

was a wedge-like piece of iron, broad and flattened on the end. In a second the instrument swung by his side. Once again he reconnoitered toward the beach; then turned toward the prostrate man. He thought the body moved—he trembled from head to foot. He advanced a single step, but stopped—the fingers were in motion! A low sound—half voice, half breath issued from the throat, which now evidently began to work. He advanced another step, though a tottering one; another. He was now within a foot or two of the head; he sank, or rather dropped upon one knee. The eyes of the seaman moved; they turned to the right and to the left, and at last glared back upon the wrecker. Both hands now clenched the axe. Slowly it was lifted, the edge averted, and the blunt end suspended over the forehead of him that lay. 'Twas raised. It hovered a minute or two, then fell with a short dull crash—a pause for a moment or two more—limb, eye, everything were still; the wrecker threw his weapon behind him, and wiped from his brow the drops that stood thick upon it.

'Ha! ha! you have done it.' The wrecker turned and beheld the maniac standing behind him with the hatchet in her hand, her eyes flashing. 'Nay, move not, Black Norris,' she continued, 'unless you would have me give the corpse a fellow. Let me go further from thee, without forcing me to do thee a mischief, and I will tell thee something.' She retreated about twenty paces, without turning her back—the wrecker now perfectly unnerved, dared not to move. 'Black Norris,' she resumed, 'Did I not tell you that this was a fair lovely day? And a fair, lovely day it is, and a bonny one, too; and know you not why, Black Norris? This day you have done—and this day seven years was the day, the fair, lovely day, when you murdered my father! Black Norris. Now follow me not, but good bye.' She fled. The wrecker had not power to follow.

FLEECING A JUDGE.

As a certain learned judge in —, sometime since, walked into court one morning, he thought he would examine whether he was in time for business; and feeling for his repeater, he found it was not in his pocket. 'As usual,' said he to a friend who accompanied him, as he passed through the crowd near the door—'As usual I have again left my watch at home under my pillow.' He went on the bench and thought no more of it. The court adjourned—he returned home. As soon as he was quietly seated in his parlour, he bethought him of his time-piece, and turning to his wife, requested her to send for it to their chamber.

'But, my dear judge,' said she, 'I sent it to you three hours ago.' 'Sent it to me, dear? Certainly not.' 'Unquestionably,' replied the lady, 'and by the person you sent for it.' 'The person that I sent for it?' 'Precisely, my dear, the very person you sent for it! You had not left home more than an hour, when a well dressed man knocked at the door and asked to see me. He brought one of the finest turkeys I ever saw; and said, that on your way to Court you met a person with a number of fowls, and having bought this one, quite a bargain, you had given him a couple of shillings to bring it home; with the request that I would have it killed, picked and put to cool, as you intended to invite your brother judges to a dish of *molle* with you to-morrow.—And, 'Oh, by the way, madam,' said he, 'his honor the judge, requested me to ask you to give yourself the trouble to go to your chamber, and take his watch from under the pillow, where he says he left it, as usual, this morning, and send it to him by me.' And of course I did so.' 'You did?' said the judge. 'Certainly,' said the lady.

'Well,' replied his honor, 'all I can say to you, my dear is, that you are as great a goose as the bird is a turkey. You've been robbed, madam; the man was a thief; I never sent for my watch; you've been imposed upon; and a necessary consequence, the confounded watch is lost forever!'

The trick was a cunning one; after a laugh and the restoration of the judge's good humor by a good dinner, it was resolved actually to have the turkey for to-morrow's dinner, and his honor's brother's of the bench were to enjoy so dear a morsel.

Accordingly, after the adjournment of court next day, they all repaired to his dwelling, with appetites sharpened by the expectation of a rare repast.

Scarcely had they entered the door, and exchanged the ordinary salutations, when the lady broke forth with congratulations to his honor upon the recovery of the stolen watch! 'How happy am I,' exclaimed she, 'that the villain was apprehended?'

'Apprehended?' said the judge with surprise. 'Yes; and doubtless convicted too by this time,' said his wife.

'You are always talking riddles,' replied he. 'Explain yourself, my dear. I know nothing of the thief, watch or conviction.'

'It can't be possible that I have been again deceived, quoth the lady, but this is the story:

'About one o'clock to-day, a pale, and rather interesting young gentleman, dressed in a seedy suit of black came to the house in black, came to the house in great haste—almost out of breath. He stated that he had just come from Court; that he was one of the clerks; that the great villain who had had the audacity to steal your honor's watch had just been arrested; that the evidence was nearly perfect enough to convict him; that all that was required to convict him was "the turkey," which must be brought into court, and for that he had been sent with a porter by your express orders.'

