

aid was to be trusted above all earthly things; and Ada trusted it. Her cousin, Jarndyce, had written to her a few months ago—a plain, honest letter, Ada said—proposing the arrangement we were now to enter on, and telling her that 'in time it might heal some of the wounds made by the miserable Chancery suit.' She had replied, gratefully accepting his proposal. Richard had received a similar one, and had made a similar response. He had seen Mr Jarndyce once, but only once, five years ago, at Winchester school. He had told Ada, when they were leaning on the screen before the fire where I found them, that he recollected him as a 'bluff, rosy fellow.' This was the utmost description Ada could give me.

It set me thinking so, that when Ada was asleep, I still remained before the fire, wondering about Bleak House, and wondering and wondering that yesterday morning should seem so long ago. I don't know where my thoughts had wandered, when they were recalled by a tap at the door.

I opened it softly, and found Miss Jellyby shivering there, with a broken candle in a broken candlestick in one hand, and an egg cup in the other.

'Good night!' she said, very sulkily.

'Good night!' said I.

'May I come in?' she shortly and unexpectedly asked me, in the same sulky way.

'Certainly,' said I. 'Don't wake Miss Clara.'

She would not sit down, but stood by the fire, dipping her inky middle finger in the egg cup, which contained vinegar, and smearing it over the ink stains on her face, frowning the whole time, and looking very gloomy.

'I wish Africa was dead,' she said on a sudden.

I was going to remonstrate.

'I do,' she said. 'Don't talk to me, Miss Summerson. I hate it and detest it. It's a beast.'

I told her she was tired, and I was sorry. I put my hand upon her head, and touched her forehead, and said it was not now, but would be cool to-morrow. She still stood, pouting and frowning at me; but presently put down her egg cup, and turned softly toward the bed where Ada lay.

'She is very pretty,' she said, with the same knitted brow, and in the same uncivil manner.

I assented with a smile.

'An orphan. Ain't she?'

'Yes.'

'But knows a quantity, I suppose? Can dance and play music, and sing? She can talk French, I suppose, and do geography, and globes, and needlework, and every thing?'

'No doubt,' said I.

'I can't,' she returned. 'I can't do anything hardly, except write. I'm always writing for Ma. I wonder you two were not ashamed of yourselves to come in this afternoon, and see me able to do nothing else. It was like your ill-nature. Yet you think yourselves very fine, I dare say!'

I could see that the poor girl was near crying, and I resumed my chair without speaking, and looked at her (I hope), as mildly as I felt toward her.

'It's disgraceful,' she said. 'You know it is. The whole house is disgraceful. The children are disgraceful. I'm disgraceful.—Pa's miserable, and no wonder. Priscilla drinks—she's always drinking. It's a great shame, and a great story, of you, if you say you didn't smell her to day. It was as bad as a public house, waiting at dinner, you know it was.'

'My dear, I don't know it,' said I.

'You do,' she said, very shortly. 'You shan't say you don't. You do.'

'O my dear,' said I, 'if you won't let me speak—'

'You're speaking now. You know you are. Don't tell stories, Miss Summerson.'

'My dear,' said I, 'as long as you won't hear me out—'

'I don't want to hear you out.'

'O yes, I think you do,' said I, 'because that would be very unreasonable. I did not know what you tell me, because the servant did not come near me at dinner; but I don't doubt what you tell me, and I am sorry to hear it.'

'You needn't make a merit of that,' said she.

'No, my dear,' said I. 'That would be very foolish.'

She was still standing by the bed, and now stooped down (but still with the same discontented face) and kissed Ada. That done, she came softly back, and stood by the side of my chair. Her bosom was heaving in a distressful manner that I greatly pitied her; but I thought it better not to speak.

'I wish I was dead,' she broke out. 'I wish we were all dead. It would be a great deal better for us.'

In a moment afterward, she knelt on the ground at my side, hid her face in my dress, passionately begged my pardon and wept.—I comforted her, and would have raised her, but she cried, No, no; she wanted to stay there.

'You used to teach girls,' she said. 'If you could only have taught me, I could have learned from you. I am so very miserable, and I like you so very much.'

