

Literature.
TEMPTATION:
OR
The Lady of Ashurst.
CHAPTER XLVII.
MR. ASHLEY AS JUDGE, JULY AND JAILOR.
A single glance at Mrs. Ashley's face showed Bessie that she was suffering from intense emotion, but of what nature she could not divine.
"Stand there, just in front of me, and answer to the charges that I am about to bring against you," thundered the self-appointed judge; "and know from the beginning that you are already found guilty, and your punishment decided on."
Bessie pleadingly said:
"I must place Evelyn on a seat, papa, for she is not able to stand. See to that condition her head has ever since she has already brought her."
"If she so deeply fears it, why has she so recklessly incurred it?" he sneered, without glancing at the white face and trembling form of the young girl who sat on a chair, then, and if you choose to do so, sit down beside her."
"No, I thank you; I will stand till I hear why I am brought here in this shameful manner, as if I were the basest of criminals. The chief of a savage tribe could hardly show less consideration for his daughters than you are showing for yours."
A grim smile flitted over Ashley's lips at this rebuff, and he muttered:
"Back to the last, the girl has not a cowardly drop of blood in her veins."
He then spoke aloud:
"You may assume a high tone and fight your own battle to the last, Bessie, but you will find me more than a match for you in the end. Augusta, advance, if you please, and examine the pocket of Evelyn's dress. Bring me whatever you may find there that is suspicious."
Poor Evelyn instinctively clutched at the precious missive she had not yet seen, but an opportunity to unseal; but at a flash from her father's eye she had her hand nervously by her side, and Frank's letter was drawn forth and handed over to her terrible accuser.
With great show of deliberation, Ashley drew out his eye-glass, carefully adjusted it, and read the superscription.
"Hum—things begin to wear an ominous aspect. This is my nephew's writing, and by what I read, it seems that Evelyn Ashley, I have yet to learn. Speak—tell me how this letter was conveyed to your hands."
The white lips of Evelyn moved, but no audible sound issued from them, and after glancing compassionately at her agitated face, Bessie readily said:
"Let Evelyn alone, and ask an explanation of me. She is in no state to be tortured by you. I brought that letter to her, and I am ready to hear the consequences. I see that all is discovered, and I don't care much what you may say or do."
Ashley turned his inflamed eyes slowly upon her and ardently said:
"Oh, ho! we are very independent—very; but suppose I should say to you that I hold your fate as much under my control as that of Evelyn, what would you say then? And in addition to that, if I assure you that the lover who, it seems, has so long been kept in the background, may forever keep himself there, for all chance he has of winning you, what will you reply to that, my pretty piece of impudence?"
Bessie cast a reproachful glance toward Mrs. Ashley, and cried out in anguish:
"Oh! Minny—Minny, have you betrayed the confidence I reposed in you? Did you not pledge your word to me that it should be sacred till Ernest came? Oh, this is the most cruel blow of all!"
Mrs. Ashley wiped away her tears that were rapidly falling from her eyes, and faintly said:
"Oh, my darling, do not think hardly upon me for doing what I felt compelled to do. I pain you now, to save you from worse suffering in the future, Bessie."
Evelyn shook her head incredulously, and Ashley with a laugh that seemed the very concentration of sneering triumph, unfolded the letter of Wentworth and said:
"Listen, ladies all, to the confessions of my Francis Wentworth, addressed to his beloved cousin Evelyn Ashley. It is no doubt a most romantic and charming exposure of his suffering, and the cruelty of the demurest father, in not permitting her to ruin her sister's fortunes by running off with her affianced lover. Attention—attention, while I give you to the complaints of the sentimental Strephon."
Regardless of his poor victim's tears and broken sobs, Ashley went on to read aloud the contents of Francis's letter, making bitter comments as he proceeded.
It revealed everything, and when he had completed his task, he folded the paper, carefully retained it, and gave hope, and then turning toward the two girls, he fiercely asked:
"And now what have you two to say for yourselves to me? Do you still pretend to be innocent of the sentence from being pronounced on you? Do you hold in my hand the incontestable proof of the high crime and misdemeanor of which you have both been guilty, and I have already proclaimed myself as your judge?"
Evelyn murmured some inaudible words; but Bessie retained sufficient self-control to speak calmly in reply. All the antagonistic elements in her nature were aroused, and she defiantly replied:
"We are not criminals, that you should write him such power over us. We exercised the inalienable right of every human creature, to seek happiness in our own way; at least the Declaration of Independence says as much, and if we are women, we have as much interest in that as you possess."