'And you gave it to him?' 'Of course I did; who could have doubted him, or resisted the orders of a judge?'

'Watch and turkey both gone; pray, what the duce, madam, are we to do for dinner.'

TASTING AN OYSTER STEW.

A Mr. S——, better known as Jim S—— kept a celebrated oyster saloon, a few years since, nearly opposite the present National Theater. It was quite a while ago, before "Shanty" turned the "b'hoys" upside down with his inimitable Mose. Jim was a first rate fellow, and made the best stew that could be found in York; in fact, they were incomparable and not to be beat. Consequently he had a great rush, especially between the pieces and after the performance in the theatre. Jim was one of the best natured fellows in the world, and the only possible way of "getting him off" was to run down his commodities; tell him that his stews were bad, or his raws spawney, when he knew they were otherwise, and he would be "riled" some; and no one could blame him for it. But I must tell you how he got "taken down."

"Waiter!" cried out a customer one night, just after having been served with a smoking hot stew. "Waiter!" and then he rapped vociferously on the table with his spoon. "Waiter!" and again rapped, not mysteriously, like Rochester rappers, but determinedly, as though he meant to be heard.

"Please, sir, wat would yis be pleased to have?" asked the waiter, who hurried to our customer as quickly as possible.

"Tell the landlord to come here," said the rapper. "Is it the boss you would see?"

"Yes, I would see the proprietor."

"He's engaged, sir, serving the customers behind the bar forenst ye."

"Tell him I must see him."

The waiter disappeared, and in half a minute our friend Jim made his appearance.

"Are you the landlord sir?" enquired the stranger. "I am sir," replied Jim.

"Well, sir, do you call that a good stew?" pointing to his plate with the spoon.

"A good stew? Certainly, sir."

"Taste it, sir."

Jim tasted it.

"Well," said the customer, "how does it taste?"

"Very well indeed, sir. I never tasted a better stew in all my life, nor you either!" replied Jim.

"Will you," asked the customer, putting on an air of suavity, "will you just oblige me by tasting it once more, and then I will be satisfied."

Again Jim tasted the stew, and to convince himself that there could be no mistake, retasted it.

"The stew is a good one, sir, first rate one, and if you say it is not, why, you are no judge of the article," replied Jim, waxing a little wrathful.

"Do you mean to say," replied the grumbler, "that there was nothing peculiar in its flavor?"

"Nothing peculiar at all, sir, and if you think it does not taste well, your mouth must be out of order, and you should have taken a dose of medicine, rather than an oyster stew."

"My dear sir, don't get in a passion: I said nothing about the taste of your stew; indeed I did not taste it."

"Not taste it?"

"No; I saw those animals in it (turning up two giant cockroaches with the spoon,) and I thought I would get some one to taste it who was a better judge of the article than myself."

Oh, Lord, it would have done you good to see how quick that stew was hustled off the table, and the way that Jim poured some fresh oysters into a clean bowl, and soused the stew-pan previous to cooking them, was a caution to all oyster-eaters. Before leaving the premises our rapping hero drank and smoked at Jim's expense, promising faithfully never to divulge anything about "tasting that stew."

Summary of News.

THE POTATO ROT.

The nature of this vegetable disease and its proper remedy are still subjects of anxious inquiry. The subject is one of interest to the whole community, for the potato is an important article of food.

Mr. Jeremiah Gerry, of Lovel, an old and experienced farmer, has called upon us, and stated the results of his experience in the cultivation of the potato, which we shall give here for the benefit of all concerned.

In the spring of 1848, Mr. Gerry planted a piece of dry grass ground with potatoes, without manure, but with plaster in the hills. As an experiment, after the tops were high enough to hoe, he strewed common SALT in a circle around the hills, about four inches from the stalks. This he did only to a portion of the rows, leaving the remainder to be treated in the usual manner. The potatoes were then hoed and the salt left to dissolve in the earth. About half a gill of salt was applied to each hill. The result was, that among the forty bushels dug from the hills to which salt was applied, there was not one peck of rotten ones, nor did they rot after being placed in the cellar. Some of them were kept until July of the following year, and they were then of excellent flavor. Of those to which salt was not applied, one-eighth rotted in the ground, and they continued to rot after being placed in the cellar, until all were gone. In 1849 the same experiment was tried with the same result, and also in 1850, when one quarter of those planted without salt rotted in the ground, while scarcely one of those to which salt was applied have rotted. Some of the latter we have seen, and they are certainly very large and fair potatoes, of the variety called pink eyes. Mr. Gerry is of opinion that the outlay for salt is fully returned in the increased quality of the potato. He does not think, however, that the salt would produce the same effect upon wet ground or upon the sea coast.

