

home. There is nobody at my house to-night to interrupt us. Take a bachelor's dinner with me, and let me hear all that has befallen you."

"Time was," he answered, "when I could have accepted your invitation to dine with a free heart. Now, I feel as if I were receiving a charity."

"Good heavens!" I murmured, grasping his terrible meaning at once; but then I checked myself suddenly, and replied, with the wish to revive hope: "You give way too soon, my dear sir. We lawyers are accustomed to see strange vicissitudes; and we do not give up the fates of men till long after they have given them up themselves. But come, our dinner is being overcooked, and it is too simple to bear spoiling."

"Go on—go on," he said, in a choking voice, "I will dine once more."

I put my arm through his, unceremoniously, and walked along with him, supporting his unsteady steps. When we got into the lights of Regent-street, I saw—without appearing at all to look at him—that his dress was worn and dirty; but, nevertheless, I kept tight hold of his arm; but I perceived I saw a sort of shrinking from the glare that might soon make him run away from me. Yet, with all, there was that indefinable gentlemanly look, which made the common eye pass over him without notice of his shabby dress.

When he arrived at my house I told my servant to put another cover on the table, and led the way to the drawing room, which was lighted but dimly, however, for I abominated a harsh glare. I do not know how I should have got over five minutes; for it was my object not to appear observant of any thing amiss, or to enter upon any of the painful themes which I feared were in his heart, till he had taken some refreshment. The punctuality of my habits, however, spared me any trial. The servants knew I loved everything to be ready, and never delayed dinner after my arrival longer than just allowed me to wash my hands.

I took him into my little dressing-room on one side of the drawing-room, and he washed his face, and neck, and hands—I may say eagerly—murmuring, with a sort of sigh "How fragrant this soap is!"

The words were hardly spoken when dinner was announced, and we went down. I then perceived that his dress was very shabby—very shabby, indeed—and that his linen was by no means fresh and clean. I took no notice, however, and took care to treat him exactly as I would have treated him in other circumstances, without any extraordinary civilities, but with easy cordiality. He ate ravenously, and drank a sufficient, but not too abundant proportion of wine, his fair countenance seeming to expand and revive under the influence of nourishment which he had too evidently needed. As long as the man was in the room I avoided all allusion to his circumstances, talked upon indifferent matters, partly politics, and other subjects, in reference to which no sensible man had any real feelings, though intense excitement is often assumed to countenance electioneering or other manoeuvres. He listened with the air of one to whom such subjects were altogether new and strange: sometimes answered with a very vague sentence or two; but never grappled with any general question affecting his fellow-men and fellow-countrymen. He was evidently "not read up," upon the subject which I thought would interest him—subjects which every one who saw a newspaper, or took an active part in the world's doings, was conversant with.

As soon as dinner was done, and the man out of the room, I dashed at the main question at once. "Mr Hardy," I said, "I gather from your words when first I met you, that you have met with misfortunes. What are they? You are speaking with a friend—with one who knows you as a child—with one who is bound to you by ties not to be broken—with one who can counsel—perhaps assist you. Speak freely. I entreat you, and let me know what has happened."

He remained silent for some minutes. He leaned down his forehead and covered over his eyes with his hands. It was a terrible struggle for him to tell the whole. It was like the throes of a woman of labor for him to bring forth the tale. But at length it was spoken. He had married the beautiful, poor, rankless girl with whom I had seen him dancing, without and against his father's approval. He had been cast off in consequence, and had striven with the world for her sake till she died and left him with a child. Then he had appealed to his father and had received a cold letter and a hundred pounds. This saved him and the baby from starvation, and as long as the little girl lived he had a consolation and an object; but it died a month or two after its mother; and then the spirit of resistance seized upon him. He resolved never to appeal to his hard father again, to struggle with the world, to carve his own fortune, to do aught, to do every thing, rather than to be a dependent upon the mere pity of a parent. He flattered himself with fond hopes; he thought of his education—of his power of mind. But alas! those powers of mind had never had a practical direction: his education had not been of the world. Hope delayed, constant disappointment, rejected where he had the best right to expect employment, crushed his spirit. He tried every where and in every manner, he said, to earn his bare bread; but some refused to employ him because he was too high bred others because he was too smartly dressed; some because he had not already labored as a clerk; others because he did not write a round hand. Long weeks

