

plant an English colony on them, and sent Sir George back with some colonists, but the gallant Admiral died shortly after his return in 1611.

By this time, the most exaggerated reports from Virginia had reached England regarding the climate, resources, and capabilities of the Bermudas. The following is a small specimen of what was published in England at this time, no doubt by interested parties:—"This dangerous and enchanted place," (Bermuda), "which had been shunned as a Scylla and Charybdis, and where no one ever went but against his will was really the richest, healthfullest, and most pleasing land ever man set foot on."

How much the above reads like the glowing circulars issued in the present day by enterprising mining, railroad and land companies "out West" who are anxious to induce simple-minded people to go thither and purchase "claims" or "homesteads."

The excitement about the wealth of the Bermudas reached perhaps its highest pitch when the news came to England that a large quantity of ambergris had been discovered on the coast. It was of course fully believed that untold quantities could be obtained around the islands.

In short, many began to believe that the El Dorado, which had long been sought for in vain in South America, had at length been discovered. It may seem strange to us now, that the delusion with regard to the extraordinary resources of the Bermudas should be kept upon England in after years, when there were full opportunities of knowing the real facts of the case.

But have we not seen something like it in our own time? Can we not remember some honest men, that had opportunities of knowing better, who, on account of the plausible stories of glib-tongued peddlers, or other interested parties, have left comfortable homes and gone to distant countries to discover that they had been cruelly deceived, and who, instead of wealth, found little else but bitter disappointment?

Even Edmund Walker, the poet, contributed in faultless verse towards the popular delusion by representing Bermuda as Paradise.

Some of your readers will recollect that Walker was a member of the long Parliament, and that he first took part with it against the king; but afterward joined the conspiracy against the Parliament. Paying a heavy fine, and barely escaping with his head, he fled from England and found his way to the Bermudas.

Four lines from his poem on them will suffice:—

"So sweet the air, so moderate the clime,
None sickly lives or dies before his time;
Heaven sure has kept this spot of earth
Uncursed,
To show how all things were created first."

As soon as it became known to the English Company who were carrying on plantation in Virginia, that the Bermudas were likely to be of considerable value they lost no time in applying to James I. for an extension of their charter so as to include them. This extension was granted to them on the 12th of March, 1612. The Virginia Company, probably knowing that they had land enough without the Bermudas, and no doubt making a good bargain by the transaction, had no sooner obtained their grant than they sold the islands to another company under the name of "The Governor and Company of the City of London for the plantation of the Somer Islands."

A grant of the Bermudas was obtained by this new company from the King, and to constitution was drawn up for the infant colony. This constitution provided that "there was to be an Assembly every two years without whose consent no taxes could be imposed."

The "book of orders" prepared by the company for the guidance of the first Governor, and also his successors, contained some severe, yet, on the whole, salutary laws for the new colony, and perhaps some of them would not prove highly injurious even in an old colony.

For instance, severe rules were laid down "against idle and vain persons, drunkards and those who spent their time in carding and dicing;" then again, "those who in bravery of apparel exceeded their means," were "ordained to pay double to the public burden." How such people would be able to do this is not very apparent.

The new company appears to have acted with the greatest possible energy in the work they had undertaken; for we find that, on April 28th, 1612, they sent out their first ship load of emigrants, under the charge of Mr. Richard Moor, appointed first Governor of the colony. The ship safely arrived early in July, after a favorable voyage. We can easily imagine that these emigrants going out with such exalted notions of the Bermudas, like many novelties who "go West"—should be doomed to bitter disappointment. And so it turned out.

So far as known no more ambergris was ever discovered. The early settlers suffered great privations, and were often on the verge of starvation. Their condition, however, gradually improved. In a short time more emigrants arrived from England, bringing with them large quantities of provisions and other necessary stores. Grain, potatoes, tobacco, also fruit trees of various kinds were shortly after introduced, and cultivated with great success.

But I must stop here, and shall give a sketch of the subsequent history of the Bermudas in another letter.

W. R. F.
East Warwick, Jan. 26, 1884.

P. S.—The "cold wave" which passed over North America did not reach Bermuda. There have been some very warm days here of late. Yesterday the thermometer was up to seventy-five in the shade. Red, white and yellow roses are now in full bloom. Large shipments of early rose potatoes have, within the last fortnight, been made to England and New York. Those sent to the latter place sold for \$6 per barrel. We have also had ripe tomatoes and strawberries.

