

learning a creditor was after me with a threat of arrest, I got on board of the ship that was lost tonight, intending to work my way to Canada. She sailed five days since, and this morning from an old newspaper which fell in my way I learned for the first time all that had taken place lately at Shirley—that the son of my mother's brother had been committed to jail upon suspicion of having murdered Sir Piers; and he was to be tried for the crime.

That he would be convicted seemed to be taken for granted, and the shock I received when I read the whole awful story and learned the peril of an innocent man, by my silence, standing in jeopardy of his life, brought on again in one of those violent attacks to which I have been subject since my illness, and from which I had not recovered when the ship was cast upon the shore.

Now, gentlemen, you have heard all and I implore you, by your own hopes of salvation, to lose no time in conveying my confession to—shire. I have been spared from the waves to save my cousin from a felon's death; and I entreat you, in whose hands his fate now lies, not to endanger it by delay."

Although I have given you the man's confession continuously, you must not suppose that he spoke it so. No; it was often interrupted by pain, or stopped by faintness, and when at last it was concluded, he had barely strength to sign it.

"Now, then," said my brother anxiously, when all was duly signed and witnessed, "there is not a moment to be lost; you have five-and-twenty miles to go, and it is near day-break already. I must remain here to attend this unhappy man's death-bed, and give him such comfort as I dare; but you Edward and Mr. Warden, must go; and this confession, corroborated by your testimony, will be sufficient to delay the execution until the matter can be placed before the proper authorities. I need not urge you to speed as for life, for more than ordinary life—fame, honor, and the preservation from a shameful death—depend upon your speed. One moment's delay may cost what a King's ransom could not buy back."

At such a pace as I never travelled before, and hope never to travel again, we sped on towards—shire. It was already morning when we came in sight of the town; and just as we mounted the last hill to enter it, the cathedral clock struck eight the hour of execution.

Whipping and snoring like cannon the positions assumed on, while my companion standing up in the carriage shouted—"a reprieve! a reprieve!" at the top of his stentorian voice, till the very hills seemed to re-echo the sound; while I, coward-like, sat, my face buried in my hands, unable to encounter the sight I expected every moment to see—a gibbet with its fearful burden.

But, happily, the sudden illness of the sheriff who was seized with faintness in the fatal dress-room, delayed the proceedings a few precious moments; and the shouts of the mob, who quickly caught the sound of "a reprieve," caused the officer's to pause a little time upon the very scaffold, so that when we galloped furiously up the street, Mr. Warden waving the paper in his hand, Mr. Shirley was literally standing beneath the drop, whence, in less than another moment, he would have taken his last glance of earth.

How joyfully the execution was stayed, and the confession forwarded to the proper quarter, I leave you to imagine. The murderer had suddenly become a hero, and all joined in facilitating, as far as possible, his release from thralldom; while, not to be behindhand in the good work, Mr. Warden and I, rail ways being then unknown—travelled day and night to London, and succeeded in bringing down a free pardon.

It scarcely need be added that, eventually the Shirley estate fell into the hands of Reginald, thro' a legal transaction, and that its possessor in the end won back the love and respect of its tenants by the liberal course of conduct which had ever been pursued by his respected father. Under the softening influences of time, his fiery disposition was subdued, and marrying in a few years after the events we have portrayed, a happy family sprung up in the old mansion, of which Reginald Shirley was the head, and in the bosom of which he lived many years, in the enjoyment of the felicities that are usually allotted to mankind.

CLERICAL WIT.—One of the exchanges has the following hit:—

The late Rev. Mr. Chapin being asked of what use the elders were in a church, replied, that it was said to give power to ministers. He was a unit, the elders cyphers; placed upon the right hand, they increased in power. "But," he added, "my elders have gone on the wrong side, and reduced me to a decimal fraction."

"What's whiskey bringing?" inquired a dealer in that article.

"Bringing men to the gallows," was the reply.

A REMARKABLE "PROPHECY."—The public journals having lately announced the religious exactness with which the emperor of the French, Napoleon III., is dispensing the bequests of Napoleon I. to his old soldiers and other legatees this seems a suitable occasion for recording a passage which I met with lately, containing a prophecy which, standing above all suspicion of having been made for the occasion, appears to me to be perhaps as singular a coincidence of anticipated events as history furnished.

