

STRANGE AND SAD AFFAIR.

The following letter was received on Saturday last by His Worship the Mayor of Halifax:

UTICA, N. Y., Jan. 16, 1869.

To the Mayor of the City of Halifax, N. S.

HONORABLE SIR:—In October last a young man named S. B. Parker, came through this place selling Suspender Buckles, and said he was from Nova Scotia, but I did not learn from what part. I am manufacturing a Patent toy Top for children to play with; he wished to purchase and sell them in connection with his other notions, and made arrangements to have me send them to him by express, which I did. He started West and South via Buffalo, Cincinnati, then took boat for New Orleans, in the meantime ordering tops to that port. He was very successful and sold large quantities.

Yesterday I received a letter from a Mr. Swellback, of New Orleans, saying that Mr. Parker had been robbed and murdered, and asking for information as to the whereabouts of his friends. I only saw him once, and know nothing more about him than this; he was a young man, stout built, medium height, active, and a good salesman. Enclosed you will find a notice of the affair which I had published in the Utica daily Morning Herald. Not knowing any person in your city, I took the liberty to address these lines to you. Any information that you could get to his friends would, I presume be very thankfully received. I am going to New Orleans in a few days, and will be able to learn more fully the particulars of this sad case, and forward them. Please answer.

Very truly yours,

H. BECKWITH.

The following is the notice in the Utica Daily Herald to which the writer of the foregoing refers:

ASSASSINATION OF A TOP PEDDLER.—Last October a man giving his name as S. B. Parker called at the hardware store of Henry Beckwith, No. 133 Genesee street, representing himself as a resident of Nova Scotia or Brunswick, and a stranger in this city. He was a pedler of patent articles. Making arrangements with Mr. Beckwith for the sale of Johnson's Magic Top, he left Utica for Rome, Buffalo and other cities west. Selling hundreds of dollars worth of these toys in every place, he finally reached New Orleans with probably several thousand dollars. Mr. Beckwith, a day or two since, received a letter from a man signing himself Henry Snellback stating that Mr. Parker, had been robbed and murdered at his room in New Orleans, on the night of January 8th. The door of the room had been forced open, and chloroform administered. Parker was found the next morning upon his knees, with his head resting upon his bed. A dense odor of chloroform pervaded the apartment, and near the corpse was a sponge, the use of which was sufficiently obvious. Concerning the affair, we copy the following from a New Orleans paper:

It is supposed that he had about four thousand dollars in cash on his person or in his room. The deceased had on when found dead, his flannel shirt, pants, shoes and stockings. The front of his pants had been torn down, as if it was in the effort to get at his money belt, if he had one. Only five cents were found on his person. He belonged in New York, and had said that he was expecting a large shipment of the toys such as he had sold, and had said that he was very successful in making money.

Dominion papers and especially those of Nova Scotia, are requested to copy the above. Information concerning the murdered man can be obtained of Henry Beckwith, 133 Geneva street, Utica.

The description given above of the individual said to have been robbed and murdered, answers pretty well to a person of the same name of whom we have some knowledge, but we must not further designate him until hearing from his parents, who have already been informed of the above notice.

It would seem somewhat strange that the person writing to Mr. Beckwith at Utica, does not mention the name of the hotel in New Orleans, and other circumstances a little more particularly. If chloroform were administered to Mr. Parker, the more natural position we should have supposed, would have been either lying in the bed, or on the floor. We fear the statement may be true, but shall look for some further accounts in confirmation of what this individual—Henry Snellback—has stated.

Since the above was in print we find the *Acadian Recorder* stating that the description answers to a son of the Rev. James Parker. His son Mr. S. B. Parker was well-known in Halifax, and we suppose he is the person intended. We shall nevertheless, wait, hoping that some further explanation may be given of the very melancholy case. In the meantime we tender our very sincere sympathy to the parents and friends.

THE YOUNG ARTIST, Alfred Tennyson Barrett, of Wolfville, whose pictures at the Provincial Exhibition were subject of so much favorable remark, has executed another one, which is now on exhibition at the rooms of Brennan & Co., Hollis Street. It is a fine painting of "The friend in need"—a boy pumping water for his thirsty friend—a girl, holding her mouth to the spout of the pump. It will bear close examination and is true to the original. It does great credit to the promising young painter.

THE GRAND DIVISION OF NOVA SCOTIA commenced their Quarterly Session at Economy, Colchester Co., last evening.

CHEBUCTO ANNIVERSARY.—We understand that the Committee of arrangements for the twenty-first Anniversary celebration of Chebucto Division are busy preparing for the occasion, which promises to be a grand affair. The entertainment, which will be a *sociable Soiree*, will take place on Thursday evening, 4th February, in the Division Room.

