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The Canadian Gleaner

HUNTINGDON, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1881.

The first bye-election in Ontario, since the passing of the Pacific railway contract, took place in East Northumberland on Friday, when the Liberal candidate was returned by 196 majority. The constituency was formerly represented by a Conservative. Both Mr White and Mr Plumb stumped the county, and the issue appears to have been fought out mainly on the National Policy and the Pacific contract.

An English correspondent writes:

All over the country people are beginning to question the soundness of free trade—or rather of that one-sided and one-handed free trade under which you admit free goods of nations which refuse to let you trade with them on equal terms. . . . When the advocates of modified protection get the whip hand of the majority in Parliament—and get it they assuredly will, unless there is a miraculous change in the condition of the country—farmers in the Western States will be taught a lesson in political economy which they will not be apt to forget.

Great Britain has great cause for complaint as to the injustice of foreign countries. She admits all their products, with the exception of tobacco, alcoholic liquors, and a few luxuries, free of duty, while they impose prohibitory duties on whatever she exports. Last year she bought from the United States 395 million dollars worth of produce, on which no duty was levied, while the United States only took 150 million dollars worth of her goods on which an average duty of 25 per cent. was collected. This cannot last, and if the United States expects Great Britain to continue her best customer, they must deal more fairly by her, for the tendency of trade is always for a country to buy where she sells most. If an English Government ever does make part of their policy reciprocity in tariffs, they will begin with Canada first, which has the meanness to take advantage of the open market presented for her timber, grain, dairy produce, and cattle, yet taxes everything in the shape of manufactured goods from the old land. A British duty on Canadian farm-produce would very soon bring our loyal National Policy men to their senses.

ONE of those whiskey-sellers who labor under the notion that councils are bound to give them license, got a settling in Montreal last week. The ratepayers of Drummond, in the Eastern Townships, had adopted the Dunkin act, when a corrupter of the public morals, called Noel, insisted that refusing him license violated his rights, and he entered an action accordingly against the council. The lower courts having decided against him, he carried his case to the Court of Appeal, when the entire bench agreed he had no case, and gave judgment against him with costs. There is thus at least one municipal council in the Province which has the spirit to spurn the threats and dictation of grog-dealers when refused license.

ANOTHER dividend (payable on the 11th April) of 10 per cent. has been declared by the assignee of the Mechanics' bank, which will make 45 cents on the dollar. A fourth, and final dividend will be declared next Fall, and hopes are entertained, from the admirable way in which Mr Court manages the estate, that it will give the creditors about 60 per cent. altogether on their claims. It does not appear to be generally known, that holders of bills of the bank can yet lodge them with the assignee and receive their dividends.

A GOOD deal is being said just now with regard to imitation butter and cheese. So long as butterine was made from fresh beef suet and other wholesome material there was no cause for complaint. It was not butter, but it was as healthy as good dairy butter and more so than bad, so that no restriction on its sale, beyond branding it properly, was thought of. Unhappily some wretched Western man found out that lard would do as well as suet, and last season the market was flooded with the compound, not a few creameries mixing, according to the process, lard with their butter, and so making an extra profit. The same has been done with cheese, and so thoroughly can the lard be got to mix both in the vat and churn that the product not only defies detection but is superior in quality to the ordinary grades of honestly-made butter and cheese. If sight and taste do not detect the presence

of lard, the system does, and those who eat either lard butter or cheese suffer in health. Raw lard, when used in quantity, is repelled by the system, and various complaints of the stomach and bowels are induced by it, so that, if this new form of adulteration be persisted in, the consequence will be that the consumer across the Atlantic will shun American or Canadian butter and cheese, and the honest makers will suffer for the practices of the dishonest. It is essential that the reputation of our dairy products for purity be maintained, and to that end compulsory Government inspection ought to be instituted if these frauds are persisted in another season.

Whether owing to the flooding of the market with artificial butter or that the make of last season was excessive, there is just now an unprecedented glut in the British markets, and butter bought in New York and Montreal at 22 to 24 cents last Fall is now offered at 15 cents without buyers. A great deal has been sold at less than shipping charges, and many dealers are bankrupt. Such a collapse has not been known for years.

THE Montreal Gazette began on Monday "a series of carefully prepared articles, to illustrate to its readers in a way that will carry conviction to every one that our industries are flourishing to an extent that would have been impossible three or four years ago . . . and that they have become indigenous, so to speak, under the genial influence of the National Policy." In pursuance of this design the first description given is that of a manufactory where Bristol's Pills, Allan's Lung Balsam, Dr Herick's Pills, several kinds of Sarsaparilla, Davis's Pain-Killer, and a number of other quack remedies are concocted by the hundred-weight and hogshhead. We always thought the swallowing of the National Policy would necessitate the Dominion's taking a great deal of medicine.

THE Legislative Assemblies of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island passed by large majorities bills abolishing their respective Legislative Councils, and both those bodies, with equal unanimity, threw out the bills. The Legislative Council for this Province having acted similarly, there are now three of those superfluous chambers which have refused to abolish themselves and insist in forcing their services upon an unwilling people.

THE report of the Government inspector for the year ending June 30, 1880, shows that the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, did a losing business in Canada. Its total receipts were \$47,426, out of which it paid agents and others \$19,281, and \$33,526 for losses, leaving a deficiency of \$3,381, with unsettled losses of \$4,020.

ON Tuesday afternoon a large meeting was held in the Mechanics' hall, Montreal, to constitute a Reform Association for the District of Montreal. After speeches by Mercier, Huntington, and Blake, a constitution was submitted and adopted unanimously. It declares in favor of a system of thuro primary education, of rigid economy in the finances, and contains a few other vague platitudes used indifferently by both political parties. The only real issue in this Province, the securing of equal rights irrespective of creed, is dismissed in this manner—

The Liberal party not only respects our religious and civil institutions and protects their acquired rights, but still defends them against whatever may tend to destroy or obstruct their beneficial action on society.

That is, the Montreal Reform Association will "respect," "protect," and "defend" titles, fabrique assessments, sectarian institutions, and all the other "acquired rights" of the Church of Rome in this Province, whereby it occupies a position of supremacy over all other religious bodies, and is stifling the life and prosperity of the Province. As if this declaration were not obsequious enough to propitiate the curé, it is supplemented by another—

The Federal Constitution guarantees the complete autonomy of each Province, and every tendency of the Federal Government to lessen this self-government, the only safeguard of our religious and national interests, should be condemned and resisted with firmness and energy.

In what way the abolition of the Local House would interfere with "our religious and national interests" we would like to be informed. With such an Association we have no sympathy; it may serve the purpose of political wirepullers to get them into office, but it will never help to settle those irrepressible questions which, unless met manfully now, will end in serious trouble.

In the evening a dinner was given in the Windsor hotel to Mr Blake, which was most successful. Mr MacLaren occupied the chair, and in response to the toast "Our guest," Mr Blake made a long and powerful speech.

THE mortality in and around Huntingdon has been during the past month unexceptionally large. It has not been confined to the old residents, but quite a number of the young have been removed by death. A short time ago the Rev Mr Muir of St Andrew's church had five funerals in one week.

THE Canadian Government has made a demand upon the Washington authorities for the delivery to them of A. P. Brand, the swindler who was kidnapped at Hemmingford last December.

LAST week an agent of the contractor, Mr Linsley, for the Coteau railway visited this village to see if any ties could be got here. Owing to the sleighing being over, he found none could be got out. It is questionable had he come sooner if he would have got any, as all he offered was 24c for tamarack ties delivered at Lancaster station. He said when the road was first started, thousands upon thousands of ties were bought and piled along the route, and are now so rotted by exposure as to be useless. The latest word from the South Shore company is to the effect that Mr Shanly is to send in a report in a few days, upon which it is expected the Government will issue the long-looked for proclamation. The company represents that they are ready to begin operations the moment it is issued.

TEAMS continue to cross the St. Lawrence and, except at the sides, the ice looks sound. The Beaudet river is now open, and the track leads to the point above it. So far, the sugar season has not been a good one, tho there have been a few excellent runs. The cold winds and cloudy days have been against the sap rising. This (Thursday) morning it is snowing heavily, which probably portends a favorable change in the temperature.

ON Thursday evening, about half-past 10, Dr Cameron, M.P.P., was entering the village on his way home from an extended tour among his patients. In passing the house of Mr John Brown a dog darted out barking, when the horse swerved to one side, then leaped back and bolted for its stable. In doing so, the Doctor was jerked from his seat and thrown with violence in front of Mr James Will's house. Mr Will, hearing a moaning, came to the door, but perceiving nobody returned, and Mrs Brown also looked out. Seeing no one was likely to come to his aid, he managed to drag himself to the office of Messrs Boyd & Co., where he saw a light, Mr Corbett being still at work. He was taken home and everything possible done for his relief. He fell on his right side, and his shoulder, breast, and thigh were severely bruised. Although it is believed none of the internal organs have been injured, we regret to say he continues to suffer great pain and is still confined to the house. The horse trotted into the Doctor's yard without injury to itself or the buggy.

MR John Symons having sold his farm at St Louis de Gonzague, he disposed of his stock by auction by D. Bryson last week. The following prices were obtained for the cattle, which were well-bred Ayrshires:

	Price	Purchaser
Muley Cow	\$38.00	Robert McIntosh
Breidle	40.00	" "
Red "	52.00	" "
Heifer, 3-year-old	25.00	William Gardner
Bull, 1 "	16.00	William Hunter
" "	19.00	Robert McIntosh
Heifer, " "	16.50	James Symons
" "	28.00	" "
" "	32.25	Robert Dickson
" "	27.50	Robert McIntosh
" "	31.50	James Brodie
" "	34.00	Thos. Drysdale
" "	48.00	" "

J. J. Gardner of St Louis de Gonzague and Andrew Stewart of Howick passed their examinations in all the primary medical classes, the first-named with honors. George Shirriff, Huntingdon, passed in the chemistry class.

IN the paragraph relating to the criminal court the word "months" was inadvertently inserted for "weeks" in the sentence of Mrs Johnston, Hinchinbrook. In sentencing her, Judge Belanger said: "You have been accused and found guilty of a grave assault upon the person of Lizzie Masterson on the 9th October last. After striking her several times, you dragged her by the hair, causing a serious bleeding and probably a miscarriage. Taking into consideration that you have already been in jail two months and that the leading residents of your township and others have petitioned that the clemency of the court be extended to you, the court condemns you to 6 weeks' imprisonment." The prisoner, who was weeping, replied, "Thank you, your Honor."

A somewhat serious accident occurred on Friday week at McCarty's mill. A French-Canadian, named Laberge, was hauling logs, when one rolled from the skidway, and before he could escape, he was caught, and his leg broken above the ankle. No doctor being in the vicinity at the time, the unfortunate man was taken to his home near Beauharnois, where Dr Primeault was called in and set the fractured limb. The man is doing well. This, so far as we know, is only the second casualty of this most extensive winter's operations in the woods. This is most remarkable when one considers the very large amount of lumbering and wood-cutting done in the woods south of Durham.

