

room, but which had made many a wayfarer on land and ocean tremble. The wind rose again, however; gust after gust followed in rapid succession, and the dash and roar of the waves was soon heard in answer. It was a fearful tempest.

Mrs Howard became pale, and pressed Chrissie closer in her arms; and even Captain Howard, used as he had been to battle with storms from his boyhood, looked appalled.

"Do not tremble so, dear mama," said Chrissie, kissing her again and again; "we are quite safe in our own home, all together."

"Uncle Harry stroked the little girl's hair and smiled upon her.

"Henry," said Mrs Howard, "do not call me weak for it, but whenever the wind rises even a little, I suffer anxiety such as I cannot describe about my dear brother; think then, what I must feel to-night! If Edward should be in this hurricane!"

"This is a hurricane, truly," he replied, "but probably it does not extend far. It may be calm within a few leagues of us, I hope that where he is there is no more wind than just enough to fill the ship's sails, and bring him safe among us before long."

"But you forget," returned Mrs Howard, "how nearly the time of his arrival approaches; you forget that we have been watching for him for a week or more. See," she continued, taking a letter from her pocket, "this is dated two months ago, at the Cape. 'The ship,' he writes, 'is nearly refitted; they tell us it will be ready to sail again very soon in six or seven weeks we may hope to meet once more. Do not be surprised if I appear some day among you unawares. If I catch a glimpse of the white cliffs of your pretty island—' Oh, what a dreadful blast! Surely it thundered again!"

"No, it was wind; it blows a violent gale. What more does Edward say?"

"If I catch a glimpse of the white cliffs of your pretty island, I shall not be able to resist the attraction. I shall get a boat, if signals will bring one from Portsmouth or Southampton, and land at the dear old fisherman's pier below the cottage—"

"Edward Wortley is the same man as ever, you see," said Captain Howard. "—full of affection, and fond of adventures. But go on, I interrupt you."

"Land at the dear old fisherman's pier below the cottage, and, together with my good servant, John Wilson who brings his child and wife home, shall take you by storm; so be ready to receive us with a true English welcome, and with—'What was that sound?"

"Hush! be perfectly silent!" said Captain Howard. "Yes—there again! It is a signal gun! Some ship must be off the island in distress. I must go down to the beach."

"Take care of yourself, Henry! Do not rashly expose yourself to danger."

Chrissie began to cry at the word "danger," and took hold of her uncle's hand, keeping by his side as he went into the lobby to put on his rough coat and cap, and to call Adam, the gardener, to accompany him with a lantern. Mrs Howard followed. They were soon ready, and they opened the door easily enough but it required their united strength to shut it again, so violently did the wind rush in against it. The gun was meanwhile heard again.

"Mamma! mamma!" cried Chrissie, while the door still resisted. "I heard some one cry down there!" and she pointed towards the cliffs, at a place very near the cottage, where a narrow ravine or cleft in the rocks opened down to the sea. A path had been cut there, and it was by it that Captain Howard meant to go.

They paused and listened. Chrissie was right; in the short interval between the gusts of wind there was heard, mingling with the roar of the sea, a wild piercing shriek.

"It is a child's cry, Henry!" said Mrs Howard; "I must go down with you. Wait one instant, while I put on my cloak."

Captain Howard tried to dissuade her, but it was in vain; she would not listen, and Chrissie, though she trembled at seeing her mamma go out, yet said, as well as her quivering lips could speak, "Oh, yes, go and help the poor little child, and bring it in for us to take care of." So they all three went out, shut the door by main force, and nurse and Chrissie went into the warm room again, and waited anxiously for their return.

It was with difficulty, and holding by each other's arms, that they could stagger onward through the storm, the lantern casting a ray of light on the path in the midst of the inky darkness. They reached the head of the ravine, however, and turned down it, and here walked with comparative ease, sheltered by the rocks on either hand. They stopped for a moment to listen, but heard nothing except the thunder of the waves, lashed into fury, and dashing against the cliffs. They strove, with steady eye, to pierce the gloom, and see if anything living could be distinguished on the narrow path before them; when suddenly the rays of light from the lantern, which only extended a few yards, fell on the figure of a little girl. Her white dress and golden hair shone out against that dark

wall of rock. She tottered as her small bare feet led her onwards, and held out her arms, as if to balance herself; trembling with cold, and perhaps with fear, yet still holding and sturdily climbing upwards. Captain Howard caught her up in his arms, and she clung round his neck, as if the energy that had upheld her was about to give way. He held her fast, and Mrs Howard spoke to her soothingly, kissed her and wrapped her in her own cloak.

"We must return with this poor child," said Captain Howard, "and you will take care of her while Adam and I go down the pier. And yet we can do nothing. No boat could live in such a sea as that, and we hear no signals now. All is over—it is too likely."

They turned accordingly to go homewards, but no sooner had they done so than the child screamed wildly, spoke vehemently in a foreign tongue, and pointed down towards the sea.

"What can she mean?" said Captain Howard.

"Let us go down," replied Mrs Howard faintly; "some one she loves must be there."