"Oh! what's that? Are you going to class yourself among the strong-minded? It is high time, indeed, that you should be put on you, Miss Ashley, if such are your views. Now listen to my words, and give them the weight to which I assure you, they are entitled."
"I command Evelyn to be removed to the tower room, and kept there in strict confinement till Frank releases her by bestowing his hand on you. Her detention will not be very long, for I am confident my father's will gives yourself and my nephew but six months in which to choose between affluence together, or poverty apart. In three more weeks the time will expire, and I appoint Thursday, the eighth of December, as the wedding day. In the interim, I shall bring such potent arguments to bear on you, that you will be bent to my will; as to yourself, Miss Bessie Ashley, I allow you no choice. You belong to me, and I have the right to control your destiny. I swear to you that you shall never be the wife of Ernest Delaney! Of all men living, he is the last one to whom I would willingly give you."
Bessie bowed her head in silence; she saw the intense passion that was, in a measure, repressed by the speaker; she feared his explosion in all its ruthless violence, more on account of her own heart, and the mentally accused than the amount of persecution should crush her beneath his iron rule.
Finding that she would not speak, Ashley grimly asked:
"How is it that you have no reply ready for me—no defence on your lips, Miss Ashley? Has your high spirit succumbed beneath the first attack?"
Her bright eyes flashed a single glance upon him, and she firmly said:
"You will find, sir, that both in Frank and myself you have thought material to work on than you imagine. I shall not give my hand at your command, nor will I perform myself by faithfulness to the only woman he has ever loved."
Ashley furiously replied:
"Then, by Heaven! Evelyn shall never issue from her prison except to be sent back to Europe, and immured for life in her convent. You may assure Frank that such will be her fate, should he prove unmanageable. As to your lover, I shall write him at once, and bid him to approach you again. On the day I have named, I shall come to Ashurst accompanied by a clergyman, and if you refuse to ratify the contract which you once bound yourself, will I will force you, one by one, up on the floor, and compel you to obey me."
"You may abuse your power over me in any respectable manner, but I will never be humiliated by your coarser power began to give

sent condition, she was glad that Jane was unable to stand up in defence of her helpless young lady.
As she parted from her charge, she said:
"How useless it will not be necessary to keep you here long, my dear child, and how useless it is to hold out against your father. Since he makes me responsible for you, Evelyn, I trust that you will have consideration enough for me, not to make any attempt to escape. You were sure to be brought back, and then things would be worse for you than ever. I will submit to what is inevitable."
With these coldly uttered words, Augusta resigned her to Hagar, with injunctions to be sure and keep her locked in whenever she left the room. Soon after Ashley himself sent for the woman, and gave her his orders concerning her prisoner, and he so effectually frightened her, that Hagar resolved to use every precaution to prevent her captive's escape.
The tower contained a narrow bed, in which Jane was lying with her eyes half closed, and her hands clasped over her breast. Her breathing was labored, and her appearance was that of an aged woman. She evidently suffered, though there was no apparent consciousness of pain in the details, and she was sure to be brought in, and then things would be worse for you than ever. I will submit to what is inevitable."
The entrance of her young lady did not arouse her, nor did the preparations made for Evelyn's stay cause her to observe that she was passing on to her prison, but she brought in, and a trunk containing such articles of clothing as were absolutely necessary was sent up. She found her bible in the trunk, but her portfolio and writing materials were not permitted to be taken, lest she might use them in communicating with Frank.
What rendered this room peculiarly depressing was that it was situated above. The staircase had been removed which communicated with the cupola, and the outside world was entirely shut out from view, save a single overcast sky. For an impressive temperament like Evelyn's, no abode could have been selected which would so soon break down the small portion of courage which had been awarded her.
Loving, tender and gentle, she could not endure much, and this her tormentor too possessed the entire control of her fate. Poor Bessie, with her hand clasped around her neck, and her face pale as death, seemed to have succumbed before his furious temper, and the little courage she possessed entirely deserted her.
Her hand was dropping off her breast, her hands were clasped together before her; and he cried out:
"Hold up your head, and look me in the face, the dishevelled creature! No wonder you are ashamed to do so, after the disgraceful conduct of which you have been guilty."
"I cannot help it," pleaded the poor girl, in a faint tone.
