

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. X.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tuesday, June 5, 1860.

New Series.—No. 21.

Literature.

FANNY POWER.

BY THOMAS DAVIS.

The lady's son rode by the mill;
The trees were murmuring on the hill,
But in the valley they were still,
And seemed with heat to cower;
They said that he should be a priest,
For so had vowed his sire deceased;
They should have told him too, at least,
To fly from Fanny Power.

The lonely student felt his breast
Was like an empty linen's nest,
Divinely moulded to be blest,
Yet pining hour by hour;
For see, amid the orchard trees,
Her green gown kindled to her knees,
Adown the brake, like whispering breezes,
Went lightsome Fanny Power.

Her eyes cast down a mellow light
Upon her neck of glancing white,
Like starshine on a snowy night,
Or moonshine on a tower.
She sang—the thought her songs were hymns—
An angel's grace was in her limbs—
The swan that on Lough Erne swims
Is ruder to Fanny Power.

Returned, he thought the convent dull,
As he had heard his heartless fall—
No hope to cheer, no hours to cull,
No sunshine and no shower.
The Abbot sent him to his cell,
And spoke of penance and of hell;
But nothing in his heart to quell,
The love of Fanny Power.

He dreamed of her the living day,
At evening when he tried to pray,
Instead of other saints, he'd say,
O holy—Fanny Power!
How happier seemed an exile's lot
Than living there, unloved, forgot;
And oh, best joy! to share his cot
His own dear Fanny Power.

'Tis vain to strive with Passion's might—
He left the convent walls one night,
And she was won to join his flight.
He broke her wood an hour;
So, broke his vow at Lough Erne's shore,
And placed a ring upon the hand
Of happy Fanny Power.

THE GUEST-CHAMBER OF THE INN AT ST. IVES.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF A DETECTIVE.

"It is strange," said Monsieur Berret, "passing strange. I never saw so surely puzzled in my life."
"It is not possible, then, that you are labouring under any misapprehension?"
"Certainly not; have I not facts to deal with. Supposing, M. Guillot, that half-a-dozen dead bodies were found in a certain neighbourhood, in rapid succession, and under very suspicious circumstances, would it not be a fair conclusion that there had been foul play somewhere?"
"I should certainly deem it so."
"Well—and if, in addition to this, let us suppose that no clue could be obtained which would even give colour of guilt to any person—withstanding that every effort had been made—would it not be a very strange and mysterious?"
"I must agree with you that it would."
"And, by my life, it is the strangest thing I have ever known! It is not at all wonderful that men die from disease or from accidents; but when we hear of death without apparent cause, and of which no explanation can be given, I am bound to say that it puzzles me beyond measure."
"But do you mean to state, M. Berret, that there has been no apparent cause for the mysterious deaths?"
"Ah, I forgot. In the back of each was a wound, apparently made by some sharp weapon. This was without doubt the cause of their deaths."
"Such a wound, then, must have been inflicted by human hands—nothing can be clearer than this conclusion. Now, M. Berret, be so good as to state any particulars which may throw light upon this subject, that I may determine in what manner to act."

The foregoing conversation took place between myself and the sub-agent, in the diligence between St. Malo and St. Ives. I had received a letter from him several days previously, urgently requesting my immediate presence in the latter place, and in the last paragraph of his letter, I was so fortunate as to meet him. Upon my request, he gave a brief history of the strange occurrences, in the investigation of which he wished my assistance.

All, however, that he knew of the matter was, that within the compass of a few weeks, a succession of startling murders had been committed at St. Ives, a town within his official jurisdiction. Besides the bodies found in a certain neighbourhood, in every instance the wound in the back of which he had spoken—and thus far suspicion had been entirely baffled and left without a resting place.

The excitement consequent upon this alarming state of affairs had caused the sub-agent to decide upon a personal investigation of the matter, and when I encountered him, he had already started for St. Ives, so that our destination was the same.

"You entrapped the rascal, Jacques Guichard, so admirably," M. Berret remarked, "that I am led to hope for your success in the present one, dark and doubtful as the matter now looks."

"At all events," was my reply, "I deem it no more than justice to myself to make it plain. I must ask you, however, Monsieur Berret, to give me the entire management and control of this matter, in every particular."
"I will do so, and with pleasure. Frame whatever plans and us whatever means you please. I will be guided by you in all things pertaining to this business."

"This will be well. But one thing more, M. Berret. You must be as secret as the grave. Do not, upon any consideration, let it be known in St. Ives that there is a detective officer nearer to them than Paris; and, above all, do not suffer yourself to make an enquiry concerning these murders. Leave me to ask all questions in my peculiar manner."

