

The young man was overwhelmed more and more.

'Ye'll say farewell to her ere ye gang?' inquired Mrs M'Vicar.

The interview took place; and some curious things occurred preparatory to it which puzzled Major Donnington almost as much as the discovery of Miss Preedy's wealth. In the first place as his knee continued a little stiff, he found a cane placed beside his chair to assist his walk to the drawing-room. He looked at the stick. It was a long gold-headed staff, of a very peculiar wood, and on the top was an inscription. It was a name: 'Elizabeth Donnington.' He passed his hand rapidly across his eyes as he looked at the words and continued his course. When he entered the drawing-room Miss Preedy was sitting in an arm-chair with the back to him. She wore a shawl—a rich patterned, gorgeous-coloured tasteful-bordered Indian shawl. She wore a black silk gown, with a particular stripe in the watering, which raveled his eyes. He advanced slowly towards the sitting figure, and saw her hand negligently spread on the arm of the chair. He looked at her hand—small, white, beautiful—and on her finger discovered a ring; it was an amethyst, surrounded with small pearls. There could be no mistake; the young man knelt and took her hand; it wasn't drawn away. He kissed the ring. Had he not a right to do so? It had been his mother's and was once his own.

And all that blessed month of April the Spring sun had been shining on the steep roofs and proud turrets of Daisy Hope. Paxton had sent down a man to lay out an old Scottish garden, with broad grass walks, and a stone sun-dial in the middle—and the place was now almost perfect—and when furniture began to arrive, the incubations of the inhabitants of Bank Row took higher flights than ever.—There was a rosewood table for the drawing-room, with a noble velvet cover to it, on which was embroidered in gold thread, an impossible griffin; there was a fur rug for the hearth; and some chairs with the same heraldic blazonry as the table-cloth: and speculations were as to when the new proprietors would come down to take possession.

One day in July the landlady of the Wallace Arms ushered into the bar, where I was sitting at lunch, and said, 'Oh, Mr Jocktieg, its a' come out! They're up stairs in the best saloon—the three o' them! And wha'd ye think they are? There's Bessy Miller, who took the name of Preedy after the half-dementit haveril that adopted her, because she was so like her dochter; and there's Mrs M'Vicar the widow o' the gude auld minister that recommended her to the place; she's had her for governaente and companion ever since Mrs. Preedy died; and the gentleman is Walter Donnington, the son o' the grand auld ledly that was Andrew Miller's lodger; and he's married to Bessy Miller—and oh! man, what a bonny cretur she is! and they're a' going to live at Daisy Hope—Mrs. M'Vicar told me so herself—she could keep the secret no longer; and the estates a' bought back; and look, there they go! what a handsome couple!—a wee cripple, may be, the man, but tall and strong!—and wheesh! that's Bessy Miller—they're just walking down to the Hope to see if the furniture's all right, and they'll take possession at the end of the week.'

NEW WORKS.

PUNISHING A MARAUDER.

All eyes were fixed on the Khan, who, in a voice of thunder, cried, 'Take him from his horse and tie him to its tail. Then let him be dragged along till the breath is out of his body. A crier, who will accompany him, will explain to the army the cause of his punishment.' As soon as the Khan had done speaking, the Tartar, without uttering a sound, got off his horse, and calmly gave himself up to the soldiers who were to bind him. But it so happened that there was neither cord nor strap for that purpose. Krim Girai, whose anger showed itself in the swelling of the veins of his forehead, ordered, to save time, that a bow-string should be used. He was told that a bow-string would be too short. 'Well, then,' cried he, stamping with rage, 'let the wretch put his head into the bow, and let him be dragged off.' The Tartar silently submitted to this order. A trooper mounted his horse, and the wretched man allowed himself to be dragged along the road without offering any resistance. But as he was unable to keep up with the trot of the horse, he fell to the ground, and thus freed his neck from the yoke which had confined him. The Khan perceived this new difficulty, foaming with rage. He paused a moment, and bit his lip, then with a fearful laugh exclaimed, 'Let the criminal again put his head through the bow, and hold it on with both his hands until he dies.' The Tartar now understood that he was to be his own executioner, and again gave a most astonishing proof of perfect submission to his sovereign's commands. Crossing his hands firmly on his breast, he held the bow, in which he placed his head, and was again fastened to the horse's tail. The horseman started away at a full gallop, and the intelligence was soon brought that the Tartar, who had not even in the moment of death changed his posture, had been dashed to pieces against a rock.—Khan of the Crimea.

