

ty. The handwriting was awkward and cramped, and all signature omitted.

They heard after his departure that his coolness, advice, and example had alone saved the first boat from being swamped; the captain being, unfortunately, unfitted by a deficiency of presence of mind and want of firmness in the command of the vessel—his timidity depriving him of the respect of his men and of the obedience of his subordinate officers in hours of peril. He had appealed to their courage as British sailors and officers, as natives of England; proved that their only chance of escape was in patience and self-control; and finally avowed his determination of being the last to quit the ship. His eloquence and good sense had the required effect; and thus the boat received no more than it was able to carry safely to shore.

About a month had elapsed, when one evening—as the setting sun flung a golden radiance over the lulling waves, that seemed sinking into slumber beneath its bright enshrouments, lavishing the most glorious tints on its circling clouds, shedding a farewell crimson gleam on the highest eminences of the darkening earth ere it sank beneath the billows, and finally changing to a rich vermilion hue a pale fleecy cloud that hung in the deep blue zenith, as if to take a last view of the dazzling luminary ere it disappeared—a plain travelling carriage was seen to stop at the gate of Rosenford-lodge, and a gentleman sprang out. A moment sufficed to recognise the stranger who had so abruptly quitted the house a month before; whom we must now leave for a few minutes in the quiet parlour, while we turn to the morning succeeding that of the wreck.

As he was then pacing to and fro on the beach in a ruminating mood, this apparently unsocial being on turning a cliff that formed a small picturesque promontory—from the summit of which the long grass and weeds were wildly waving in the fitful gales that still swept athwart the strand—perceived a group of persons gathered together; in the centre of which stood an old fisherman, whose silver hair was streaming in the wind, and whose piercing dark eye was brightening with the eagerness with which he was dilating upon some favorite topic, which appeared also equally to interest his auditors; and the whole party were too much occupied with their subject to observe the approach of the stranger. The first word which met his ear was Rosenford—it fixed his attention at once. "Aye," continued the old man, "fifty pounds of her own money—and she not over rich neither—over and above the new boat she had built last autumn—as pretty a craft and safe as you may see anywhere upon the coast, I say—that cost a pretty penny to my own knowledge; and all for the poor people—castaways like from the wrecks, as she knows nothing about and is not likely to see again. Aye, she is an angel if there is such on this strifeful earth! And then to think how she sent me cordials from her own table, and cooked by her own sweet hands, when I was laid up with the sickness that weary time, and paid little Willy's schooling too, till I got about again. May every blessing—The stranger turned hastily away, overpowered by some sudden emotion: the first coach that passed through the village that day bore him away to London, and thence to the North of England to his native place.

But to resume our narrative. Gertrude and Amy had taken a long walk that evening, allured by the serene and hallowed beauty of the sky, ocean, and distant hills, lit up by the lamps of heaven as they emerged from their fading veil of light; and when at length they re-entered their aunt's cheerful parlour they started at the sound of a strange voice (a voice too of suppressed emotion, of subdued happiness), and at perceiving the mysterious hero of the wreck. Their aunt turned as they entered, and with more than her accustomed dignity of manner presented Mr. Rosse to her bewildered and astonished nieces.

Time passes quickly to the happy and well employed; the early autumn came, bringing with its quiet flowers and peaceful skies, the quieter nuptials of the mistress of Rosenford-lodge; for true happiness needs not the attendance of pomp and ostentation, and the reality of compassionate conduct requires not the glittering garb of illusive hope. No one can calculate on success in life, no one can rightfully vaunt of mortal power, no one can ensure against disease or death; but all can obtain a share of real happiness, for all can conform to the requirements of Religion, the true PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE!

From the London Quarterly Review.

#### ALLEGED BURYING ALIVE.

In the midst of exaggeration and invention, there is one undoubted circumstance which formerly excited the worst apprehensions—the fact that bodies were often found turned in their coffins, and the grave clothes disarranged. But what was ascribed with seeming reason, to the throes of vitality is now known to be due to the agency of corruption. A gas is developed in the decayed bodies, which mimics, by its mechanical force, many of the movements of life. So powerful is this gas in corpses that have been long in water, that Mr. Davergie, the physician to the Morgue at Paris, and the author of a text book on legal medicine, says, that, unless secured to the table, they are often heaved up and thrown to the ground. Frequently strangers seeing the motion of the limbs, run to the keeper of the Morgue, and announce with horror that a person is alive. All bodies sooner or later generate gas in the grave; and it constantly twists about the corpse, blows out the skin, till it

tends with distention, and sometimes bursts the coffin itself. When the gas explodes with a noise, imagination has converted it into an outcry or groan; the grave has been re-opened; the position of the body confirmed the suspicion, and the laceration taken for evidence that the wretch had gnawed his flesh in the frenzy of despair.

