bourke," in which certain statements made by me, in the Examiner of the 31st December ult., relative to the Moleworth property on Lot 37, are said to be false; but I ask, Mr. Editor, if the writer of that letter has not admitted Mr. Bourke's title to the above property to consist of a life interest, or at least a leasehold interest of 99 years? Admitting, then, all that he has advanced in reply to my letter to be true, where is his power to sell lands on Lot 37, as per his "Notice to Tenants?" and how can Mr. Bourke execute deeds of conveyance for the same, or warrant to defend any man against the legal owner or owners of a property in which, by his own admission, he has only a leasehold interest of 99 years? He tells us it was not necessary to record a power of attorney, as the tenants made arrangements to pay the arrears; but why not record his power or letter of attorney (if he has any), as is always the practice of the country? Surely the trifling expense of a few shillings for registry fees has not been the cause why he has not duly recorded the power of attorney with his title. Mr. Bourke must, however, he may dispose of his lands and arrange with the tenants on Lot 37, submit to the humiliating fact that all I have stated touching his title to part of Lot 37 is incontrovertible.

Your humble servant, A NATIVE.

January 19, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I saw in Hazard's Gazette of Saturday last that I had been fined 5s. for being "drunk and disorderly." I beg to say it is a perfect falsehood, and request you to contradict it. I have seen the Clerk to the Corporation, and he informed me that it was a man of my own name—a mason, that worked last at Mr. Heard's. I request therefore this contradiction may appear in your first impression, to destroy the effects of the paragraph in Hazard's Gazette.

NICHOLAS BROWN.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, JANUARY 21, 1856.

THE APPROACHING SESSION.

During the late autumn and fall no silly tale was more industriously propagated through the rural districts than that the Governor would dissolve the House immediately, and order a new general election. The gullible ones at length became weary of asking the question—"When will the election take place?" It never seemed to enter their heads that there would be another session of the present House. The present House, we have many good reasons for knowing, will last out its full term of four years; and, inconvenient and unpleasant as it may be to the enemies of the party in power, they shall have to wait for all the fun and excitement of a general election until some fine day in the summer of 1858.

Most of our readers have seen in the Royal Gazette His Excellency's proclamation, summoning the Legislature to meet for the dispatch of business on the 14th February. In what position do the parties of Administration and Opposition stand? What will Parliament do this Session for the benefit of the country? What measures are to be brought forward by the Ministry? These are questions which frequently arise as a Legislative Session approaches, but they are much more easily put than answered. With regard to the first, we think the position which the Government will occupy will be as strong a one as they could desire. The Opposition was very weak and spiritless last year,—it does not promise to be any more spirited this, for it has not only gained no accession of strength, but it has lost numerical and moral power in the retirement of the elder Mr. Haviland; that gentleman does not love to linger in the cool shades of Opposition, even with such an important constituency as Princeton at his back; and Mr. Douse has been meditating, if he has not actually resolved upon, a retirement too. It is not for us to say why he feels reluctant, at this particular time, so shortly after his purchase of Lot 31, to meet his brother representatives in Session. So that, in the event of Mr. Douse vacating his seat, the Opposition will only number the following gentlemen: Messrs. Palmer, Longworth, H. Haviland, Montgomery and Yeo, and perhaps we may add the distinguished name of William Cooper. Such an array is certainly not likely to terrify or embarrass any Government.

What beneficial measures will be brought forward by the Government or its supporters, even we—supposed as we are to have some little intimation of Executive doings—are not prepared to say. In fact, we know nothing of the intentions of the Administration in regard to the legislation of the next Session. Most of the great questions that demanded enquiry and settlement have been disposed of. Nevertheless, many important subjects for legislation will doubtless be brought to the notice of our legislators as the Session progresses; and in subsequent Nos. of our paper, previous to the 14th of February, we may take the liberty of offering a few hints and suggestions for legislative action in the Session of 1856.

The equity and fairness of this measure—so often reviled by the enemies of the Government, and particularly by the lander—could not be better demonstrated than by the purchase recently made by Mr. Douse of Lot 31, part of the Selkirk estate. That gentleman boasts, and we have no doubt justly so—that there are not ten acres of bad land on the whole Township; and we learn from the Registrar's office, that he paid less than five shillings sterling an acre for it—and therefore less than the highest price the Government is authorised to give, under the law, for any land. The Land Act was passed to enable the Government to abolish, as far as possible, the leasehold tenure, by first purchasing and then selling to settlers and others the fee simple of their farms at prices at which they could conveniently buy them. Mr. Douse was one of those who declared in the House of Assembly, at the time the Land Bill was under consideration, that it would be a dead letter on the statute book, for that no proprietor could afford to sell his estate at the low price offered in the Bill. The Bill would be a dead letter, indeed, if he and others can successfully interfere, as he has done in one instance, between the Government and the proprietors, and make fortunate speculations for themselves to the loss of the public at large; but that Mr. Douse did not in reality think the Government price was too little, when he condemned it, is pretty evident from his having purchased the best part of the Selkirk property at a lower price still. If the Government had been allowed to purchase what has fallen into the hands of Mr. Douse, they could easily re-sell the land to the tenants at about eight shillings currency per acre, as the property contains no waste land, and is all settled, except a few acres of the best woodland in the country, which would readily sell at such a price as would materially lessen the cost of the cultivated land to actual settlers.