An Edmondston correspondent writes:—"A very curious case is reported from an adjoining parish. A woman gave birth to a child and the nurse reported it was a boy. The child was taken to the priest and baptized, being named Pierre France. It now turns out that the child was a girl. The query is: Will the child go through this vale of tears with this classic name, or will it be baptized over again?"—Woodstock Press.

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THE DAILY EXAMINER.

FEBRUARY 9, 1884.

Reciprocity with Brazil and the West Indies.

The subject of reciprocal free trade with Brazil and the West Indies was introduced to the notice of the Finance Minister by a deputation—of whom Messrs. McDonald and Hackett were members—on Saturday, the 2nd inst. Dr. Fortin, who spoke for the deputation, urged that if the Canadian Parliament would take the duties off raw sugars, molasses, etc., Brazil and the West Indies would, no doubt, remit their duties upon fish, flour, lumber, etc., to the advantage of all countries concerned. It appears that the Customs duties levied on imports from South America and the West Indies amounted in 1882 to \$2,120,199.18. This comparatively small amount could, the deputation contended, be dispensed with, and as molasses, sugar, etc., are articles of similar consumption, the remission would, as in the case of the tea and coffee duties, be generally felt to be a boon to Canadian consumers; while the remission on the part of Brazil and the West Indies of the duties they impose upon fish and other articles which Canada has to export, would be an advantage to our foreign commerce, without in any way abating the advantages which our home industries possess under the National Policy.

Reference was made to a letter addressed to the Minister of Finance in November last, in which Dr. Fortin says:—

"Our protective tariff cannot benefit the fish trade for which the principal markets are abroad, in Italy, in Spain, in Portugal, in the West Indies and in Brazil; also in the United States; and therefore Canada would have, on the principles of the National Policy, to resort to treaties or special trade arrangements with these countries, by which we would allow some of their produce to enter into this country either free of duty, for articles of food, or at greatly reduced rates for other articles; on the other side, our produce, especially fish, flour, timber, etc., etc., would be reciprocally treated with the same favor in these countries."

"The amount of custom duties levied on imports from the West Indies, Brazil and other parts of South America, amounted, in 1883, to \$2,120,199.18. These imports, in a great measure, are sugar and molasses, that is to say, necessary articles of food."

"It seems to me, and many of our friends are of the same opinion, that the Government of Canada ought to determine on making a liberal offer to the Governments of the countries above mentioned, in order to induce them to enter into reciprocal trade with and reduce, even abolish, the duties on our exports to these countries and the light and ship dues."

"It is not for me to suggest what should be done, but my firm opinion is that, on sugar and molasses, which are precious and necessary articles of food in a cold country like ours, the duties ought to be abolished altogether, if we receive an equivalent in the abolition or the reduction of duties from any of the West India Islands or from Brazil."

"Now the establishment of reciprocal trade relations between Canada and the above named countries can be accomplished on a most favorable basis for Canada, without any detriment to the trade of Great Britain, as what we export to the West Indies and Brazil is principally fish, flour and timber, and she does not export those articles there herself, while we import sugar and molasses principally from these countries, articles which Great Britain does not produce. Then there is no impediment to be found in England against our aspirations for enlarged trade with Brazil and the West Indies."

"If our revenue were only moderate, the country could not expect much in this matter. But with a surplus of six or seven millions in a single year, not one could doubt that this is the most opportune time for making advantageous treaties or trade arrangements with foreign nations, as there has been so much written and talked about this matter in this country for some years."

It is reported that Sir Leonard listened attentively to the representations, and said that the Government were willing to do as much as they could to meet the wishes of the deputation. He feared, however, that it would be somewhat difficult to make the treaties required. Dr. Fortin, who is the enthusiastic promoter of our fishing interests, receives great credit for the active part he is taking in this important movement.

The False Prophet.

OUR telegrams of the past few days have contained the alarming intelligence of the defeat of Baker Pacha, near Suakim, a port in Egypt lying on the Red Sea; and distressing details of the fight. Two thousand of the force under Baker (3500) were destroyed. It is said that the rebels were skilfully handled in the battle, and the result seems to bear out the statement. This reverse of the Egyptian arms, following so soon after the terrible destruction of the army of 10,000 men under Hicks Pacha, indicates that the whole Soudan, a territory about a thousand miles square, on fully the size of the whole of India, must be abandoned to the El Mahdi, or False Prophet.

