

paradise? 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not,' is still the voice of the Son of God; but the world still closes around and forbids. When of old, the disciples would question their Lord of the higher mysteries of his kingdom, he took a little child and set him in the midst, as a sign of him who should be the greatest in heaven. That gentle teacher still remains to us. By every hearth and fire-side, Jesus still sets the little child in the midst of us?

Wouldst thou know, O parent, what is the faith which unlocks heaven? Go not to wrangling polemics, but draw to thy bosom thy little one, and read in that clear, trusting eye the lessons of eternal life. Be only to thy God as thy child is to thee, and all is done! Blessed shalt thou be, indeed—a little child shall lead thee!

From Douglas Jerrold's Magazine for June.
THE HEDGEHOG LETTERS

Containing the opinions and adventures of Juniper Hedgehog, Cabman, London; and written to his relatives and acquaintance, in various parts of the world.

To LORD NUGENT.

MR LORD,—I hope you'll excuse this freedom in me who am only a cabman. But the truth is, as I've somewhere said before, I can't help looking on any of my fare but as in the light of an acquaintance. And in this way I reckon, I know, a lot of Peers, and lords, and judges, and bishops. In fact, who is there so great that some time in his life he doesn't ride in a cab—that is, when he rides by himself—for I have known parties who've been so ashamed of the thing, that they've made me set 'em down half a street off. Very poor, twopenny-half penny pride this! But if in this jolly England we were to build hospitals for all the bold Britons that were sick with it,—wouldn't there be rare work for the bricklayers!

As I had the pleasure of taking up your lordship at Exeter Hall from the great meeting for doing away with public killing by the hangman, I can't help writing you these few lines on what has been said and hinted upon that matter. There's no doubt that a good many folks stickle for hanging as they'd tickle for good, strong, thick, stupefying port,—something fine and fruity; to show the hardness of their heads and the strength of their stomachs. And so they call a dislike to Jack Ketch nothing less than "sickly sentimentality." Once it was "morbid sympathy;" but that's gone out. Now, not to like the halter is to be sickly and sentimental; whilst to enjoy the Old Bailey use of hemp is to show our manhood. The British Lion, these folks think, would be no more than a milk-lapping puppy-dog, if now and then, there wasn't given to him a live murderer. Then he wags his tail; then he roars, and shows what is called the majesty of the law (tho' sometimes, I must say it, its majesty is of a very Bartlemy-fair sort, indeed); then he proves that law must be carnivorous, I think they call it, to live at all. And we've only to think a while of the old times to remember the judges and grave folks who declared that if the majesty of the law (that is, the British Lion from the Royal Arms) didn't feed upon men for doing fifty other things besides blood-shedding—hed'd mope, fall sick, take the mangle, and die. Nevertheless, one by one the British Lion lost his meals of human flesh—and though certain folks swore he must sink under it, he's as strong as ever on a less bloody diet.

The fact is, every body had his own hobby about hanging; every-body thought his own particular bit of property the bit of all bits to be protected by Jack Ketch; otherwise what sheep would be sole—what horses run away with! Could women—the dear little doves!—think themselves safe, if bigamy didn't lead to Tyburn? Wouldn't every other man buy two wedding rings, just as men went sporting with double-barrelled guns to hit two birds one after the other? Well, they didn't hang any longer for sheep and horses, and still their owners sleep in their beds, while the beasts are out in the fields. They didn't hang for bigamy—and though for some time no woman would accept a man afore all the parish registers had been searched to know if he was really single or not, now we find that they are coaxed to go to church, quite contented to take the man's word upon the matter. Yet there was a time when no woman thought herself safe if she wasn't protected by a halter.

It's the same thing, mind, with a good many people who'd hang for murder. They think—I know it—that there's a crowd of

folk's who're only waiting for the putting down of the hangman, to run out like mad Malays, and cut and thrust at their neighbours. "I tell you what," said my friend Jack Blackgang to me the other day—"I tell you what; if they wasn't to hang a man for murder, I shouldn't sleep peaceably in my bed." Now, at the very time Jack said this, I'm sure he quite forgot that burglary was no longer capital; and that therefore he'd been quietly sleeping, safe in the thought that his doer-post was guarded by the hangman.

