

Poetry.

VICTORIA, ON HER WAY TO GUILDHALL.

BY MRS. OSGOOD, THE AMERICAN POETESS.

They told me the diamond-tint on her head
Gleamed out like chain-lightning amid her soft hair,
They told me the many hued glory it shed
Seemed a rainbow still playing resplendently there;
I marked not gem's regal lustre the while,
I saw but her sunny, her soul-illumined smile.

They told me the plume floated over her face,
Like a snowy cloud shading the rose light of morn;
I saw not the soft feather's tremulous grace,
I watched but the being by whom it was worn;
I watched her white brow as benignly it bent,
While the million-voiced welcome the air around rent.

They told me the rich silken robe that she wore
Was of exquisite texture and loveliest dye,
Embroidered with blossoms of silver all o'er,
And clasped with pure jewels that dazzled the eye;
I saw not, I thought not of clasp, robe, or wreath,
I thought of the timid heart beating beneath.

I was born in a land where they bend not the knee,
Save to the One—unto whom even monarchs bow down;

But lo! as I gazed, in my breast springing free,
Love knelt to her sweetness forgetting her crown;
And my heart might have challenged the myriads there,
For the warmth of its praise, and the truth of its prayer.

And to her—to that maiden, young, innocent, gay,
With the wild rose of childhood yet warm on her cheek,
And a spirit, scarce culmed from its infantine play,
Into woman's deep feeling, devoted and meek;

To her—in the bloom of her shadowless youth—
Proud millions are turning with chivalrous truth.
It is right—the All-judging hath ordered it so;
In the light of His favour the pure maiden stands;

And who, that has gazed on that cheek's modest glow,
Would not yield without murmur his fate to her hands?

Trust on, noble Britons! trust freely the while!
I would stake my soul's hope on the truth of that smile!

Canada.

THE FRENCH CANADIANS.

MR. WAKEFIELD'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE SPECTATOR.

London, 22d November, 1838.

SIR:—In a letter from Mr. Roebuck to yourself, which you published on the 10th inst. it is asserted, on the authority of Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Davignon, that I was employed by Lord Durham to negotiate with Mr. Papineau. Mr. Roebuck says—"An agent, well known to be employed by Lord Durham's Administration, who is actually and openly in communication with his Chief Secretary, and who also formally reports his proceedings—this man is sent to Mr. Papineau, the denounced traitor, in order to devise plans for the re-establishment of the constitution and the arrangement of the affairs of the Province so as to content the people."

Mr. Roebuck has been grossly imposed upon. This statement does not contain one word of truth. I never was employed by Lord Durham, or by any person belonging to his Government, to communicate with Mr. Papineau, or with any other of the accused, upon any subject whatever. I never made any "report," either by writing or verbally, either to Lord Durham or any one belonging to his Government, upon the subject, or any part of the subject in question. For a confirmation of this statement, I might appeal to Lord Durham, and to every one attached to his commission.

This statement, however, requires some explanation. The assertion made by Mr. Roebuck on the authority of two of his clients, is not so much a pure invention, as it is a gross perversion of the truth. But, excepting upon one point, (which I shall notice presently,) it may be that the truth has not been wilfully perverted. I must, therefore, having contradicted Mr. Roebuck's assertion, tell the whole truth.

For a long while before the rebellion in Lower Canada, I had deeply sympathized with the majority of the people as represented by the House of Assembly. I imagined, or rather fully believed, along with yourself and many eminent Liberals in this country, that the contest in Lower Canada resembled the dispute between England and her Old Colonies in America; that the great majority of the colonists were struggling for popular principles and good government, against an arbitrary, corrupt, and oppressive faction; that the act of the Imperial Government which violated the Canadian constitution would justify a rebellion; and that if a rebellion for such a cause should succeed, every friend of liberty in the world would have as good ground for rejoicing as when Luther vanquished the religious despotism of Rome, and Washington established the United States of America. Such were my impressions before the rebellion. The remarkable facility with which that rebellion was crushed, first led me to suspect that my view of Canadian affairs must have been erroneous; but I could not tell in what respect erroneous; and I therefore entered the colony with a strong feeling of good-will and compassion towards those whose want of energy or neglect of preparation, alone, as it then seemed to me, had prevented them from maintaining sacred rights by an appeal to the sword. With this feeling, and with an anxious desire, moreover, to learn the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, with respect to Canadian affairs, I seized every opportunity of intercourse with members of the *soi-disant* Liberal party. By the aid of Colonel Simpson, (Mr. Roebuck's step-father,) I was placed upon terms of frank and liberal communication with most of the leaders of that party. They met my advances with an appearance of great cordiality. I passed hours and days in their society—especially with Mr. Lafontaine of Montreal and Mr. Morin of Quebec, who in the absence of Mr. Papineau may be considered the leading men of the party. With these gentlemen, and many others, I often discussed the whole subject of Canadian politics. I spoke to them without the least reserve or caution on every part of the subject, and believed that they spoke as frankly to me. Our intercourse was frequent, and rather cordial and intimate, than merely candid and frank. In this manner, without excluding any part of the subject, we talked of the past, the present, and the future—of the cause of the rebellion and its failure, of the prisoners and refugees, of the chances of punishment or impunity for classes