Ten years ago, when the Soudan had been conquered, and was firmly held under the hand of the Khedive Ismail, the immediate predecessor and father of Mohammed Tewfik, the present Khedive, Mohammed Ahmed, the real name of the El Mahdi, was a poor and unknown Fiki or Koran-reader of the Island of Abo, on the White Nile. Soon after the deposition of Khedive Ismail, the Mussulman population and Arabic tribes became much dissatisfied, in consequence of the European ascendancy in the Government, and Mohammed Ahmed, assuming the title of the El Mahdi, raised the flag of rebellion in the vicinity of Abo. Several detachments of the Egyptian army against him were destroyed. The El Mahdi's prestige increased, and he soon gathered an army of 30,000 followers. Just previous to the outbreak

in Lower Egypt under Arabi Bey, a considerable army was sent against the El Mahdi, but the Egyptians were cut to pieces; and in 1882, during which the campaign resulting in the suppression of the insurrection of Arabi Bey occurred, the False Prophet met with little opposition, and he captured the city of El Obeid, the capital of Kordofan, and his successes caused immense numbers of Arabs, Negroes, and others to flock to his standard. During the past year intelligence would, every now and then, reach us that whole detachments of the Egyptian army were destroyed in Upper Egypt. The great peculiarity of all the successes of the Mahdi, or his followers, has been that in all cases the result of battles was the almost total destruction or annihilation of the Egyptian forces. In several instances not a man has escaped to tell the fearful tale of massacre. In the case of the force of 10,000 men under Hicks Pacha, it is somewhat doubtful if a single soul escaped. There were, under General Hicks, about 1,200 Europeans, mostly English. These all perished, after four days fighting; and the deeds of these brave men will forever remain untold. The sufferings of the force, for days battling with ferocious legions of the fanatical enemy, and without water, under a burning sun, in the hot sands of that country, must have been of the most horrible nature. We doubt if history presents a parallel case of such a massacre under the same circumstances. It is only second in its sanguinary nature, and in the sufferings experienced to that of the retreat of the British from Cabul in 1842.

The wonderful and continual successes of the El Mahdi have won him a following of many hundred thousands.—The whole Mohammedan world will soon believe him to be the long-expected, the long-talked-of "Mahdi." The belief that such a personage would arise has long been a tradition in the Islamic world. General Stone, an American, who is now engineer-in-chief engaged in erecting the Bartholdi Statue in New York harbor, in a lecture recently delivered, gives an authentic account of the Mahdi. General Stone was Chief-of-Staff to the deposed Khedive. Word came to him one day from the Minister having charge of that part of the Soudan in which Abo Island was situated, that a rebellion had broken out, and that the leader had proclaimed himself El Mahdi. As military measures were necessary, General Stone endeavored to find out the meaning of the word Mahdi, but could find nothing in the Koran regarding the personage. He consulted an intelligent Mussulman, conversant with Islamic traditions, who informed him that there was nothing in the Koran respecting the Mahdi; but that tradition maintained that during the last days of the world an Arab false prophet would rise up, who will conquer first all the country occupied by the Arabs; then all Asia Minor, and then the rest of the world; that once in possession of full power, his ruling of the world would be bad, and would be short; for that Jesus Christ would appear on earth, near Jerusalem, and call up from their graves the great and good warriors of all times; that on reaching the grave of one such he would salute the ancient with the Islamic salutation, "Salaam Aleikoum," and the warrior would rise, fully armed and equipped, and would give back the salutation, "Aleikoum Salaam," and join his forces; that with this invincible army, constantly increasing, Christ would march on Mecca, occupy that city, and there proclaim the truth of the Islamic doctrine with peace and good will to all good men; while all the evil men, and all the Christians who refused to accept the truth, would be destroyed and sent to hell. In those days lions, camels, bears and sheep shall live together in peace, and a child playing with serpents shall be unhurt.

Journalistic Rascality.

