

POETRY.

From Legends and Rambling Rhymes.

ST. VICK.

In the rock of St. Vincent, near Bristol, is a cave, which has been an object of great curiosity from time immemorial.

Of all the hermits that ever were known To live in holes, or lie upon stones,

By night and by day, He'd devoutly pray;

One pleasant morning in spring, St. Vick Having nothing to do,

He knock'd at his gate with a feeble rap,

'Twas open'd, but with a terrible clap It clos'd, and St. Vick was turning round,

'Tis six by the sun!

And old St. Vincent is full of his fun, He slaps his lean friend on the small of his back,

Repentant and sick, Sat poor St. Vick,

On a sharp bit of rock, his conscience to prick!

In his hole, and often at deep midnight Was seen the anchorite's lamp alight,

Long years pass'd by— The hermit's eye

Had clos'd for ever in death, and his frame Had return'd to the dust from whence it came—

Through the rock, by which the curious survey'd The hermit's cell,

Where, strange to tell, As if preserv'd by a miracle,

Where found some parchments mouldy and damp, Beside the remains of an inkstand and lamp—

On one was written, in letters thick, "This is the Will of Me, St. Vick."

The other papers we shall transfer, To a noted London publisher.

Only noting this one among the rest, Pick'd up in the cavern by Mr. West.

THE WILL. "I give and bequeath, After my death,

To earth my bones, and to heaven my soul— And happy may be the old man's dole!

I give, of this hole, which I've long possess'd, The sole right of entrance to William West!

And for being protect'd, when drunk on the ridge, Of the rock, I desire that a mighty bridge

May be built to perpetuate my fame, By one who hereafter shall bear my name—

That after ages may wondrously tell— (The manuscript here is illegible.)

This was strange enough—but 'tis stranger still, That one Mr. Vick should leave by his will,

In after years, a sum for a bridge To span the rocks, from ridge to ridge—

And that Mr. West, (vide will) should be willing, To show the anchorite's cave for a shilling.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Canada.—We are sorry to perceive, as we do from Dr. Theller's newspaper, published at Detroit, that a blow will be struck at the Royalists in Canada, during the ensuing winter, "and in a quarter little suspected."

Shocking.—A little girl about seven years of age, the daughter of Mr. John Gilles, living near Toronto, was so shockingly burned, on Christmas day, by her clothes taking fire, that she survived only a few hours.

How to Enforce Silence. The officers of the Scotch criminal courts create disturbance by calling "Silence," to the auditory.

Of late years, the Greek ladies in Constantinople had worn bonnets, and otherwise imitated the costumes of England and France; but their patriarch, in a fit of holy fervor, has just issued a mandate, forbidding them henceforth to indulge in such sinful vanities, and ordering them to resume the dress they formerly wore, which differs but little from that worn by Turkish females, under pain of incurring his displeasure.

From Neilson's Quebec Gazette.

THE CLERGY RESERVE QUESTION.

This question concerns Lower Canada as well as Upper Canada. The same clause of the Constitutional Act established these reserves in both Provinces. They have however, for various reasons, made less noise in Lower Canada than in Upper Canada.

The Bill introduced in the Upper Canada Legislature puts a stop to the further Reserves of one-seventh of the ungranted lands of the Crown, "for the support of a Protestant Clergy."

The principal immediate effect of the Act will be to stop new Reserves being made. The payments now made to the Clergy are to be paid during the life of the present incumbents, before any other distribution of the fund, and we are informed that these payments will considerably exceed the amount of the annual interest arising from the capital formed by the sales of the Reserves.

The great evil of the Bill will be, that it will keep the different religious bodies constantly before the public, in a sort of competition for, and expectation of worldly advantages, connected with religion; leaving a sort of jealousy among them, in relation to these interests, which has been already found dangerous to the harmony of society, and hurtful to the general welfare.

The 31st Geo. III. made the Reservation of one-seventh of the Waste Lands of the Crown, "for the support and maintenance of a Protestant Clergy," part of the Constitution of both Provinces. There has been a difference of opinion on the meaning of "Protestant Clergy," on which it is not necessary to enter at present.