I could not persuade her to sit by me, or to do anything but move a ragged stool to where she was kneeling, and take that, and still hold my dress in the same manner. By degrees, the poor tired girl fell asleep; and then I contrived to raise her head so that it should rest on my lap, and to cover us both with a shawl. The fire went out, and all night long she slumbered thus before the ashy grate.

At first I was painfully awake, and vainly tried to lose myself, with my eyes closed, among the scenes of the day. At length, by slow degrees, they became indistinct and mingled. I began to lose the identity of the sleeper resting on me. Now, it was Ada; now, one of my old Reading friends from whom I could not believe I had so recently parted. Now, it was the little mad woman worn out with courtesying and smiling; now, some one in authority at Bleak House. Lastly, it was no one, and I was no one.

The purblind day was feebly struggling with the fog, when I opened my eyes to encounter those of a dirty-faced little spectre fixed upon me. Peepy had scaled his crib, and crept down in his bedgown and cap, and was so cold that his teeth were chattering as if he had cut them all.

The Politician.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the St. John Freeman.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

By yesterday's mail we received a letter from a Subscriber at Sussex Vale, in which, after writing about some business matters, he says:—

'I hope you will give us in your next some comments on the Hon. J. A. Street's reply to the requisition got up by his constituents in Northumberland. Surely he will resign his seat at once, after the many promises which he made before God and man, that he would resign if he did not fulfil the trust reposed in him, which it is clear he has not done or else they would not call on him to resign. What an Attorney General and violate his pledges so barefacedly. Why we will have a government which will surpass in despotism that of Nero. Give us some comments. Yours, &c.'

Now we would have no objection whatever to "give some comments" to our friends in King's County, and elsewhere, in addition to what we have already said of the honor, consistency, and manly independence of the leader of the Government, if we knew exactly how to deal with the matter so as to produce any effect. It is plain that Mr Street has forfeited the confidence of his constituents, and that if he regarded pledges or protestations, if he knew anything of the principles of Responsible Government of which he has latterly delighted to expatiate; if he had one spark of that honorable, manly, independent spirit to which he lays claim; if place were not dearer to him than character, and his salary than the approval and confidence of his constituents; if that pretended zeal for the interests of the Province, which forced him to do what he declared to be repugnant to his own wishes and the wishes of the people of Northumberland, and to give in his adhesion to a policy against which he said he had struggled as long as opposition was possible, were not in reality an immeasurable love of self,—he would not hesitate one hour to resign a trust which 1,200 of his constituents called on him to give back to them.

But he is determined to retain his seat, and though he may not be insensible to the voice of public condemnation, and the denunciations of the press, he will hold on to the last and trust to fortune to get a seat somewhere before, or at the next election, on the Bench or in the House. It is a principle well known, and on which any public man who really valued his character never refused to act, that when the majority of a constituency, especially if they be the men who elected him, call on a representative to resign, he is bound by every consideration of honor and justice to do so; and that when it is asserted that the conduct of a representative is adverse to the wishes or interests of his constituents, the constituents—not the representative—are to be the judges. But Mr Street will not admit the application of this principle to his case. He enunciates just such principles as suit him, and if the public won't see their correctness, he will only regard their stupid insensibility with noisy, verbose astonishment.

For he enunciates new principles of Agriculture and Rural Economy; of Political Economy and Railroads; of Education and Morals—all very new, very difficult to understand, and in his opinion, no doubt, very correct.

The only way to improve the leader, correct his faults, or improve his principles is, by getting rid of him.

We are glad to perceive that the farmers of King's regard the leader's conduct in its proper light. We publish this extract for the Attorney General's special benefit. Perhaps it may be of some use to him to learn what the people of King's think of him.

There has been a loss of £900, during the last half year, upon the working of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway.

Judge Perrin fined the sheriff of Dundalk £50 for not having a dinner ready for him at the opening of the assizes.

The number of German emigrants who passed through Cologne in the month of February, to embark for America, was 20,000.

Professor Kellner has made his escape from the fortress of Cassel, in which he had been immured by the Austrians.

A meeting has been held in Dublin to take steps for erecting a suitable monument to Moore the Poet.

EUROPE.

WRECK OF THE BRITISH STEAM FRIGATE BIRKENHEAD.

LOSS OF 454 LIVES.