THE BATTLE FIELD.

Before us, at a short distance, the narrow stream of the Tchernaya was creeping along, its course marked by small bushes and stunted trees, the only ones in the plain. It is but a rivulet at this season of the year; in many places a school-boy could jump over it. Its peaceful banks had that day witnessed a great slaughter. On both sides, death had driven his murderous chariot. The corpses lay thick and near. Pale and ghastly, their faces came suddenly upon you in the green grass near the river's brink, or stared at you out of the dust and dirt of the open road. Some bodies—but few—lay inverted, the back to the sky, the legs drawn up as if in a cramp, and their hands clutching in the last agony the face of their mother earth.—The greater number had fallen with the legs straight, the face upwards, and the arms half raised, appealing to heaven. The hands were clenched; as if in a mad attempt to retain that life which was leaving them. It was a dreadful sight. Legs and arms smashed by round shot, and bent up in positions which no athlete could imitate—the calm, meaningless vacancy of some faces, the stern set look of others—but worse than all, the hideous grimace with which a few had met their sudden fate! What pain—what agony of body and mind—what embittered recollections—what crushing of all hopes—might be read in those ghastly eyes, in that furrowed brow, that grinning mouth, set open by death, in its last wild cry to heaven—in those half clenched hands, of which the fingers seemed searching for something! And all this mass of destruction, this human holocaust, was the work of one man's ambition! Alas, that in war the punishment should fall on so many innocent, ere it can reach the one guilty! What crime was theirs—those hundreds struck down in the plenitude of their strength and manhood? The Russians had fought against an invading enemy. If reflection among the few went beyond that one fact, it was powerless against the stern necessity of military obedience. Those gallant French, now motionless and cold on a foreign soil, had died in the defence of Right and Might. One corpse on the battlefield particularly attracted my attention on. It was that of a Russian officer. The body, nearly stripped, was as white, and the skin as smooth, as that of a girl of sixteen.—The feet, from which boots and stockings had been taken, were small and beautifully formed, as if chiseled out of marble. He lay on his back. A round shot had struck him on the cheek. The lower jaw and teeth were there, and the unfledged chin—but the rest had disappeared. So much youth and beauty destroyed in one moment! His own mother would not have known her darling.—From our Tent in the Crimea and Wandering in Sebastopol. By Two Brothers.

DUNNING.—Dunning (afterwards Lord Ashburton) was stating the law to a jury at Guildhall, when Lord Mansfield interrupted him by saying, 'If that be law, I'll go home and burn my books.—My Lord, replied Dunning, you had better go home and read them. Dunning was remarkably ugly. One night, while he was playing whist, at Nando's with Horne Tooke and two others, Lord Thurlow called at the door and desired the waiter to give a note to Dunning, (with whom, though their politics were so different, he was very intimate). The waiter did not know Dunning by sight. Take the note up stairs, said Thurlow, and deliver it to the ugliest man at the card-table—to him who most resembles the knave of spades. The note immediately reached its destination.—Horne Tooke used often to tell the anecdote.

SHERIDAN.—I was present on the second day of Hastings' trial in Westminster-hall, when Sheridan was listened to with such attention that you might have heard a pin drop. During one of those days Sheridan, having observed Gibbon among the audience, took occasion to mention the luminous author of *The Decline and Fall*. After he had finished, one of his friends reproached him with flattering Gibbon. Why, what did I say of him? asked Sheridan. You called him the luminous author, &c.—Luminous! oh, I meant—vo-lu-minous.

One afternoon, at court, I was standing beside two intimate acquaintances of mine, an old nobleman and a middle aged lady of rank, when the former remarked to the latter that he thought a certain young lady near us was uncommonly beautiful. The middle-aged lady replied, I cannot see any particular beauty in her. Ah, madam, he rejoined, to us old men youth always appears beautiful; (a speech with which Wordsworth when I repeated it to him, was greatly struck). The fact is, till we are about to leave the world, we do not perceive how much it contains to excite our interest and admiration; and the bee upon the flower is now an object of curiosity to me, which it was not in my early days.—Roger's Table Talk.