The price of wild land has been effected by speculation, and facilitated by excessive issues of Bank paper, a sort of gambling, by which some have made money, and more been ruined. But land itself has little intrinsic value, otherwise than by the judicious application of the labour of the settler and his family, with frugal management; capital spent by other persons than the actual settler on the land for the payment of labour, is rarely or never returned.

We shall only remark on one or two singularities connected with this Reserve question. The authors of the Clergy Reserve plan in the constitutional Act, no doubt

in Upper Canada, and even in some of the other Colonies, as ever. The authors of the present Bill no doubt, think that they have put an end to these difficulties. It will be found that they have perpetuated them. We may add, that it is a singular mark of want of confidence in the United Legislature, that a question affecting both Provinces is not left to be settled by their "collective wisdom."

YORK COUNTY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

This society, or rather county convention, held its annual meeting pursuant to appointment, at Kiswick Ridge—John T. Smith, Esq. in the chair. The other officers present were:—James A. Miles, Esq. vice president; the delegates from the Frederickton and Douglas local abstinence societies, the Douglas, Kingsclear and Kiswick Ridge temperance societies, and Mr. Ward, secretary of the convention.

The meeting was held in the Congregational Meeting House; the delegates assembling in the afternoon to make the preparatory arrangements, and again in the evening, when a numerous and attentive auditory attended. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer, and the president then explained the nature and object of the meeting; after which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved—That the state of the societies which are represented at this meeting, is highly gratifying—affords cause of thankfulness to the Author of all good; and must excite their members to further and renewed exertions.

Resolved—That one of the most effectual means of diffusing information, and correcting error, is that which the public press affords; and this convention learn with much satisfaction, that it is proposed to establish a temperance publication, to be issued at St. John, and recommend the societies in this county to afford it their cordial support.

Resolved—That the convention consider the establishment of public houses where spirituous liquors are sold, as having an injurious effect upon society; and when licensed in such abundance as is the case in this county, as calling for the decided reprehension of this meeting.

Resolved—That a committee be appointed, to petition the legislature, with reference to the present Licence Law, and its inadequacy to meet the object in view; and praying that more effectual means be adopted for the restraining those evils, which flow from the selling of ardent spirits; this convention considering any authority to vend the same, as lending the sanction of law, to that which leads to immorality and crime, and is the fruitful source of temporal and eternal ruin.

Messrs. Thomas Pickard, J. T. Smith, and Mr. Ward, were appointed a committee, to carry into effect the object of the above resolution.

Resolved—That it be recommended to each society in this county, to appoint a committee to wait upon families in their neighbourhood, and recommend the temperance cause; and to urge upon their members the advantage that will result from their attendance at the meetings of the societies.

Resolved—That the following gentlemen be requested to meet the different societies in the county at least once during the present year: Messrs. Smith and Ward those in the Nashuaak; Rev. Mr. Strong and Messrs. T. Pickard and Jarvis Ring, the Douglas societies; J. T. Smith and H. Copperthwaite, and the Rev. Mr. Strong, the Kiswick Creek and ridge societies; Messrs. Wm. S. Estey, Joseph Pickard and Jer. Christie, the First Kingsclear society; James Miles, Esq. and Messrs. Zebedee Estey, and Aaron Harritt, the Second Kingsclear society; Rev. Mr. Saunders, the Dumfries societies; and Messrs. Judah Hammond and Zebedee Estey, the Prince William society.

Resolved—That the convention assemble next year at Frederickton in January; the day to be notified by the secretary in the public prints.

The following officers were then chosen for the ensuing year. J. T. Smith, Esq. president, Messrs. J. A. Miles, A. Ross and J. Harrison, vice presidents, Mr. Ward, secretary, and Mr. W. S. Estey, assistant secretary; Mr. J. F. Gale, treasurer.

The resolutions were ably supported by the several movers; and those expressive of the sentiments of the meeting, with reference to the large number of licences which are granted—it being stated that seventy are issued in this county alone—with the terrible evils resulting from the sale of ardent spirits and intoxicating drinks; called forth a very animated debate, in which the magistrates were reflected upon for affording such facilities for intemperance, inadequately punishing publicans when found guilty of breach of the sabbath or keeping their houses open at unlawful hours; also frequently remitting the fines that are imposed. It was also stated, that where the grand jury had presented persons as improper characters to be licensed, the court had subsequently granted licence; and that tavern keepers are placed on the grand jury; which in a great measure prevents that body from faithfully performing their duty.

