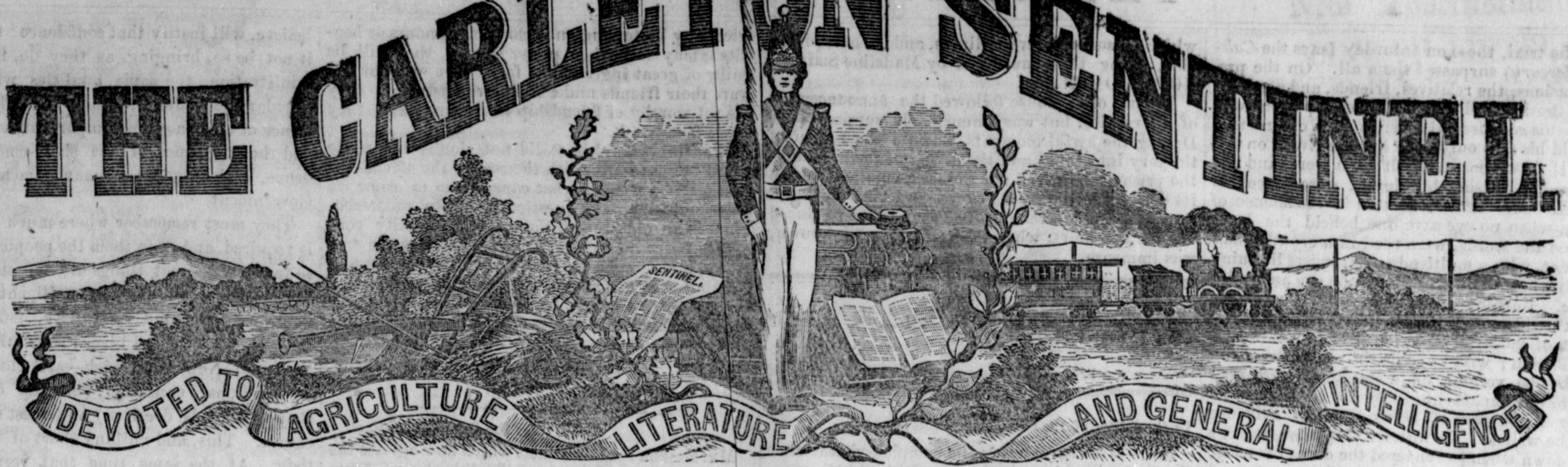


THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



SAMUEL WATTS, EDITOR.]

"Our Queen and Constitution."

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General News.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA PATRIOTIC ASYLUM.

The foundation stone was laid by her Majesty on Saturday last of a new asylum, bearing her name, and destined for the reception of 300 orphan daughters of soldiers, and marines. The cost of the erection and endowment of the asylum will be defrayed out of the surplus funds remaining in the hands of the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund.

Next week we purpose to illustrate this interesting ceremony, when we shall give a detailed account of the proceedings. We annex the address which the Prince Consort, as President of the Commission, read to her Majesty on the occasion; also the statement of the Patriotic Fund, showing the sources whence it was derived:—

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

We, your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Commissioners appointed by your Majesty for the formation and application of a Patriotic Fund, approach your Majesty with the assurance of our devoted loyalty and affectionate attachment to your Majesty's throne and person, and with the expression of our gratitude for your Majesty's condescension in honouring by your presence and patronage the foundation of this building, intended for the reception and education of the orphan daughters of those soldiers, seamen, and marines, who have fallen in the late war with Russia, and of those who may hereafter lose their lives in the service of their country.

The brilliant valour displayed by your Majesty's forces, in battle against the enemy, early aroused the sympathy and admiration of their countrymen in every part of the British empire, which was augmented by the unflinching fortitude with which they encountered in turn the no less deadly foes, privation, toil, and sickness, which subsequently thinned their ranks even more than the sword. Nor was this feeling confined to your Majesty's subjects, for in numerous instances natives of other countries generously united in augmenting the contributions which were offered for relieving the wants of those widows and orphans who had been deprived of that support upon which they depended for their maintenance, by the casualties of war.