"Perhaps you will find it easier to bear the punishment I shall award you, than to listen to the reproaches you so richly deserve. This is your sentence:
"You will be locked up in the tower room, and kept there on the plainest fare, and you shall not be permitted to attempt to run counter to my wishes. I will never permit you to leave that place till you take a solemn oath to renounce your present lover, and to marry the man I shall name. If you refuse to do so, I will render this course imperative on you, you may at any time be attacked with insanity. Your mother was mad years before she died, and the same will come when you will be thankful for my present action toward you."
Augusta ventured to say:
"The tower is already occupied by Jane, and it may be best to lock Evelyn up in her own room."
"To risk her being communicated with from without. No, the tower stands alone, and to that she shall go. If her nurse is there, it is another reason for sending her to her. The woman is helpless and imbecile, and it will not hurt my dear child to have some attention paid to one who has given her so much. I shall hold you personally responsible for her safety, Madam, so you had better look after her carefully."
Augusta bowed, but ventured no further remonstrance; and he turned to Evelyn, and said:
"Get up from there, you crying simpleton, and go with your sister to your mother. If any attempt is made to escape from it, it will be the worse for you."
Evelyn arose, and threw herself on her knees, and said:
"Oh! papa, have mercy on me. I pray do not shut me up in so narrow a place as the tower. I shall die there for want of exercise."
"You hear her?" he jeered, turning to Bessie. "Tell her order that she already shrinks from the order she has brought on herself. After a few days of confinement, she will be quite ready to take an oath that will release her from prison, and release Frank from the silly pledges he may have given her. As soon as you return from your anger, Bessie, you come back to me, for I shall miss you sadly."
As she was leaving the room, she turned back, and with all her natural fire, she said:
"I will never return to you as your daughter as long as you treat my sister in so shameful a manner. The slight that bound me to you is almost broken by your conduct to-day, and if you could be forced to become the wife of Frank, I would prove to you, that in giving me to him, you would forfeit all claim on me, even that of an enemy."
Before he could utter the angry reply that arose to his lips, the door closed on her retreating form, and in a few more moments the carriage wheels were rolling away was heard.
Ashley sunk back, exhausted by the almost superhuman effort he had made to keep within decent bounds while Mrs. Ashley and Bessie were in the room. He was soon revived, and arrested Evelyn's departing head the effervescing wrath which now boiled in his veins.
Such a torrent of bitter abuse as fell from his tongue, no pen could do justice to, even if the attempt were made to record anything so base and unfeeling—Augusta, as usual, came in for her share of oblation, though in the present instance she was entirely guiltless of deserving it, for she was as eager to prevent poor Evelyn from being taken to the tower as Ashley was himself could have been.
Glad to escape even to the shelter of the tower, Bessie went to her room, and at length permitted to leave him and take refuge by the side of her nurse.
The tower was an octagon building, separated from the house by a small enclosure planted with shrubbery. The lower room had once been fitted up as a library, and a circular staircase ascended from it to the room in which Jane lay; in the days of her father, it had been used as an observatory; but after the strange marriage of the heiress, and her abandonment of her native land, the place had been left to decay.
The books and astronomical instruments had been removed to the main building, and a miscellaneous collection of old lumber had usurped their place. Jane was not aware of this, and she refused to be placed in one of the negro cabins, and the ruined tower was the only place Augusta was willing to appropriate to her use.
The lumber from the upper apartment was removed, and a small stove put up as the weather grew cold. Hagar, the person attendant of Grace Arden, now a very old woman, was appointed to wait on her, and she was so nearly imbecile that she obeyed the orders of her new master without question or comment.
The drugs which Ashley had procured while in Marseilles soon paralyzed both body and mind, and the active and energetic woman lay from day to day in a state of semi-consciousness, incapable of reasoning, as she was of moving.
Evelyn had visited her every day, and ministered to her wants as far as she was able, but she had lost all hope of ever seeing Jane restored to soundness either of mind or body.
The thought that she must be shut up constantly with this woman slowly perishing before her, and that the deterioration of Evelyn's nervous system was easily shocked, and the dreary hopelessness of poor Jane's condition thrilled her with inexpressible gloom.
Yet such was the doom awarded her by her own father, she thought, and for the first time a feeling of resentment mingled with her strong affection for her.
Augusta went to her room, but she did not attempt to look into it. The nurse had long been an object of fear and aversion to her; and although she had been reduced to her pre-

Jane lay with her mouth half unclosed, and it was easy enough to place the tiny globules on her tongue, and Evelyn had the satisfaction of seeing that she swallowed them.
She then sat down to think over the wretched ending of her loved dream, and to wonder if her life was to become a sacrifice to the tyranny of her cruel father.