These evils, however, will be brought under the notice of the legislature, by the committee appointed for that purpose; and it is hoped, a remedy will be afforded.

The appointment of committees in accordance with two of the rules, whose duty it shall be to visit families and societies, have been found beneficial elsewhere, and it is hoped will be acted upon promptly, by the different individuals who have been or may be appointed.

It was also stated, that it is proposed to publish 2000 copies of the TEMPERANCE FRIEND monthly, at St. John; this will cost £84, which is to be divided into shares of £7 each; and the societies in this county are requested to raise funds, sufficient to purchase a share, and thus to obtain a proportionate number of copies.

EDMUND WARD,

Secretary.

Fredericton, Jan. 28, 1840.

The Shooting Stars of November.—Preliminary to the observation of these phenomena, Sir J. South wrote on the 12th inst. the following observation on the similar appearances on the 10th of August last:—"A celestial globe being brought out on the lawn for the purpose of tracing their tracks, and a

nine and two minutes after midnight, 165 shooting stars were not only seen, but their flights amongst the fixed stars, and their disappearances to the nearest tenth of a second, registered. Between five minutes after midnight and twenty-nine minutes after one in the morning 150 were seen. Clouds, which continued till daylight, prevented further observations. Of these, the principal part resembled stars of the sixth magnitude stealing from one part of the heavens to a nother. Many were as bright as stars of the first magnitude. Several had a brilliancy many times surpassing that of the planet Venus, whilst some few, apparently of a discal form, were not unlike the planet Jupiter, as seen with a magnifying power of fifty or sixty.

These, as well as those of the two preceding classes, prior to their disappearance, frequently burst into thousands of intensely luminous points, the light produced being such as to excite the attention of even the most careless bystander.

Having many years ago, when casually observing a magnificent one which caused a person whose back was turned directly towards it to startle at his post, a strong impression that a report which I heard forty-two seconds afterwards was referable to the spot where I had seen the explosion, I was on this occasion particularly on the alert for any such recurrence seeing that the distance of the object might thereby be nearly rigorously determined; but, although the night was particularly still, scarcely a leaf moving, not the slightest could I ever think I heard. The directions which these fugitives took were very various, as was the extent of arcs they traversed; generally they took their course from the zenith towards the horizon, but in several instances they passed from horizon to zenith: some appeared when within ten or fifteen degrees of the horizon, and disappeared in it. Every part of the visible heavens teemed with them; the constellations, however, of Cassiopeia and Perseus were most prolific. After the bursting of one of these meteors, Sir J. South noticed a luminous cloud, some five degrees in diameter, which showed them to be composed of something more material than electricity.

Canadian Affairs.—We see by the papers in various quarters, that border troubles and contentions are looked for, as one of the exciting themes for discussion, during the winter. In this, we suspect that the borderers will be disposed to disappoint them. So far we are informed, every thing is quiet on this side of the line, and no disposition exists at any point, to interfere in the Canadian controversy. The new Governor seems to have commenced like a sensible man, and the advocates of responsible government appear to be more bold and numerous, and will undoubtedly obtain all the reforms they ask, if they pursue a steady and correct course. Of this, the Tories on both sides of the line appear to be apprehensive, and therefore circulate stories of the most preposterous character. The Tories in Canada are bent on a continuance of their Queen plucking, and their brethren of the Union are studying the creation of more spoils, by the increase of our standing army.

Along this frontier, social and business intercourse has been resumed, and a healthful state of feeling has succeeded the suspicious and restricted intercourse of last year. All our people now see the propriety of leaving the Canadians to manage their own affairs.

THE MADAWASKA SETTLEMENT.

From the Quebec Mercury.