Those intending to participate had better bespeak their tickets in time, as the number, necessarily, must be limited. Names may be handed in to the Committee, viz:

John Heenan, Chairman; H. A. Taylor, John E. Butler, Wm. Wilson, A. Longley, Dr. A. P. Reid, R. J. Wilson, and P. Monaghan, Secretary.—*Abstainer*.

PROVINCIAL TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—This gathering will take place in Halifax on the first Tuesday in March, at 7 o'clock P. M. We understand that all members of the Grand Division S. of T., and of the Grand Lodges of the B. O. and I. O. of good Templars will be considered as members of the Convention. Every Division, Lodge, and Temperance organization will have the privilege of sending one delegate for every twenty members. Let the various bodies attend to this matter in time. All Delegates must be provided with credentials.—*Id.*

We are informed that the Messrs. Seeton intend placing on the route between this port and Boston, the fine new steamer "City of Halifax." This vessel we understand is fitted up in a superior style for the accommodation of passengers. This steamer is intended also to carry the Newfoundland mails, but as her trips will be monthly to the latter place she will be able in the interval to make two trips to Boston. This no doubt will be a great accommodation to the travelling community.

Her Majesty has conferred the honor of Knighthood on Chief Justice Hodgson of P. E. Island.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Halifax Young Men's Christian Association was held on Saturday night, the President, John S. Maclean, Esq., in the chair. The report shows the Association to be in a flourishing condition. The number of members is over 450. Proposals for 26 new members were submitted. The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: President, John S. Maclean; Vice Presidents, A. K. Doull, Hon. Dr. Parker, Hon. S. L. Shannon, P. C. Hill, and William Roach, Jr.; Treasurer, S. H. Black; Secretary, Thomas Clarke.

General Committee.—J. C. Mackintosh, M. M. Lindsay, W. B. McNutt, Jas. Farquhar, W. H. Wiswell, S. Cunningham, John L. Smith, E. D. Miller, George Mitchell, R. N. Beckwith, D. H. Starr, Joseph Bell, J. W. Watt, Dr. Hattie, R. M. King, Walter B. Reynolds, W. H. Waddell, George McLean, A. S. Bremner, H. N. Paint, W. S. Pender, E. D. King, D. J. Smith, A. Patterson, W. H. Neal.

An animated discussion arose in reference to the position of Temperance in the Association. We were glad to learn from the report that a Total Abstinence Society is formed by some of its members. If all the members of the Association were enlisted in this, as well as the other departments of Christian work, they might largely increase their usefulness.

Work is provided for the unemployed. All who apply are set to breaking of stones at 75 cents a day. There are at present 38 men so employed—an excellent plan for supplying the industrious poor with the means of subsistence. Other employment might also be provided, we should think, which would bring larger returns.

VESSEL LOST.—Messrs. John Silver & Co., have received a telegram from Newfoundland, stating that the stern of a vessel with the name *J. B. Huey* on it, recently came ashore near the "Highlands," at the Bay of St. George, Nfld. The schr. *J. B. Huey* which sailed from Boone Bay, Nfld, on the 2nd December, with a cargo of 1000 bbls Herring for this port, and as nothing has been heard of the crew it is feared all hands have been lost. She was commanded by Capt. Williams, of the Eastern Passage.

THE CUNARD STEAMERS running to New York, except the "Russia," are now fitted up for and carry stowage passengers, the same as the Inman and other lines.

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH.—The Rev. John Campbell of Pictou preached in St. Andrews Church on Sunday last. We understand that it is probable a call will be given him to take charge of the congregation.

WINTER has put in an appearance during the past week or so, more than during the early part of the season. It is likely however that it will not be so severe as usual. The ice on the Dartmouth lakes on the 1st of January measured only 13 inches in thickness, whereas on the 1st of January 1868, it measured 24 inches. We heard a theory advanced a day or two since that the recent earthquakes may have operated on the bed of the ocean as well as on land; and have diverted the Gulf stream further north causing the unusual mildness.

We understand that the fish recently caught on our shores—fat herring, have been very different from what are ordinarily found at this season; probably caused by the mildness of the weather. The thermometer however on Friday night was 4° below zero. Rather cool.

THE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY are using salt again on the rails, which is highly offensive, and detrimental to all others travelling on the streets. A memorial signed by the principal merchants of the city was presented to the Council, on Friday last. It is the opinion of the City Recorder that the Council could take action against the Company for nuisance.

The next International Exhibition is to be held at the City of Cologne in Germany in 1870.