#### NEW WORKS.

##### THE DISCONTENTED MAN.

The ways to poison our happiness are, indeed, without number, but none so infallible as the habit of comparing, to our disparagement, the good we have with those enjoyed by others. Would it not be wiser to contemplate the scale of human happiness from its nether point to the station we occupy, and gratefully to contrast our blessings with the miseries of others? Demaratus is out of conceit with his vocation, influence in society, his house and its locality, nay, even with his wife and children. This discontent springs from observing, that his present employment (for which nature fitted him and in which he prospers) is neither so lucrative nor honorable as some other of his friends, that his name in society is not so prominent as that of some lawyers and wealthy merchants, the house erected by his honored father is not of the last approved fashion; its situation is a little obscure, and that his lovely and sensible wife, and well educated children, are not as much in vogue as some of the more elite. This unceasing comparison of every thing his own, with what is not, and which may be a few shades better, is a perennial source of evil, and consequent unhappiness; and instead of prompting him to laudable exertions to realize his jealous wishes, he is gradually diminishing the stock of actual comforts. To Demaratus and his class we say, beware of discontent; in that way "madness lies."—*Thoughts on Men, Manners, and Things, by Anthony Grumbler.*

##### A DANGEROUS ENCOUNTER.

Colesberg was extremely afraid of the elephants, and gave me much trouble, jerking my arm when I tried to fire. At length, I let fly; but, on endeavoring to regain my saddle, Colesberg declined to allow me to mount; and when I tried to lead him, and run for it, he only backed towards the wounded elephant. At this moment I heard another elephant close behind; and, on looking about, I beheld the "friend," with uplifted trunk, charging down upon me at top speed, shilly-trun-petting, and following an old black pointer, named Schwartz, that was perfectly deaf, and trotted along before the enraged elephant quite unaware of what was behind him. I felt certain that she would have either me or my horse. I, however, determined not to relinquish my steed, but to hold on by the bridle. My men, who, of course, kept at a safe distance, stood aghast with their mouths open, and for a few seconds my position was certainly not an enviable one. Fortunately, however, the dogs took off the attention of the elephant; and just as they were upon me I managed to spring into the saddle, where I was safe. As I turned my back to mount, the elephants were so very near that I really expected to feel one of their trunks lay hold of me. I rode up to Kleinboy for my double-barrelled, two-grooved rifle; he and Isaac were pale and almost speechless with fright. Returning to the charge, I was soon once more alongside, and, firing from the saddle, I sent another brace of bullets into the wounded elephant. Colesberg was extremely unsteady, and destroyed the correctness of my aim.—*Channing's Adventures in South Africa.*

##### REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD.

Are the dead too soon forgotten, or too lightly remembered? So sneerers at all feelings have said—but it is not so. If the child plays with the verge of earth which wraps his parent's bones, and plays nevertheless joyfully, let us forgive him—rather, let us not censure him. They visit the dreams of his innocent sleep; and they rise upon his remembrance long years after the churchyard in which they repose is hidden from his view by thousands of miles of earth and ocean. The dead are not forgotten, neither are they remembered but with a hallowed and hallowing love, but we act as we are ordained to act, and wisely as mercifully has he who created us ordained, that the passionate grief of the bereaved living shall gradually but surely give way to reverence of the dead, to chastened belief in the fitness of our separation from them upon earth, to touching, and yet not revolting reflection that we, too, in the fulness of time, shall be even as they are, and remembered even as we remember them, and an humble and chastening hope that as we loved them upon earth, so shall we join them in heaven. Mercifully as wisely is this self-consoling power implanted in nature, and he who sneers at grief because it at length receives consolation, has either never had occasion to grieve, or proves the injustice of his own sneer, by proving that he has forgotten the very character and process of his own grief.