Mr. J. R. Bourke, some short time ago, it is said, purchased a considerable tract of land on Lot 37; and Mr. W. H. Pope has more recently purchased, as we are informed, the Mann Estate at Bedeque. Why these properties were not, in the first place, offered to the Government, it is not easy for us to say—it is just probable that the Government was represented as not being in a position to buy, or not fit to be trusted. Now, it is extremely improbable that the estates alluded to will ever become Government property, unless the present proprietors be allowed to make fortunes by their speculations, and we firmly believe that the day is very far distant when they will be afforded the chance. So that, on the whole, we cannot regard the evils of landlordism as being very much upon the wane, so long as resident Agents are allowed to step in between the Government and the absentee proprietors, and, by secret influences, prevent the former from effecting purchases. The subject ought, and we have no doubt will, receive the most deliberate consideration from the House of Assembly, in its approaching session.

It may not be amiss to state in this place, in connection with the Land Purchase Act, and in further illustration of its beneficial tendency, that during the short time that has elapsed since the Worell Estate became Government property, over twelve thousand pounds worth of it have been re-purchased, and the deposits paid into the Treasury. The whole estate cost about £24,000. Thus one-half the purchase money has been already secured, and a large body of discontented and despairing tenants converted into thriving, contented and independent freeholders, without the smallest loss to the Colony.

The Colonial Mail reached Charlottetown yesterday morning (Sunday) between 12 and 1 o'clock, a. m. The paper received furnish no news. An English Mail is expected this evening.

"THE BALANCE OF POWER; A POEM, BY JOHN LE PAGE."—With many common-place thoughts, there are not a few effective lines, and much smooth versification about this little brochure. It is the longest, and, we think, the best of Mr. Le Page's productions.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Tuesday evening last Mr. J. Williams, gave his instructive Lecture on "Cornish Mining" to a full house; he explained in a clear and lucid manner the mode of working the Veins or Lodes—and the means by which the Miners descend into and ascend from the pits—a distance of from sixty to two thousand feet. The Lecturer gave ample evidence of his thorough knowledge of the subject and his familiarity with the Cornish dialect, the repetition of some of the terms of which was followed by applause and laughter; owing to the many branches of operation connected with the subject, he found it impossible to condense it into one short Lecture; and was therefore requested to give continuation of the same during the present Session of the Institute.

T. Heath Haviland, Esq., V. P., will lecture to-morrow evening, on "Modern History."—Com.

FIRE.—On the morning of Sunday, the 13th inst., at about 4 o'clock, the house of Richard Dawson, Esq., Tryon River, was discovered to be on fire, and in less than half an hour was consumed to ashes—the inmates barely having time to escape with their lives, and before they reached the nearest dwelling, which is no more than two hundred yards distant. Mrs. Dawson, Miss Dawson and another female had their heads badly frozen. In addition to the total loss of the house, furniture and all usual contents, were merchandize to the amount of £150. We have not yet learned how the fire originated.—Advertiser.

UNITED STATES.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE BURNED.—Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 28.—St. Mary's College, a Catholic institution near this city, occupied both as a school and monastery, was totally destroyed by fire yesterday, together with all its furniture, &c. The library was partially saved. The premises belonged to Rev. Mr. Myers, and were insured.

EXPLOSION OF GAS WORKS.—Middleton, Dec. 30.—The gas works exploded about two o'clock this morning. The chain to which the weight was attached broke. The weight fell upon the purifier, and making a hole, let off the gas, and a terrific explosion followed, tearing off the roof and forcing the wall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—Up to the hour when last night left Washington, the House of Representatives had made no choice of Speaker. The President got tired of waiting, and caused his message to be laid before the Senate. The latter, by a large majority decided not to discuss the message until they had chosen their Speaker. We have as yet seen no abstract of the message. It is particularly bitter against Great Britain for sending (what it calls) reorganizing agents to the United States, and for declaring the Mosquito Islands under her protection, which the President considers a violation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.—N. B. paper, Jan. 9.