SAD ACCIDENT.—Mr. W. R. Doty, of Hebron informs us that two small boys about twelve years old were drowned in a lake about seven miles from that place, at Deerfield. They were skating on the Lake on their way to meeting. Their names were Enoch Edson, son of Mr Samuel Vickery, and Arthur E., son of Mr Jacob Trask. An inquest was held before Thos. D. Chipman, Esq., Coroner, and a verdict returned in accordance with the facts.

A CHALLENGE.—Mr. Judson D. Harris of Cornwallis writes to the *Toronto Globe* in reply to a letter from Mr. J. C. Kilborne of Ontario, expressing dissatisfaction that he did not obtain the prize of \$100 and a gold medal for apples at the late Exhibition in Halifax:

Mr. Harris says: "Sir, I do not belong to the Fruit Growers' Association, and I did not see any of the fruit at the late Exhibition in Halifax; but I have an orchard here in Nova Scotia; and I have been in Ontario and have seen the orchards there, and the fruit they produce; and although the season is past for many varieties of apples, I have still on hand, of my own raising, several sorts which are common to Nova Scotia and Ontario. And if Mr. J. C. Kilborne, or any one else, wants to make a comparison I will give him an opportunity. And in order thereto, I hereby

CHALLENGE

any Fruit Grower within the Dominion to compete with me at any convenient place within this Province that may be agreed on, for a prize of \$25 per barrel of each of the following varieties of apples, viz:

Northern Spy, Gravenstein, French Russet, Clyde Beauty, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Ribston Pippin, King of Tompkins' County.

The competition to be upon the above eight varieties, and under such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed on; each competitor to furnish satisfactory proof that the eight barrels of competing apples were grown by himself, within the Dominion, and on land owned by himself for at least one year previous to the competition."

A correspondent of the "Express," writing from Port Medway says, two dwelling houses at that place, owned and occupied respectively by Capt. Freeman Park and Joseph Letson, Esq., were destroyed by fire on the 17th inst. Loss partly covered by insurance. In Mr. Letson's cellar were stored 600 bushels of potatoes, owned by Mr. Joseph Lowden of Cornwallis, which are a total loss.

TEMPERANCE MEETING AT BRIDGETOWN.—We find in the *Free Press* a request to copy a report of the above meeting held on the 29th ult. It affords us pleasure to record the doings of our Temperance brethren, and indeed items of news of every description; but we prefer to have such notices earlier and more direct, so to give our readers what is fresh as well as cheering from all parts of the province. Will our friends please take a note of this, and send direct and early, brief accounts of passing events in their several localities. We shall receive them as special favors, and our readers generally will be gratified.

The meeting was held in the Session House at Bridgetown, the multitude, representing various parts of the County, filled in a short time the capacious building. William H. Troop, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and Leander S. Morse, Secretary. The Rev. N. Vidito opened the meeting with prayer, the following resolutions, having been ably and eloquently moved and seconded, were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

1. Moved by T. W. Chesley, Esq., Seconded by Capt. P. McKay:

Resolved, "That this meeting rejoices in the mighty advances which the great Temperance Reform has achieved in this County, and throughout our Province; and it recognizes the duty of continued and increased effort to effect, as far as possible, the total abrogation of the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

2. Moved by Rev. D. S. Gordon, seconded by T. W. Chesley, Esq.:

Resolved, "That this meeting hereby expresses its sincere approbation and cordial thanks to the Court of Sessions of this County, for its late decision to withhold all Tavern Licenses within our County; and this meeting earnestly hopes that the same decision, and high moral principle of action will characterize the future meetings of that Court."

3. Moved by Rev. Geo. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Caleb Phinney:

Resolved, "That whereas this meeting regards all legal sanction by Statute, as well as by authority of Courts of Sessions, for the retailing of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, as morally wrong, and wicked in principle, and as promotive of incalculable misery, degradation, and crime:—

Therefore Resolved, "That in the opinion of this meeting, the most vigorous efforts should be put forth to effect the total abrogation of all Statute law, now in force in this Province, which tends either directly or indirectly to legalize the retailing of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes."

4. Moved by W. Ricketson, Esq., seconded by Mr. S. Spurr:

Resolved, "That whereas this meeting recognizes the dependence on the blessing of Almighty God for the success of all human effort:

Therefore Resolved, "that this meeting respectfully solicits the continued efforts of the Clergy of all denominations within the County, and requests that they make the subject of the great moral and temperance reform the basis of one sermon before each of their respective congregations as soon as practicable after this meeting."

5. Moved by Rev. John S. Addy, seconded by Mr. —, supported by A. Longley, Esq., Rev. N. Vidito and others:

Resolved, "That in the opinion of this meeting, a County League, to embrace members of the various Temperance organizations and friends of Temper-

ance, be at once organized, and that a Committee of Vigilance be appointed to procure information of all infringements of the laws relating to the sale or vending of intoxicating liquors, in order that all offending against the same may be vigorously prosecuted according to Law."