In connection with this subject we will state that Mr. J. F. Hatch, of Dorchester, Mass., who has claimed the reward

offered by the Massachusetts legislature, recommends the application of ground charcoal and plaster of Paris, mixed in the proportion of two parts of the former to one of the latter. He also recommends that from ten to twenty days before the potatoes ripen, the vines be pruned of half their branches, and a handful of the compound be thrown on each hill. The compound should also be sprinkled over them after being dug, and when placed in the barrels or bins. This remedy has been found effectual by actual experiment.—Portland Transcript.

THE TELEGRAPH.—We are happy to announce, that St. Andrews is now in communication by telegraph with St. John, Halifax, Calais, and almost all the principal cities of the United States. The line was opened last evening at 8 o'clock, when a telegraphic report of the English news by the steamship Niagara, which arrived at Halifax at 7 o'clock, was passing through. The office here is under the direction of Mr. Wm Crickshank, a competent operator, who will be found at the telegraph office, front room of the Market House, which has been fitted up for the purpose.—St. Andrews Standard, April 30.

A man named George Seath, a ship carpenter, was unfortunately drowned off the steamer Lady Elgin, in Lake St. Peter, on her downward trip, last Saturday night, by walking overboard through a door in the bulwarks, which some of the passengers had incautiously unfastened and left open. Captain Houghton reversed the wheels of his boat immediately after the man fell over, and lowered a boat, but could see nothing of him. It is said that a man was drowned at Batiscan last Saturday night, in attempting to jump on board the Creceat, after her gangway had been removed.—[Quebec Gazette.

A telegraphic communication from River du Loup, dated 3, p.m. yesterday, received from Mr. Torney, states that the only vessel from sea that has passed there, is the Toronto.—[ib.

THE 19TH OF MAY.—We are no great advocates of Public holidays but as the Celebration of the Landing of the Loyalists will probably occur on the 19th of May, and that of the introduction of the Order of the Sons of Temperance into this City takes place on that day, we have to suggest the propriety of a general suspension of business, in order to give an opportunity to all who may feel disposed to join in the procession and such arrangements as may be in contemplation, and to give greater eclat to the occasion.—[Temperance Telegraph.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

[Mr. Taylor's Reports.]

SATURDAY, April 28.

The House went into Committee of the whole on a bill further to facilitate the European and North American Railway. Mr. Gilbert in the Chair.

Mr. Gray observed that this bill was a part of the original scheme. One hundred thousand pounds would have to be expended before the Land would be granted, and the chief part of the land that would be granted, lie between St. John and Calais. One of the provisions of the bill was, that unless the land is improved on within five years, it will revert back to the Crown, another object is to give stockholders one hundred acres of land for every £100 stock they took. By passing this bill it would be only placing this Company on the same footing as the St. Andrews and Quebec Company.

Mr. Johnson could not support the bill at this late day of the Session, but would rather let it stand over another, so that hon. members would have plenty of time to consider the matter well.

Mr. English would oppose the bill, as he could not support a measure that would have a tendency to lock up such large quantities of land by companies, and thereby impede the settlement of the country, and give the money that should go towards raising a revenue. He would rather give 100 acres of land to every settler, who would settle on it and make improvements, than have it granted to Companies. He would inform the Committee that if this bill passed, it would be followed by others, and if they all passed, (and if they granted one they could not, with propriety, refuse others,) they would soon be able to dispense with a Surveyor General altogether, as they would have no more land to grant.

Mr. Hanington would support the bill. Hon. members might talk about lands being locked up, he thought this one of the best means to settle the Country.

Hon. Mr. Partelow thought the bill had been brought in too late in the Session, as hon. members had not had time to give it that consideration that so important a measure required. If it stood over another year he would then support it.

Mr. Crane was surprised that hon. members were so fearful of a small quantity of Land, when there was about eleven millions of ungranted land still in the Province. He for one had no fears about locking up the lands, but would be willing to give more than half of the wilderness lands that he possessed, providing a railroad was made through the other half. He would vote for the bill.

Mr. Needham was in favor of the bill and agreed with the hon. member who last spoke, that it would be better to give half of the Crown Lands in the Province away if it would be the means of railroads being made through the remainder.

Mr. Montgomery would oppose the bill, and thought it ought to stand over another year for due consideration.

Mr. Cutler could not go for the present bill this Session, after so much had already been done for railroads. He thought they ought to proceed with caution and not try to do so much at once. He felt convinced that this line would never pay unless the people of Nova Scotia extended it through that Province, and then have a communication from Galway to the United States or Canada.

Here Messrs Earle and Gordon opposed the bill, while Messrs. Scoullar and Robinson spoke in favor of it. On the question being taken the bill passed 17 to 15.