The Madawaska settlement is seated on both sides of the River St. Johns: extending from a few miles above the Grand Falls to within one mile of the junction of the River Madawaska with the St. Johns. This settlement was established by Acadians from Nova Scotia in the fall of the year 1755, and has ever since retained its allegiance to, and been under the jurisdiction and protection of the British Government. Officers of Militia and Justices of the Peace have been appointed by the Governors of New Brunswick ever since that territory was formed into a separate Province; and it has only been of late years that the State of Maine has thought proper to extend their claim beyond the limits of the settlement. But because Maine thinks proper to claim it—that is no reason why we should refrain from continuing our jurisdiction over it—and until Maine establishes her claim the British authorities are fully justified in establishing garrisons and building forts in any part of the settlement—and still more so in the Seigniory of Temisouata.

This Seigniory was granted by the King of France previous to the year 1700.—Since Canada has been a British possession the seigniory has fallen into various hands by will, and deeds of sale.—At present it belongs to separate parties, and a considerable portion of it was purchased a few years since by a Company of American Land Speculators, or Lumber Merchants, and is still in their possession. The sale was effected and legally registered in the City of Quebec—numerous Lumber Companies are now "making timber" on the Lake shores—Americans and British: because this seigniory is private property, bought in the city of Quebec. And yet forsooth the British Sovereign is not to retain jurisdiction and quarter troops in it, because the State of Maine thinks proper to claim it.

In the early part of the year 1783, before the ratification of the Treaty of Independence, Governor Haldimand caused the present Portage Road to be accurately measured, surveyed, and marked out as the future Mail Road between Quebec and Halifax.—Many years since disbanded Veterans of the British army were settled along this road and down the banks of the Madawaska river by the British Government, and to this day their descendants draw rations from the British Government—and the occupation of this territory by a handful of British troops is called an invasion of the United States. And here we must express our surprise that Governor Fairfield did not call together the Legislature upon the invasion of the State of Maine by twelve men, six women and twelve children of the 24th British Regt. when they occupied the barracks at Lake Temisouata during the last summer!

Many Americans imagine the withdrawal of the 11th detachment from Madawaska in April last was an acknowledgement on the part of Sir John Harvey, that we had no right to continue the military occupation of that settlement,—no such thing! Sir John Harvey knew the 11th detachment had come some hundred miles, without baggage, and were without necessary barrack accommodation, they were scattered among farm houses scarcely within reach of their Officers. The Maine Militia having withdrawn, the sooner the 11th could be sent to rejoin the remainder of the Regiment in Canada the better for their comfort and the less expense to the country.—But this movement was not done because the

when required. But the American troops having retired, no doubt Sir John Harvey considered the Militia of the settlement sufficient for any sudden emergency.

We are only surprised that the British authorities have not long ere this, erected block-houses and good barracks for two or three Regiments in the Madawaska settlement—it is extremely healthy and would make a delightful summer quarter for troops after hard duty in the garrisons of Quebec and Montreal, or the unwholesome flats of some parts of Canada.—Should this part of the British Dominions at any time be ceded to the United States, it would be no great distance for the Regiments to withdraw into New Brunswick.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM LIVERPOOL.

By the arrival of the packet ship Garrick, from Liverpool, which sailed on the 14th of last month, we have received large files of Irish and English papers to the 13th December inclusive. The great dinner given to Mr. O'Connell in Bandon, took place on Thursday the 3d of December, and takes up a very large portion of the columns of the Dublin Evening Post. The late period at which we received our files, of course will prevent us from publishing the proceedings in this day's paper. We shall give them in full in our next. We cannot however forbear (to the exclusion of other matter) giving the following extract of O'Connell's speech made on his reaching William's Hotel, where he alighted and took up his quarters previous to the dinner. It is in his usual fervid, humorous and eloquent strain:

"She (the Queen) is going to be married!— [tremendous cheers from over thirty thousand persons congregated in the great area, and waving of handkerchiefs by hundreds of elegantly dressed ladies, by whom the hotel and other buildings were crowded] I wish she may have as many children as my grandmother had—two and twenty [immense cheering and laughter] God bless the Queen! I am a father and grandfather, and in the face of heaven I pray with as much honesty and fervency for Queen Victoria as I do for one of my own progeny [cries of hear and cheers.] The moment I heard of the darling and audacious menaces of the Tories towards the Sovereign, I promulgated through the press, my feelings of detestation, and determination on the matter [loud cheers, "yes, we read them, sir."] Oh! if I be not mistaken, I'd get in one day, 500,000 brave Irishmen to defend the life, the honour, and the person of the beloved young lady by whom England's throne is now filled [exulting and protracted cheers.] Let every man in the vast and multitudinous assembly stretched out before me, who is loyal to the Queen, and would defend her to the last, lift up his right hand [the entire assembly responded to the appeal.] There are hearts in those hands. I tell you that if necessity required, there would be swords in them [awful cheering.]