AT the late term of the Superior court, John N. Kelly of Huntingdon was appointed a bailiff. The Circuit court adjourned until the 12th April to hear the case of the contested election of Mr Santore as councillor for St Jean Chrysostome and the Superior until the 25th April.—Le Progres.

IT is so refreshing to hear of awakened consciences, that the following is worth printing, having been received by the clerk of the Huntingdon court the other day: "Mr John Morrison, You will find enclosed 25 cents in stamps. It is conscience money from a man who once wronged you of 12 cents and wants to make restitution. Prepare to meet your God."

AT the usual Thursday prayer-meeting in the basement of the Methodist church, an accident happened that might have had serious results. The last hymn was being sung, when one of the chandeliers dropped to the floor, smashing the lamps, and covering the floor with burning oil. A pail of water was dashed on the flames, which made matters worse by

extending the area of the oil, but with admirable presence of mind, the carpet on the platform was torn up and thrown over them, when they were instantly smothered. There was a good deal of excitement among the congregation at first, which soon subsided. The cause of the accident was the swivel of the lamp being stiff. In turning it to light the lamps, the screw of the hook that suspended it was turned out, until, losing all hold, it dropped. No damage has been sustained beyond the breaking of the lamps and a slight discoloration of the ceiling.

WE have received for the Chief Joseph fund during the past week: A Friend \$1; Francis Anthony, Franklin, \$1; Dr Wells, Huntingdon, \$2; Peter McFarlane, Elgin, \$4; collected by Miss Florence Gilmore, \$2.50; and the handsome donation described beneath. To date we have received altogether \$72.—At a meeting of the Georgetown and English River Woman's Missionary Society, held on March 15th, one of the members produced a subscription list, for the benefit of the family of the late Chief Joseph, offering to forward to the editor of the Gleaner, the contributions of any who wished to subscribe to that fund, an offer of which those present cheerfully availed themselves. Since the meeting a number of contributions have been received from friends who, in various ways, became acquainted with the scheme. Doubtless many more would, with equal heartiness, have given, had they been afforded a like opportunity, but it was impossible to do more than make the project known as opportunities presented. The result is the enclosed \$30, received from: Mrs A. Ogilvie \$1, Mrs J. Brodie \$1, Mrs McKerracher \$1, Mrs G. McLenaghan \$1, Mrs R. Craig \$1, Mrs R. Ness \$1, Mrs Crutchfield \$1, Mrs D. Glen \$1, Mrs W. Orr \$1, Mrs McKay \$1, Miss Muir \$1.65, Mrs W. Carruthers \$1, Misses J. and M. Galbraith \$2, Mrs J. Cunningham \$1, Mrs D. McArthur \$1, Mrs C. Brown \$1, Mrs J. Anderson \$1, Mrs D. Galbraith \$1, Mrs C. McDonald \$2, Mrs A. Cameron \$1, Miss Jessie Rutherford \$1, Mrs W. Greig, senr., \$1, Mrs W. S. Cunningham \$1, Mrs T. Gebbie, junr., \$1, Mrs T. Hamilton \$1, Mrs A. Brodie \$2, Mrs A. Greig \$1, and —25c.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS. This board met on Tuesday: present, Commissioners Hall and Rowe, with Colonel Rogers presiding.

Moved by Com Hall, seconded by Com Rowe: That the following accounts be paid: Thomas Atkinson, repairs to No. 2, \$28 00. Charles Will " " 3, \$50 00. " " Wood for " 3, \$16 80. John Crow, repairs done to " 7, \$44 10. Boyd & Co., Huntingdon, for Desks \$93 25. John McMillan, Wood for Mo. 4, \$12 45.

Moved by Com Rowe, seconded by Com Hall: That the resignation of Miss Arthur be accepted, and that the Secy.-Treas. be authorized to advertise for a teacher to fill the vacancy. Carried.

Moved by Com Hall, seconded by Com Rowe: That the resignation of Chas. Will, as school manager, be accepted, and that John Craik and Finlay Wilson be appointed in his place. Carried.

ST. ANICET COUNCIL. At a special session held on the 26th inst. were present L. N. Masson, Esq., mayor; Conns D. Caza, P. M. Leahy, and James Brown.

A bond to the amount of \$900 subscribed by Messrs John Dinneen and Wm. S. MacLaren, for the corporation of the village of Huntingdon in behalf of the village, towards helping to repair thru St Anicet that road known as the Plank Road, was read and found satisfactory.

It was consequently moved by Com Brown, seconded by Com Leahy, and unanimously resolved: That I. I. Crozier be appointed special superintendent to report, within the least possible delay, upon the petition of Etienne L'Ecuier and others praying that a certain portion verbal establishing a by-road between Lots Nos 24 and 25 on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ranges be repealed, and that the road known as the Plank Road, thru the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranges of St Anicet, upon the centre of Lot No 20, be regulated as a municipal road.

On motion of Com Caza, seconded by Com Caza: The secretary was authorized to advertise the sale of the Plank Road to take place on Tuesday, the 12th of April next, by commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, opposite to Robert Holmes' barn, according to specification to be dictated at the next regular session of this council.

On motion of Com Brown, seconded by Com Leahy, it was unanimously resolved: That \$6,000, instead of \$5,000, be lent out of the Corporation funds.

On motion of Com Caza, seconded by Com Brown: The mayor was authorized to prosecute Augustin Dupuis for obstructions laid across a winter road leading into the village.

HOWICK SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS. The board met on Saturday: all present, Mr T. Gebbie, jr., presiding.

Moved by Com Ness, seconded by Com Houston: That the following teachers be re-engaged for the ensuing scholastic year: Miss Stewart for No. 1 at present salary. Miss Grant " 2 " " " Miss Campbell " 3 " " " The resignation of Miss Campbell was accepted, and a teacher in her place ordered to be advertised for.

It was resolved that the petition of 23 ratepayers be accepted against the removal of School No. 4, and that no further action be taken, as only 3 ratepayers requested a change.

HAVELOCK COUNCIL. A MEETING of this council was held on the 19th inst.

appointed valuers for this municipality. Carried.

Moved by Coun Shannon, seconded by Coun Perry: That Messrs McDonald, McNaughton, and Thomas Barr, be appointed auditors for the current year. Carried.

'TIS SIXTY YEARS SINCE. ON Thursday Mr and Mrs Hiram Gentile of Franklin celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. Golden weddings, as the fiftieth anniversaries are called, are not uncommon, but with a single exception, this is the first instance, to our knowledge, in this county, of a couple passing 60 years in wedlock. The exception is the late James McNair of Godmanchester, who died a centenarian. There is this difference, however, in Mr Gentile's case, that his entire wedded life has been spent in the county of Huntingdon. A more striking circumstance than his long season of marital happiness, however, is the fact that he is the last survivor of the emigration which took place from the New England States at the beginning of the century. With the hundreds of hardy pioneers who found their way into this District from Vermont, New Hampshire, and adjoining States, and who penetrated into every section of it, Mr Gentile is the last link, and in him the link between the time when the District was an unbroken forest and the present there remains a fragile bond of union. Before, therefore, giving an account of the celebration of Thursday, it will be well to first touch upon the history of his father.

Andrew Gentile was a native of Stirlingshire, Scotland, and was born in 1846, the year when the hopes of the Stuarts were blasted on Culloden Moor. He was brought up to the business of maltman and brewer, which, in those days, when milk was scarce and tea almost unknown, was a good one, every town and village in Scotland having its brewer of table beer, which was the only beverage used at meals by the middle classes. A certificate, as to his good character and standing, from the parish minister of Dunblane, shows he had been a resident of that place for 12 years in 1784, the year when he emigrated to America. On reaching the United States he got employment at his calling in New Jersey, where he lived several years and where he married again (for he was a widower when he left the Old Country), his choice being Anne Yale of Connecticut, a member of the well-known New Haven family. They moved to Vermont, where in Charlotte, a small village on Lake Champlain, he found employment at his business, and afterwards left upon purchasing a farm of 50 acres some distance from it. Cherishing a deep love for the mother land, the abuse of Great Britain and her institutions epidemic among our neighbors during the French Revolution, and which they carried to a great length, was distasteful to him and he wanted to get back under the old flag, to which he was the more urged by the heavy taxes that then pressed upon the Republic. Packing up his effects, he moved, with his family northwards in 1801, and settled in Hemmingford on a lot nearly opposite that now occupied by Richard Sweet. He was not alone, for besides the Sweets, there were 7 other families, who all settled about the same time on the Covey Hill road. Of the dwellers in those nine log shanties, from which the smoke curled above a forest bounded, at that time, along by the St Lawrence, the descendants of several still live in the county. It is likely that when they pitched upon their lots they thought they were still held by the Crown, but in this they were soon undeceived, for the owner, James Woolrycho of Montreal, let them know that if they remained they must comply with his terms, which Mr Gentile, for one, deemed so excessive that he determined on abandoning his lot, and in the summer of 1808 he made a journey west to pick out another. By this time, quite a number of families (all Americans) had moved into Franklin, and in the vicinity of the river that divides it there was the beginning of a fair settlement. He selected the lot upon which his descendants still live, being guided in his choice by its having a fine spring of water, and close to which, and where the road now runs, he put up a log-house. In the following March, he moved, his effects being packed in two sleds, each drawn by an ox, the sleds being made narrow to pass between the trees on the rude track that led to his new home. That season there was a large emigration into Franklin, and when the war broke out in 1812 it contained all the elements of a prosperous community. That untoward event, however, dissipated all its prospects, the settlers fleeing back to the United States, with a very few exceptions, among whom was Mr Gentile and John Manning, who both rendered loyal and efficient service to the Government, for which they never received any recognition. In 1835 Mr Gentile passed to his rest at the patriarchal age of 89, leaving behind him the reputation of an honest man and a kind neighbor. His widow lived to be 85 years old, dying in 1847.

Their only son, Hiram, was born while they lived in Vermont, and was two years old when they emigrated into Hemmingford, so that he has lived continuously in this county for four score years; from the period when it was a wilderness to what we now find it. From his earliest boyhood he had to give a helping hand, for his father never took kindly to the use of the axe and the ways of a bush-farmer, and, when, during the war, he was stricken by a serious illness, after which he never regained his former strength, the care of the household devolved on the growing lad, a duty he considered no burden, and which, with filial piety, he gladly discharged. When 22 years old he proposed to add to that happy home circle a wife, and all being agreeable, did so. His choice was Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr Bateman, who lived in Champlain, N.Y., and the marriage day was fixed for the 22nd March, 1821. On the preceding day so heavy a snow-storm set in that even so youthful a bridegroom feared to face it, so that when, on the 22nd, the bridal company assembled at Mr Bateman's house, the swain was wanting. The guests waited on until after dark, and jests with the bride as to the fickleness of her lover, were not wanting. On the driver by Mr Priest in his double sleigh, the only one in the settlement. The present bride had not yet been opened, and the old one bent upward from David Stockwell's (whose name is perpetuated in the post-office) to James McDiarmid's farm. Of the settlers who had come in with his father on that road, all had moved before the war except two, so that from O'Neil's of Sweet's there was not a soul, and the trees had so overgrown the road that it could only be detected by its being a wider pathway of

snow than the ordinary space between the trees. They reached Champlain in safety, the bride forgoe his dilatoriness, and the ceremony took place on the 24th. At that period there was no minister in the town, so the knot was tied by Squire Perry, of Perryville. They set out for Franklin next morning, but from a thaw having set in, covering the lower parts of the road with water, the journey was a slow one, and it was late ere they reached home. Here all the neighbors had gathered to await their coming and to celebrate the wedding, and a pleasant evening was spent. Neither here nor at the Champlain party was there any dancing, not because of any scruples as to that amusement, but simply for lack of a fiddler. Of those who were present at the ceremony at Champlain only two are now alive, and of those who filled the father's house, to welcome the young couple, there are also only two—Mrs Spencer and the venerable Mrs Moe, who, although 92 years old, is still in the enjoyment of all her faculties and a picture of happy old age. Of all who lived in Franklin when Mr Gentile came into it, the mother of Nelson Manning, who died 15 years ago, was the last survivor. Such are the changes which 60 years have wrought.