Your Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint us Commissioners to receive the sums so subscribed, and justly and faithfully to distribute them in such a manner as should seem to us best suited to secure the most impartial and beneficent application of them to the purposes specified in your Royal Commission, and empowering us to appoint a committee for the performance of the executive duties of the Commission under such regulations as we might direct, and these, we have much pleasure in reporting to your Majesty, the committee of noblemen and gentlemen whom we appointed, have most satisfactorily carried into effect. The subscriptions, fostered by your Majesty's example and Royal care, and liberally contributed to by persons of every class of your subjects, have produced no less a sum than £1,446,985 7s.; a detailed statement of which is herewith humbly submitted to your Majesty.

The munificence of the country having thus enabled your Majesty's Commissioners to provide a liberal scale of relief for the maintenance of the widows and orphans, and to extend the benefits of certain charitable institutions for the education of the children of soldiers, seamen, and marines (as well officers as men), by adding to their permanent endowment, they resolved, out of the surplus of the funds still remaining at their disposal, to found an institution for the maintenance and education of orphans, which should not only provide for those the more immediate objects of their charge, but also remain a permanent memorial of the national generosity which provided the means for its establishment.

For this purpose, we allotted a sum of £38,000 for the purchase of a suitable site, and the erection of buildings suitable for the reception of three hundred girls under fifteen years of age, and have endowed it with £140,000.

The orphans admitted into this institution will be carefully instructed in their moral and religious duties, and, in addition to a useful elementary education, will be taught those branches of industrial knowledge which will fit them to perform the duties of domestic servants; and, when they may become wives and mothers, will enable them to manage their households with economy, and, by habits of cleanliness and order, to contribute to the comfort and cheerfulness of their homes. Such is the proposed object of the institution which your Majesty

is graciously pleased to patronise, by permitting it to bear your illustrious name, and by gracing it with your presence this day. Thus sanctioned we commit it to the care of that Almighty Being who has proclaimed himself specially the Father of the fatherless; humbly trusting that it may, under His guiding Providence, fulfil the objects for which it is intended—cheering the heart of the widow and the orphan, and teaching them to look up with increased loyalty and attachment to the gracious Queen who thus personally sympathises in the sorrows of those who fall in the service of their Sovereign and their country.

ALBERT.

The reply of her Majesty was as follows:—
I thank you sincerely for your loyal and affectionate address.

I gladly avail myself of this occasion to express the great satisfaction I have derived from the gratifying evidence presented to me of the manner in which my faithful subjects throughout the whole extent of my dominions, and in the most distant parts of the world, have evinced their genuine sympathy with my own feelings of admiration for the gallant conduct and enduring fortitude of my naval and military forces, by their munificent contributions to the funds for the relief of the widows and orphans of the brave men who have fallen in the discharge of their duty to their Sovereign and their country. You have fully justified the confidence placed in you by your judicious and impartial distribution of these funds; and I entirely approve of the appropriation of a portion of them to the erection and permanent endowment of an institution in the success of which I shall ever feel the warmest interest.

I am most happy to take a part in the foundation of this institution, and I heartily concur with you in committing it to the Divine care and protection, and in praying that the benevolent objects with which it has been designed may be to the fullest extent accomplished.—*Illustrated News.*

TRIAL OF MADELINE SMITH.

Another was added to the long list of terrible tragedies which have marked the present era of the world's history, in Glasgow, a few months since. A Miss Madeleine Smith—young, pretty, of good education, and highly respectable and wealthy parentage—at the age of 19 meets and becomes enamoured of a young Frenchman, named L'Angelier, whose most prominent trait of character appears to have been vanity, but who carried in his heart all the accomplishments of a profound villain;—in receipt of a salary of 8s. a week. The parents of Miss Smith forbid his addresses; they met clandestinely. He seduced her in the spring of '55.—Up to the beginning of '57 she retained for him, as evinced by her strange letters, the most wild yet ardent passion. At this period she seems to have changed her mind; and agreed to marry a Mr. Minnock, who had proposed to her in all innocence; L'Angelier however refuses to return her letters, and although he does not insist upon her marrying him, does insist that she shall not marry Minnock, threatening if she does, to submit her letters to the father and husband; and thus expose her unhappy fall from virtue.