The London Magazine for January, 1832, in the "Abstract of Foreign and Domestic Occurrences," records the death of Lititia Bonaparte, commonly called "Madame Mere," with the remark that—"Her last words were singular, and, as it is not impossible that they may one day turn out prophetic we give them a place in our record for more purpose than mere amusement.

The narrative goes on to state that the evening before her death she called together her household and, one after another gave them her hand to kiss and among the rest—"To Martha Belgrade, her waiting maid, she said—"Go to Jerome, he will take care of thee; when my grandson is emperor of France, he will make thee a great woman."

She then called Colonel Darley to her bedside. He attended her in all her fortunes, and, in Napoleon's will was assigned to have a donation of £14,000. "You," said she, "have been a good friend to me and my family. I have left you what will make you happy. Never forget my grandson.—And what he and you may arrive at is beyond my discerning—but you will both be great."

When she had dismissed her servants, she then declared that she had done with this world, and demanded some water, in which she washed her hands—"Her attendants found her dead, with her hand under her head, and a prayer-book on her breast."

So far a narrative to which events have given a character of mysterious significance. It would be desirable to ascertain if any of the parties indicated in it, besides Napoleon III., still survive; and one would like to know if their faith in the prediction stood the shocks of the last thirty years for Louis Napoleon himself, it is well known that through all the improbabilities of the case—through the ludicrous failure at Boulogne—the desperate attempt at Stratsburg—and the dreary captivity of Ham—he always held, and avowed with a full belief, that he had a yet unfulfilled mission to accomplish.—*Notes and Queries.*

A SEVEN YEARS' SLEEP.

We copy the following excellent story from the Rochester Union:

A Curious Surprise—A Seven Years' Sleep.—A letter from San Francisco to Mr. R. R. Harris, of this city, from his brother, relates a curious incident that occurred there a short time since, which we do not recollect having seen in print. Her Britannic Majesty's exploring ship Plover, arrived at San Francisco a short time since from the Polar Sea, where she had been ice bound since 1847.

When she left San Francisco, some years ago, it was a mere trading station, resorted to by a few vessels in pursuit of hides, and the town or place contained only a few abode houses. The captain and crew of the Plover expected to find the same San Francisco, in 1854, that they left in 1847.—The captain, therefore, sailed into the bay without a pilot, and approached the city in the evening. He was much amazed at the numerous lights he saw.

When he awoke from his dream of seven years the next morning, he found a noble city occupying the site of the ancient San Francisco. He had known nothing of the Mexican war, and cession of California to the United States, and the many other great events that had taken place during the time he had been locked up in the frozen regions of the North.

This is so good a story that it seems a pity not to let it pass. Nothing but a passion for truth compels us to say that, though the Plover has been in northern ports since the autumn of 1848, she has received almost every year, news from civilized regions. Her whole crew has been once changed. On her outward passage, if she touched at San Francisco, it was in 1848, the year of the conclusion of the Mexican war. This, however, before the gold discovery, and was still a "mere trading station, containing a few adobe houses."—*Boston Daily*

The Empress Eugenie, of France, has announced that no State Balls shall take place, and that necessary expenses shall be incurred by the household, until the taking of the Bastille is accomplished.

THE "RULING PASSION."—We read the following in the *Courier de la Gironde*:—

An old soldier feeling his end approaching, and wishing to die like a good Christian, sent for a clergyman to administer to him the rites of the church. After having attentively listened to the exhortations of his confessor, and received extreme unction, he asked him with a feeble voice. "Can you tell me, reverend father, if Sebastopol is taken?" The clergyman, astonished at such a question from a dying man, answered that as yet there was no positive account of its fall. The sick man continued, "The reason I ask the question is as I am about to depart for the other world, it would have given me great satisfaction to be able to announce the good news to Marshal St. Arnaud."—At these words his head fell back on his pillow, and after half an hour's suffering the poor soldier breathed his last.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12. Canadian Affairs. The Ministry have just announced that the Provincial Parliament will adjourn on Friday next. Lord Elgin will give his assent to the bills for the secularization of the clergy reserves, and for abolishing the feudal tenure; and will immediately afterwards resign the reins of government to his successor, Sir Edmund W. Head. Lord Elgin is expected to leave America in the steamship Arabia which sails from New York on the 28th or 29th of December.