The approach of the 60th anniversary of the above recorded marriage suggested to Mr and Mrs William Gentile the happy idea of celebrating it by a gathering of relations and old neighbors, which was successfully carried out on Thursday, when a company of over 70 filled their hospitable house. Among the old neighbors were Mr and Mrs Manning, Mr and Mrs Cantwell, Mr and Mrs Ames, Mr and Mrs Edward Spencer, Mr and Mrs John Blair, Mr and Mrs Coburn, Mr and Mrs John Wilson, Mr and Mrs Daniel Parham, Mrs Stacy, Mrs Smith, and many others. Mr Gentile is 82 years old and Mrs Gentile 80. They are both vigorous for their age and in the enjoyment of all their faculties. They have had a family of 6 boys and 7 girls, of whom 11 reached maturity, and count 36 grand children and 10 great grand children. After an abundant and well-served dinner, a meeting was organized, by Dr Fergusson taking the chair, and who made an appropriate address. A very pleasant program was then gone thru, consisting of most excellent music led by Mrs Cooney on the organ, of readings, and of short addresses by Mr Ames, Mr Benjamin Johnston, Mr John Craik, Mr Cantwell, and the Rev Messrs Hughes and Wright. All bore witness to the irreproachable lives of the worthy couple in whom they had met in honor and of the good example they had set to the community which so deeply affected them. The proceedings were closed with prayer and the benediction. Mr Ames, in addition to his remarks, sang a song, appropriate to the occasion, of his own composition, and did so with a spirit which he may safely challenge any octogenarian to excel. At a late hour in the afternoon this unique and very pleasant gathering broke up with mutual good wishes.

OKA MATTERS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Gleaner. Sir,—I do not pretend to know who is to blame for the way in which Oka matters have gone for so many years, but a good many friends would like to have answers to the following questions:—

1. What is the reason that a large proportion of the leading clergymen and laymen of the Methodist church are either indifferent or positively opposed to the whole matter? I have seen letters, written by pillars of the church, strongly censuring the action of friends, like Mr Borland, who have stuck up for their rights.

2. Allowing that the Methodist church has had immense demands upon its generosity, what great burden would it be to ask \$5 from each church in Canada, to pay legal expenses, &c? One cent from each Methodist in Canada would amount to a sum more than large enough for every purpose. Again, why, in this respect, does the church, as a whole, hang fire?

3. The Civil Rights Alliance has had no existence for some years. It was not organized solely to defend the Oka case; but nearly every dollar of its expenditure was made in that direction.

4. If the Civil Rights Alliance was supposed to be the authorized media of communication between the Indians and the Government—it is undoubtedly was at the time—why was its work interfered with? If it was not, why was it expected to be responsible?

5. Why was Chief Joseph removed from his work in Oka to Caughnawaga, at a time when concentration at Oka was most needed, as \$5 from each church from Caughnawaga. There was urgent need of him in Oka. He was the life of the place, and as soon as he left, dissensions arose between the people and the present minister. So intense has this become that several families have applied to the Government to be removed elsewhere. I have seen letters, written by the fault finders, but it is important to preserve peace and harmony, and great tact is necessary in dealing with a people who have been so persecuted by their old protectors, and who are not over well protected yet.

It is useless to expect any lay body to get this Oka matter settled. The Methodist church has accepted the responsibility, and if it will not more earnestly, how can it expect other denominations to do so?

I am convinced that the Civil Rights Alliance would have been the best body to secure a speedy settlement, and would have done so, had it been substantially backed up. Whenever the Methodist church was appealed to for funds, and some systematic effort asked for, certain people got their backs up; a few of the lay Popes in the body frowned disapproval—there are always lay Popes in every church—and Mr Borland was left to do his best, with more blame than gratitude. There is no use beating about the bush. If the Methodist church is sincere in the defence of the Oka, it has an easy road to travel. If not, the sooner we know it the better, because I would rather see the Oka happy, well-fed and protected Roman Catholics, than a divided and starved Protestants.

Yours, &c., STRAIGHT FORWARD.

WEATHER REPORT BY DR SHERRIFF.				
	Temperature	Rain	Snow	
	Highest	Lowest	Inches	
23 Mar.	36	24	0.000	0.000
24 "	35	25	0.000	0.000
25 "	30	18	0.000	0.000
26 "	26	18	0.000	4 inches
27 "	30	16	0.000	0.000
28 "	34	20	0.000	0.000
29 "	34	17	0.000	0.000

WEATHER RECORD. 24th—Frosty with strong west wind. 25th—Dull with flurries of snow, and very sharp wind. 26th—Cloudy with snow in evening. 27th—Snowing in morning; high wind and drift. 28th—Bright with cold west wind; thawing in the sun. 29th—Milder. Fine day. 30th—East wind; cool and bright. It has not thawed in the shade during the past 3 days, and the rivers have gone down to low-water level with the ice still in them.

RAILROAD PROJECTS.

"FORBES" has written to the Boston Journal an interesting account of the proposed new thru line, by the way of the Northern Pacific, Sault Ste. Marie, which will run along the south shore of Lake Superior, the Canada system and the grain between Ottawa and Boston, and the grain fields of the new North-West to the seaboard. The following extract will be of interest to our readers:

Within the past few years large demands have been made on the Canadian forests for various kinds of lumber for export to the States. Ottawa is the great forwarding point for a lumber region covering 300,000 square miles, the annual production of this

section being nearly a thousand million feet. The two largest lumber yards east of Chicago are Albany, N. Y., and Burlington, Vt., which receive about four million feet of Ottawa lumber annually. For lack of good railroad facilities much of this lumber descends the rapids of the St. Lawrence, past Montreal, and half-way to Quebec, and then goes up the Richelieu by a circuit of several hundred miles and a change of elevation of 120 feet. The lumber yards at Burlington cover 75 square acres, and have a storage capacity for 100,000,000 feet of lumber. There are five mills for dressing lumber, and eight for manufacturing articles of wood. The amount of business done by Burlington dealers aggregates 200,000,000 feet of lumber annually. I learn that a large amount of pine lumber is being forwarded to Boston for export to Europe, and that a recent order covering some half a million feet was sent by rail to Montreal and thence by the Central Vermont to Boston on a foreign order received by the Shepard and Morse Lumber Company, of Burlington. In conversation with large wholesale lumber dealers relative to the projected Canada and Atlantic Railway as a factor in the lumber transportation business, heretofore the difficulty of communication by rail between Ottawa and New England points has been a serious obstacle to a full development of this traffic, but with the construction of this air line railway it is predicted by leading lumber dealers that this route will be utilized to a great extent for lumber shipments. By the Canada and Atlantic Railway Burlington will be placed within 170 miles of the Ottawa lumber region, and its importance as a distributing point for New England must largely appreciate.

I have prepared the following distance-table to show the comparative distances between the centre of the North-western grain-fields, by the old route south of the Lakes, and the proposed new route via Ottawa:

Place to Place.	Miles.
Glyndon, Dakota to Northern Pacific Junction.	241 built.
N.P. Junction to the Sault Ste Marie.	356 projected.
Sault Ste Marie to Nipissing.	270 projected.
Nipissing to Mackinac.	80 projected.
Mackinac to Ottawa.	155 built.
Ottawa to Albany.	122 building.
Albany to White River Junction.	140, C.V.
W.R. Junction to Boston.	144, N.B.C.C.L.

Total Glyndon to Boston (via new route)..... 1,508

Place to Place.	Miles.
Glyndon to Chicago, via St Paul.	674
Chicago to Detroit.	285
Detroit to Buffalo.	252
Buffalo to Albany.	358
Albany to Boston.	200.

Total from Glyndon to Boston (via old route)..... 1,782

The above shows a difference in favor of the route by the Northern and Ottawa line of 275 miles. The new route is also 225 miles shorter to Boston than the present route is to New York from Glyndon.

It is well assured that the new thru line from Boston to Ottawa will be in operation by the end of 1892, and it is almost equally certain that within five years the road from Ottawa to the Northern Pacific connection, via the Sault Ste Marie, will be completed. This short and direct route will bring to Boston the grain and produce of the great North-West, and as the nearest seaboard city by several hundred miles, via this northern route, she will be brought into commercial relations with a new world of producers and consumers, which will materially accrue to her business prosperity.

Parties interested in this new thru line between Boston and Ottawa propose to utilize the lake and river route from the West for grain shipments to the seaboard from Chicago and other lake ports. It is contemplated to erect large grain elevators at Valleyfield, where the river St. Lawrence spreads out into Lake St. Francis, and forms a deep still-water harbor of unsurpassed accommodation for propellers. Valleyfield is 321 miles from Boston, and is the nearest point to that city that vessels can touch at on the great lakes or River St. Lawrence. It is 85 miles less railway distance than Ogdensburg, and 20 miles nearer than Montreal is to Boston. By the enlargement of the Welland Canal, which will be completed this year, vessels with a carrying capacity of 60,000 bushels can come from Chicago to Valleyfield and transfer their cargo thru elevators to cars which can be hauled to Boston without delay, all in the space of 8 days from Chicago to Boston. It now takes 16 days for grain to reach Boston from Chicago by the lakes to Buffalo and the Erie Canal and Albany Railroad.

With the practical consolidation into one line for traffic purposes of the roads from Boston to White River Junction, with the Central Vermont to the Canadian border, and the prospective early connection to Ottawa by the Canada Atlantic Railroad, a great future will be open for the Northern route to Ottawa and the North-West. The nearest Canadian winter seaport is St. John, which is 877 miles distant from Ottawa, while Boston will be only 306 miles distant. There are four sources from which this new line will draw a large traffic, and these are: First, the grain trade of the North-West; second, the lumber production of the Ottawa Valley; third, the lake grain trade at Valleyfield; and fourth, the hay and produce yield of the country along the line of the road from Albany to Ottawa. This prospective accession of traffic, taken in connection with the present excellent thru line to the West by the Grand Trunk Railway, places Boston in the strongest position of any Atlantic port for the export trade from the West.