A gentleman once said he should like to set a boat full of ladies adrift on the ocean, to see what course they would steer. A lady in the room replied, 'That's easy told—they would steer for the Isle of Man, to be sure!'

Cumberland, in one of his comedies, makes a husband say, 'Good nature in a wife is like gold leaf on a pill—it does not alter the dose but makes it go down.'

Legislative News.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

GENERAL REMARKS.

From Kent County line to Richibucto, 44 Miles.—This is a continuation of the last mentioned Road, and is a part of the Great Road from Fredericton to Richibucto; it has been but a short time on the establishment, and is as yet in a very imperfect state. It crosses in its course a number of rivers and streams, and though a portion of the ground is hilly much of it is flat and soft. The state of this Road is far behind that of the Great Roads in general of the Province. There are 10 Bridges on it and some of them are good, one will require rebuilding next summer; there are also several streams that have not as yet had Bridges built over them.

This Road will at no distant day become one of the great links connecting the Gulf Shore with the waters flowing into the Bay of Fundy and, as such, merits due consideration.

Improvement Richibucto Harbour.—During the Session of 1854 the sum of £5000 was placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor for the time being, for the purpose of deepening, widening and improving, such Harbours in the Province as might require the same, no part of such sum to be expended until a satisfactory certificate be first obtained from a scientific Engineer to be appointed for the purpose, as to the practicability of doing so. That his first survey and report be of the Harbour of Richibucto, for the improvement of which he shall submit a plan to the Government as to the practicability and permanency of said contemplated improvement, and estimates of the cost, to determine the Government as to the commencement of the work; that other Harbours be also subject to the same survey, examination and report, which may require deepening and improvement.

In the summer following, the services of Thomas C. Keefer Esquire, Civil Engineer, were engaged, who came from Canada and examined and reported upon the obstructions to navigation at the Port of Richibucto. Soundings were also subsequently made on the ice, by John Grant, Esquire, Civil Engineer, and the various depths of water on the whole extent of the Bar ascertained by him, and laid down on a plan.

Mr. Keefer states in his Report that the depth of water over the Bar is insufficient to admit loaded vessels of deep draught to pass; that, in consequence, they are compelled to lie outside a sufficient time to admit of their discharging and receiving about one half their cargoes, subject during the whole time to the exposure of the severe eastern storms so prevalent on the Gulf shore. That during the three preceding years twelve ships were wrecked, aggregating four thousand five hundred tons; valued, with their cargoes, at forty five thousand seven hundred pounds. That about ten millions of feet of sawed lumber are annually lighted over the Bar, and loaded outside at a cost of about two thousand pound to the shippers; and that the time for loading an ordinary ship inside is eight days, while frequently six or eight weeks are required to complete a cargo outside.

Mr. Keefer in conclusion says—that the existence of such a state of things another year or two, must render it impossible to procure freights, and operate injuriously on the character of the Gulf coast of New Brunswick, in the minds of Shipowners and Underwriters.

In his preliminary Report of the 18th September he says: It is however already apparent that the only feasible mode of improving the Navigation is by Dredging. And in his Report of the 30th December following we find he expressed an opinion that it is not probable that once opened the channel would fill up rapidly, as from the foregoing it appears that the Bar undergoes no sudden changes except those produced by violent storms, the tendency of which from the testimony of Pilots, has been to increase the depth of water.

The cost of outfit for Dredging is estimated by Mr. Keefer at sixteen thousand pounds, viz: seven thousand pounds for a first class Dredge, eight thousand for a steam tender, and one thousand pounds for scows and contingencies; the working expenses per day he estimates at seventeen pounds ten shillings.

Early in June last I visited the Harbour, and, in company with Mr. Grant and Mr. Powell an experienced Pilot of the Port, went down to the Bar which is distant from the Town of Richibucto about 4 miles. Mr. Powell pointed out the channel or deepest water across the Bar, designated by fixed buoys on either side.

