

The Carleton Sentinel.

SAMUEL WATTS, Editor.

VOL. XVII.—NO. 6.

Our Queen and Constitution.

WOODSTOCK, N.B. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

JAMES WATTS, Publisher & Proprietor.

WHOLE NO. 839.

Poetry.

THE STORY OF ECHO.

BY JOHN G. SAKE.

A beautiful maiden was Echo
As classical history tells,
A favorite nymph of Diana,
Who dwelt among forest and dells.

Now Echo was very languid,
And though she was silly and young,
It seems that she never was weary
Of playing her voluble tongue.

And I'm sorry to say, in addition,
Beside her impertinent clack,
She had, upon every occasion,
A habit of answering back.

Though even the wisest of matrons
In grave conversation was heard,
Miss Echo forever insisted
On having the ultimate word.

A fault so exceedingly hateful,
That Juno when Echo betrayed
While the goddess was hearing her babble
Determined to punish the maid.

Said she "In reward of your folly,
Henceforward in vain you will try
To talk in the manner of others,
At best you can only reply!"

A terrible punishment truly
For one so lively a tars,
And it brought the poor maiden to ruin,
In the way you will presently learn.

For, meeting the handsome Narcissus,
And wishing his favor to gain,
Full often she tried to address him,
But always endeavored in vain.

And when, as it finally happened,
He spoke to the dandelion maid,
Her answer seemed only to mock him,
And drove him in anger away.

Ah! and was the fate of poor Echo;
Was ever so hapless a maid?
She wept away in her sorrow,
Until she was wholly decayed!

But her voice is still living immortal—
The same you have frequently heard,
When striding in forests or valleys,
Repeating your ultimate word!

Select Tale.

THE LAST OF SEVEN.

(Concluded.)

The worst side of the girl's nature was uppermost then. A fierce fire blazed in her eyes, which made you think of some wild creature at bay. Her mother was completely overpowered; her feeble resistance, her weak power of self-assertion, all swept away, as when some impetuous stream overflows its banks and scatters ruin and wreck over peaceful homes. It was just as well, perhaps, that she sat to such dumb silence, for any words would but have kindled Winnie's passion to fiercer heat.

After a while the girl was frightened. She thought her mother seemed as if she were turning stone. She began to clasp her hands and kiss her, in an agony of remorseful love and sorrow.

"Don't mother," she cried; "don't look so. Only speak to me. I will not go against my father any more than I can help; only, if there is nothing to be said against James, it would not be right for me to give him up just because my father and his don't like each other."

"You must let me tell him to-night, Winnie, and see what he says. Until after that don't let us talk about it. It frightens me. Sit down here beside me, and let me forget the bad news a while, and think you are my own little Winnie, that used to love me so."

"That does love you so, mother," whispered the girl, with soothing fondness; "that would die before any one should harm one hair of your head."

The next morning Winnie's eyes sought her mother's face anxiously. She could gather from it little hope. Rachel was pale and silent. Adam Gibson, too, ate his breakfast without an unnecessary word; and Winnie did not run after him, as she went out to his farm, with any kisses, or merry, teasing ways, as her wont was. The spell of silence seemed to have fallen on her also. She helped her mother quietly to clear away the breakfast things and do up the morning's work, and not till the two had sat down together in the still house did she ask a question. Then it came, anxiously, pleadingly:

"What did father say? Are you never going to tell me, mother?"

"It is no use, Winnie. You must give it up. He will never consent—never."

"Give it up!" A smile, just touched with scornful pity, flickered across Winnie's lips. "You don't understand what you say. I could no sooner give up James Ransom than you could give me up, mother. I love him."

Blank terror whitened for a moment Rachel's face, and looked out of her sad eyes. Then all grew dark, and her head fell back against the cushions of her chair, in a dead faint. Winnie sprang to her side, and tried half a dozen simple means of restoration, trembling herself with fear for the consequences of what she had done.

The swoon did not last long. Very soon the mother opened her eyes, and said, faintly,

"It was nothing. I shall be better in a moment."

When she was sitting up again, and Winnie was kneeling beside her, begging her forgiveness with the quick, impulsive penitence of her passionate nature, she brushed back the girl's brown hair, with a tender touch, as she said,

"I never yet had any thing to forgive in you, Winnie. Ever since I have had you you have been good to me. I do not blame you for this. You could not help loving him, I suppose; and there seems no justice in asking you to give him up because your father and his can't agree. Still, it's a dreadful thing to go right against your father's will. I will separate you from me; for I don't think he would ever let you come into the house again."

"Nothing can truly separate us, mother, for we shall always love each other."

"Ay! but what should I do without you all the long days? For eighteen years you have never been one day away from me. How could I live in this still house and never hear you laugh or speak, or see your face, or have kiss or smile from your lips? Oh, child, child!"