NEWS BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.
A dreadful calamity occurred at Nice, Italy, on the 24th, by the destruction of the chief opera house of that city by fire, which broke out soon after the curtain had risen for the performance of "Lucia di Lammermoor." The subscribers for orchestra stalls and boxes in the grand tier had mostly not arrived, so that the majority of the victims belong to the working classes. Shortly after the fire began the gas exploded, and the house was plunged in complete darkness. A scene of terror and dismay ensued. A detachment of soldiers and of sailors from the squadron in the harbor with pumps displayed great gallantry in rescuing people and combating the fire, which was subdued towards 10 o'clock. Many persons were trampled to death while escaping from the burning theatre. Most of the artists were in the dressing-rooms and aware of their danger, but it was too late to escape. The choristers rushed along the narrow passage in the darkness, and many were presumably too much disabled in the crush to escape. 67 bodies have been dug out of the ruins.

A branch of the Irish Land League, intended to operate in England and Scotland, was formed in London last week under the auspices of Mr. Parnell, and with Mr. Justin

McCarthy as President. During his address on the occasion Mr. Parnell stated that subscriptions in aid of the League were flowing in from America at the rate of four thousand pounds (\$20,000) weekly. The new branch will be a failure, as the English land reformers will not identify themselves with Parnell.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Stanhope moved in the House of Commons that the evacuation of Candahar will not be conducive to the permanent interest of India. A long debate ensued, in which the Ministry held that the retention of Candahar would expose us to perpetual quarrels and collisions with Russia, and if she interfered by military operations or diplomatically it would mean a rupture of her diplomatic relations with England and we should be free to take such measures as we thought necessary to protect our frontier and assist the Afghans to hold their independence. Sir Charles Dilke stated that the bulk of the native opinion in India favored the evacuation. Sir Donald Stewart and General Wolsley, he said, thought there would be no strategical advantage in the retention of Candahar, while the cost of its permanent occupation would be £1,500,000 a year, which, in the present state of India's finances, it would be most unwise to add to the burdens of the people. The addition of this sum to the expenditure would produce enormous discontent in India, and that meant the creation of a field for foreign intrigues. Mr. Stanhope's motion was rejected by 330 to 246. The announcement of the result was greeted with loud cheers from the Liberals. Sir Charles Dilke stated that the first act of the new Czar was to recall Gen. Skobelev, and stop the advance upon Merv.

D'Urban advises state that the Boers recently occupied the prison at Potchefstroom, 500 yards from a fort held by the 21st Regiment. The British commander determined to dislodge them because they annoyed the garrison. Eleven soldiers charged the prison, entered it, and killed three Boers. The remainder tried to escape, but the men in the fort shot thirteen. The British lost three killed.

A messenger to Newcastle from Pochestroom reports that that place surrendered the day peace was signed, after hard fighting, in which eighteen British soldiers were killed and ninety wounded. The Boers captured 3000 rounds of ammunition and 2 guns.

In the House of Lords the Colonial Secretary read a telegram from General Wood stating that the massacre of a portion of the 94th Regiment at Banker's Spruit on the 24th of December would not come within the terms of the amnesty granted to the Boers, and that British prestige in the Transvaal had not suffered from the terms of peace. The preliminaries for peace have been concluded with the Boers, and the Royal Commission to settle upon a permanent basis of peace is now at work.

Madrid, March 24.—Every evening for 6 consecutive days Madrid has been kept in a state of alarm by explosions of petards. Some were fired in the busiest streets, others in the doors of churches and theatres, causing the breakage of glass and some burns. No offenders have as yet been caught, but the police and detectives are trebled after dusk. It is supposed that the keepers of gambling houses have created this scare as a mark of their displeasure against the civil governor, who continues his active repression of gambling, seizing a house or two every day. Ladies hardly dare go out on foot in the evening. Last night five petards were fired.

It is said that the Princess Louise will leave England for Canada on the 26th of May.

The trial of the Czar's assassins commenced yesterday. All the accused will be arraigned together, with the exception of the woman last arrested, who will be allowed a separate trial.

Colonel Dorjibsky, who was wounded at the time of the assassination of the Czar, has been granted a pension of 6000 roubles. The peasants are flocking from all parts of the country on pious pilgrimages to the spot where the Emperor fell.

St. Petersburg, March 26.—An immense throng witnessed the late Emperor's funeral. The bells tolled, and the city was draped in mourning. When the coffin was lowered the booming of cannon informed the populace that Alexander II. had been laid at rest.

The nihilists now threaten to take the life of the Czar if the woman arrested in connection with the recent assassination be executed.

The Times of Monday calls serious attention to the consumption of intoxicating drink in England.

Sheep rot has assumed threatening proportions in Leicestershire. Sixty per cent of one farmer's flocks have perished.

A land meeting was held in Tipperary on Monday. The parish priest boasted that the Coercion Act had left boycotting untouched. Mr. Dillon in his speech affirmed his attack on the judges, and advised tenants not to pay unjust rent, except at the bayonet's point.

London, March 28.—Information in the hands of the police strongly tends to confirm the complexity of three American Irishmen, Mooney, O'Donnell and Coleman in the recent attempt to blow up the Mansion House.

London, March 30.—It is reported that the Cabinet was suddenly called together yesterday on account of alarming intelligence from Ireland. An insurrectionary outbreak is expected at any moment.

One Daly has been dangerously shot on the borders of King's County. Daly took land from which a tenant was evicted. At last accounts Lord Beaconsfield was dangerously ill, and hardly expected to recover.

The fishery dispute between Great Britain and the United States is, it is said, in a fair way of settlement, England proposing either the reference of the matter to arbitration or the payment of a lump sum as indemnity to the American fishermen mobbed in Newfoundland.

CANADA.
At Caughnawaga the Indians to the number of fifty have been employed since December last by Chief Thomas Jocks to work in his quarry at the rate of \$1 per day, and as the Indian Department at Ottawa has seen fit to expel all the whites living in Caughnawaga the said Indian quarrymen took advantage of the labor market to strike for an advance of 25c per day till July next and another 25c per day after that date. The employer has shut down his works, consequently these men have been thrown out of employment.

The latest news from Edmonton reports

that the Hudson Bay Company are hauling coal from the Imperial drift on the Saskatchewan to their sheds at Fort Edmonton, which is taken out of the mine at the rate of a ton per day for each man employed, and costs \$4.50 per ton laid down in the fort. The Imperial coal drift is now in about 80 feet, and is being worked night and day.

The wife of a poor Indian at Bowmanville, whose feet got frozen during the winter, went to the chairman of the Poor Relief Committee on Wednesday stating that her husband was dead, and asking money sufficient to bury him. The proper authority having been granted, the undertaker was requested to attend to the case, but when he presented himself he found the Indian alive and smoking a pipe.

Ottawa, March 24.—Mr. Linsley, contractor for the Canada and Atlantic railway, has deposited with the general manager of the Bank of British North America the sum of \$30,000 as security for the due completion of his contract.

The Quebec Legislature is summoned to meet for the despatch of business on the 28th April.

The Montreal fund for the widow of Chief Joseph and his three children has reached \$191. The worth of the dead hero deserves more fitting recognition. Had he been an Indian warrior instead of a scholar doubtless the amount would have reached thousands.

—Toronto Globe.

Mrs. Lapointe, residing in the parish of St. Angele, Petite Nation, eastern section of Ottawa county, gave birth a few days ago to triplets, three girls. The mother and little ones were all doing finely at last accounts.

Victoria, B.C. March 24.—The Government resolutions appointing Mr. O'Connor delegate to London to petition Her Majesty the Queen relative to the island railway passed yesterday by 20 to 4. An amendment was offered recommending that the negotiations be re-opened with the Canadian Government, but it was voted down. The Attorney-General moved the resolutions, and the Finance Minister seconded them. Mr. Williams, member for Victoria and a supporter of the Government, said that if a tribe of Indians were treated as the British Columbians had been treated by Canada there would be a war. He called on the Government to put a mask in every man's hand to fight Canada with.

Four French-Canadian married women, residing in the east end of Montreal have addressed a letter to the chief of police expressing their gratitude for the withdrawal of a liquor license from a saloon in their neighborhood, where they state their husbands have been in the habit of meeting on Sundays and spending their wages in drinking and playing cards, leaving their families to starve during the week.

A bit of romance is given by the Learning Post to this effect:—"Some thirty years ago a gentleman came to Canada from England, having lost his wife before he left. Previous to his marriage he had entertained a very warm feeling for another lady, but as the course of true love never does run smooth, circumstances prevented their union, and each sought another mate. The old attachment, however, had never died out, and the gentleman, who had not married again, learning some time ago that his first love had been left a widow, nobly sent the other to come to him, that they might spend the remainder of their days together. The offer, we understand, has been accepted, and Tibury will soon witness the reunion of two divided hearts, which the frosts of twenty-five years have proved powerless to chill into forgetfulness of each other."

Montreal, March 26.—D. R. Perrault, who is charged with firing bullets at the St. Patrick's day processionists, has made a voluntary confession before the Police Magistrate. He states that he threw the bullets from his hand, and had no other object in view than to make people talk about the affair. He concludes his statement as follows:—"No one engaged me or solicited me to throw the bullets. I did it of my own accord, and without any thought of my consequences. When I saw a man put his hand to his head I was afraid and stopped throwing, for I then saw it was a dangerous sport. I never had any feeling against Irish Catholics, and I had certainly no motive to injure them. On the contrary, my principal friends are Irish Catholics, and my brother-in-law is an Irish Catholic. On the other hand, I have not a single Irish Protestant friend. I never belonged to any secret society whatever. No one ever encouraged me to do it. My companions seek it looked upon it as an offensive joke." He was remanded to gaol again.

Halifax, March 26.—Captain Raitton, of the Salvation Army, who arrived in New York from Manchester, Eng., in February, 1880, with thirty or forty other members of the army, and has since travelled over a large portion of the United States, arrived here yesterday, and held open-air religious services in the city market. He placed before his audience the work the army had laid out for itself, and what it had done. They were, he said, weak in numbers but strong of purpose and trust in God. He then exhorted his hearers to repentance. He wears a blue uniform, with yellow facings, and a peaked cap with a broad red band. He is quite a fluent speaker and had a large audience. He addressed a prayer meeting in the Young Men's Christian Association hall this afternoon, when the place was crowded.

Now that the Manitoba movement for the year has begun, information for emigrants furnished by those acquainted with the country must prove both interesting and profitable. The Winnipeg Times gives the following estimate of the first year's needs of a family of settlers:

Yoke of oxen.....	\$125
Cart.....	15
Harness.....	10
Cow.....	35
Plow.....	25
Harrow.....	20
Stoves, beds, and other furniture.....	100
Chairs, axes, shovels, etc.....	30
Building sundries.....	30
Seeds, etc.....	10
Homesteading fee.....	10
Provisions.....	100
	8510

This amount it deems sufficient to tide a family over until they have raised something both for home consumption and sale.