of frustrated efforts wore away his means to a few pounds. Then came the desperate and last fatal resources. He took to the low gambling tables; he drank hard to keep up the feverish excitement that bore him on. Sometimes he won—sometimes he lost—one day he was in the fashionable dens of St. James's—one day in the dark holes near Leicester Square and Newport Market. Once he and a number of the others were taken by the police, their names exhibited in the papers—their examination in a Police court paraded to the eyes of the public. There was no end of miseries and degradations; and, oh, with that keen and cutting energy he depicted his mental sufferings—how he despised—how he abhorred his pursuits—his associates—himself. The strong spirit, the stout heart, the high pride had been at length broken and ground down, he said. He had written to his father, implored forgiveness—asked for a crust of bread. He had said "I have sinned before Heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." But the father had refused to hear, and the letter was returned without an answer.

[To be concluded.]

The Politician.

From the Editor's Table of Harper's Magazine.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

We see no fallacy in these statements or these comparisons. It is true that they may not at first view thus strike the mind. All public crimes have a tendency to draw upon them a conventional disguise. Their commonness creates for them a law, or rule which seems to separate them from acts of a similar nature on a lower scale, but really of less moral turpitude. It becomes necessary, therefore, to place them in new and varied lights, that their concealed deformity may be made to appear. We are familiar with these things. The conscience of the nation has become seared and stupefied. All parties have been guilty. Late events, however, have aroused the good men of every political section—and there are such, we have reason to believe, in them all—to a serious consideration of the mischief that is threatening the very life of our institutions. This therefore is a favorable time for the examination of the moral monstrosity, and for presenting it, with some prospect of public benefit, in the pages of a widely read and popular review. It can be done without exciting any just suspicion that the writer leans to any one party more than to another.

The enormity of the evil may, in this way, be expected to suggest, if not actually to work out, the means for its own cure. The honorable and true men of all parties have a personal interest in such a reform, because the irresistible tendency of the present practice is to exclude all of this character from public trusts.—Such tendency has already made itself quite manifest in our experience, and might have been foreseen and predicted *a priori*. We will not say that the doctrine openly avowed must bring into power the worst party; for that would be a partial reflection on the one now in the supremacy, which we have no design to make. But if it does not bring into power the worst party, it has a most certain tendency to make it such, unless a salutary defeat comes now and then for its purgation. This, however, may be affirmed with all confidence—if it does not give success to the worst party, it must certainly tend to the advantage of the worst faction of any predominant party; and not only that, but must also bring up to the political surface the worst men of that worst faction—thus ever producing a worse political pestilence, a more widespread and malignant moral malaria.

Nothing can arrest this tendency but the hearty repudiation, in all honorable and virtuous quarters, both of the practice and the idea. There need be, in saying this, no false modesty, or fear of offence. We well know the character of the men who may be called politicians by trade—who work the machinery of all parties.—There is no need of describing them.—These are the men to whom, if the doctrine be true at all, the offices of the country belong, and of right belong. They are the men who have worked for them, and they must be paid. Can there be a doubt about the inevitable effect of this? It is a road which is all the way and ever more down hill. Every year must witness a lower, and still lower degradation. Every successive election must bring up a lower, and still lower class of politicians; it must disclose a still deeper sinking into reckless political depravity, until, through disgust at the intolerable nuisance, the odious principle works at length its own abandonment. Have we arrived at the nethermost pitch? or is there still below.

"This lowest deep—a deep yet lower still." There is a consolation and hope in the thought that we may be near the returning point. We might even wish for a season the full carrying out of the spoils doctrine, could we only hope that it would be followed by some such awakening of the national conscience and the true national honor. If not thus checked, however, it must at every election draw forth from the mass of the people a greater amount of rotten material, only to carry back a still more corrupting and widespread pestilence.