Winnie's dark eyes swam in tears. She drew her mother's head to her bosom with the old air of protection which had been so ludicrous when she was a little toddling thing.

"There! don't grieve," she said, soothingly; "I will stay with you, at least for a while. I am only eighteen now. When I am twenty-one I shall have a legal right to take my own course. Till then I will obey my father. So cheer up, darling! you are sure of me for three years. This afternoon I will see James and tell him so."

"But I shall be keeping you from happiness, and your heart won't be here even if you are."

"Yes, it will, mother; you shall find no change in me. It is best to do it. Since father opposes me, I ought not to resist him till I am older. We are young, James and I, and we can afford a little waiting."

That night, just at twilight, Winnie came in, a strange look upon her face—a light in her eyes proud but sad. She did not speak, for her father sat at the table. She waited until something called her mother into the next room. Then she followed her.

"I have told James, mother, and he is going to enlist for the next three years. So we will be happy together as we used to be, you and I. The poor boy will be out of the way."

"But if you lose him! If he should be killed!"

"He will not be, mother! I am not bad enough to need such discipline. The great Father pities his children, and he will let me have James back again in safety. I shall not allow myself to tear. I am glad he is going. I shall love him better, and be prouder of him all my life, for doing this work for his country."

"Did you tell the girl what I said?" Adam Gibson asked, gruffly, in his own room with his wife that night.

"Not all. I told her that you would never consent, and she has told him. He is going to enlist for three years. He will be out of your way; but I warn you if he dies it will kill Winnie."

"Girls don't die so easy—or didn't when I was young. Don't worry. Before the three years are out we shall have her married off to somebody better worth living."

Rachel did not contradict him, but she wondered that he did not understand better the steadfast, persistent nature inherited from his own. The very same element of character which made it impossible for him to forgive John Ransom would make it impossible for his daughter to cease from loving John Ransom's son.

That was the fall of '61. Men had begun to find the Great Rebellion a very real and earnest thing, and were rising up to crush it; making preparations on a very different scale from what they had at first imagined would be necessary. The regiment which James Ransom joined belonged to the Army of the Potomac, and was destined to see some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

Winnie had promised that her mother should find no change in her. But she could not quite make good her words. There was no diminution of affection, indeed; no lack of the tender thoughtfulness with which—seeming even from childhood to understand all the untold sorrow of her mother's lot—she had always striven to lighten her burdens. But the merry girl, full of song and frolic and the exuberant life of youth, was gone; and in her stead, an anxious woman moved silently around the house, making no complaints, saying nothing of her hopes and fears, but studying newspapers, shivering at rumors of battles, and gentle with a sad, pitiful gentleness more pathetic than words.

Adam Gibson never once mentioned to his child the name of James Ransom, but he tried hard to be kind to her in his own way. He bought her handkerchiefs, which she never wore; gave her money, which went all of it to buy comforts for soldiers far away, or their bereaved wives and children at home; sometimes tried to provoke her to her old manner of teasing playfulness, but never succeeded. She was perfectly respectful to him, more obedient than she had ever been before; but, beyond the formal kiss at night and morning, when her cold lips just touched his cheek, never affectionate. I think that hard, unyielding heart of his grew grayer, even when he saw her as before. For he repented himself of what he had done; but, if so, he made no sign.

So the years went on. James Ransom never came home, and no one ever talked about him in the house of Adam Gibson. Once or twice Rachel had tried to speak some comforting word about him to her child; but the pale pain of Winnie's face, the stillness of her unresponsive lips, had silenced her. When the girl ever heard of him no one knew, if she did, she kept her own secrets.

In the early spring of '64 nearly all his regiment re-enlisted, and were home on furlough; but James Ransom was not among them. Rachel guessed by this that he expected to claim his bride in the fall, and was not ready to postpone it any longer. So far Winnie's belief in his safety had been justified. He had had, they heard through village rumor, a few slight wounds, never any thing serious; and he had been in all the battles.

With the commencement of the campaign of '64 would come a new trial, the last and fiercest. Ever Winnie, knowing what lay before the gallant army marching on in the way three soaked in vain already with the most precious blood of the country, and tried half a dozen simple means of restoration, trembling herself with fear for the consequences of what she had done.

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Winnie's dark eyes swam in tears. She drew her mother's head to her bosom with the old air of protection which had been so ludicrous when she was a little toddling thing.

So she lay for three weary days and nights, with her mother's mild, patient face bending over her, in anguish, over her pillow. In those days years seemed to have done their work on Adam Gibson. He grew gray and old, and his wiry figure seemed to bend like a tree before some sudden blast.

The fourth day he came in from some errand which had taken him to the village, with a look of strange excitement replacing the blank despair of his face. He beckoned his wife from the room where she kept right beside him.