The sub-agent promised full compliance with my instructions, and in a few moments we were rolling through the dark and ran into the village of St. Ives. During these few moments however, an incident occurred which necessarily has an important bearing upon my narrative.

Our conversation had been held, as a matter of course, in so low a tone as not to be overheard by the other occupants of the diligence; in fact, I had hardly noticed any of their faces. But now, as I finished speaking for the time being with M. Berret, and looked around me, I discovered in the elderly gentleman who sat directly behind us, Monsieur Auguste Lemare, a wealthy wine-seller of Bordeaux, and with whom I was quite intimate. Upon recognizing me, he greeted me cordially, and we conversed together upon passing topics for a moment.

"You stop at the Hotel of St. Ives, I suppose?" he said, changing the subject somewhat abruptly. I consulted the sub-agent, and learning that this was the only place in St. Ives at which he ever stopped, I answered the question in the affirmative.

"Well, I shall stay there also, but it is possible that I shall not see you again, as I intend to leave St. Ives early to-morrow morning. I am now on my way to England, travelling as my business compels me to, in a railway about way. Contrary to my usual custom, I have neglected to obtain letters of exchange, and have now the sum of five thousand francs with me. Permit me to count this over before you, that in case any unforeseen misfortune should deprive me of it before reaching Calais, you may be able to certify to my creditors as to my possession of the money at this time."

Producing a plithoric pocket-book, the wine-merchant counted its contents. The sum was correct, as he had stated—five thousand francs. M. Berret also, at his request, became a witness to his possession of the money.

The diligence now came to a stop before the inn, and the passengers hastened to leave the one for the other. After we had taken our supper, I accompanied the sub-agent to his room, where for an hour we talked on the subject of our mission to St. Ives, and the probabilities of success; and then, as the hour was quite late, I took him good-night and retired to my own chamber, and soon after to sleep.

Nothing unusual occurred during the night, if I may make one exception, which it may be well to notice in its place. I had been sleeping for more than two hours and was lying in a heavy slumber, when I was suddenly awakened by a heavy thump against the door. I was perfectly sure that I had not mistaken in the sound, and I was naturally desirous that it had been occasioned in some manner, and I was naturally desirous to listen intently. But I heard nothing more, although I placed my ear close to the wall. Whatever the strange sound may have been, it was not repeated.

Upon enquiring after the subject the next morning, I was told that the door had been closed, and left the inn.

The idea then occurred to me that I might have felt an opportunity to pass half an hour with the landlady, and addressing the landlady, a heavy browed, ill-favoured woman, I asked for her. The man elevated his brows in surprise, and declared that the wine-seller had not been in the house for a month.

"Perhaps you do not know M. Auguste," I said.
"But I do, Monsieur Berret," he replied.
"You must be mistaken about seeing him here."
"He was certainly here—in this town—last night."
"But not in this house—you are doubtless thinking of some other person."

As I walked away, I noticed that he followed me suspiciously with his eyes. His manner seemed strange to me. It was, in fact, rather anxious and constrained, as though he wished very much to impress it upon my mind that I might wish to see him in reality not been in the hotel. I had not seen the landlady, however, I was forced to confess that I had not seen the landlady in the inn. True, he informed me that he intended to stop there, but I concluded that he had changed his mind and so I dismissed the subject from my thoughts.

Passing into the street, I strolled along in search of the sub-agent, and I continued my walk for but a few moments, when, upon turning a corner I was brought abruptly upon a scene, and a terrible scene. A number of persons were crowded together upon the sidewalk—and among them, as it happened, M. Berret. He quickly saw me, and seizing my arm, conducted me forward to the object of common attention. It was, as I had already begun to suspect, another victim of the mysterious assassin of St. Ives—a man lying extended upon the pavement, face downward, the back protruded by a deep ghastly wound. But no words can describe my astonishment and horror, when, upon the face of the corpse being exposed, I recognized my aged acquaintance, M. Auguste Lemare. The sub-agent, too, started back in horrified surprise, and for a moment we both gazed at the body in silence. My habitual caution, however, soon returned, and drawing M. Berret hastily aside, I whispered a few words in his ear.

"Now, Monsieur Berret, if you will follow my instruction, I think I shall be able to solve this mystery in the course of the next twelve hours. Have this body conveyed as quickly as possible to some place where it can be kept privately, and then see whether there are any thousand francs can be found upon it. Do this, and return me in half an hour at the inn. I will wait for you there."

you have given me does not exist in the least, have you not a larger one where I can lodge?"

"Yes, monsieur," the man replied, with remarkable alacrity, "I should have spoken of it myself. There is a large and pleasant chamber next to the one in which you slept last night."