The *London Times*, in commenting upon this case, says:

"On the 9th of February she is distracted with terror. She implores him not to bring her to open shame, and solemnly declares she has no other engagement—having, however, promised her hand to Mr. Minnock, on the 28th of the previous month. Dates now become of importance. The prisoner, for some reason or other, feigns a renewal of her attachment for L'Angelier. She wishes to bring him back to her; the prosecution says that she may poison him—she says that she might coax him to give back the letters. On February 17 he dines with Miss Perry. He tells her that he is to see Miss Smith on the 18th. We know not if he did see her on that day, but we know from the testimony of his landlady that on that night he was seized with sudden illness—as men are ill from arsenic.

"That the prisoner administered poison on the 19th of February is the first charge of which she was found not guilty. Every Glasgow chemist's book was searched, and no purchase of arsenic was

proved prior to the 19th, so that with respect to this first day there was sufficient doubt to justify a verdict of full acquittal. But on the 21st Madeline purchases arsenic at the shop of Mr. Murdock.—She signs her name as required by Act of Parliament, and not only gives her real address, but has the dose, value sixpence only, put down to her father's account. Miss Smith explains the purchase by stating that she used the arsenic as a cosmetic, by dissolving it in the water with which she washed—a process respecting which scientific opinions are divided. However, L'Angelier is ill again on the 22d, but recovers a second time.

"Time passes on, and we must conclude there are more negotiations for the surrender of the letters, for Miss Smith still keeps on her engagements with Mr. Minnock. On March 6th she again buys arsenic—to poison rats or improve her complexion, according to her various accounts—and this time it is in company with Miss Buchanan, a young lady from the Clapton school. L'Angelier goes to Bridge of Allan to recruit his health, and not to the Isle of Wight, 500 miles off, as his mistress advises him. There he writes her a letter, saying that he believes she is going to marry Mr. Minnock, and demands direct answers to several questions on the subject. He is proved to be anxious for a letter in answer to this last missive; when he receives it he returns in perfect health. He comes home in the highest spirits, and says the letter has brought him back.

"On the 22d of March he goes out a little before 9 o'clock. He is seen sauntering along in the neighbourhood of Byethwood-square about 20 minutes past 9. About half past 9 he makes a call on a friend, who is not at home. Then we lose sight of him for two or three hours. He had gone out to see the prisoner, having come back all the way from Bridge of Allan for the interview: he had reached the neighbourhood of the prisoner's residence—the question is—did they meet? The prisoner says no; that the interview was for Saturday, not Sunday. The prosecution asserts that they did. At all events L'Angelier is found four hours afterwards in agonies at his own door. He is doubled up, speechless, and has not strength to turn the latch-key. He dies, and dies of arsenic.

"The prosecution aver that he is poisoned by the prisoner; she declares her innocence, and suggests that he must have done it himself in a fit of jealousy. Evidence is adduced that he was vain, foolish and extravagant, always talking of love affairs and threatening suicide when he was disappointed. This is all the light that can be thrown on the terrible occurrence. That the jury should declare the crime Not Proven is highly surprising; for the circumstances are as mysterious as any that have ever been related in a court of justice. If on the one hand the prisoner purchases arsenic, and thinks of her complexion for the first time when she is distracted with terror respecting her good name, on the other hand she buys it so openly that a jurymen might well think her conduct incompatible with a murderous intention."

[From the Ayrshire Express.]

NOTES ON THE TRIAL.—The personal appearance of Miss Smith, the central figure in this remarkable case, is the point on which most attraction seems to be fixed in the court by the spectators with which it is thronged, and which is most talked of among the less privileged outside world. Eager crowds gather in the early morning at the goal, and in Parliament-square, to catch a glimpse at the prisoner as she is taken to the court. In the evening thousands gather in the streets to see the cab in which she is borne back from the court-room to the prison. Every day sees hundreds at the door of the court who would willingly expend guineas in obtaining a look at the young lady. Hundreds are daily passed in for a few minutes by official friends to get a glimpse of the prisoner, and may be seen departing with the air of satisfied curiosity upon their anxious countenances. Others who are privileged to sit in the court through the whole day may be seen surveying the slight figure at the dock with eyes that never weary of gazing upon it, from the opening of the diet till its close; while the newspapers, in the second, and third, and fourth editions, with which the town is hourly deluged, stop the press to tell how she looked at a particular hour, how she was seen to blush at a certain point in the evidence, and how for breakfast she had coffee, rolls, and a mutton chop, which she ate with great apparent heartiness. In the midst of all this excitement, passing through the eager crowd from and to the prison, seated at the bar with hundreds of eyes fixed steadily upon her, Madeline Smith is the only unmoved, cool personage