Such must be the effect upon that well known and increasing class when we have styled politicians by trade. It must tend

every year to swell their numbers, and utterly vitiate their moral sense and moral characters. But beside all this, there is another consequence, less obvious, yet, perhaps, still more to be dreaded, because affecting more universally the masses of the nation, or the body politic in its corporate or organic action. It introduces here, in time, the same disease which has been so deadly in its operation on individual members. It affects not simply the outward national manners, or those who politically represent them, but the national heart. If our readers will allow us to go a little into causes and effects, the mode and working of this may be thus described: God has implanted in man an innate spiritual reverence for government, human as well as divine. It is not a blind instinct; it is not an unreasoning superstition, or ignorant prejudice, but one of the highest characteristics of our rationality. It is one of the things by which man is distinguished from the brute creation, and in which he is only feebly approached by a few of those higher animals who would seem to have some faint shadow of his reason. It is this political attribute, too, through which he claims affinity with the "Powers, Dominions, and Principalities in the Heavenly Places;"—in a word, the eternally-organized government, or governments of the great world above him. Thus man was made for government—and government he must have, not merely as a "necessary evil" in a fallen state, but in satisfaction of the most essential and interior want of his rational human nature. It is this which has made him "obey kings and all in authority," even when conscious of a physical power which might, at any time, have hurled them from their thrones. It is this which has made us ever, in the long run, prefer despotism to individualism. It has been the shield of authority, and the great defense against anarchy, in the early infant days of our humanity, before facilities of intercourse and a more general diffusion of knowledge had rendered practicable those constitutional forms of popular government which are the boast of modern times.

In other words, political authority has ever been regarded as something, which, in some way, partook of a divine sanction, or, at least, a superhuman idea, distinctly above any thing which might be traced to its highest origin in human wills.—Law, human law, has ever been thought of, as connected, to say the least, with that unseen moral power that sways the universe, and as deriving its highest claim to obedience from such connection. We might modify its outward forms; we might choose its administrators; we might regulate the amount and mode of its penalties; but the admission of any or all of these outward popular elements did not affect the idea which was independent of all forms, and equally sacred in the most republican as in the most monarchical institutions. The magistrate, whether designated by a physical law or descent, or selected by lot, or obtaining his authority from custom or patriarchal reverence, or chosen directly by popular suffrage, was still, while administering law, the minister of God, the agent of a higher than human authority, and thus bearing the sword of a true moral retribution as "a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them who do well." The same thought sheds its "religious light" over the seat of the legislator, and should fill with a religious dread every man who hopes for or aspires to the office. It is this which gives to law its moral power. It might be shown, too, that some such conservative idea, and conservative feeling, is essential to the very existence of human government; and that without it no forms, no constitutions, no charters written or unwritten, no orders and estates, no checks and balances, no aristocratic guards, or democratic flexibilities could long maintain its authority, or protect it from a rapid or gradual dissolution. It matters not by what process this idea is marred, and, finally, effaced from the minds of men—whether through the working of despotism or anarchy, whether through the brutalizing force of the tyrant or the corruption arts of the demagogue. It is the salt, whose savor wholly gone, political organizations of any kind can no longer be preserved. Thenceforth they are good for nothing. It is their fitness as well as their historical doom "to be cast out and trodden under foot of men."

FRIDAY'S MAIL.

NOVA SCOTIA.

THE HUMBOLDT.—Favored by the calm and genial weather of the last ten days, the ill-fated steamer has so far held together as to enable her owners to remove a large portion of her valuable cargo, which has been brought up to this city and put on board of the American Steamer Marion, which sails to-day for New York. The Humboldt was abandoned by the Captain and crew several days ago, and notwithstanding the fine weather, the constant action of the sea is gradually strewing the shore with scattered fragments of the wreck. From the shore, however, she can yet be surveyed in all her majestic length, the after part from the paddle boxes, being aground, and at low tide showing some feet above the water. Forward of the paddle boxes she has split in halves, the starboard side, which is next the shore, being still held by her cable at the bow, and by her planking to the stationary part of the wreck. This side of the vessel is still unbroken, exposing its concave surface to the sea, which, before many days, must dash to atoms.

It is supposed that much valuable property still remains in the vessel, that

could be saved if she would break up; and under this impression, an attempt was made by some of the officers of the Royal Engineers yesterday, to blow up the chains with gunpowder. For this purpose a cask had been properly prepared, into which a pewter or gutta percha pipe, of sufficient length to reach from the deck to the cask when submerged, was inserted, and inside of this was a lusee communicating with the powder. At about two o'clock the cask was carefully lowered, and all things being prepared, at half-past two the match was applied, but through some imperfection in the tube, the experiment failed.