It was also Resolved, that the foregoing resolutions be published in the local paper and in all Religious and Temperance papers in the Province.

The business preliminary to the formation of the League having been transacted, it was resolved that another Mass Temperance Meeting be held in the Sessions House, Bridgetown, at one o'clock, on Tuesday, January 19th, A. D. 1869, to elect officers, adopt a Constitution, and generally to devise ways and means to carry out, in a thorough and efficient manner, the intention contemplated in the formation of the League. Temperance meetings were also appointed to be held at Pine Grove and New Caledonia. A vote of thanks having been tendered to the Chairman and Secretary, the meeting adjourned.

SAD OCCURRENCE AT GRANVILLE.—A young man of Karsdale, named Thomas Hudson, left home last Saturday morning, to spend a few hours chopping wood on the mountain. Not returning at the time appointed a messenger was despatched to ascertain the cause of the detention, and sad to relate, he was found part way home perfectly exhausted. He had cut his foot nearly off and started for home, but from loss of blood was unable to proceed. He was carried home but died in a few hours. This melancholy casualty suggests the impropriety of persons going into the wilderness to work alone. Had help been at hand the above young man's life might have been saved. It moreover suggests the importance of living in constant preparation for death.

I. WALLACE.

Granville, 15th Jan. 1869.

LIVERPOOL.—A Railway meeting was held here on Friday last, at which resolutions were adopted seeking for a survey of a line of road connecting Liverpool and Annapolis. Men of influence and position were present and took part in the proceedings. The Local government are to be asked to make the survey, and the Dominion government for funds to carry out the project.

SAD ACCIDENT.—As Mr. Charles Brownell and Mr. Jesse Ogden, both of Tidnish, were going from the woods to the house of the latter, on Friday last, Mr. Brownell with a loaded gun on his shoulder, muzzle to the front, the hammer was raised sufficiently to break the cap by coming in contact with a board over the entrance to the porch, a daughter of Mr. Ogden coming out just in time to receive the charge in the side. She was ten years of age, and only survived about half an hour. A few moments sooner and Mr. Ogden, who had preceded Mr. B., might have met the same fate.

At an inquest held before Coroner Jackson a verdict was returned in accordance with the above facts.—*Amherst Gazette*.

The Sessions resolved to assess the district of Amherst for \$500 towards the purchase of a fire engine, provided \$300 was subscribed by the people. A public meeting has been held and nearly the whole amount has been raised.

PCGWASH.—A letter from Dr. Clarke to the *Amherst Gazette* dated the 20th Inst, states that "as the wife of the Rev Edwin Clay, M. D., of this place, was returning home from a short drive last evening, where she had been to visit a friend, accompanied by her mother, with a babe about six months old at the breast, it suddenly dropped the nipple and on arriving home a distance of only half a mile, was discovered to be dead, or supposed to be so. I was summoned immediately, and on examination of the child, found that life was extinct, and on further examination believe that the cause of the sudden death was congenital disease of the heart."

[Dr. Clay was in Amherst visiting a patient at the time of the occurrence.]

THE ENGLISH MAILS.—There will be a weekly mail to England until further notice—every alternate Tuesday, by the steamer, *Carlotta* to Portland, thence by Canadian steamer leaving on the following Saturday for Liverpool; and every alternate Friday the Inman Steamers direct from this port.

NEW ZEALAND.—Private advices from New Zealand have been received by parties in Halifax announcing the safe arrival of the *Emulous* with all on board well. We further learn that all the passengers immediately succeeded in getting employment.

Advices from New Zealand to London on Thursday last, report a frightful massacre of whites by the natives at Poverty Bay.

Poverty Bay is on the Eastern side of the Northern Island in a north-easterly direction and on the opposite side from the Paten River, in which region the present war broke out. It was the first place visited by Cook in 1769—nearly a hundred years ago.

The importance of giving *Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders* to horses that have been out in a cold rain, stood in a cold wind, or drank too much cold water, cannot be over estimated; no man should be without them who owns a good horse.

NOTICE.

TO COUNTRY DEALERS AND OTHERS.

THE subscribers at the commencement of the year 1869, would respectfully return sincere thanks to one and all of their numerous customers for past patronage that they have so liberally bestowed upon them, and would now intimate that after this date they intend to sell at greatly reduced prices for READY PAY ONLY, and in future will be able to supply customers with goods at cheaper rates than can be got in the City.

JOHN F. CROWE & CO.

Jan. 6.