The philanthropic Miss Dix will be gratified to learn that her generous gift of life-boats to the Commissioners of Sable Island has already been richly rewarded—the crew and passengers of the "Acadia" having been saved by means of those boats. May they prove the means of saving many more who may be placed in similar peril.—*Hullfax North American.*

The political differences in Newfoundland are still unsettled, or rather they are winding.—The Assembly wishes a general election immediately the Government refused to issue the writs till May. The House by a series of resolutions denounces the Administration and votes for its removal. Mr. Little is delegated to England to represent the Assembly and advocate its views at the Colonial office.

PROPOSAL TO BUY THE COLLINS STEAMERS.—It is rumored that proposals to buy the three Collins steamers, that proposals to buy the three Collins steamers, to the agents in Liverpool, Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co., and that something like \$700,000 has been offered for each of them. Mr. Collins, it is said, has gone to Washington to consult the Government on the subject.

A ROYAL VISIT PAID FOR.—The Queen, on her late Journey from Balmoral to London, telegraphed that she would stop all night at Hull, the loyal people of which town had never enjoyed that honor, though they often requested a visit from her Majesty. At very short notice great preparations were made for her reception, and the town expended £65,000 on the occasion.

FRANCE.—The cannon of the Invalides were fired in celebration of the victory of Inkerman. Seventeen first class English steamers at Toulon, embarking troops and stores for war.

All the French ships recently returned from the Baltic are under orders for the Mediterranean.

In a letter to Gen. Canrobert, written in receipt of the despatches relating to the operations of Nov. 5, the French Emperor says:— "The English and French governments have drawn their anxious attention to their mutual interests. Already steamboats are traversing the Channel, and considerable reinforcements of troops and supplies will double your resources. I am about to take the offensive, and will receive the assistance of the other European countries. My operations will be more favorable than you could expect."

Mr. ...

New Advertisements.

FAIL IMPORTATIONS.

THE Subscriber has now received the remainder of his Fall Stock which for variety and extent will be found on inspection the largest ever offered in this market, as it would be difficult to crowd anything like an idea of the assortment in an ordinary advertisement, but would particularly call the attention of the public to the following leading articles, viz—

DRESS GOODS;
In every style suitable for the Season.
Shawls, Mantles, Gloves, Hosiery, Haberdashery, Furs, Jewelry.

Blankets, Flannels, Quilts, Carpets, Druggists, Hearth Rugs, Staple Dry Goods, a large and cheap stock of Ready Made Clothing and Trimming Goods Broad Cloths in superior Black and Green, Bear and Pilot do, Cassimeres, Doeskins, Satinets.

HATS and CAPS,
In every Style and Quality.

TRUNKS, VALISES,
A large and cheap assortment of

BOOTS, SHOES & RUBBERS.
4,000 Roles Room PAPER, & Window BLINDS,
which will be sold at Manufacturers' prices to effect a clearance.

Buffalo, Wolf and Coon Skins,
ROBES and COATS.

The Subscriber has also added to this Establishment the whole of his FANCY GOODS, & MILLINERY, formerly kept in his Store in Water Street, and will keep constantly on hand all the newest style of MILLINERY, as he has engaged a competent Milliner from St. John, who will take charge of this apartment.

Furniture Ware-Rooms.

Parties in want of Furniture would do well to call and examine the stock of Tables in Mahogany, Center and Side, Birch, Walnut and Black Cherry do, Sofas, Bureaus, Bed Steads, Chairs in Office, Rocking, &c. together with a great many other articles connected with household Furniture.

Green TEAS,
Cutlery, Hardware,

THE under-mentioned day the 2d day, respective day, the Regulations credit will be made to the Crown for p. (Not to interfere with other Lumber under License the applications for the purchase of land (No person is to be allowed to purchase more than 40 acres of land)

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