I directed Mr. Grant to take soundings in three different lines, or sections, embracing a width of two hundred feet, and to make a plan shewing the depth of water on each, which was subsequently done.

It will be seen by the sketch that the depth of water varied from 8½ to 12 feet, and that the distance across the Bar was four hundred feet.

As the estimate by Mr Keefer to procure Dradge Machinery was far beyond the amount

of funds placed at Your Excellency's disposal, it was thought advisable to advertise for tenders and put the deepening of the Bar to thirteen feet at low water to public competition. It was taken by Messrs. Holderness & McLeod, Merchants at Kingston, in the County of Kent, for the sum of one thousand nine hundred and forty nine pounds twelve shillings, the work to be completed on or before the first day of July next. The Contractors to furnish all the machinery, &c., necessary for the completion of the work at their own expense, take all risks, and are not to receive anything in payment till the whole be finished to the entire satisfaction of the Government.

From the character and responsibility of the Contractors, as well as from the appliances known to be within their reach, there is reason to anticipate the success of this project. The stipulated price is small when compared with former estimates, or with the expense and risk which would inevitably result from any attempt to transport and use the Provincial Dredging Machine in that locality.

Erection of Light Houses.—Appropriations were made during the last Session of the Legislature for the erection of two Light Houses; one at the head of the Bay of Fundy, and the other on the Island of Miscou, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The building of the Light House, Keeper's Dwelling and Wood House on Miscou Island, has been let by public competition, and taken by Mr James Murray of Newcastle, in the County of Northumberland, for the sum of £1220, to be finished by the 1st day of September next. One third of the amount of contract was paid upon the Contractor entering into Bonds for the due performance of the work; one third is to be paid as the work progresses, and the remaining third when the whole is completed. This contract does not include the Lantern.

The situation of Miscou Island and its proximity to the mouth of the Saint Lawrence, renders a Light at that place of as of much importance to Canada as it is to New Brunswick; and although as yet no pledge has been given, I trust the Government of the first mentioned Province will see the propriety of providing for one half the expense. An additional sum of £300 will be required to purchase the Lantern, and complete the whole.

Renous River.—The sum of £100 was granted during the last Session of the Legislature for the improvement of the Navigation of this River.

This stream is in the County of Northumberland and empties into the South West Branch of the Miramichi, about 18 miles from Newcastle. Mr Wm. O'Brian, who resides near its outlet, was employed to superintend the expenditure of the grant and to assist in the prosecution of the work.

Operations were commenced at the junction of the two Rivers and extended up a distance of about 8 miles; the work was principally confined to blasting and removing large boulders, and clearing out smaller sized loose rocks.

In view of the depressed state of the trade in the country, and the probable deficiency in the Revenue, I do not think it expedient to recommend a grant to continue this service immediately.

South West Branch of the Miramichi.—In the summer of 1853 Alexander Goodfellow Esq, was appointed Commissioner for the purpose of examining the South West Branch of the Miramichi River.

On the 25th day of October in the same year he submitted a report, in which he explained the nature and extent of the obstructions that impeded the navigation of this River, from Indian Town to Doak's Bridge, a distance of about 35 miles.

Mr Goodfellow estimates the expense of the improvement recommended by him as being practicable at the amount of £600, or £200 per year for 3 years.

The Legislature has made two appropriations for this service, one of £200 in 1854 and one of £200 in 1855, making £400 in all.

The principal obstructions requiring to be removed from this River, as explained by Mr Goodfellow, are shelly ledges, large boulders, and smaller sized rocks.

Mr Swim was employed to take charge of this work and assist in its prosecution. After procuring the necessary machinery and other outfits, he commenced operations a short distance below the mouth of the Renous River and extended his works upwards, removing the principal obstructions as he advanced.

I visited the locality on the 20th day of October last and observed the manner in which the work was being executed. The party engaged had at that time proceeded about 8 miles

The amount expended, as shown by appended Account, is £298 4 2, leaving unexpended of the sum appropriated a balance of £101 15 10.

There is a considerable quantity of machinery, tools, &c. remaining on hand, so that the expense of outfit for next season will be much less than it was last.

I would recommend that a grant of £200 be made this Session, which with balance unappropriated would meet the expense of next summer's operations.