to be seen. From the first moment to the last she has preserved that undaunted, defiant attitude of perfect repose which has struck every spectator with astonishment. She passes from the cab to the court-room, or rather to the cell beneath the dock, with the air of a belle entering a ball room. She ascends the narrow staircase leading into the dock with a cool jaunty air, an unveiled countenance, the same perpetual smile—or smirk, rather, for it lacks all the elements of a genuine smile—the same healthy glow of colour, and the same confident ease. The female turnkey at her side looked much more of the prisoner, for, while she is still, and scarcely ever lifts her eyes, Miss Smith never ceases surveying all that goes on around her—watching every word of every witness, returning every stare with compound interest, glancing every second minute at the down-turned eyes in the side galleries, and even turning right round upon the reporters immediately behind her, to see how they get along with the note-taking, which is carrying her name and deeds into every British home. When judges and jurymen retire for lunch, she refuses even so much as a small packet of sandwiches. Others may be thirsty amid the hot excitement, but when the female attendant offers her a glass of water she will not have it. There she sits, refusing meat and drink, or a moment's retirement in her cell, with a smelling-bottle in her dainty little hand, which she never uses—a splendid specimen of physical power, and of such endurance as only a will of terrible strength could attain. When she is called up to plead, she says, in a clear, sweet tone—no trace of huskiness or emotion perceptible in the voice, no trembling on her tongue, "Not guilty." The dean of faculty, her leading counsel, bids her good morning, or says a word to her when the proceedings close for the day, and she smiles so cheerily that you listen to hear her laugh. Whoever speaks, counsel or witness, must be sensible of the fixed, penetrating glance of her large dark eye. Her head is perpetually turning from the gentlemen of the long robe to the responsive witness box, as the questions are put and answered. She has a well cultivated taste—that is evident. She is elegant without show. A rich brown silk gown, with a large brooch, low set in the breast a white straw bonnet simply trimmed with white ribbon; a white cambric handkerchief, and a bottle of smelling salts in the kid-gloved hand; such is the inventory, so far as I can furnish it. Her hair, of which she has a rich profusion, is quietly arranged in the fashion prevalent before the Eugenie style, although the smallness of the bonnet, which is of the most fashionable make, necessitates the leading of two ebony braids across the crown of her head. Miss Smith is about five feet two inches in height. She has an elegant figure, and can neither be called stout or slim. She looks older than her years, which are twenty-one. I should have guessed her age to be twenty-four. Her eyes are deep-set, large, and some think beautiful; but they certainly do not look prepossessing. Her brow is of the ordinary size, and the face inclines to the oval. Her nose is prominent, but is too long to be taken as a type for the Roman, and too irregular to remind one of Greece. Her complexion, in spite of prison life, is clear and fresh. Her cheeks are well coloured, and the insinuation that a rosy hue is imparted by artificial means, made by some portion of the press, does not seem well founded. The scene in the court-yard is such that the high court of justice has never presented before in the present century. The whole of the faculty of advocates would seem to be there, filling more than their own gallery; a goodly array of writers to the signet appear in their gowns; upwards of a score of reporters for the press ply their busy pencils; the western side gallery abounds in moustachioed scions of the aristocracy; ministers of the gospel are there gathering materials for discourses, and civil dignitaries are in abundance. A few women, who may expect to be called ladies, are mingled in the throng. Among the clergy we notice Principal Lee, William Pulsford, the celebrated independent preacher; Dr. Andrew Thomson, Professor Harper, and Mr. Hibbs, an episcopalian priest, who "goes in" for preaching about Palmer and Dove, and will, no doubt, have a morning sermon one of these Sabbaths devoted to Madeline Smith. Lords Cowan and Ardmillan, after they are relieved from their duties elsewhere, come and sit in undress on the bench; so does the venerable Lord Murray, and Lords Wood, Deas, and others. The fee given to the Dean of Faculty, the senior counsel for the defence, is said to be a hundred guineas, but this retainer will be supplemented, likely, by a daily "refresher" during the trial. Interesting as were the proceedings on the earlier