One reason given why the Londoners omitted the use of wood in constructing the building for the World's Fair, is, there would be so many Yankees there they were afraid they would "whittle it down."

There is a woman in London who recollects the year and chapter of every act of Parliament upon every subject. She is a book folder's forewoman, and is in great repute among lawyers.

## Communications.

### ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Editor,

In your paper of the 24th inst., I observe an account of a meeting held in the County of Kent, and the Resolutions and Petitions adopted thereat, with regard to the Elective Legislative Council Bill, together with the letter of David Wark, Esq., to the Attorney General, on the same subject. The petitioners, and the late Representative of the County, appear to consider that the principal reason for a reformation in the constitution of the Council, is in the language of the first resolution—"that its members having been almost exclusively selected from a few of the most populous Counties, they did not on all occasions possess such information as would enable them satisfactorily to decide on questions affecting the local interests of less favored Counties." Now, I apprehend that such was never contemplated as the object of a Legislative Council, or that body in the parent state to which it is analogous. The lower branch of the Legislature being chosen by the local constituencies, are supposed to obtain that confidence, that while studying the welfare of the whole state, they will see that measures are not passed averse or injurious to the interests of their own localities, on which subjects they may be supposed to be the proper channels of information. On the other hand, again, the Legislative Council, not required to be selected from particular districts, is formed of persons not chosen on account of their local knowledge, but for their wealth, intelligence, and influence in the Province; a body intended to afford that necessary check on the proceedings of the lower house, which our well balanced Constitution demands, and being independent of the popular voice, it may often restrain the hasty and ill-advised legislation of popular leaders, urged on by the pressure from without, contrary to their own inclinations and sounder judgment.

This local knowledge, which Mr. Wark thinks so essential a qualification for a Legislative Councillor, becomes also of less importance, when we consider that by the introduction of Municipal Corporations, the local affairs will be entrusted to the control of the people themselves, and the attention of the Legislature more exclusively directed to measures calculated to foster the general welfare, and develop the resources of the whole Province.

The causes which, I think, urged our Representatives to seek from Her Majesty a change in our constitution, was the feeling, that under our present form of Government, the Legislative Council, as now constituted, would form but a feeble barrier or check on the legislation of the House of Assembly, having the experience of Nova Scotia as a beacon to guide them, and as they themselves have expressed in their Address, to which neither the petitioners nor Mr. Wark seem to have referred. "The extension of the principle of self-government has increased the power of the House of Assembly over the Legislative Council, in consequence of the appointment to seats in that body being virtually vested in the Executive Council; that the Legislative Council does not now retain that constitutional check which that branch is called upon to exercise according to the theory of our mixed form of government."

Regarding the independence of the second branch of the Legislature, as an object of paramount importance, we are desirous of adopting means to accomplish that end.

Believing that the mode of appointing Legislative Councillors by the Crown is open to the objections we have before stated, we humbly suggest that an Elective Legislative Council could be so formed as to secure a more perfect constitutional balance in the adjustment of our Provincial Government, than any other attainable in the present state of Colonial Society."

"We abstain from offering to your Majesty any opinion as to the practical details by which the change in our constitution can be best effected, satisfied that under the guidance of your Majesty and your constitutional advisers, the Legislature of New Brunswick can settle such details in such manner as will give effect to that principle consistently with our institutions, and secure such a representation of the wealth, property, and intelligence of the country, in the aristocratic branch of the Legislature, as is consistent with the happiness and constitutional security of your Majesty's subjects in the Province."

This plainly shows that the intentions of the Legislature in seeking this change was not from the supposition that a want of local knowledge, and ignorance of necessities of counties, were prevalent in the Legislative Council.