Another terrible disaster has happened at sea. At two o'clock in the morning of the 26th of February, Her Majesty's steamer, the *Birkenhead*, was wrecked between two and three miles from the shore of Southern Africa. The exact spot at which the calamity happened was Point Danger. Off this point she struck upon a reef of sunken rocks. The ship was steaming eight and a half knots at the time. The water was smooth and the sky serene, but the speed at which the vessel was passing through the water proved her destruction. The rock penetrated through her bottom just aft the foremast, and in twenty minutes' time there were a few floating spars and a few miserable creatures clinging to them, and this was all that remained of the *Birkenhead*. Of 638 persons who had left Simon's Bay in the gallant ship but a few hours before, only 184 remain to tell the tale. No less than 454 Englishmen have come to so lamentable an end.

There is no mystery about the calamity.—We are not left, as in the case of the *Amazon*, to conjecture the origin of the disaster. Just what happened to the *Orion* off the Scottish coast, or to the *Great Liverpool* off Cape Finisterre has happened now. Captain Salmond, the officer in command, anxious to shorten the run to Algon Bay as much as was possible, and more than was prudent, hugged the shore too closely. Four hundred and fifty-four persons have lost their lives in consequence of his temerity.

As soon as the vessel struck upon the rocks the rush of water was so great, that the men on the lower deck were drowned in their hammocks.

Theirs was the happier fate; at least, they were spared the terrible agony of the next twenty minutes. At least the manner of death was less painful than with others, who were first crushed beneath the falling spars and funnel, and then swept away to be devoured by the sharks, who were prowling round the wreck.

From the moment that the ship struck, all appears to have been done that human courage or coolness could effect. The soldiers were mustered on the after-deck. The instinct of discipline was stronger even than the instinct of life. The men fell into place as coolly as on the parade ground. They were told off into reliefs, and sent—some to the chain pumps, some to the paddle box boats. Captain Wright, of the 91st Regiment who survives to relate the dreadful scene, tells us—

'Every man did as he was directed, and here was not a cry or a murmur among them until the vessel made her final plunge. I could not name any individual officer who did more than another. All received their orders, and had them carried out as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom; there was only this difference—that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion.'

Poor fellows! Had they died in the battlefield, and in their country's cause, their fate would have excited less poignant regret; but there is something inexpressibly touching in the quiet unflinching resolution of so many brave hearts struggling manfully to the last against an inevitable disaster. It is gratifying also to find that the women and children were all saved. They had been quietly collected under the poop awning, and were as quietly got over the ship's side, and passed into the cutter. The boat stood off about 150 yards from the ill-starred *Birkenhead*, and all were saved. There is not the name of a single woman or child upon the list of perished. The other boats, as is usual in such cases, were not forthcoming in the hour of need. One gig and two cutters is all that could be rendered available.

In one account we find that when the men were ordered to get the paddle box boats out the pin of the davits was rusted in, and could not be got out! Captain Wright, on the other hand, tells us that when the funnel went over the side it carried away the starboard paddle-box and boat, and that the other paddle-box boat capsized as it was being lowered. Of the 184 persons who were saved, 116 made their escape in the other boats which succeeded in getting clear of the wreck.

Annexed are the names of the military officers drowned:—Major Seaton, Lieutenants G. W. Robinson, A. H. Booth, Ensign Boyland, Ensign Medford, Ensign Russell, and Cornet Rolt.

The following are the names of the naval officers lost:—Mr R. Salmond, master, commanding; Mr W. Brodie, master, Mr J. O. D. Davies, second master; Mr W. Whyham, chief engineer; Mr C. W. Hare, master's assistant; Mr James McClymont, assistant engineer; Mr Deeley, assistant engineer; Mr T. Harris, boatswain; Mr James Roberts, carpenter.

Never was destruction more sudden or more complete. Within fifteen minutes after the vessel struck, the bow broke short off.—Five minutes more elapsed, and the hull of the vessel went in two crossways, just abait the engine-room. The stern part of the vessel immediately surged, filled, and went down. The only hope of the survivors lay in the main topmast and main topsail yard, which still showed above water. There were some fragments of the fore-castle deck still floating about; there were a few spars and drift wood. About forty-five people clung to the yard, and, after remaining there until two o'clock the following afternoon, were

picked off by the *Lioness*, a schooner which was providently at hand. Captain Wright asserts that of the 200 persons, more or less, who were clinging to the driftwood when he got away, nearly every man might have been saved had one of the boats done her duty. Into this boat the assistant surgeon had got, with eight men. They immediately pulled away, and landed about fifteen miles from the vessel.