Montreal, March 27.—An immense multitude attended Notre Dame Catholic church conference this evening, at which two eloquent clergymen, Fathers Gibaud and Le-

vesque, discussed the question that the true faith was to be found only in the Roman Church.

The first train of the Grand Trunk party from Ottawa and Montreal arrived at Winnipeg at two o'clock Saturday morning, being nearly twelve days on the journey. The passengers, a great number of whom were women and children, are terribly fatigued, and having been left three days inhaling the stench of the stockyards in Chicago. The second train arrived two hours after the first, and the other two are expected to-day. Over half of the passengers went to Dakota, it is thought by mistake, and the passengers altogether complain of the want of light, water, and wood on the train.

Robert Bogart, of Pittston, Ont., felled a tree the other day which was about eight inches in diameter. Hanging to a limb about thirty feet from the ground he found a very old-fashioned gun, stocked full length, and which, it is supposed, grew up with the tree.

On Tuesday night the station and freight sheds of the Occidental at Hochelaga were burned.

UNITED STATES.
Mrs. Luther Hackett, of Ellenburgh, inadvertently poisoned her daughter, aged seven years, about two weeks ago, by giving her carbolic acid, supposing it to be epsom salts. The little one lived twelve hours, and suffered severely. —Moses Trudo, whom Sheriff Folsom apprehended here a few weeks ago with a stolen horse from Hemmingford in his possession, tried to make the court believe that he did not intend to steal the rig, but meant to return it after a visit here, but was found guilty, and sentenced to three years at Dannemora. —An indictment was found against Miss Emma Davis, charging her with having attempted to poison Miss Gertrude Manning. Miss Manning's condition is such that she could not be brought into court, and because of that fact Mr. Badger did not feel justified in moving trial. Miss Davis pleaded not guilty on arraignment, and gave bail in the sum of \$2000 for appearance at the next year and terminator, in September. —Malone Palladium.

North Conway, N.H., March 23.—Lady Blanche Murphy, who died yesterday, was the first daughter of the English Earl of Gainsborough and in 1870 eloped with her father's organist, Thomas F. Murphy. She was disowned and supported herself by literary work for New York magazines.

A member of the Colorado legislature, in addressing that august body, began:—"My fellow-statesmen." His bill passed unanimously.

Pittsburg, March 25.—John Sullivan and his brother while straightening a rail on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near Demerly station yesterday saw a train coming around a curve near by. They hastened to relay the rail and prevent a casualty. They laid the rail just in time for the train to pass over safely, but before they could jump aside were both struck and killed.

New York, March 26.—The Tribune says:—"A general meeting of city delegates of the Irish National Land League was held last evening for the purpose of adopting a new constitution. Michael Breslin presided. A document submitted by the committee on the constitution developed a bitter feeling, and resulted in the greatest confusion. The chairman of the committee tore the proposed instrument into bits, denounced the meeting, and resigned. The scene ended by adjournment.

A meeting of 2,000 persons, a large proportion of whom were Germans, was held in New York on Friday to take measures to prevent the raising of rents. A committee was selected to devise plans for resisting the landlords. The committee will probably seek to co-operate with the Irish Land Leaguers.

The edict of the French Government against hog cholera and the fright in England over the hog cholera has caused a large falling off in the exports of bacon from New York. Last week the exports were only 7,400,000 lbs., against 14,000,000 lbs. during the previous week; the average shipments for many weeks being 12,000,000 lbs.

Rawlins, Wyoming, March 23.—George Parrott, alias Big New George, one of the Elk Mountain murderers, and an infamous road agent under sentence of death, last evening got his shackles off and attacked the jailer when he entered to lock the prisoners in the cells. The jailer's wife locked the outside door and gave the alarm. Citizens released the jailer and secured the prisoner. George has always manifested a contrite spirit, did not desire a trial, pleading guilty to the indictment, and asked to be hanged soon. When sentenced, he wept and broke down completely. At a late hour last night George was taken out of jail by masked men, taken to a telegraph pole, and a rope thrown over a cross-arm, and George made to climb the ladder by the rope placed around his neck. The ladder was pulled out, letting him swing. His last words were, "I will jump off, boys, and break my neck."

The intelligence of old troop horses is the subject of many anecdotes which, wonderful as they often are, will rarely be doubted by anyone who is familiar with horses. A good story illustrative of their sagacity is told and couched for as authentic by the Diamond News. The scene of the occurrence was Potchefstroom, where our men and the Boers were known to be very near neighbors; so near, indeed, that when the horses were turned out to water they had their headstalls and halters taken off, so that if the onomy suddenly appeared and tried to catch the animals they would have nothing to lay hold of them by, and the horses would have a chance of escaping into their own lines. One evening, as usual, the horses were let out of the fort to water, and rushed straight to the vale, where they usually drank. But the Boers were nearer than had been suspected, and, jumping out of some trenches, succeeded in capturing the animals, in spite of the fact that the halters were missing. The Boers, being admirable riders, as is well known, mounted, and would, probably, have been able to guide their new steeds into the town, when suddenly the bugle at the fort sounded "horses in a trap," and straightway the whole of them turned and made for home, carrying their unwilling freight. The Dutchmen threw themselves off right and left, but four of them were carried right into camp and taken prisoners. —London Standard.

Montreal, March 29.—City bag flour \$3.05 to \$3.10. Eggs 17c to 18c. Butter impossible to sell, except fresh made which grocers buy at 20c to 23c as to color and quality. Cheese 13c to 14c. Maple sugar 8c to 10c per lb according to quality, and syrup 80c to 90c per gallon.

BIRTH.
At Elgin, on the 24th inst., the wife of James Sayer, of a daughter.

MARRIED.
At the residence of the bride's brother, William Anthony, Shirley, McLean County, Ill., by the Rev. N. Kerrick, Douglas C. Freeman, of Bloomington, Ill., to Lillian S., youngest daughter of Francis Anthony Esq., of Franklin, Que.

DIED.
At Elgin, on the 25th inst. of congestion of the lungs, James Shomer, in his 64th year. Deceased was a native of Cumberland, Scotland.

At Elgin, on the 27th inst., Thomas Helm, sr., for many years an elder in the Elgin Presbyterian church, aged 75 years—a native of Roxborough, Scotland.

At Godmanchester, on the 25th of March, Annie S., daughter of the late Jonas H. Spencer, aged 16 years, 4 months and 2 days.

In Hinchinbrook, March 20th, Charles McHardy, aged 89 years. Deceased was a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and one of the first settlers of Hinchinbrook, having come there about the year 1824.

At his residence, Huntingdon, Que., on Tuesday, 22nd March, John Sinclair, aged 80 years, a native of Cowal, Argyshire, Scotland.

At the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. James McKenna, Fort Covington, N.Y., on the 20th March, Rufus Blodgett, aged 83 years.

At his residence, Fort Covington, N.Y., on the 20th March, Joseph Batolph, aged about 59 years.

At Hinchinbrook, on the 25th March, Ellen, daughter of James Ruddock, farmer, aged 13 months.

At Franklin, on the 24th inst., Mrs. Letitia Hayward aged 93 years.

VALLEYFIELD MARKETS.
(By telegraph to the Gleaner.)
Peas, @ 70 lbs., 87c @ 00c.
Oats @ 40 lbs., 42c @ 00c.
Beans, @ 70 lbs., \$1.20.
Butter, @ pound, 10c to 12c.
Pork, @ 100 lbs., 89.50.
Timothy Seed, @ 50 lbs., \$2.50.
TODD & NICOLSON.

Montreal, March 28.—On to-day's market the quality of cattle was generally good, but the supply being light butchers purchased actively at 4c per lb. advance upon last Monday's prices. Very few heaves were sold to-day under 5c per lb live weight, and prices ranged from 4c to 5c per lb. Three dry cows were sold for \$110, which was considered high. Several of our butchers start West next week to secure their Easter supply, which they anticipate will be unusually fine. Good veal was scarce, although quite a number of calves were offered. At the close several lots were sold at from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per head. A lot of 7 brought \$15, and three pretty fair ones went for \$14.50. A few of the best sold early in the day at from \$5 to \$7.50 each. Not more than 20 sheep were on the market, which sold at \$4 to \$6.50 each. Spring lambs were in fair request, but the supply was small and anything but desirable in quality. Prices ranged from \$2 to \$4.50. For live hogs there was a good demand, and several lots were disposed of readily at 87 per 100 lbs. Fresh killed hogs were firm at 89.

UNION MEETING ON SABBATH EVENING.
It has been resolved by the three Protestant Ministers of the village of Huntingdon to hold a Union Meeting of their congregations in the Second Presbyterian church on Sabbath evening first at half-past 6 o'clock. The Rev. Jas. Watson, A.M., the pastor, will preach and preside. All are invited. Liberal collections expected, which will be devoted to the relief of Chief Joseph's family.

AUCTION SALES.
On Monday, 4th April, at residence of Mr. James Tassie, 2d concession of North Georgetown: horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, all the farming implements, hay, straw, oats, peas, barley, potatoes, &c. 8 months' credit. DAVID HAYSON, Auctioneer.

At residence of Charles Flynn, New Ireland, on Tuesday, 5th April: horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, implements, furniture, &c. 9 months' credit. D. SHANES, Auctioneer.

On Tuesday, 5th April, at residence of Mr. William Hall, 4th concession of North Georgetown: horses, cattle, some pedigreed Ayrshires, implements, rails and pickets, and a quantity of timber for a large barn. 9 months' credit. DAVID HAYSON, Auctioneer.

FARM FOR SALE. being lots No. 25 and 27, comprising 200 acres, in the 3d range of Ormstown, 2 miles from Ormstown village. It is well watered and in a good state of cultivation. For particulars apply to Arthur Moore, on the premises, or to David Bryson, Auctioneer, Hawick.

Sweet Spring doth bring
Many a thing,
With birds to sing
And wasps to sting.

At the New P.O. People's Outfitting General Store will be found in great variety the following and other lines:

DRESS GOODS, new materials in Black, Grey, Brown, Royal Blue, States, and mixed colors. PRINTS the largest assortment yet offered in this section, being carefully selected from five of the best Dry Goods houses in the trade.

Our stock of STAPLES this season is unusually large and substantial, consisting in part of Grey and Bleached Cottons, Shirtings, Puttings, Tickings, &c.

LADIES—You will find our stock of Walking Shoes and other neat and attractive and good to wear.

Our stock of Umbrellas and Parasoles quite the thing.

Our stock of Black and colored Silks and Satins, with Buttons, Ribbons and Gloves to match, just what you have been looking for.

Our stock of Silk and Lace Trims, Ruchings, Lace Mitts, and various fixings, quite in keeping with the times.

GENTLEMEN—We are prepared and will be glad to lay you out in Suits or Suitings in Black Cloth or Fine Tweeds from Canada's noted factories.

