

THE TUCKER-CANOVAN AFFAIR.

(Correspondence St. John Globe.)

JOHNVILLE, N. B., FEB. 22, 1898.
To the Editor of the Globe:

Sir,—So many conflicting statements have been made with regard to the location of the Tucker residence and the condition of its inmates at the time of the death of Miss Minnie Tucker, that I determined to visit the place for personal observations. What I saw there I am about to reduce to writing with other observations pertinent to the subject.

The country represented by Johnville and Glassville may be aptly described in a few words as being to much land for the space it occupies. The hills are high, rugged and numerous, and running in every conceivable direction; the valleys narrow and crinkled and much cut up by meandering streams. In the midst of one of these little valleys and near a stream that flows into the big Chickedihawk, is situated the much-talked of Tucker homestead. It is a log cabin, built of hewn lumber and shingled on the north end; old now, but at one time unquestionably a neat little residence, far better and more comfortable, we may believe, than the homes of many of our forefathers when first they settled in New Brunswick, and even larger than similar dwellings I passed on my way thither. The first impression I received of the much-diversified scenery in the immediate vicinity of the supposed tragedy was that it would be a glorious place to camp in for three weeks or a month. To anyone tired of the noise, dust and heat of the city, this valley and this Tucker residence would be together a most welcome retreat. He would find streams to fish in and game in the woods, while Mrs. Tucker's furniture, consisting of chairs, table and bedstead, with a good stove to cook upon, would add very materially to his comfort, and be at the same time eloquent reminders of his not too distant separation from civilization, although the place is so far remote and its isolation so intensified by the encircling hills that seem to frown down upon the little vale and its human habitations that none of the moral influences that obtain in either Johnville or Glassville would be impressed upon the minds of the people living there.

Human pride, or something of a similar character, naturally inclines us to resent any word or act that tends to detract from our own good name or our relatives and friends, or even from the good moral standing of the community in which we live. Johnville did not deserve to have its fair name associated with such a crime as that of which Mrs. Tucker and her daughter have been accused. That truth was made in this instance to subserve the unwarrantable interests of haste, sensation and ambition, is but one of the many evidences that ill-formed writers are ever ready to rush blindly into print. The dead Minnie Tucker was said to have been a general favorite in Johnville, when, as a matter of fact, few people of that place ever saw the young lady. And as to her personal appearance, he it remarked that the Hartland correspondent of one of the St. John papers

is, perhaps, as good a judge of beauty as the lady witness who gave evidence in her examination to the effect that the dead girl resembled her mother.

Both press and pulpit have ever been (and justly too) persistently outspoken in their denunciations of the harmful practice of cheap novel reading, because of the undoubted bad influence that such vicious literature has upon the pliant minds of the young. But if the imaginable actions of impossible characters in fiction be so dangerous, where shall we place the limit to dangers that are put in the way of the young in the sacred precincts of our homes by the sensational reports of actual crimes and the prominence given in our newspapers to real characters who have grievously offended God and injured the necessary laws of society? The editor may sit behind his office desk and hold up his hands in holy horror while he gives vent to his utter amazement that such a crime and so much misery should be brought to light within so short a distance as thirty miles from the enlightened town of Woodstock, but if he would cease to be so sensational in his reports of murders and suicides, and if our wise governments would put a stop to their atrocious legal murders, one effect of which is to lessen man's respect for the sacredness of human life, and would instead commission their well-paid school inspectors to seek out the many isolated places where children are growing up in ignorance, to appoint some means for them to acquire a little education there would be fewer crimes and much less misery to record.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. M. S.

MAN'S DANGEROUS AGE.

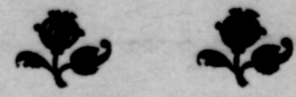
It is a singular fact, yet one substantiated by statistics, that most crime is committed in this state by men 29 years old, says the Albany Times Union. This is not only true of the lesser but also of the greater crimes, although a man is presumed to be at that period of his life not only in the zenith of his physical, but also in full and complete appreciation of right and wrong and their respective consequences. This condition is a problem which has not been solved by the student of criminology and one which is made the more complex by the fact that the ages of 21, 17 and 45 years nearly equal it, with the intervening years showing a far less percentage of crime.

A FLUSH DELEGATE.

A Carleton county farmer who had been an eager listener to the discussion on the money question at the meeting of the F. and D. Association Thursday afternoon, repaired to his hotel at the close of the meeting and astonished a party of friends by fishing from his inside pocket a wallet containing no less than \$2700 in bills, which he counted right before their eyes. Evidently the money question which seemed to worry so many members of the convention, cut no ice with him.—Fredericton Herald.

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