'Twould be looked upon as a shocking matter now—in fact, Newgate stones would be torn up against it—to hang a little boy of fifteen for passing a forged twenty-shilling bank rag,—and yet such child murder has been done; otherwise would the gentlemen of the Bank Parlor have thought their gold safe even in their very cellars? The Lion Majesty of the Law was to be satisfied; and therefore he made his Newgate breakfasts off men and children. And then wasn't the Lion full fed, and wasn't his coat sleek and glossy with his good living? Poor beast! he has since been deprived of his breakfasts of babies,—and yet, my lord, when I saw him last he looked as a four-year old, and roared as loud as any average clap of thunder. But I repeat it: almost every man who would hang for murder, thinks without that hanging there'd be somebody ready to murder him: and therefore he respects and praises Jack Ketch as the scarecrow that keeps the assassin from his own particular throat. His sheep are safe enough, although Jack Ketch is no longer their shepherd; but he himself deprived of such a friend to take a proper vengeance, would be the mark for every other knife—the target for every bullet. "No," says Bill Dixon, that drives 942—"No," says he, "don't hang for nothing but taking life; for life," says he, "is a holy thing!"

"Exactly so," says I; "and being so holy, are we taught to think it so, when we see one man in cold blood—paid for the work, too—strangle another? Life that Jack Ketch takes for so much money—for mind, mankilling is a matter of trade to him; every-thing he eats is seasoned with the halter—can't be preached up as a very holy thing—(no, not though there's a parson of the Established Church on the gallows to preach it). What one man does for a salary, it may be thought by some can't be so very horrible to do when the blood's up to have revenge!" And after this fashion, my lord, do they preach the holiness of life; and folks are found to cry "Amen" to the preaching.

And so, my lord, I remain,
Your obedient humble servant.
JUNIPER HEDGEHOG.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:
CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1846.

ST. JOHN, NEWFOUNDLAND. ANOTHER CALAMITOUS FIRE!

UPON the authority of Captain Hanson, of the ship Margaret, of Torquay, which vessel arrived here on Saturday last, in 8 days passage from St. John, Newfoundland, we regret having to announce another, almost total, destruction, of that ill-fated city by fire, on the morning of Tuesday, the 9th inst., originating in carelessness in a carpenter's shop, in warming glue, probably in, or on a stove. The whole of the business part of the city, including the wharves to the water's edge, was consumed, with scarcely another exception besides the establishment of Messrs. Newman & Co. The Episcopal Church, Court House, Custom House, Post Office, and Nunnery, were among the public buildings destroyed. The King's (Queen's?) wharf was also destroyed. The Government House, Independent Chapel, and Roman Catholic Cathedral were saved.

We have heard it stated that some lives were lost, but do sincerely hope we shall not have a confirmation of this further calamity. Great distress prevailed, the people seeking shelter in barns, cellars, and wherever else they could stow themselves away. It is, however, reported that there were three months provisions still in the city.

How often have we thought of, and how often commented upon the carelessness—nay, the guilty recklessness exhibited by some persons with regard to fire! And in carpenter's, joiner's, and cabinet-maker's workshops in the winter season, or when stoves are used, and that we have undertaken to expostulate with the parties with regard to their manner of using their stoves, what has the reply in most cases been? Why, merely "that the party had used the stove for a number of years, or for a certain length of time, as the case may be, and that no accident had happened." In other words, "I admit that with any other person but a mechanic there would be danger, but inasmuch as this stove, altho' red-hot, knows that these shavings were taken off in the shop, no matter how dry the shavings, nor how hot the stove, yet wonderful to relate! the shavings will not ignite, nor will the stove communicate that effect." Look to this Mechanics, when your practice is so disgracefully slovenly as to endanger not only your own properties and lives, but those of your neighbours.

Since the above was put in type, we have received advices from Halifax, stating that a public meeting was held there to sympathise with the unfortunate sufferers, when upwards of £350 was subscribed within an hour. His worship the Mayor presided.

The following additional particulars were received by yesterday's mail.

"From the long drought the wooden tenements, of which the street was entirely composed, were dry as tinder, and the fire extended rapidly into Queen street, in spite of all that the fire companies, assisted by the inhabitants, could do to arrest its progress. This was a wide street and great part of it consisted of stone buildings, but such by this time was the energy acquired by this devouring element, that doors, window sashes, and the wood work under the eaves of the slates took fire, notwithstanding that the engines continued to play on them till the firemen were obliged to retreat from the intense heat.

The premises of Messrs. Roferson, Stuart, Boyd, and McDougall, and the oil vats of Messrs. Stewart, Bennett, Warren, Stewart, & Co., in Water street, were soon in flames. The wind freshened during the day and increased the energy of the flames.

From Mr. Warren's premises the fire proceeded with rapidity down both sides of Water-street great hopes were entertained that it would be arrested by the fire-break constituting Beck's Cove, as the buildings to the east of it, on both sides of Water-street were brick and slated.

With a view of stopping the fire here, His Excellency Sir John Harvey, who was early on the ground, ordered the houses of Messrs E. & N. Slab, forming the south-west boundary of the Cove, to be blown up. We regret to have to state that one of the Artillerymen who fired the train was killed by the explosion, and another severely wounded. The fire crossed the break notwithstanding, and ignited the Vats of Messrs. J & J Kent and of Bowring Brothers. In the Vats of the latter gentlemen, we understand, that the fat of no fewer than 25,000 seals had been put, and very little oil drained off.