There was a descent the other day upon Newport, of 5,000 of those misguided people, called "Chartists." Their leaders ran away, and that bladder-em-skite of a fellow, Feargus O'Conner came to Ireland, indeed, to see his "poor relations" [roars of laughter.] He did right to run; Newport was too hot for him, and he came to Dunmanway to make a speech, while the fight was going on the other side of the channel [laughter and cheers.] Before how many of these soldiers did these 5,000 Chartists quail and run [cries of thirty?] You have it; but who are these thirty brave fellows, [Irishmen?—] Yes, they were Irishmen—they were all Path-areen boys, and the name of the sergeant who distinguished himself, was Dally—O'Dawley—as we term it in Ireland; and the officer in command of the little party! what is he, think ye [cries of a 'Kerryman?'] Oh, yes, a Kerryman—and a member of a most respectable family, Have I not got thirty as good fellows amongst you who would put the Chartists to route, and trample them under foot [cheers and "yes!"] Give me, my countrymen, one enthusiastic cheer for the Queen [vehement and deafening cheers.]

My next topic shall be in reference to practical efforts on your part. Ireland is threatened by the orange Tories of England—the throne is menaced; disloyalty and treason and perfidy are preached and promulgated. How are they to be suppressed? By the constitutional exertions of the people—by every man possessing the right of the elective franchise, having himself registered. But, my countrymen, there is a second struggle—a glorious moral struggle—going on in the country. I hope many of you have been to Father Matthew—(great cheering.) As many of the vast assemblage which I have now the honour to address as are for temperance will lift up their hands [about half the multitude responded.] Oh, the great moral gigantic struggle—that which will convert the people from making slaves and beasts of themselves into habits of high moral thinking and acting, is in successful progress in Ireland. The temperance societies are big with importance to the future welfare and independence of the country. In a moral and social point of view they are destined to produce vast amelioration amongst the people. Morality, comfort, cleanliness, and contentment, will take place of recklessness, squalidness, filth and bickerings [hear, hear, and cheers.] Let me have three cheers for the temperance societies [enthusiastic and prolonged cheering.] The blessings of God are poured upon the cause, and the moral glories of your country will be yet realized by the temperance societies in Ireland—(cheers.) I own I see great events in store for Ireland from the extension and spread of temperance; nor is there a national or political right—one based upon the principle of equality—that will not be conceded—and that not a little by reason of the temperance societies [great cheers.]

I have now made my speech to you. I have made more speeches during the last thirty years than any living man, nor has any man been so well abused as myself. And here I am for the first time within the walls of Bandon, hearkening to the echo of my own voice. I am as ardent and as buoyant as ever. I have got fourteen grandchildren—no, I misreckon—I have seventeen, and my heart is as light, and my arm as strong as ever. If I have not been actively agitating the great question recently, I am not the less a repealer [tremendous cheers.] Yes, my friends, I do hope, before I die, to see the parliament in Dublin (vociferous cheering.) And the epitaph which I would desire might be placed on my tomb would be—"He died a Repeater." (cheers.) If the orange faction in England persist in refusing justice to Ireland, I'll not go over again. I'll remain in Ireland singing the repeal, and arousing the masses of the people in a peaceful and constitutional struggle for the liberties of the country [enthusiastic cheering.] But I tell you plainly, before I re-organise the country for the attainment of the repeal of the union, I shall watch the progress of that mighty moral institution, now running through every corner of the land with a power and effect not to be repressed. I shall watch, I say, the gigantic influence which the temperance societies will inevitably effect, before I again unfurl the banners of repeal; and then despite the world, repeal will be carried, and Ireland and her interests will once more be represented in College-green [cheers.]