"Mother," he said, hoarsely, "he is not dead after all! That first report was false. He was wounded and taken prisoner, and now he has been exchanged with a number more of the wounded. They say he won't die, and John Ransom is going on to bring him home. They are giving furloughs to the wounded who can bear to be moved, because the hospitals are so full that they'll get better care at home. Will his coming save Winnie's life?"

"What is the use of his coming home, or of saving Winnie's life, when you've set your will up that she shall have him? Better let them both die. Maybe they'll come together heaven; for it's my belief that the Heavenly Father is kinder than earthly ones are."

"But I am not set against them, mother—not now. Your words went home, Rachel—went home. I will ask John Ransom to forgive me, and let me go with him to bring his boy back. Only tell me, will it be in time to save our girl's life?"

"God grant it may be! Yes, it will be—it must be!" she answered, growing strangely piteous toward him, now that he was willing to risk his girl was doing in breaking down old prejudices, and softening the heart which in so many unforgetting years had hardened. She went in then to Winnie, he following. She scarcely hoped to rouse her, but she would make the effort. She bent over the pillow.

"Winnie, Winnie, darling, it was not true. It was a mistake. James is not dead, and father is going for him to bring him home to you."

As if fraught with some strong power of penetrating the dull senses, the life-giving words went home. A smile, weak and faint, but oh! so full of sweetness, flickered across the pale lips, and then they moved, and formed rather than articulated the words "father."

Adam Gibson bent over her, shaken by such a tempest of emotion as he had never known before. His passion of love, and remorse, and hope. He felt her lips touch his face, the first voluntary caress she had given him since he ceased to sanction her freedom. A smile, weak and faint, but oh! so full of sweetness, flickered across the pale lips, and then they moved, and formed rather than articulated the words "father."

When he had regained at last his self-control he went over the road that led to John Ransom's house. He found his old enemy in the yard, making some arrangements for his journey. There, under the May sky, with God's peace in the world around him, he went up to John Ransom and put out his hand.

"Forgive me, neighbor. I have been your enemy more than forty years, and called myself your fellow-Christian all the time. Is it too late now for us to begin to be friends?"

His hand was not grasped, and kindness begat kindness, and penitence was the father of penitence. All past faults on both sides were confessed and forgiven; and then Adam Gibson told the story of his child's love and suffering, and asked the question which had been in his heart for so long.

"May I go with you, neighbor, to bring James back? I think I could help you, and I should feel easier if I was doing something for Winnie to make up for the past."

His offer was not rejected, and that very afternoon two men started to bring Winnie's hero home.

As for her, hope had seemed to penetrate all her veins like an elixir of life. She grew better rapidly, and before the week of their absence was over some pale roses began to bloom on her thin cheeks.

At last they came. The soldiers' wound was less severe than they had feared; but, as he was not fit for duty, they had found it difficult to get for him leave of absence. He came at once to Adam Gibson's house. Ever his father was ready to admit that she who had so nearly died for him had the first claim on his sympathy. He reported that the request would be granted, provided the amount did not exceed \$4.00 to each institute.

Under the third head of this report viz. New Business, may be mentioned the following subjects, which were taken up, and after a due amount of discussion, disposed of by appropriate resolutions: The practice of Boarding school, which still exists in some districts. The best means of inducing Teachers' Funds, to provide suitable School Houses in districts where such houses are not already provided. The means to be adopted most likely to secure a greater interest in the working of County Institutes. The merits and defects of the present school law, so far as it relates to the principle of assessment. The means of making them more general. A committee appointed to wait upon the Postmaster General to ask a draw-back on postage to lessen the expense of working Institutes, after attending to their assigned duty, reported that the request would be granted, provided the amount did not exceed \$4.00 to each institute.

At the meeting held in St. John in 1863 subjects had been introduced, and after discussion, left in the hands of committees to investigate still further. These subjects were, Direct Taxation, the support of Schools; the revision of the Book of Lessons; the grading of Schools in towns and villages; the establishment of a Fund for superannuated Teachers; and a change in the General Holidays.

The committees to whom these several subjects had been referred submitted their respective reports at the meeting last held. From the committee on taxation, a report was submitted in part, showing the advantages of general assessments, and urging its adoption; after further consideration said partial report was referred back to the same committee for completion and publication. Committee to prepare a report on direct taxation, had prepared and submitted to the Board of Education for approval. Committee on Grading Schools report, great necessity for the adoption of such arrangements, but fear it could not be worked satisfactorily under our existing School Law. Committee on superannuated Teachers, while admitting the desirability of a move being made in the direction named, think it inexpedient to make the attempt at present, owing to the supposed unwillingness on the part of Teachers generally to contribute towards said object.

Committee appointed to ask for a change of school holidays, reported that no change has yet been made, but probably will be; the request of the Institute was that there should be three weeks vacation in summer and only one in winter, and that the summer vacation begin on the first Monday in August instead of the second Monday in July as at present.

