

Poetry

Growing Old Together.

Do you know I am thinking to-morrow We shall pass on our journey through life One more of the milestones that bring us...

Literature.

FISHER'S GHOST.

In the colony of New South Wales, at a place called Penrith, distant from Sydney about thirty-seven miles, lived a farmer named Fisher. He had been, originally, transported, but had become free by his...

Smith's horse to be saddled. It was necessary to pass the pond where the remains of Fisher's body were then exposed. When they came near to the spot, Mr. Grafton, looking Smith full in the face, said, 'Mr. Smith, I wish to show you something. Look here!' He pointed to the decomposed body, and narrowly watching Mr. Smith's countenance, remarked: 'These are the remains of Fisher. How do you account for their being found in this pond?'

Smith, with the greatest coolness, got off his horse, minutely examined the remains, and then admitted that there was no doubt they were Fisher's. He confessed himself at a loss to account for their discovery, unless it could be said that somebody had waded him on the road when he left his home for Sydney, and had thrown him into the pond. 'My hands, thank Heaven!' he concluded, 'are clean. If my old friend could come to life again, he would tell you that I had no hand in his horrible murder.'

Mr. Grafton knew not what to think. He was not a believer in ghosts. Could it be possible, he began to ask himself, that old Fisher had committed this crime, and—finding it weigh heavily on his conscience, and fearing that the story be detected—had trumped up the night before the ghost—had pretended that he was led to the spot by supernatural agency—and thus by bringing the matter voluntarily to light, hoped to clear his suspicion? But then he considered Weir's excellent character, his kind disposition and good nature. These at once put to flight his suspicion of Weir; but still he was by no means satisfied of Smith's guilt, much as he appeared against him.

Fisher's servants were examined, and stated that their master had often talked of going to England on a visit to his friends, and of leaving Mr. Smith to manage his farm; and though they were surprised when Mr. Smith came, and said he had 'gone at last,' they did not think it at all unlikely that he had done so. An inquest was held, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned against Thomas Smith. He was thereupon transmitted to Sydney for trial, at the ensuing sessions, in the supreme court. The case naturally excited great interest in the colony; and public opinion respecting Smith's guilt was evenly balanced.

The day of trial came, and the court was crowded almost to suffocation. The Attorney-General very truly remarked that there were circumstances connected with the case which were without any precedent in the annals of jurisprudence. The only witnesses were old Weir and Mr. Grafton. Smith, who defended himself with great composure and ability, cross-examined them at considerable length, and with consummate skill. The prosecution having closed, Smith addressed the jury, (which consisted of military officers) in his defence. He admitted that the circumstances were strong against him; but he most ingeniously proceeded to explain them. The power of attorney, which he produced, he contended had been regularly granted by Fisher, and he called several witnesses, who swore that they believed the signature to be that of the deceased. He further produced a will, which had been drawn up by Fisher's attorney, and by that will Fisher had appointed Smith his sole executor, in the event of his death. He declined to throw any suspicion on Weir; but he would appeal to the common sense of the jury whether the ghost story were entitled to any credit; and, if it were not, to ask themselves why it had been invented? He alluded to the fact—which in cross-examination Mr. Grafton swore to—that when the remains were first shown to him, he did not conduct himself as a guilty man would have been likely to do, although he was horror-stricken on beholding the hideous spectacle. He concluded by invoking the aid of the jury, and he was innocent of the diabolical crime for which he had been arraigned. The judge (the late Sir Francis Forbes) recapitulated the evidence. It was no easy matter to deal with that part of it which had reference to the apparition; and if the charge of the judge had any leaning one way or the other, it was decidedly in favor of an acquittal. The jury retired; but after deliberating for seven hours, they returned to the court, with a verdict of Guilty.

The judge then sentenced the prisoner to be hanged on the following Monday. It was on Thursday night that he was convicted. On the Sunday, Smith expressed a wish to see a clergyman. His wish was instantly attended to, when he confessed that he had been, and he alone, committed the murder; and that it was upon the very rail where Weir wore he had knotted off Fisher's brains with a tomahawk. The power of attorney he likewise confessed was a forgery, but declared that the will was genuine.

This was very extraordinary, but it is nevertheless, true in substance, if not in every particular. Most persons who have visited Sydney for any length of time will no doubt have had it narrated to them. 'White man's fat!' the pond was immediately searched; and, below the spot indicated, the remains of a body was discovered. A large stone and a rotted silk handkerchief were found near the body; these had been used to sink it. That it was the body of Fisher there could be no question. It might have been identified by the teeth; but on the waistcoat there were some large brass buttons which were immediately recognized, both by Mr. Grafton and by old Ben Weir, as Fisher's property. He had worn those buttons on his waistcoat for several years.

Leaving the body by the side of the pond, and old Ben and the blacks to guard it, Mr. Grafton entered up to Fisher's house. Smith was not only in possession of all the missing man's property, but had about a mile and a half distant. They were inquired for by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith, who was at his breakfast, came out and invited Mr. Grafton to alight; Mr. Grafton accepted the invitation, and after a few desultory observations said, 'Mr. Smith, I am anxious to purchase a piece of land on the other side of the pond, belonging to the estate, and I would give you a fair price for it. Have you the power to sell?'

'Oh yes, Sir,' replied Smith. 'The power which I hold from Fisher is a general power; and he forthwith produced a document purporting to be signed by Fisher, but which was not witnessed. 'If you are not very busy, I should like to show you a piece of land I allude to,' said Mr. Grafton.