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"I think this will answer," I said, after surveying the apartment and its belongings.

"Will you lodge here to-night, then, monsieur?"

"Certainly. The room suits me in every particular."

"If the dark hours have not entertained any suspicious notions, you should be missing in the morning, I will turn the key to the door, and he left the room, I have no doubt, gratified in the depths of his black heart, that another victim was falling easily into his trap.

"You are determined on this step, I perceive," M. Berret declared after he had gone. "Well, I will not attempt to dissuade you, unless you please, but I promise you, should you be missing in the morning, I will turn the key to the door, and he left the room, I have no doubt, gratified in the depths of his black heart, that another victim was falling easily into his trap.

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Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, March 30.

His Honor the PRESIDENT.—Nothing concerning the correspondence was officially published; the information imparted with respect to its nature was conveyed through newspaper editorials. With newspaper editorials we have nothing to do.

Hon. Mr. HURCHINSON.—There was besides your own Address to the Electors of Charlottetown.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—Well, in that Address I stated no more concerning the correspondence than what is stated in the Message. I was offered a seat in this Council; and, in my consenting to accept it, I gave to my constituents, as I believed myself to be in duty bound to do, a candid and open explanation of the circumstances which caused that offer to be made to me, and of my reasons for accepting it; and I do not think that anything stated or said by me in that address is of such a nature as to fairly call for any other explanation to any of your Honors as members of this Council. Nothing as yet has transpired, with reference to the correspondence, to authorize this Council to ask His Excellency to lay it before them; and for all that is publicly known concerning it, there is no reason to question the expediency of its being still kept secret. However, if the majority of your Honors decide that it is proper to make an application for it, there are various ways of doing so; but, would they take my advice, I would convey it to them in the quietest and most discreet manner possible. If they ask for it through an address to His Excellency, they will, I assure them, receive nothing in reply but a refusal, which will certainly set at naught in a more humiliating position than that in which His Honor (Col. Swaby) complains they are placed at present. They must then take further action, and adopt a still stronger and more vigorous course of proceeding. Let them well consider, and see if they can justify themselves to very probably be, of very embarrassing and disagreeable consequences. I have said more than I at first intended to say; but I am anxious to show that, having received a direct answer to their own address, with that they ought to be satisfied, and perceive the inexpediency, in the present state of the Colony, of the positive impropriety of interfering at this or at any other time, with what ought to be the strict prerogative. To show how ridiculous it would be in this Council to assume as His Honor (Col. Swaby) wishes them to do—a right to demand the disclosure of private or secret ministerial correspondence, on the mere assumption that it contained something inimical to their constitution and just legislative privileges; and that too after having officially been informed of the expediency of making such disclosure. I will just hypothetically put a case. Suppose that, during a session of the British Parliament, it should become generally known that a private correspondence, on state affairs, was going on between the British Government and the Emperor of Morocco, or the President of the United States, and that any member of the House of Commons, on the assumption that something inimical to their rights and privileges might proceed from that correspondence, were to rise in his place and propose an address to Her Majesty, requesting that copies of such correspondence should be laid before the House, although the House had previously been informed that any such disclosure of the correspondence would be impolitic, perhaps dangerous, what, let me ask your Honors, would not any hon. member of the House of Commons who should act in this way place himself in a very ridiculous position? And, let me add, how absurd and ridiculous so ever such conduct would be, if it were proposed by a member of the House of Commons, it is certainly no less absurd and ridiculous, if it were proposed by a member of the House of Assembly, or the President of the United States, and that any member of the House of Commons, on the assumption that something inimical to their rights and privileges might proceed from that correspondence, were to rise in his place and propose an address to Her Majesty, requesting that copies of such correspondence should be laid before the House, although the House had previously been informed that any such disclosure of the correspondence would be impolitic, perhaps dangerous, what, let me ask your Honors, would not any hon. member of the House of Commons who should act in this way place himself in a very ridiculous position? And, let me add, how absurd and ridiculous so ever such conduct would be, if it were proposed by a member of the House of Commons, it is certainly no less absurd and ridiculous, if it were proposed by a member of the House of Assembly, or the President of the United States, and that any member of the House of Commons, on the assumption that something inimical to their rights and privileges might proceed from that correspondence, were to rise in his place and propose an address to Her Majesty, requesting that copies of such correspondence should be laid before the House, although the House had previously been informed that any such disclosure of the correspondence would be impolitic, perhaps dangerous, what, let me ask your Honors, would not any hon. member of the House of Commons who should act in this way place himself in a very ridiculous position? And, let me add,