STILL FURTHER REDUCTIONS

GENTLEMEN'S Fancy Dress Shirts reduced to 25c; former price \$1.
Gentlemen's No 1 Undershirts and Underpants reduced to 40c; former price \$1.
Gentlemen's heavy Overalls reduced to 50c per pair; former price \$1.
Gentlemen's No 1 Long Boots reduced to \$1.75 per pair; former price \$3.
Gentlemen's fancy Dress Vests reduced to \$1.50; former price \$3.
Gentlemen's fancy Dress Pants reduced to \$2.50 per pair; former price \$4.00.
Gentlemen's fancy Dress Coats reduced to \$3.75; former price \$7.50.
Gentlemen's fancy Braces reduced to 17c per pair; former price 30c.
Gentlemen's Socks reduced to 5c per pair; former price 15c.

Ladies' high cut leather Ballroom Boots reduced to 95c; former price \$1.50.
Ladies' Stockings reduced to 5c per pair; former price 15c.
Ladies' Prunella Gaiters reduced to 50c per pair; former price \$1.
Ladies' fancy Parasols reduced to 25c; former price 75c.
Ladies' White Cambric Handkerchiefs reduced to 2c; former price 12c.
Good heavy Winneys reduced to 5c per pair; former price 12c.

Tremendous reductions made on Men's fancy Planted Shirts.
Immense reductions made on English, Scotch, and Canadian Tweeds.
Great reductions made on Men's Felt Hats and fancy Caps.
No. 1 Whole Rice reduced to 4c per lb.; former price 7c.
3 large cakes No 1 Toilet Soap for 5c.
No 1 Currants reduced to 7c per pound.
No 1 Scotch Refined Sugar reduced to 8c per pound.
Eddy's No 1 Matches reduced to 10c per box; former price 20c.
Eddy's No 1 Painted Pails reduced to 17c; former price 25c.
Eddy's No 1 Washboards reduced to 15c each; former price 25c.
No 1 Japan Tea reduced to 30c per lb.; former price 50c.

WILLIAM THIRD & CO.
Huntingdon, March 21, 1881.
U.S.—Extra reductions have been made on Lemons, Oranges, Apples, Cuckery, Glassware, Hardware, Boots and Shoes and Ready-made Clothing.

Teacher Wanted.
FEMALE TEACHER for School No. 4, Scholastic Municipality of Howick, for the ensuing scholastic year. Salary \$160 per annum. Applications will be received up to 4 o'clock p.m. of the 10th April, 1881; applicants to state qualifications and address. DAVID R. HAY, Secy-Treas., Howick.

HUNTER BROS.
HAVE now ready for inspection the largest assortment of Goods they have ever had the pleasure of offering to the public. The entire stock will be found marked true to their motto: SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

DRY GOODS
H. Bros. is the place to buy Grey and White Cottons, Cotton Duck, Cotton Tweeds, Shirtings, Knitting Cottons, &c.
H. Bros. have 150 patterns of CHOICE PRINTS to choose from. These Prints are worthy of inspection, as they comprise all of the new designs for Spring and Summer of 1881.

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Don't forget that H. Bros. keep the largest stock of White, Regatta, Cambric and Oxford Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Silk Handkerchiefs, Suspenders, Cotton Hose and Cotton Underclothing. There is also to be found a large and varied assortment of the latest styles in Fur, Wool, Felt and Straw Hats.

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NOTICE
I hereby give notice, that on Tuesday, the 12th day of April next, on the premises to be sold to the lowest bidder the repairs to the Plank road, thru St. Anicet only, commencing at 10 o'clock a.m., opposite to Robert Holmes's barn. For the specifications apply to I. T. CREVELL, Secy-Treas.

PASTURAGE.
HAVING extended my Pasture bordering on the river, to 50 acres, any wanting good pasture milk cows are requested to call early. Beef cattle taken on the upper pasture as usual.

MAN-SERVANT WANTED.
WANTED, to engage, a Man—must be a plowman. Apply to HUGH GRAHAM, Netherby, Huntingdon.

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Quality is the Test of Cheapness.
THE extremely large and daily increasing sale of O'NEILL'S TEAS is the best proof of their great superiority in strength, or flavor and richness over all others.

It is a Scientific Fact that more than half the Tea sold is, in reality, poisonous, no matter how blended, colored, or agreeably flavored. The

MY LAST VOYAGE AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

We had kept the galley fire in, and during the morning I had stepped aft, and got a piece of salt pork out of a cask in the storeroom and popped it into the copper. This was now cooked, and we carried it into the deck-house and made out a very respectable dinner-table. I bade the men fall to, and knocked on Nelly's door. I found her standing in the cabin ready to come out, but waiting till I called her.

'Will, said she, 'I have taken all the rest I need to-day; do not ask me to remain in this cabin. It will do me more good to be on deck; and, should you not be able to employ me, I promise not to be in the way.'

I laughed at her earnestness, and, drawing her to the window, looked her in the face.

'Why, Nelly, you are not so pale as you were, and the tired look has left your eyes. Come, the extra rest has done you good—admit it! But I will not force you to remain below. The breeze won't hurt you, and after dinner I will make you comfortable on deck.'

So saying, I opened the door and brought her to the table. The men stood up when they saw her. Had she been a queen they could not have paid her more homage than was expressed in their grateful, affectionate, and deferential manner.

We talked a good deal of our plans and of the brig, wondering where the leak was, and deploring that we could not get at it; for I said could we only manage to bring her to Valparaiso, our misfortune would have a profitable ending, for that I estimated the value of the brig and cargo, in addition to the property I had found aboard, at five thousand pounds, and our salvage money would be something to tassel the ends of our pocket-handkerchiefs with.

After dinner, we began to make sail, which proved slow work, owing to the rigging having been so tangled and torn by the successive storms which had swept over the brig. On trying her, we found that, in laying up to the wind, she made more leeway than progress forward, but on putting her square before the breeze she moved slowly ahead, at the rate of perhaps three knots an hour.

'We must leave her at this, Sinnet,' said I; 'we can do no better.'

'Ay, sir; and upon my word, she's sailing as I never reckoned she would,' said he, looking at the broad oily wake left by the inert and sodden hull. 'I'm dashed if I don't think now she'd go to windward of some of them English coasting colliers.'

Having arranged the watches, we knocked off work for the day, and I stood beside Nelly.

After we had remained for some time silent, she said, 'Will, I wish you would show me how to steer. I used to watch the men on the Waddershare, and believe I could manage; one lesson from you would make me perfect. A time may come when all of you will be wanted to attend to the sails, and it would be very useful if I could steer.'

'My darling, there is nothing easier. Come and stand here. Lay hold of these spokes now. First of all, always remember to stand on the weather side of the wheel—the side on which the wind is blowing.'

'Yes, I know that.'

'The wheel reverses the action of the tiller. If you were steering with a tiller, and I should call out 'Hard a starboard,' you would put the tiller over to the right hand side, and that would make the vessel's head fall off on the port or left-hand side. But to obey that order with the wheel you would have to turn it from left to right—so; because, if you will look at the rudder-head, you will see the tiller is fitted the reverse way to the tiller that is used in steering without a wheel, and the action of the wheel revolves the chains, which drag the tiller the way you want it to go.'

'I see. Then, if you were to cry out 'Hard a port,' I should have to put the wheel over to starboard?'

'Right, my sweet little blue jacket! Now look at that black mark in the compass there; that is called the lubber's point. It is in a direct line with the brig's head, so that in whatever direction the vessel is going, that mark turns with her. Suppose I tell you that the brig's course is north-west, then, to keep her to that course, you must get those letters on the card to swing true to the mark. If the vessel rolls or pitches, the card will swing from side to side; and it is the business of the helmsman to see that those letters don't swing farther on one side of that mark than on the other. That is, you must make that mark strike the mean—the centre, so to say—of the swing of those letters. Do you understand?'

'Perfectly.'

'Therefore, in steering, all that you have to do is to take care that the course, be it north-east or south-east, or whatever else it may be, swings true to the mark. If the wind won't let it swing true, then the yards must be trimmed. If by trimming the yards you cannot get the course to come true to that mark, then there is no help for it—the wind is foul; the ship must fall off, though kept as close as she will lie. However, that is the business of the officer of the watch, and has nothing to do with you as helmsman. Whichever way the course swings, you have only to turn the wheel the reverse way to the swing of the card to bring the course back.'

I gave her an illustration by revolving the wheel a trifle, and then told her to experiment for herself. She might, indeed, sweet girl, have had a lighter vessel to learn her steering lesson in; yet this sunken hull gave her the ideas she needed. I saw her knitting her fair brows as she thought out the not very intricate problem, moving the wheel cautiously the while. Presently she surrendered the spokes to me, with a smile full of childlike pleasure and vanity.

'I know all about it now, Will,' said she; 'and, by being able to steer, I shall be as good as a fit man to you.'

The coming on of the night at sea has always a solemnity in it. Ashore the dark-ness leaves things familiar: the well-known house, the old mill, the village lights, are at hand to defeat the illusions of the gloom; but at sea when the night falls it is like looking into space; there is nothing to see; the flash of phosphorus in the near wave, the glimmer of foam along-side the ship, do not help to make real the huge dark shadow that leans away to the stars—that swelling surface of ebony whose might and presence you feel, but only see darkly.

But it is only the man who has been in peril on the deep who can understand the awe, the dread, the sense of helplessness and littleness that come into the mind along with the deep shadow of night upon the sea.

Altho I had just been endeavoring to cheer my sweetheart with words of hope, yet as the flush of the sunset left the sky, and the horizon melted into gloom, and the rigging of the brig became as delicate as cobwebs, and vanished before the eye had reached to half the height of the masts, and the surface of the ocean was expressed in the breaking waves which ran in coils of ink laced with blue fires, and the pallid gleam of froth against the almost buried stern of the brig, and the deep set of her sides, the nearness of the dark and swallowing water oppressed me; and there recurred something of the dismay that had visited me two nights before, when I was afraid of the dark, and had clung to the light in the cabin.

However, my professional contempt of nervous sentimentality came to my rescue, and I soon despatched the nonsense that a few minutes' silent contemplation of the dark sea had put into my mind.

I told Matthews to get the green light trimmed, and to run it up to the mast-head, after which I told Nelly to go to her berth, as I was determined that she should have a long night's rest.

Before turning in myself I hove the log with the boatswain, and wrote down the speed and the brig's course.

I fell asleep instantly and slept like a top, having had only four hours' rest in the previous night. At eight bells, or midnight, according to the chronometer, I was aroused by the boatswain. I at once got up and went on deck, and found that the breeze had freshened during the first watch into a strong wind; there was more light in the sky, or perhaps the air was made clear by the breaking of the waves, for now there was a regular tumble of sea. On either hand of us the surges ran their frothing heads as high as the rail of the bulwarks; already the decks were streaming, and the boatswain told me that not five minutes before a whole heap of green water had tipped over the weather-quarter, and had floated the quarter-deck as high as the knees of Matthews, who was steering.

This could not be helped, and if the breeze did not freshen I would not complain, for it was not to be hoped that we were going to keep the decks of a water-logged brig dry in any kind of sea-way.