The fact appears to have been, that the poor creatures who were clinging to the drift weed had been carried by the swell in the direction of Point Danger. There they got entangled in sea-weed, which at this point of the coast is thick and of immense length.—Capt. Wright's opinion is, that had not the assistant-surgeon carried off the boat, or even had the boat pulled back to the scene of the disaster, after landing the medical gentleman in safety, the majority of these persons might have been picked off the sea-weed. It only remains for us to mention here that Captain Salmond, who appears to have done his duty after the vessel struck, has not survived the calamity. When last seen alive, he was swimming from the stern-post of the ship, which had just gone down, to a portion of the fore-castle deck, which was floating about twenty yards from the main body of the wreck; something struck him on the back of the head, and he never rose again.—*London Times April 7.*

The discovery of gold in Queen Charlotte's Island, one of the British possessions north of Vancouver's Island, has been satisfactorily established. A report to that effect was mentioned in the last American papers, and its accuracy is confirmed by advices received in London. It appears that the Hudson Bay Company having been informed of the probable existence of deposits in that quarter, sent a brigantine called the *Una*, with a small crew, to Englefort bay on the west side of the Island, (the spot indicated) and that after a short search an extremely rich vein of quartz was laid open. The vein was about seven inches in width on the surface, and its course was from the shore to the interior. The party had no means of obtaining any specimens except by gunpowder, but they succeeded in extracting some considerable pieces, which are now on their way to England, and which are alleged to contain, as well as could be estimated, one pound of pure gold to every seven pounds of ore. In the course of their operations they penetrated to a depth of about two feet, and found the vein more valuable as they descended. The Island is inhabited solely by Indians, who are both numerous and formidable; and although they are generally friendly to the Hudson's Bay people, it was not considered safe for a small number of persons to attempt any lengthened operations. A knowledge of the value of the gold seems to have been acquired by them, and they watched the process of blasting, rushing forward in a crowd, after each explosion, to scramble for the fragments until the officer in charge of the expedition deemed it advisable to withdraw, to avoid the chances of a collision. The weather at the time was also unfavorable to a lengthened stay, and on her return to Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, the vessel was driven ashore at Neah Bay, in the straits of Juan du Fuca. Another and stronger party have, however, since been despatched, and in a short time a report of further explorations may be anticipated. Queen Charlotte's Island and Vancouver's Island are both mountainous, and from the similarity of their formation, it would seem probable that if one is found to be rich, the other may possess a similar character.—*London Times.*

SOUTH AMERICA.

Late and important from Chili.—The *Wimfield Scott*, at New York, brought advices from Valparaiso to the 20th of March. An American whaleship, name not stated, was seized by the convicts on the Gallapagos Islands, and the captain and crew murdered. The convicts then proceeded towards Guayaquil, with the intention of opposing Gen. Flores. On the way they fell in with two schooners belonging to Flores, and having seized them, murdered all on board in the most brutal manner, including the nephew and son-in-law of Gen. Flores.—On one of those vessels, they cut the throats of 53 men.

The whaleship was afterwards taken possession of by a Swedish frigate, the convicts placed in irons, and the vessel anchored in the Guayaquil river.

The expedition of Gen. Flores, it was believed, would prove a total failure, though the greatest excitement prevailed at Guayaquil, partly in consequence of a Swedish frigate having been stationed at the mouth of the river, to prevent vessels entering without proper papers.

NOVA SCOTIA.

It will be seen by advertisement that two vessels are up to sail from this port for Australia—one the *Erie* for which W. L. Evans, Esq. is Agent—the other the *Sebin* for which Messrs. Cochran & Co. are acting. We are not acquainted with the circumstances which originated the first named of these enterprises. The second we understand was first mooted at Barrington, where the vessel is owned, and in which township about twenty men have already enrolled their names as passengers.—To those wishing to emigrate to that distant region the scheme adopted by the owners of the *Sebin* offers very great advantages. It is simply required that forty persons should plank down £25 each, as the price of the ves-