Written reports from the County Institutes of St. John, Kings, Sunbury, York, and Carleton were submitted in due order, showing the workings of these respective bodies during the past year. These reports, though of the most part complaining of apathy on the part of Teachers in the matter of attendance, show conclusively that such organizations properly worked up are attended with many and substantial advantages not only to Teachers themselves but to the cause of Education generally.

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Carleton Co. Teachers' Institute.

MR. EDITOR.—A regular meeting of Carleton County Teachers' Institute was held, according to previous announcement, Friday 3rd inst. Though the attendance was small the meeting was not uninteresting.

A condensed report of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Institute was submitted by the Delegate to that body, which report was received with the wish that it be published in the SENTINEL.

The subject of "Home Lessons" was taken up, and after an interesting discussion of some length, was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting of the Institute, to be held in Mr. Millberry's school room on Friday 17th of March commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.; essays on the subject named will then be read. And it is also understood that arrangements will be made for a public Educational meeting being held on the evening of the same day.

Woodstock, Feb. 4, 1865.

The following is the above referred to REPORT.

MR. PRESIDENT.—The second meeting of the Teachers' Provincial Institute was held in Fredericton, commencing on Tuesday, 4th October 1864, and continued, with intervals, till the Friday evening following. The Chief Superintendent, with three District Inspectors, and a respectable number of Teachers were present. The various subjects which occupied the attention of the meeting may be thus classified: First, Reports of Committees appointed at the former meeting held in St. John. Second, Reports from County Institutes; and third, new subjects introduced for discussion.

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Written reports from the County Institutes of St. John, Kings, Sunbury, York, and Carleton were submitted in due order, showing the workings of these respective bodies during the past year. These reports, though of the most part complaining of apathy on the part of Teachers in the matter of attendance, show conclusively that such organizations properly worked up are attended with many and substantial advantages not only to Teachers themselves but to the cause of Education generally.

Under the third head of this report viz. New Business, may be mentioned the following subjects, which were taken up, and after a due amount of discussion, disposed of by appropriate resolutions: The practice of Boarding school, which still exists in some districts. The best means of inducing Teachers' Funds, to provide suitable School Houses in districts where such houses are not already provided. The means to be adopted most likely to secure a greater interest in the working of County Institutes. The merits and defects of the present school law, so far as it relates to the principle of assessment. The means of making them more general. A committee appointed to wait upon the Postmaster General to ask a draw-back on postage to lessen the expense of working Institutes, after attending to their assigned duty, reported that the request would be granted, provided the amount did not exceed \$4.00 to each institute.

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History of Railways.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

PART I.

Railways or roads on which tracks of iron, or other smooth material, are laid for the easy transit of wheel carriages or wagons, appear to have been first introduced during the early period of the seventeenth century, in the neighborhood of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the north of England; for the purpose of facilitating the carriage of coals from the pits, in wagons, to the discharging places for shipment on the river Tyne. They consisted simply of pieces of timber scantling imbedded in the ordinary highway road, or turnpike, in such a manner, being in straight lengths and laid parallel, as to form wheel-tracks for the coal-wagons to run on.

These wooden rails were laid upon transverse timbers, or sleepers, at regular intervals, and secured with wooden pegs, or trenails, the sleepers being also imbedded in the material of the roadway. These timber tracks naturally presented a much smoother surface for the wheels to run upon, than the very imperfect roads previously used, and thereby greatly increased the tractive power of the horse.

On account of the great advantages arising from such a rude and primitive kind of railway, the introduction of the iron or steel tracks became extensive in many of the mining districts, and several improvements in the construction of a more permanent way were subsequently made, in order to keep pace with the times. About the year 1716, it became customary in cases where curves and inclinations occurred, occasioning a much greater draught, wear and tear upon the wood rail, and frequent breakages, to nail or screw down thin plates of malleable iron upon the upper surface of the track, so that the wagons by the help of a still smoother surface, were able to be drawn up or run by gravitation over, the most difficult points, and places without hindrance or inconvenience.

Another improvement was made, which consisted in the addition of a second set of rails similar to first, and spiked to them on rails, by which peculiar and economical arrangement, the renewal of the first track, so far as the taking up was concerned, was thus rendered unnecessary; another advantage herein gained was that by raising in this manner the level of the rail, a greater depth of ballast or road material was spread over the sleepers, thereby making a much better intermediate roadway or towpath for the horses to travel on. The circumstances under which these roads were constructed were such that the descent from the pits was invariably towards the river or sea shore, and being with the traffic was, of course a material advantage; in many instances it was so arranged that the horses being unshackled, the wagons ran down by gravity, and arriving at the "dump" or "stake," tipped up and discharged their contents down the "shoot" which led to the "hold" of