I told the boatswain to turn in and get rest while he could, and then went to the wheel and secured Johnson to the little grating abaft it by taking a turn with a rope's end round his waist. The wind was still dead ahead—a warm wind—and had the brig been afloat properly, we should have thought it a splendid sailing breeze. I watched to see how she steered, and found that she gave very little trouble, the trim of the yards keeping her steady, and the big mizzen helping the lee helm wonderfully. The last heave of the log showed her pushing thru it at four knots, with still three points leeway, and had she been going true she could not have made more spitter; her wake was like a steamer's; it was not sailing, but what the boatswain had called 'speaking.'

I had been on the top of the deck-house half an hour, sometimes imagining that the wind was freshening, sometimes that it was falling, when my eye was attracted by a shadow like a smirch upon the sky in the south-west.

'A sail!' I shouted to Johnson; and the glass being on the deck-house, I seized and levelled it.

The telescope, as I have said, was a very powerful one, and thru it I could distinctly make out the outline of a large bark, steering at an angle with our own course, heading on N.N.E. She was carrying a great press of sail; indeed, so far as I could make out, she had both her royals set, and as she was going free she swept like a cloud along the water's.

The green lantern was at our mast-head, burning brightly; but if she saw it, would she know that it was designed as a signal of distress? At the rate at which she sailed she would be athwart our bows to windward, and out of sight in twenty minutes. I sprang into the cabin and awakened the boatswain, exclaiming that there was a vessel in sight, and that we must at once devise some means of letting her know that we were in distress.

He was a true sailor, and wide-awake and on deck in a few moments. He saw the vessel before I could point her out; she was on our lee quarter, and leaning heavily over under the lower of canvas she carried, and was heading so as to cross our bows, though, had the brig possessed any speed in her heels, she should have made the bark pass under our stern.

The boatswain knew as well as I the extreme gravity of our peril in the event of more sea rising, and we both felt that the sighting of this bark was a chance that might not occur again for days and days; and sighting her now, when we neither of us knew but that in another hour the brig might be washing about, a helpless dismasted wreck, and offering us no better refuge than the deck-house, drove us both desperate.

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'What shall we do to attract her? I shouted. 'Surely they can see that mast-head light.'

'Make a flare forward, sir—make a flare forward!' cried the boatswain. 'Why, see how she's passing away! God help us—we might as well be anchored!'

Matthews, hearing our cries, came running out of the cabin. I told him to jump forward and help the boatswain to collect materials for a flare on the forecastle; and he was off like a madman, understanding without need of further words that a sail was in sight. While they were at work I laid hold of the balyards to which the lantern was attached, and lowered and raised my eyes intently times, all the while keeping the bark that had now forged ahead of us, and whose outline was visible upon the sea just above the port-bulwarks. She was drawing momentarily nearer to us, as she came heading on a line converging with the direction in which the brig was going; and I felt as sure that they saw us as that we saw her, and that they could attach no other meaning to the motion I gave to the lantern than the one I intended.

Hearing the blows of a chopper, I shouted to the boatswain to know how he was getting on. He answered that he could not find any small stuff, and was obliged to split up a plank so as to get a start with his flare; 'but everything's so bloody wet,' he bawled, 'that I'm afoared we'll never get it burned.'

I thought it a matter of life and death, and, belaying the balyards, rushed into the carpenter's berth and brought out an armful of canvas, along with a quantity of oakum that lay mixed up with the canvas in the locker under the bunk, and ran to join the

boatswain, splashing the water as high as my mouth as I floundered forward. But the decks were afloat fore and aft; there was no dry place for a flare unless it was the top of the galley; so I jumped on to it, and put the canvas and oakum down, and, keeping my foot upon it to prevent it flowing overboard, I sung out to the boatswain to hand me up such small stuff as he had collected, and then set fire to the oakum.

The tar blazed, the dry canvas caught, and in a few moments we should have had a great fire, when a sea struck the brig just abaft the forechairs. A whole ocean of water ran up half as high as the forecastle and plumped right down, extinguishing the fire, beating the breath out of my body and half drowning me, washing the boatswain round the galley, and driving Matthews sputtering and choking as far as the deck-house that brought him up.

There was no possibility of making a flare unless we kindled one in the tops, where we stood to set fire to the rigging; and utterly disheartened, half drowned, our teeth chattering in our heads, with the water streaming from us, we could do no more than hold on to the rail and watch her drawing ahead.

I had passed some hours of great mental suffering since I had boarded the brig, but nothing to equal the bitterness, the despair, the rage that filled my heart in turns as I beheld the vessel speeding onward from us. I knew, with every instinct of a sailor, that she had seen us; that, even supposing (an unlikely supposition) there was no officer of the watch, and no man on deck on the look-out at the time, the man at the wheel would have noticed the movements of the green light, and long ago have made out that we were a small vessel in distress, and given the alarm. She was passing us not above half a mile ahead, and one look thru the glass would have enabled them to see that we were water-logged, and in the utmost peril.

Yet she held on. She crossed our bows, and loomed up close to windward; then her shadow lost its defined proportions; she became a mere smudge against the sky, and in a quarter of an hour she was out of sight, swallowed up in the gloom.

'It can't be helped, sir,' said the boatswain, squeezing the water out of his eyes and wringing his hair.

I was too bitterly mortified and disappointed to speak. I thought of my darling in the cabin, and then that they had seen us and could have stood by and saved us had they liked; and, in my blind passion, I shook my fist at the vessel as she faded.

'Why, Mr Lee, be yourself, sir!' cried the boatswain. 'Pluck up your heart, and never mind them cowards. The lady below looks to you for her life; and a man must be cool if he means to see his way out of a mess of this kind.'

I stood rebuked by a man who would have called himself my inferior. He was right and I was wrong. 'You have made me ashamed of my weakness,' said I, 'and I'll take care that your advice is not thrown away. What shall we do? Shall we keep the brig under canvas and risk her spars if the wheel be washed away, or shall we put her under bare poles, secure ourselves below, and let the breeze blow itself out?'

He reflected awhile, looking to windward, then said, 'I'm for letting of her, sir. She can't sink, even if her masts do go.'

'No, but they may carry away the bulwarks with them; and then think of the horrible muddle alongside—the spars grinding against her fit to break her up!'

'Still I'm for letting of her, Mr Lee,' he answered. 'It may be my fancy, but the wind doesn't seem so fresh as it was. What do you say, Bill?'

Wiping his streaming face down with the backs of his hands, Matthews turned his eyes toward the stern, and said, 'There ain't so much wind as there was.'

Indeed, this was evident to myself. I told Johnson to keep watch on the deck-house, while the boatswain and I overhauled the lockers below for some dry clothing.

We took the lamp into the carpenter's berth, where we overhauled the chest of clothes, and found a sufficient supply to give Matthews and Johnson a shirt, and to contribute toward a wardrobe for the boatswain. In the mate's chest we found more wearing apparel.

The boatswain and I then turned to and changed our streaming clothes, and the feel of the warm woollen shirts and the dry trousers was as comforting as twelve hours' sleep would have been.

There was about as much wind now as there had been yesterday afternoon, and no more, a pleasant warm breeze and the sea settling down, so that only now and then a few buffets of water flopped over the bulwarks forward. Yet, the danger for that time had passed, I could not recur to it without deep uneasiness.

In spite of the floods of water which the brig had shipped, the deck-house was as dry as an old bone, which increased my admiration of the manner in which the vessel was built. I turned in at five o'clock, my mind full of the horrible anxiety I had endured, and was awakened at seven by the sunshine streaming on my face thru the little cabin window.

It is impossible to express the feeling of gladness it brought. I sprang out of my bunk, caring to lie no longer, and my heart put up a prayer to God that before another night shadowed the deep we might be safe.

I stood at the cabin door looking along the deck. The galley fire was lighted, as I could tell by the smoke blowing away from the chimney; the decks were quite dry, and barred by the shadows of the rigging; and there, close against the galley, was Nelly, helping Matthews to hang up our wet clothes. She had tied a handkerchief over her head and had tucked up her dress, and never did her lovely figure show to such perfection as now, while she stood with her back to me with her arms raised, attaching the clothes to a line by means of rope-yarns, while Matthews hoisted away as fast as she could the things. The sailor saw me and spoke to her; she instantly looked round and said she had been on deck since six o'clock; that she had helped Matthews to light the galley fire, and that she was going to get breakfast for us.

At eight o'clock we got breakfast, Johnson turning out to relieve the boatswain at the wheel. Matthews brought the tea aft, and some little cakes made by Nelly, which we ate with salt butter, and very heartily enjoyed. I now gave my sweetheart the key of the storeroom, and explained the nature of the important job I wished her to undertake. It was this: that she should make out a list of the stores and also calculate the quantity of fresh water in the scuttle-butts, and reckon how long they would last the five of us at such much each per diem, and to serve out that quantity every morning while we remained on the wreck.

This was indeed an important matter, and the moment we had done breakfast she went to work.

I thought I would go aloft and have a look around. It was a clear, brilliant morning, and I knew I would get a good view of the horizon.

Having gained the royal-yard—that was the highest point of elevation I could attain—I set my back against the mast, and levelled the glass at the sea that was over the jib-boom of the brig, and very carefully swept the horizon away on the left-hand side until I had observed every inch of it as far as the point lying directly over the stern, and then crossed to the other side of the yard, and beginning again with the glass, I had worked as far as three points on the port bow, when I observed a most delicate blue film shadow—no bigger, indeed, than a pea—down in that quarter, suspended over the water, with a white, quivering space between it and the horizon.

I looked at it intently, believing it to be a cloud, and kept on watching it to observe whether it rose or sunk; and then, finding it remain stationary, my heart began to beat fast and my cheeks burn, the still I could not tell if it was a ship or no; and yet, if it were a ship, I could not imagine why it was that color, as the sun, that was directly behind me, was shining full upon it, and would certainly throw up the white canvas.

I put down my glass for some minutes to see if the tiny shadow would be there when I looked again; but, on looking, there it was, sure enough, and if it were not land, then I knew not what it could be, for it was like the point of a hill or mountain peering above the sea line and dislocated by the refraction, so as to appear detached and hanging clear of the water, with a white space of swimming, quivering lustre between it and the sea. I called the boatswain up to me.

'There is a shadow upon the horizon about three points on the port bow, and it looks like land,' I said. Levelled the glass, he looked intently at the object.

At last he took his eye from the glass, and, swinging up his arm, shouted in a burst of uncontrollable excitement, 'Land ho!'

'Land ho!' yelled Johnson, letting go the wheel and springing a yard high in the air. 'Are you sure it's land?' I bawled.

'Ay,' answered the boatswain; 'as sure as yonder sky's blue.'

'Hurrah!' I cried, giving way to the transport of delight that seized me. 'Land ho! Nelly, land ho!' I shouted. 'Come on deck, my darling; there's land in sight!'

She came running up on deck immediately, and I indicated the direction in which the land lay, and told her it was visible from the mast-head. She very well knew I was not deceived, and grew very pale as she stood looking across the sea, breathing quickly and her eyes gleaming.

Matthews now came tumbling out of the cabin, having been aroused by my shouts down the skylight.

'What is there land in sight?' he called to Johnson.