"It must be so," said he; and, turning again, still carrying the child, who now lay tranquil in his arms, they proceeded till they nearly reached the beach. And now the spray began to dash on them, and the wind once more assailed them in all its fury. Captain Howard stopped for a moment to insist on his sister resuming her cloak, and to wrap his helpless burden within his own rough coat. The voices of men below them were brought by the wind to their ears as they began to move again, and, looking in the direction whence the sounds seemed to come, they could distinguish lights and dark figures congregated near a rock. They took the nearest path towards this spot, and arriving there they perceived a group of fishermen who had gathered round some object on the ground. They pressed through this group, and soon saw a mournful sight. Lying on his face, dressed in a light overcoat, lay the body of a drowned man. The child struggled to be put down, and when down threw herself beside him, clasping his neck fondly, and then looked up beseechingly to Captain Howard.

Trembling from head to foot, Mrs Howard too sank down beside the body, and in a hoarse voice begged that a lantern might be brought nearer. As the light fell on the wavy, auburn hair, drenched with salt water, she trembled yet more, and tried to speak again; but it seemed as if her tongue clove to the roof of her mouth—she could only, at last, almost in a whisper, which was yet heard through the storm, say, "The face! the face!"

Captain Howard hesitated. He too surely forbode the sight that awaited her; when, gathering energy from the extremity of her anguish, she herself raised the head, and convulsively turned the face towards her, and as instantly let it fall, and fell senseless by it herself. It was indeed her brother!

Communications.

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT.

January Session, 1857,
GRAND JURY ROOM.

January Session, 1857.
[CONCLUDED.]

PARISH OF LUDLOW.

Commissioner of Roads, District No 1.

No returns.

Commissioner of Roads, District No 2, Edward Price.

Balance due commissioner 4s 3d account approved.

Commissioner of Roads, District No 3, Scott Fairley.

This account credits as received from former commissioner, £0 13 7

Commutation Fines received, 3 15 0

4 8 7

No monies expended on Roads.

Eleven persons returned as paid,

Three persons only worked,

Fifteen persons as gone away, and two excused.

This is a singular return and shows that the commissioner did not attend to his duty in having allowed such a large proportion to go away without having performed their statute labour, or paid their commutation fines, commissioner has no power to excuse any person, he should have expended the amount collected. The Grand Jury recommend that the Court take the necessary steps to have the amount paid over to the County Treasurer.

PARISH OF ALNWICK.

Commissioner of Highway, Hon. James Davidson, Wm. M'Leod, Vital Allan.

There are vouchers for all the monies expended with the exception of 2s 6d for a three inch plank, which we believe correct.

This account on the credit side appears to be correct with the exception of an extension on the third line, which is five shillings short

which when added to the balance on hand, will

leave 37s 3d, in commissioner's hands, instead of 32s 3d as the account shows.

Overseers of the Poor, Robert Loggie, Louis Robicheau, Peter Morrison.

This account is correct in the addition and there are vouchers for all with the exception of £5, said to be due Cornelius Johnston for keeping paupers, but there are no particulars given; consequently this amount cannot be allowed; the whole account now shows a balance of £21 10s 7d due the Overseers of the Poor; the Grand Jury recommend that the amount be assessed.

There are no returns from the collector of rates. We presume that there has been no assessment made.

PARISH OF GLENELG.

Collector of rates, James Johnston.

Amount collected, £40 10 0

Returned as being in suit, £0 17 9

Parties left the parish, 1 7 3

Defaulters, 0 12 3

as not worth collecting.

The Grand Jury present that these small amounts are worth collecting and should have been attended to; balance in the hands of the collector 2s 11d, account correct and properly vouched, but is not signed or sworn to as the law directs.

Overseers of Poor, Donald Ross, John Bryce, Roger Deegan.

Balance due Overseers, 1855, £1 6 1

Amounts expended, £26 2 0

and 5 12 6

33 0 7

Account correct and satisfactory.

The Grand Jury recommend that the amount be assessed.

Commissioners of Roads, Charles Stewart, George Fowlie, Wm. Dickins, Jun.

Account shows amount received, £6 5 7 1/2

Amount expended as per voucher, £3 12 6

Balance due commissioners last year, 1 7 0

4 19 6

Balance in commissioners hands, 1 6 1 1/2

The above return considered satisfactory.

PARISH OF HARDWICK.

Commissioners of Highways, Upper District, John Williston.

Amount of commutation fines received, 1 10 6

Balance due commissioners last year, £0 5 1

Expended on Roads, 1 2 6

1 7 7

Balance in Commissioners hands 0 2 11

This account in form and satisfactory.

Commissioner of Highways, Middle District, Donald M'Leod.

Amount of commutation fines received, 0 17 6

Balance due commissioner last year, £0 1 10

Expended on Roads 10s 9d

Postage 3d, 0 11 0

0 12 10

Balance in commissioner's hands, 0 4 8

The commissioner returns, that one of his surveyors neglected to do his duty, that no work was performed or fines paid in that district, and that from the small amount of funds in his

(the commissioner's) hands, he did not feel himself justified in prosecuting him for neglect.

The Grand Jury considered the commissioner guilty of neglect of duty in not having prosecuted his surveyor.