About seven o'clock in the evening the work of destruction may be said to have been completed, so that in ten hours and half our town was almost entirely destroyed, and the moon rose in cloudless splendour, throwing her mild blue light on a homeless population, who stood viewing with intense anguish the smoking ruins of their habitations. Besides the two men that were killed, we have heard of another aged man who had contrived to save his bed and some valuables, and while struggling along to a place of safety with a load too heavy for his strength, fell down and expired. And doubtless accidents have occurred of which we have not yet heard.

It is but justice to His Excellency the Governor to state that he remained in the vicinity of the fire till a late hour. We also observed Lieut.-Col. Law, Major Robe, and all the other officers of the Garrison actively engaged during the whole day, the troops were turned out for the protection of property, on the first alarm, and guards were posted for the night wherever thought necessary.

All the Printing Offices in the town were destroyed and their materials more or less injured.

Several merchants saved part of their stock by shipping them on board vessels. We have heard that Messrs. Job, Brothers, & Co., and L. O'Brien & Co. saved most of their stock of dry goods in this way; the most of the vessels got out of the harbour so as to be out of danger from the embers blowing about.

We never saw a fire spread with such awful rapidity, the flames seemed actually to leap from roof to roof, and the noise of the burning mass could be compared to nothing that we ever heard, except the roaring of the cataract of Niagara.

The crash of falling materials was heard above the deep sound of the advancing flames, as roof after roof fell in at short intervals. We regret to have it to state that much pilfering was carried on, especially towards evening, and that provisions were taken away in boats full from some of the premises at the lower end of the harbour.

A meeting of the Executive Council was convened by His Excellency at an early hour on Wednesday, it which it was resolved to convoke the Legislature at the earliest possible period.

On the same day, a public meeting was held to devise relief for the sufferers, and passed resolutions to solicit an early meeting of the Legislature—to request His Excellency to adopt the best means of affording protection to persons and property—to crave the use of churches and other public buildings for the use of the sufferers—that His Excellency be requested to search out in every house, what quantity of provision remain; and to erect tents for the shelter of the people.

His Excellency the Governor has issued his Proclamation forbidding the export of provisions from St. John, and prohibiting the erection of any buildings till after the meeting of the Legislature.

LAUNCH.—On Monday last, from the building yard of the Hon. J. Cunard, in Chatham, the fine copper-fastened barque *Beraza*, of 375 tons old, and 322 tons new measurement. The ceremony of breaking the "sponsorial bottle" over her bows was committed to the Lady of Captain Brown,—she glided majestically and gracefully into her destined element, and we do not remember ever having witnessed a more beautiful launch.

Launches now-a-days are of such common occurrence, that they scarcely interest even the sight-seers, but on this occasion there were assembled some hundreds of persons of both sexes to witness the *Beraza* taking her place on the waters of the Miramichi.

We have much pleasure in congratulating the talented master-builder, Mr. Renne, on putting out of his hands such a finished specimen of naval architecture, being constructed entirely of Larch, and finished in such an exquisite and superior manner, that she may justly be styled a *Crack Ship*.

The *Beraza* is intended for a Packet between Liverpool and Vera Cruz, and is a twin sister to the *Swordfish*, in the same trade, built on the same stocks, and now celebrated as having made the fastest trip on record; from the *Beraza's* construction she is pronounced by good judges to possess every requisite for a fast ship, and we can only hope that she may realize the fondest wish of those interested in her, and even take the laurel from her fast sailing rival.—Communicated.

CANADA.—The Provincial Parliament was prorogued on the 9th inst., after a session of upwards of two months and a half. In alluding to the proposed reduction of the Timber duties, the Governor-General says: "For they (the people) may be assured that however unfavourable the aspect of affairs may have appeared to them, there exists sufficient power and energy in this noble province, if well directed, to make the most of the resources it unquestionably possesses; that will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, create new sources of wealth and prosperity, should those upon which they have hitherto relied be found ultimately to fail them."

HALIFAX.—The Times states that Donohue, the person who was convicted of breaking into Kenny's store, and sentenced to seven years imprisonment, escaped from the Penitentiary on the 7th inst.

The Rev. W. Cogswell, who has been on a visit to the United States, for the recovery of his health for some weeks past, returned to Halifax in the steamer *Hibernia*, from Boston.

The Herald say: "During the present week, a large number of Ministers of the established Church arrived in this city, to attend the Visitation of his Lordship the Bishop of Nova Scotia. Those clergymen attended St. Paul's Church, yesterday morning—where the usual service