'Ay, Billy, your last voyage isn't taken yet, my man!' replied Johnson; whereat Matthews shouted a loud hurrah, and springing into the main-rigging, went bounding aloft to view the land for himself.

'Hand him the glass, bo'sun,' I sang out, and let us see what he makes of it.'

The fellow had no sooner levelled the glass than he bawls out, 'It's right enough! that's land!' So here were three of us all agreed, and I had now no doubt whatever. On this I told Matthews to loose the main-royal, as he was up there; and while Nellie stood at the wheel, Johnson and I set the sail. The two men then rigged out the main-top-mast studding-sail booms. The sails were up and down the lower rigging, and in a few minutes we sent them up. This canvas tolerably well covered the little brig, and on heaving the log I found she was making a trifle over four knots.

I then went below and overhauled all the charts on the shelves, but could only find one referring to these seas, and it showed no land to be near us for leagues and leagues.

'There can be no question as to its being land,' said I to Nelly, on regaining the deck. 'Pray God this wind hold for a few hours longer!'

'Oh, Will!' she exclaimed, clasping her hands, 'it seems scarcely possible; and yet you could not be deceived.'

In order to lessen by distraction the wearing suspense of the time to Nelly, I suggested that she should go forward and look to our dinner; and, hailing Matthews, I ordered him to lay down, and I also called the boatswain aft.

'I want to tell you all,' said I, 'that I have not the least idea what that land is; but as it is land, we should see all clear for bringing up; for it's fifty to one if we shall find any human creature on it, more especially seeing that it's not laid down in this chart; and so we must expect no help, and stand by to be our own pilots. We must get the anchors over the bows, and the sooner we turn to the better.' It was the deuce's own job to get the anchor over. It took us an hour to get the starboard anchor ready for use, and by that time the land was just peeping over the horizon under the foot of the jib.

I called Nelly and pointed out the land to her, saying there it was, and she could judge for herself whether it was land or not. She was too overcome to speak. She stood looking at it with a rapt expression in her eyes, and her lips apart, and her bosom heaving and falling quickly. I knelt down, the better to steady the glass, and could clearly perceive some of the lineaments of the island; on the left hand the summit of a rock, a ravine or opening of a bay in the centre, and again, on the right, a short, low coast, like the side of a crater, with a forest that tended to the westward. It was clearly an island, and a very small one, too, the front of it, as we looked, not more than one-third of a mile in extent.

We were too anxious to eat our dinner below; there was not one of us but had a superstitious reluctance to lose sight of that island for longer than a few minutes at a time. Its springing up under our bows in the middle of this great ocean, where I had thought there was no land within four or five hundred miles of us, was so like a dream that we durst not let it go, as it were, with our eyes lest when we looked again it should be gone indeed.

So Johnson—Matthews being at the helm of the boat—brought the dinner on to the deck-house. A chair was fetched for Nelly, and she ate from her plate in her lap. The sun poured down fiercely upon us, but we were so absorbed in our thoughts and in talk about the island that, had the sun been as hot again, we should not have noticed it.

Our tedious, slow pace fired me with such impatience that sometimes I scarcely had

power to contain myself. At four o'clock the land was about five miles distant; but by this time the air had utterly died out. Our canvas hung in motionless folds, the sea stretched away like a surface of pale-blue satin, and so calm was the water that the island lay mirrored in it, every line unbroken, and the colors without a blur.

'There is no help for it, bo'sun,' I exclaimed; 'we must tow her. We can't let her drift; and should the wind come ahead, that island would fade away from us as if it were smoke.'

I then told Nelly that we were going to take the brig in tow, and try if we couldn't fetch the island in that way, and that she must keep the vessel's bowsprit aiming straight at the land.

The boat was now along-side; we all four tumbled into her, and in a minute we were ahead of the brig with our tow-rope taut, and our oars cheeping bravely as they ground against the thole-pins.

It was hot and hard work rowing the boat under such a sun as that which looked down upon us, and against such a dead weight as the water-logged brig. But we made her follow us; we wrinkled the water around her bows; the warp sung out as we tautened the bight of it, and then it would jerk the boat back, and fall slack, to be hauled taut again by another steady sweep of the oars.

Every man of us knew that it was as good as a matter of life or death to fetch the island before any shift of wind came, and this consideration nerved us into downright steady work, raising the muscles into lumps as big as eggs on our arms, while we rowed with our teeth set, and the perspiration pouring from our bodies like water.

We held on in this way for about an hour, with not more than three short spells of rest between; and by this time—five o'clock—the island was not above three and a half miles distant, so the brilliant was the atmosphere and so sharply defined every line and scar of the rocks, that it did not appear a stone's-throw away.

'I'm done! I'm spent!' I exclaimed, panting heavily, and running the handle of the oar under my knee, while with my fingers I combed the sweat off my face and sent a whole shower of it flying overboard. 'I must rest a spell, or I shall drop like an overdriven horse.'

'Is that dark line astern o' the brig wind, do you think, Mr Lee?' asked the boatswain, standing up in the boat.

I got on to the shoulder, and after looking at the boatswain's, sang out gladly, 'Ay, it's a breeze coming right down astern—a whole gale, by Heaven! Hurrah, boys! there's enough there to run the island down with.'

We cast the warp aft, and in a few minutes we were on the deck of the brig, with the boat hanging at the davits. The breeze coming up in a few minutes our sails were full, the studding-sails swelling out as a boy rounds his cheeks to whistle, and the half-sunk hull was swirling thru the water again four times as fast as we could have towed her.

By this time it could be seen that the land was a small coral island, no more than a rock, the highest point of which was not above thirty feet from the water. It was, so far as I could discern, almost circular, with a beelling edge on the starboard side, that came along in a hilly sweep down into the sea, going into the water like a beach, and forming a tolerably wide creek, that was bounded on the western side by a great rugged lump of whitish rock between fifteen and twenty feet high. I had never been shipwrecked with an island of this kind before, which was just fit to make a pretty ornament for a gentleman's lake, looking more like the top of a mountain or some volcanic creation hove up above the surface of the water, without an atom of vegetation anywhere, and of the color of a meerschaum pipe that has been smoked a few times; but I had heard that alongside most of these coral deposits you could get no soundings.

However, I kept a bright lookout for rocks and shoals, being desperately anxious to anchor the brig without injury to her bottom. I told Johnson and Matthews to stand by to bring up, and called to the boatswain to shift his helm smartly when I sung out.

As we went by the tongue of beach, I noticed that the creek or estuary ran, for about a quarter of a mile, straight into the heart of the island, and then branched with a slight deviation to the left.

We were now under the lee of the right-hand stretch of shore; all aloft the wind was fresh enough, and whistling thru the rigging, but on deck it was perfectly calm. Neither the boatswain nor I thought it advisable to bring up here, as the brig would be exposed to any sea that might roll up from the south-west; so there was nothing for it but to let go and clew up, get the boat overboard, and tow the brig as high up the creek as we might think it proper to carry her.

I have described this creek—and it is convenient that I should continue to call it a creek—as extending about a quarter of a mile before it deviated to the left; its breadth at the entrance was about sixty fathoms, but it grew narrower as it advanced, until, at the bend, the two shores were not more than eighty feet apart. It was extremely strange to look from side to side and see nothing but coral rock, with not a blade of grass, no tint of green, scarcely a shadow, indeed.

We lowered the boat, and leaving Nelly at the wheel, the four of us took the brig to tow again. I had the bow oar, so that I might pause now and again to look over and see what bottom we were making. There could be no doubt there was a tide here, by the appearance of the beach and side of the rocks, which had a worn and bleached look, like a line of marble inlaid upon the coral, for about five inches above the existing level of the water; and, indeed, I could not help thinking there was a little tide running up with us now, for we appeared to be moving somewhat faster than I believed we could tow the brig.

In about a quarter of an hour we had reached the bend of the creek, and saw that it extended another forty or fifty fathoms, meeting an inclined shelf of rock, the color of which at the base deceived me into believing it was sand. This incline, which was a gradual slope, and very rugged after it had ascended half a dozen yards, terminated in the highest point of the coral deposit. The breadth of the creek here was between thirty and forty feet, and the form of it at the extremity was a perfect oval.

Having reached this bend, I called to Nelly to put the wheel over to starboard, motioning with my hand to intimate the direction in which she should turn the spokes, and by rowing very hard at the same time we sufficiently canted the brig's head to enable the jib-boom to clear the starboard rocks.

'Why, look over the side, bo'sun,' I exclaimed, 'what think you of that bottom? Is it reef, or sand, or what?'

'You'll get no sand here, sir,' said Matthews, who had cruised among the South Sea Islands, and knew something of their coral formation.

Whatever the bottom was, there it lay, clear as silver, and looking, indeed, like silver, in the exquisitely transparent green sea-water. But whether it was one or ten fathoms deep no one could say.

'Anyhow, it looks level,' remarked the boatswain. 'I don't see no signs of rocks; do you, Bill?'

Matthews replied that it appeared to him to be as flat as a deck; and, indeed, our eyes could not deceive as to the formation of this bottom, for any asperities would have been visible.

'If it's as hard as it looks, Mr Lee,' said the boatswain, 'there'll be no use in letting go the anchor. A harpoon 'ud snap against it. The best plan will be to moor the vessel; and if you'll just look yonder, sir, you'll see a ledge of rock that would hold a warp as well as an eye-bolt.'

We rowed smartly for ten minutes. I had my eye on the brig, noticing that she had grown monstrous heavy on our hands, when Robert Johnson sung out, 'I'm dashed if we're moving, mates!'

'Why, we're aground!' bawled Matthews. 'I flung up my oar, and looked over. The boat was not aground, but there could be no question that the brig was; for the creek had shoaled so suddenly and greatly that the boatswain, harpooning the water with his oar, struck bottom when at least a third of the oar was out of water in his hand.'

'No matter,' said I. 'There's no fear of her bilging, and the bottom looks as flat as a pancake. So let us turn to now and get her moored. We should have had to beach her somehow to come at the leak; if there's any tide here, and it looks to me as if there were, her grounding may save us a rare job.'

Leaving the two men in the boat, the boatswain and I boarded the brig, and presently the men had made a couple of warps fast to the rocks on the port and starboard bow. We took these lines to the windlass, and hove them taut, so as to give the brig another start forward, should any more tide come to float her. When the men came aboard we all turned to and furled the sails, and by the time we had completed this job the sun had sunk behind the rocks on the port quarter, and the hull of the brig, and the water around us, and the bleak granite-like shore on either hand were all in gloom, while the crimson splendor was still gilding the summit of the rocks above us, and sparkling in the upper spars and yards, and reddening the rigging of our little vessel.

In a few minutes the illuminated lines faded, and turned black against the sky, in which the warm red glare was lingering, and at last over the whole hemisphere the evening drew its veil, and the stars blazed out over our heads and spangled the lipping water around the brig, and, saving our own voices, no other sound was to be heard but the sighing of the wind sweeping thru the upper rigging from over the rocks on our left hand, and the creaking of the little breakers all around the windward side of the island.