Hagar, attended by a small boy, brought up her dinner, which was limited to potatoes, bread, and a glass of milk. Its scantiness did not annoy her, for she had no appetite, and she turned away almost with loathing from the food.
Such was not the case with Jane, however—she sat up, and ravenously of the viands Hagar had brought for her, and for the first time noticed the presence of her young lady. She said to her in a husky voice:
"I am very glad to see you, Miss Evelyn, and if I could ever get my head clear enough to think, I have something to tell you that has been kept from you too long. I am afraid that I shall die before it comes back to me."
"I hope not, Jane. I have come here to nurse you now, and I mean to make you quite well before long."
"You have come to nurse me! Indeed I shouldn't stand that, for you're not strong enough to do any such thing. Neither is it your business."
"But suppose I choose to make it my business, she replied—"you would not refuse me then, I hope?"
"The dreary den in which she had imprisoned Evelyn, and the old negro, marked that there was a change for the better in Jane's complexion and her breathing was less heavy."
"Relying on Jane's utter imbecility, Ashley had placed Evelyn in the tower with her, because from that he believed it impossible for her to escape, and he thought there could be no danger from one of the woman's prostrate condition both of mind and body."
Had he dreamed of what was passing in the dreary den in which he had imprisoned Evelyn, he would at once have taken measures to have Jane removed far from her.
The short autumn day soon darkened over the narrow room, and Hagar came up bearing a tallow candle in one hand and the supper of her young lady in the other. This consisted of a cup of hot and slightly sweetened bread, both of which Evelyn was, by this time, glad to accept.
When Jane had finished her supper, Hagar retired, taking with her the light which she informed Evelyn her master had forbidden her to leave. The door was locked, and she listened to the steps of the old woman with a feeling of utter desolation—almost of despair.
The heavy breathing of Jane filled the room, and she thought, with terror of the possibility that she might die there alone with her, and for long hours she might be left with no company save that of the dead woman.
The night was clear and the bright moon had risen above the level of the surrounding trees. Its rays suddenly fell upon Jane's bed, and she looked over her face, and Evelyn comforted herself with the thought that it looked more natural, even by that cold white light, than it had done in the early part of the day.
She threw herself beside the bed, and with clasped hands, and streaming eyes, looked up to the eternal heavens, clad in all their regal beauty, and poured out her heart in prayer to Him whose ear is ever open to the cry of the desolate and oppressed.
Calmed and strengthened, she at length arose, prepared for her nightly rest, and exhausted by the many and varied emotions of the day, fell into the sweet sleep of innocence and faith.
(To be continued.)

B. H. TORRENS, D. M. D.,
DENTIST,
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OFFICE HOURS—A. M. to 1 P. M., 2 to 5, and 7 to 9 P. M.
Fredericton, May 21, 1885.
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Notary Public & Conveyancer,
FREDERICTON, N. B.
Collections a specialty.
Office with JOHN BLACK, Esq., Queen St. Fredericton, March 4, 1885.
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Barrister and Attorney-at-Law,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
CONVEYANCER, ETC.
OFFICE: Queen Street, Fredericton
Over W. M. Telegraph Office, directly opposite Post Office.
Loans negotiated. Accounts collected.
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THIS Subscriber would invite attention to his large and well-selected stock of goods, suitable for the Holiday Season, such as:
Perfumes,
Toilet Sets,
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The finest line of Walking Sticks ever imported into the city, direct from the English Manufacturers, at all prices.
DAILY EXPECTED:
A beautiful assortment of
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Fredericton, Dec. 9, 1885.
NEW STORE!
Jackets,
Ullsters,
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Nov. 23rd, 1885.
JOHN HARVEY
PHOTOGRAPHER!
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Pictures Copied and Enlarged.
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CONFECTIONERY.
300 LBS. White's Confectionery, all of which will be sold at prices that will defy competition. Call and see at
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A FULL LINE of the Celebrated Acme Club Skates.
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OLD PENNS. Pencils, Tooth Picks, Gumbo and Boot Buttons, Girth Clips. Just opened and the correcting trial for a present, at
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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY
'85 Winter Arrangement '86
On and after MONDAY, November 16th, 1885, the Trains of this Railway will run daily, (Sunday excepted) as follows:
Trains will leave St. John:
Day Express, 7.30 a.m.
Accommodation, 11.20 a.m.
Express for Sussex, 4.35 p.m.
Express for Halifax & Quebec, 7.30 p.m.
On TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY, a Pullman Car for Montreal will be attached to the Quebec Express, and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, a Pullman Car will be attached at Moncton.