Commissioner of Highways, Lower District, James M'Leann.

Balance on hand and commutation fines received, £4 3 11

Amount expended on Roads, 4 9 2

Balance due commissioner, 0 5 3

This account satisfactory.

Overseers of Poor.

This account shows a balance due the Overseers of the Poor last year 13s 6d

Amount expended this year, £18 9 9

making due Overseers, 19 3 2

Account correct, but it is only signed by one of the Overseers.

Collector of rates, Wm. Williston.

Amount of assessment, 33 18 6

Amount received, 36 18 6

Defaulters, 2 0 0

33 18 6

The amount received has been expended and properly vouched,

PARISH OF NELSON.

Overseers of the Poor, John Flett, John Esson.

Amount of assessment prayed, 154 16 10

The account is correct; the tender for supplies not returned,

Collector of rates, South Side, John Kain.

Amount of precept, 105 11 5

Amount expended, £96 14 0

Defaulters and dead, 9 18 3

106 12 3

Due the collector, 0 0 10

This account is correct, but not sworn to as required by law.

Collector of rates, North Side, Wm. Hart.

Amount of precept, 87 5 11

Amount expended, £84 4 3

Defaulters, 3 1 3

87 5 11

This account correct.

Commissioner of Highways, South Side, Lower District, John Kain

Commutation Fines received, 7 11 6

Charges expended, 10 18 8

Balance due commissioner, 3 7 2

This account is correct.

Commissioner of highways, Upper District.

No return.

Commissioner of Highways, North Side, Martin Power.

Commutation fines received, 6 12 6

Charges expended, 6 5 0

Balance in commissioners hand's

There appears due to Rowland Crocker from 1855, 0 6 6

which should be paid by Commissioner.

PARISH OF BLACKVILLER.

Overseers of the Poor, Patrick Whelan, Thomas Dumphy, John Whalen.

Account correct, Balance due the Overseers, 33 12 2 1/2

We recommend that this amount be assessed.

Collector of rates, Lower District, Edward Dalton.

Amount of precept, 12 14 2

Charges paid Overseers of the Poor, £11 2 11

Commission, 0 13 0

Defaulters, 0 11 3

12 12 2

Balance due the Collector, 0 2 0

Collector of Rates, Upper District, Robert Dumphy.

Amount of precept, 17 12 10

Charges expended, £16 0 8

Defaulters, 1 12 2

17 12 10

These accounts are not sworn to, and no list of assessment returned.

Commissioner of Highways, Upper District, James Donald.

By this return it appears that all worked.

Lower District, John M'Inrie commissioner.

Credits, Balance on hand, last year, 0 12 6

Received per fines this year, 1 17 6

2 10 0

Charges expended, 1 5 0

Balance in commissioners hands, £1 5 0

This return correct.

Middle District, no return.

GEORGE H. ROSELL, Foreman

Extract from the minutes, Grand Jury Room, January 10, 1857.

EDWARD WILLISTON, Clerk of the Peace, Northumberland.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.

WE make the following extracts from Farnworth and Jardine's Timber Circular dated at Liverpool on the 31st January.

Each succeeding year demonstrates the important influence the Timber Trade of this country exercises on the North American Colonies and on the shipping interest, and the activity or depression of this branch of commerce, is a fair criterion of the general state of trade. The tonnage engaged in the past year in the carrying of wood from the British Colonies to this port was 321,039 tons, and from the Baltic 24,126 tons, this in the aggregate is apparently less than in 1853, but if the new mode of measuring ships for the register tonnage be considered, the total will be found to exceed that of any previous year. Shipowners have on the whole met with profitable employment the rate of freight current in the trade having been remunerative throughout the season.

The importation of square Timber exceeds that of the previous year to the extent of 300,000 cubic feet, and of Deals to the extent of 778,000 cubic feet, the aggregate supply from the British Colonies being 18,703,000 cubic feet, against 17,625,000 cubic feet in the year 1855.

The consumption in the past year is apparently less than in the previous year but if due allowance be made for the extraneous demand for war purposes in 1855, it will be found largely to exceed the legitimate consumption of any previous year. The increase is again in Deals, the quantity consumed as being 10,883,000 cubic feet, against 10,180,000 feet in 1855, whereas of square timber it is only 6,442,000 feet, against 7,279,000 cubic feet.

The stock of Colonial wood is in the aggregate large when compared with previous years, but this surplus is chiefly in the article of Deals, the value of which is much less than any other description of wood, and far below the cost of import; it is therefore natural to conclude they will continue to demand increased attention from consumers, and the excess in stock may eventually be found to exceed but little the requirements of the country. The totals are 10,334,000 cubic feet, against 8,956,000 cubic feet last year.

Foreign Timber.—Under this head we class supplies from the North of Europe and from the United States, the aggregate importation is largely in excess of last year, but only about the average of the two previous years. Consumption is rather more than an average; so also is the stock held over, which will probably be found equal to the wants of consumers for the next six months.

The year commenced with this country engaged in an expensive war, which had considerably increased the value of money,—a large aggregate stock of wood,—full average prices,