'Oh certainly, Sir. I am quite at your service,' said Smith; and he then ordered his horse to be saddled. It was necessary to pass the pond where the remains of Fisher's body were then exposed. When they came near to the spot, Mr. Grafton, looking Smith full in the face, said, 'Mr. Smith, I wish to show you something. Look here!' He pointed to the decomposed body, and narrowly watching Mr. Smith's countenance, remarked: 'These are the remains of Fisher. How do you account for their being found in this pond?'

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"VEGETINE"

Says a Boston physician, "no man is equal as a blood purifier. Hearing of its many wonderful cures after all other remedies had failed, I visited the Laboratory, and convinced myself of its genuine merit. It is prepared from herbs, and is compounded in such a manner as to produce astonishing results." Vegetine is the great Blood Purifier. It cures the worst case of Scrofula. It cures the worst case of Rheumatism. It cures the worst case of Canker. It cures the worst case of Dizziness. It cures the worst case of Headache. It cures the worst case of Dyspepsia. It restores the entire system to a healthy condition. It removes the cause of Dizziness. It relieves Fatulence of the Stomach. It cures Pains in the Back. It Effectually cures Kidney Complaint. It is effective in its cure of Female Weakness. It is the great remedy for General Debility. It is acknowledged by all classes of people to be the best and most reliable stool purifier in the world.

GAS FITTING, Plumbing, &c.

THE subscriber keeps on hand a large assortment of every description, and made to order. He has engaged the services of Mr. J. LIA M. REID, who is thoroughly acquainted with Gas Fitting, Plumbing, and all other putting in Pipes.

PRACTICAL PLUMBING.

THIS establishment now having two thoroughly Practical Plumbers and Gas Fitters in their employ, are prepared to attend to all work entrusted to them in a thorough workmanlike manner. Parties desiring to have their houses fitted with all the modern improvements in the above business, would do well to apply to us for estimates before going elsewhere.

HIDES! HIDES!

THE FREDERICTON LEATHER COMPANY are paying at their FANERY, King Street, HIGHEST PRICE IN CASH FOR HIDES.

LAND FOR SALE.

WE are instructed to offer the following Lots of LAND for sale: A Lot situated in the Parish of Douglas on the Western side of the Old Carleton Road, and known as Lot 10, containing one acre, and granted to John Culling and conveyed by the late Benjamin Wolpert, containing forty acres more or less.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS indebted to the undersigned, are requested to make immediate payment by calling at my Photograph Rooms, Queen Street, Fredericton, N.B. All persons who have not yet paid their accounts, are requested to do so immediately.

NEW GOODS!

JUST received from England, one Case containing ELEGANT JEWELRY IN SUITS OF BROOCH AND EAR RINGS, BRACELETS, PENDANTS, Lockets, Sleeve Buttons, Studs, Rings, Scarf Pins, &c., &c. Rich Gold Chains, STONE CAMBO RINGS, Gem Rings, Engrossed Band Rings, Wedding Rings.

INSURANCE!

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY of Edinburgh and London. COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY of London. WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY of Toronto. ROYAL CANADIAN INSURANCE CO. of Montreal. TRAVELLERS' LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford.

JOHN RICHARDS, Insurance Agent.

Representing the following first-class Offices: English.—QUEEN, LIVERPOOL and LONDON & GLOBE, NORTHERN, IMPERIAL. American.—ETNA, HARTFORD, and NATIONAL. Also—Agent for the sale of Railway Tickets and other parts of North America.

SPLENDID Farming Property FOR SALE.

ALL that Valuable Land Estate, being the whole of the property above and Gas Fitters in their employ, are prepared to attend to all work entrusted to them in a thorough workmanlike manner.

NOTICE.

ON the 1st of May I will retire from the Boot and Shoe Business, which I have carried on for many years, and respectfully ask for notice from all my customers and the public generally, to call on me before that date.

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JUST OPENING!

ANOTHER LOT of the best fitting Cross and Star HITE DRESSES, SHIRTS, which we sell from 80 cents to \$1.75. C. H. THOMAS & CO'S, Gents' Furnishing Store.

Our Custom Shirt Department

Is now in full running order, and gentlemen wishing a comfortable fitting shirt, should give us a call as we use the best materials, and guarantee a perfect fit, or no sale at all.

FOR SALE.

THAT DESIRABLE RESIDENCE AND BUSINESS STAND, situated on the Kewick Road, 1 1/2 miles from this city, and within five minutes walk of the River at Loop Railway.

NOTICE.

I have reduced my prices from ten to twenty per cent, and all my articles are of the best quality and guaranteed to give satisfaction.

NOTICE.

I have also on hand the LARGEST STOCK of HATS AND CAPS. I have received my summer stock of STRAW HATS, which is very large, including all the leading English and American Styles of White Straw Laplans, Palmers, Panama, &c. I am prepared to sell them at the very lowest prices.

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NEW BRUNSWICK RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE. BEGINNING MAY 15, 1879. Passenger Trains. LEAVE. A. M. ARRIVE. P. M. Gibson, 9.00. Gibson, 4.00. Wadokick, 10.25. Woodstock, 1.30. Carleton, 8.15. Carleton, 6.00. Edmundston, 5.30. Edmundston, 7.40. T. HOBEN, Supt.

STEAMER FLORENCEVILLE.

Until further notice the Steamer Florenceville will leave Fredericton for Woodstock, on TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY mornings at 9 o'clock, returning will leave Woodstock for Fredericton, on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY mornings at 8 o'clock.

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Advertisements for Wilcox & White ORGANS, JOHN RICHARDS, NEW RICH BLOOD!, MAKE HENS LAY., JOHN'S ANODYNE, "Marble Hall.", Jas R. HOWIE, REAL ESTATE, and other local notices and advertisements.