The next objection is the expense which would necessarily accrue, in carrying out the provisions of the Bill; and certainly the statistics which are adduced to sustain this position, would seem at first sight startling, but the same may be urged in opposition to every reform in our constitution; and even in the manner suggested in the petition, the expense, I think, will not be much less. But the petitioners here allude, and beg reference to the United States and their Senate, as a precedent. I think the authors of the petition are rather unhappy in their reference, as the United States Senate is a different body from any we might select here, as they are chosen equally by every State; Rhode Island sends as many as New York or Ohio; but they are the representatives of a constituency far exceeding the population of this Province. The

only analogy that can be drawn from it is, that as these Senators are elected by the Legislatures of the different States, the petitioners may have thought that these Legislative Councillors might be chosen by the Municipal Council of a county. This would certainly avoid the dreaded expense, and render the elements of the Legislative bodies essentially different. If we go to the different States, and take for example their Legislatures which are more in analogy to our elective bodies, we would find that the very objections which are urged in the petition, are the ground-work of these elective legislatures. The Senate is chosen in some States annually, in others biennially or triennially, and if frequent elections are not to take place, why call upon the government to take the constitution of the Legislatures of the American Union for precedents? The Senators also in the various States are elected altogether by electoral districts, sometimes embracing only one county, but frequently two or more; and the House of Representatives, or Assembly, in each State, is chosen more directly from localities. These are the only precedents which can be adduced, for I believe that this is the first British Colony which has attempted it, and they decidedly militate against the views of the petitioners and Mr. Wark, and support the provisions of the government bill.

It is no doubt a difficult matter to effect such an important change in our constitution, and should be approached with caution. If, as the inhabitants of Kent would wish, the counties should elect the Councillors, and by the same class of electors who choose the members of the House, and as silence gives consent, it must be supposed that the franchise as at present proposed, is acceptable, it is fairly to be inferred that the same class will return the same description of members. A better plan, and one by which the dreaded expense might be avoided, would be, either to abolish the second branch altogether, if it is to be similar, or that, at a general election, the first person on the poll should act as Councillor, and the next two or four should be the members of the House.

But, Mr. Editor, I wish to see the Legislative Council constituted so as to perform its proper constitutional functions; that as in the American Republic, the House of Representatives represent the people, and the Senate the property, wealth and intelligence of the country, so these two bodies in our Province may respectively be formed so as each to represent its proper interests. But if they are to be composed of the same elements, and no essential difference to exist but in name, as Mr. Wark would seem to desire, I think that the change contemplated would be worse than the present system, and that a Council nominated by the Crown would preserve the constitutional balance, so necessary to our peculiar form of government, in a better manner than an electoral body framed as Mr. Wark would appear to contemplate.

I have taken up greater space in your valuable journal than I intended, but inability to treat this important subject in a less lengthy communication is my only excuse.

#### A CONSTITUTIONALIST

Bathurst, March 31, 1851.

#### POLITICAL.

MY DEAR FLORENCE,

When I pledged myself to write you a few short letters on our political affairs in this section of the Province, I was but little aware of the nature of the obligation under which I was binding myself. Little did I think how broken and rugged would be the stormy, briar-strewn path over which I would have to tread, or how dark and deep the winding mazes of Provincial legislation through which I would have to grope my way. But now that I have taken up my pen, and am about to commence my voyage, I find myself as much perplexed as to what course I am going to steer, as the bewildered traveller, lured from his path by the fleeting glimmer of the spectre of a magic lantern.

But if I was unaware of the many obstacles and difficulties that attended the fulfilment of my promise, at the time of its being made, when our political bark glided smoothly onward over the smooth surface of the stream of unopposed Power, how much greater the difficulty against which I have to contend, when the stream of our public affairs, by some strange freak of nature, has been thrown from its natural bed, and madly dashes down the mountain side, and the proud bark that it once bore upon its smooth surface madly rushing on to the sunken rocks upon which it is to be dashed or shivered to atoms, or resting upon the last ledge overhanging the yawning gulf into which she is about to be precipitated. Well, be it so: no matter how intricate may be the path, or how complicated the difficulties that stare me in the face, it is useless to look back with vain regret. It is not for the bewildered mariner, without chart or compass on the trackless ocean, to consider how he lost his track, but having lost it, what he is to do, and what course he is to steer, to gain his intended port.

When the wayward tourist, travelling among the ruins of Time, approaches places or scenes immortalised in the pages of the history of the past, his vision is not arrested or his mind absorbed in contemplating the minute objects around him, but wanders onward to where some dim blue pyramid rears its towering head, solemn and sublime, above the surrounding waste, triumphant over the march of Time—some dark volcano, from its deep entrails, bellowing forth its suppressed thunder, or from its burning cone belching forth streams of lava, as if in destruction to the human race; or in contemplation wanders over the field of fame, where the destiny of kings