Trains will arrive at St. John:
Express from Halifax & Quebec, 7.00 a.m.
Express from Sussex, 8.35 a.m.
Accommodation, 1.30 p.m.
Day Express, 4.30 p.m.
All Trains are run by Eastern Standard time.
D. POTTINGER,
Chief Superintendent.
RAILWAY OFFICE,
Moncton, N. B., November 11th, 1885.
NEW BRUNSWICK
RAILWAY CO.
Arrangement of Trains—In effect October 12, 1885.
LEAVE FREDERICTON:
(Eastern Standard Time)
6.30 A. M.—Express for St. John.
6.40 A. M.—For Fredericton Junction, connecting with Train for St. Stephen, Grand Falls, and points North.
10.50 A. M.—For Fredericton Junction, connecting with Train for Bangor and all points West, and for St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, and Woodstock, and for St. John.
3.20 P. M.—For Fredericton Junction, St. John and points East.
ARRIVE AT FREDERICTON:
10.20 A. M.—From Fredericton Junction, and St. John.
1.40 P. M.—From Fredericton Junction, Bangor and points West, and from St. Stephen, Woodstock and Houlton.
5.30 P. M.—From Fredericton Junction, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, Woodstock, and Woodville, Grand Falls, and all points North.
7.30 P. M.—Express from St. John.
LEAVE GIBSON:
6.30 A. M.—For Woodstock and points North.
ARRIVE AT GIBSON:
1.40 P. M.—From Woodstock and points North.
F. W. CRAM,
Gen'l. Mgr.
Supt. Southern Division.
J. F. LEAVITT,
Gen'l. Pass. and Ticket Agent.
St. John, N. B., October 9, 1885.
[1885] FALL [1886]
WINTER!
STAPLE AND FANCY
Dry Goods,
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A LARGE STOCK comprising in part the following, viz.:
Woolen Goods in Black and Colors;
Cashmeres, Ottoman Coats, Plaided Lustres;
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Kid Gloves and Mitts, Cashmere Gloves;
Hosiery, Socks, Collars, Table Linens;
Towelling, Table and Floor Oil Cloths;
Wool, Cotton, Linen, and Remnant Cloths;
Cotton Wares, Men's, Youths' and Boys' Clothing in all styles, Caps, Hats, Coats, Pants and Vests;
Underclothing, White and Regatta Shirts;
Hats, Caps, Scarfs, and Bonnets;
Kilt Wool Gloves, Kid Mitts;
Cardigan Jackets, Fur-trimmed Goods;
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Horse Blankets, Rubber Coats, Trunks and Valises, Wall Paper and Remnant Goods.
All of which I shall sell at lowest cash prices.
OWEN SHARKEY,
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FREDERICTON
CASNET AND COFFIN
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I have a large stock of CASNETS in Wool, GLOVES, WAIST and BOWTIE, which will sell cheaper than can be bought elsewhere. I have a superior lot of BIBLES and BIBLES always on hand.
Give attention given to laying out and preserving books from discoloring.
Can furnish on Sundays or on any day by calling on D. B. COOK, opposite the office, for \$1.00.
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WANTED
Friends and the Public to know that I have opened a window in
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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
REPAIRING
WATCHES,
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Having had ten years' experience in the business, I am prepared to do
GOOD WORK
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Yours, etc.
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Flooring, Sheathing, Clapboards and Mouldings of all kinds on hand and made at short notice.
FURNITURE
In Chamber Suites, Desks, Tables, Sideboards, Wardrobes, made from Ash, Walnut and Birch, from modern patterns and styles.
Please call and examine.
J. C. RISTEEN & CO.,
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FINE CARRIAGES,
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Concord Wagons, Piano Box Wagons, Iver's Wagons,
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Particular attention given to orders. Repairing done in the best manner, and at the shortest notice.
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ALL WORK WARRANTED.
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NEW "RAYMOND,"
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In Store and on order:
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Boxes containing 20 lbs. each at 30 cts.;
Five lb. Caddies at 35 cts. and 40 cts.
All Fresh Stock and Good Value.
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Alaskas, A
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To suit all, T
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Yours, etc.
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Are pleasant to take. Contain their own Purgative. Is a safe, sure, and effectual destroyer of worms in Children or Adults.
Raisins and Tea.
A LOT of Raisins at seven cts. per lb., and four lbs., 3000 Tea for \$1.00, at
GEO. HATT & SONS,
Fredericton, Nov. 25, 1885.