Another attempt will be made this morning, and we doubt not with success. At any rate the Officers are deserving of all praise.

The great number of persons from the city who were present to witness the explosion were well treated by the inhabitants of Portuguese Cove. Houses were thrown open for the accommodation of all, horses were attended to and cared for, broken vehicles repaired, for all of which they refused to be compensated, and this has been the case day after day ever since the time of the wreck. The story, too, of the attempts, by the fishermen, to take violent possession of property, is a libel on the hardy fellows, as the captain and officers of the Humboldt have fully testified since their arrival in the city. Many still continue a search around the wreck, but when found, articles have always been restored to the persons appointed to receive them.—Colonist.

We rode over to Portuguese Cove on Saturday last, and found the remains of the splendid Steamer Humboldt lying, the quarter whole, and partially under water, and the starboard side from midships, governed by a chain and anchor pending to seaward. The cutter Daring, several fishing smacks, and other craft, were anchored off the cove, near enough for convenient intercourse with the wreck and shore; and numerous small boats were passing to and fro. Capt Barry, R. E., and others, were just at the point of leaving the wreck having adjusted a battery under the cabin floor when we arrived; and there was suddenly a scattering of anxious expectants and lookers-on, to get to a respectful distance from the element of destruction. After a suspense of at least sixteen or twenty minutes there was a crash, but not tremendous; some smoke and a few splinters rose above the deck. Quickly from the vessels at anchor, and the shore, boats well manned, supplied with long boat-hooks hurried to the wreck, and quite a scramble ensued, with some loud talking and elbowing.

A good many parcels were pitched into boats, and stowed away; the explosion did not appear, however, to have done enough damage to satisfy the desires of the earnest boat-hookers who crowded the deck to the number of 150 at least. Before we left the Cove, between 4 and 5 o'clock, p. m., preparations were being made for another "blow up", but which we understand did not take place. This we have learned, however, that several valuable packages were obtained during Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

In the evening there was trouble among the wreckers, a party of forty having been organized by the officers in charge of the ship, to save the goods on terms of salvage. Firearms and other weapons were introduced, fortunately, however, no blood was shed. One party, it is said, who could not get a bale of valuable goods to shore, which he found floating on Sunday morning, opened the bale and took as much as he could carry in his flat, leaving the remainder in the water.

The Portuguese Covers have made numerous acquaintances since the Humboldt came ashore; a great number of persons having visited them in their domiciles. We trust they mutually profit by the intercourse which the opportune afforded.—Halifax Sun, December 20.

WEST INDIES.

FROM JAMAICA.—Kingston, Jam. papers to the 26th ult., have been received. The Import Duty Bill has received the assent of the three branches of the Legislature. It takes effect from the 3d of November of this year, and will continue in force until the 31st December, 1854. Several important reductions have been effected in the rates chargeable on many of the most heavily taxed articles, such as salted beef, pork, and tongues, spirits, tobacco, wine, rice, jewelry, perfumery, gold and silver plate, &c. The duty on unenumerated goods and effects remains at 4 per cent ad valorem, with full drawback on exportation from the island.—Morning News.

A dreadful accident occurred on board the Merlin steamer on her last passage from Bermuda to New York. Mr Sutton the Chief Engineer, received such severe wounds about his head from the bursting of the cannon which he had fired for a pilot, that part of his brains were scattered about the deck. He was said to be a very promising and intelligent young man.

UNITED STATES.

THE AMERICAN FREE LIST.—The Boston Courier publishes a list of the articles which the Secretary of the Treasury has proposed to place on the free list. They have paid heretofore duties ranging from 5 to 20 per cent. Among the free articles are—

Cedar Wood, Ebony, Granadilla, Mahogany, Boxwood, Rosewood, Satinwood, and all Cabinet woods, unmanufactured, and firewood; Chronometers, box or ship, and parts thereof; Copper in pigs, bars, plates or sheet; Copper when old and fit only to be remanufactured; Corktree bark unmanufactured; Cream of Tartar; Cudbebs; Furs, Hatters' dressed or undres-

sed, when on the skin; Fruit, green, ripe, dried, or preserved; Lastings suitable for shoes, boots, booties or buttons, exclusively; Linens, bleached or unbleached; Rags, of whatever materials; Raw Hides and skins of all kinds, whether dried salter or pickled; Steel in bars, cast, shear, or German; Sumac; Sponges; Tallow, marrow, and all other grease and soap stocks and soap stuffs; Tin foil; Tin, in plates or sheets; tin plates, plates galvanized, Tin, in pigs, bars or blocks;—Type Metals, and old types; Watches, and parts of watches, and watch materials of all sorts and kinds; Wines, pure, of all kinds, except Champagne, and imitations of wines, and adulterated wines.—New Brunswick.