THE "Patriot," we regret to observe, is becoming lost to all sense of decency. It manifests a total disregard for truth and hints at slander. With impunity it hurks to the four winds statements which to its knowledge are false and damaging, and when a retraction is demanded it endeavors to give the falsehoods wider publicity. We give the following as an instance from the "Patriot" of the 7th inst:—

"Here is an item for THE EXAMINER to explain away for the local government. The Halifax Herald says: 'A laudic named Simon Acorn died in the P. E. Island asylum on the 24th ult. The corpse was taken to the cemetery and left on a snow bank for a day or two previous to interment.'"

The editor of the "Patriot" is as well aware of the falsity of this paragraph as the sexton of Sherwood Cemetery. We are informed that the undertaker waited on the "Patriot" editor the day after the report was circulated, and showed him a certificate from the sexton to the effect that the corpse of poor Acorn was interred the evening it arrived at the cemetery. Notwithstanding this, the "Patriot" would not retract. It allowed the falsehood to go abroad uncontradicted and when it was copied from its columns into the Provincial press, it re-copied it, and exclaimed: "Here is an item for THE EXAMINER to explain away for the Local Government."

The "spirit of the Patriot" cannot be better illustrated than by this piece of journalistic rascality.

Since writing the above, we see that Mr. Laird has apologised for circulating the report.

—We learn that Mr. Martin, the Government candidate, is meeting with great success in the southern end of the

Belfast district. A large and influential meeting at Caledonia, on Tuesday, was almost unanimously in his favor. At Pleasant Valley, on Thursday, the resolution in favor of the Government candidate was carried without a dissenting voice. Mr. Prowse was present at both meetings.

Our Advertisers.

Wm. Dodd advertises a sale of Bank and Gas Stock at his auction room on Tuesday next at twelve o'clock.

D. McNeill announces that the annual meeting of the Auxiliary Bible Society will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall next Monday evening at half-past seven.

Prof. Vinnicombe's benefit concert takes place in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on the evening of the 12th inst. The programme, which is published elsewhere, is excellent.

Dr. McSwain intimates that, owing to failing health, he is obliged to relinquish his practice at Belfast, and requests persons indebted to him to settle up as soon as possible.

PROGRAMME

—OF—
VINNICOMBE'S
GRAND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

TO BE HELD IN THE

Y. M. C. A. HALL,

—ON—
Tuesday, February 12th inst.

Overture—Queen of the Valley.....Bisby
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Solo—Vocal—The Fairy Jane.....Marzials
Mr. Haslewood

Selections from Poet and Peasant.....Suppe
Orchestra

Solo (vocal)—"O Loving Heart Trust On".....
L. M. Gottschalk

Miss Des Brisay.

Solitude Waltz.....Waldteufel
Orchestra.

Violin Solo and String Quartette—Meditation
Gounod

Mr. Vinnicombe and Members of Club.

Waltz—Breeze of the Night.....Lamotte
Orchestra.

Solo (vocal)—The Distant Shore, with Orchestral
Accompaniment.....Sullivan

Miss Palmer.

Louise Galop.....Aymer
Orchestra.

Cornet Solo—I Fear No foe.....Pennutti
Mr. C. P. Fletcher.

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GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Price of Admission, 25 cents. Concert to
commence at eight o'clock.

Tickets may be had at Fraser & Reddin's
Drug Store, Fletcher's Music Store, and at
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Ch'town, Feb. 9, 1884.

BANK AND GAS STOCK.

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WILLIAM DODD,
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Ch'town, Feb. 9, 1884.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the P. E.
Island Auxiliary Bible Society will be
held in the Hall of the Y. M. C. A., Char-
lottetown, on MONDAY EVENING, 14th
inst., at 7.30 p. m.

The public are cordially invited.

D. McNEILL,
Secretary.

Ch'town, Feb. 9, 84.—21.

CARD.

DR. McSWAIN being compelled through
failing health to relinquish his practice
in Belfast, wishes to convey to his many
friends, his warm appreciation of their kind-
ness and genuine friendship; and he would
take this opportunity of reminding those
indebted to him that an early settlement is
respectfully solicited.

Eldon, Feb. 8, 1884.—wkly 81.

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WANTED.—A Housemaid in a small
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Charlottetown, Feb. 2, 1884.—oaw sat 3m. pat.

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Charlottetown, Jan. 18, 1884.—tf.

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Ch'town, Jan. 21, 1884.