The wolves of Maine are said to be remarkably numerous and usually bold the present season. A few days since the stage and passengers from Rockland, while on their way to Machias, were driven back from the woods near Indian river, and detained over night, by a large detachment of wolves.

The New York Tribune and Herald are talking of raising the price of their daily papers from two to three cents a copy. The former estimates that the increase will add \$30,000 to their annual profits.

The Gloucester fishermen have all returned home. Of the whole fleet of 250 sails only three have been lost, and the crews of these were saved. Many of the vessels have returned home with not half fish enough to pay their bills, but some of them have made splendid voyages, stocking about \$7000 each. A large number of new vessels will be added to the fleet next year. Builders are now obtaining \$43 a ton for new contracts, which will make the cost of the new schooners about \$6000.—Newburyport Herald.

CALIFORNIA LOSSES.—The San Francisco Times and Transcript of the 15th ult., contains an article which gives the views of a merchant of that city in regard to the recklessness of Eastern shippers in forcing upon the market merchandise for which there is no immediate requirement, and which, in some instances, cannot be sold for cost and charges. He thinks that California can promise losses the present year to the amount of seven millions of dollars, and adds that while this fact is to be deeply regretted, the Eastern shippers may thank themselves for this loss.

He addresses the merchants and shippers of the Atlantic ports in the following style:—

And now, to make one last appeal to you, to cease shipments, not partially, but altogether, for four months. The sight of a clipper and cargo have changed from a pleasing to the revolting. You have loaded us, crushed us with goods, against fearfully ruinous prices, against a slowly increasing population, against good judgment, and a constantly falling market—against all these facts, reiterated every two weeks since last February.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—This large balance against the United States arises, of course, mainly from the circumstance that, although there were only three more trips by the Cunard line than were performed unitedly by the Collins, Bremen, and Havre lines, much the greater part of the mails were conveyed by the former.

The amount of postages for the year, on letters between the United States and the British North American provinces, under the postal arrangements with Canada and New Brunswick, by which each party retains what it collects, prepayment through to destination being optional on either side, was \$88,081 72 Collected in British provinces, \$44,812 47 Collected in United States \$43,269 25

Balance in favor of provinces \$1,543 22 The postage on printed matters to and from the provinces comes into the account of domestic postages. In respect to each printed matter, the rates are the same to and from the line as if it were circulated wholly within the United States; but payment through the destination is not permitted. On printed matter each party collects its own postage and from the line.

The arrangements with Canada and New Brunswick involve the keeping of no international accounts, and hitherto their operation has been satisfactory.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.—On the conduct of the Commander of the St. Louis, (Mediterranean Squadron,) it thus comments:

In calling to your attention to the movements of this Squadron, I cannot omit an especial reference to the conduct of Commander Ingraham, while in command of the St. Louis at Smyrna. An ocean of 10,000 miles separated him from his country, and his small sail was alone in bearing his country's flag. Violence was committed on the personal liberty of a man entitled to the protection of that flag. The perpetrators of the offence outnumbered him in vessels, guns and men. It was a moment of peril, involving honor and life. With prudence and discretion, yet with promptness and spirit, and marked determination, Commander Ingraham gave the protection, and the man is free. Such conduct, under such circumstances, surely entitles the officer to a most significant evidence of the Government's approval.

East India Squadron.—The extraordinary revolutionary movements agitating the millions of China, and threatening the overthrow of the present dynasty, and the hoped-for drawing of a new era in the history of trade and commerce with that singular people, impart unusual importance and interest to the movements of this squadron. In addition to the ordinary duties of the squadron, Commodore Perry was intrusted with the delicate task of endeavouring to open commercial intercourse with the Japanese Government. After visiting several smaller islands and having a favorable interview with their inhabitants,