or individuals, and of the prospect of the colony immediate and remote.

In the course of these discussions, I became convinced that Mr. Lafontaine and his friends were bent on pursuing a course which would be most injurious to the colony, and especially to the whole race of French Canadians. They appeared to me to be profoundly ignorant of their own position, and thoroughly devoid of judgment as leaders of their party. I told them so, in the plainest terms; and frequently in the presence of Colonel Simpson, who entirely agreed with me.

It was then that I determined on endeavouring to see Mr. Papineau. I wished to have the same unreserved communication with him as I had with his friends. Still impelled by a sentiment of good will and compassion towards the Canadians, I cherished a hope that Mr. Papineau might exert his powerful influence in diverting the other leaders of his countrymen from a course which, in my humble judgment, would produce greater calamities than had yet happened. With this hope, and furnished with a letter from Colonel Simpson, I went to Saratoga, expecting to find Mr. Papineau there. He was absent; and I returned to Canada, leaving Colonel Simpson's letter with Mr. Cowan, an American friend of Mr. Papineau, and a message to the effect that I would return in case he should wish to see me. While at Saratoga, I conversed fully and frankly with Dr. Davignon on the subject of Canadian affairs.

Such was the nature of my intercourse with the leaders of the French Canadian party. But I have now to add, that Lord Durham was totally ignorant of my journey to Saratoga; that I never repeated to him, or to any one connected with his mission, any of the conversations that had passed between me and those gentlemen; that I never made any report, of any sort or kind, to any body, upon any of the subjects of those conversations, or upon the views, dispositions or wishes of the persons who had admitted me to such confidential and friendly intercourse; and finally, that during the course of that intercourse, I took several opportunities of solemnly assuring those whom I met—and often in the presence of Colonel Simpson—that I had no mission from Lord Durham, or from any one connected with him; that I spoke for myself alone, as a well wisher of theirs, who had a right to say and do what he pleased without reference to Lord Durham; and above all, that they might be sure I should carefully abstain from repeating to Lord Durham or others any part of their conversations with me. I said this the more emphatically, because it appeared upon one or two occasions, that they hoped to convey to Lord Durham, through me, some expression of their own opinions and wishes. I over and over again told them, that I would never, for any purpose, act as an agent between them and the Government. May I be allowed the satisfaction of adding, that Lord Durham, by never asking me a question about my intercourse with the French Canadian leaders, showed that he believed me incapable of playing the spy for him or any body else.

With respect to the specific statement in Mr. Davignon's letter to his brother as to my having made a report (*il a fait un rapport*) to Mr. Buller, and having expressed before Mr. Buller and Mr. Lafontaine a certain opinion upon the case of Dr. Davignon, I have only to repeat, that I never made any report, or did any thing like making a report to Mr. Buller; and to say, that I did not express the opinion with respect to Dr. Davignon, which his brother, writing confidentially and on the report of another, has attributed to me. If I believed the misstatement to have been wilful, I should flatly contradict it, and appeal to Mr. Buller.

In order to contradict Mr. Roebuck's imputation that I was employed as a secret agent, or sort of spy, by Lord Durham, it has been necessary for me to describe the opinions and sympathies with which I went to Lower Canada. Personal inquiry on the spot with the best opportunities of getting at the truth, has induced me to abandon those opinions and sympathies. I have been forced to abandon them, in spite of the deep rooted conviction and earnest feeling with which they were entertained. I believe now, that I was blinded and misled, as many others have been, (yourself not excepted, allow me to say,) by a course of misrepresentation—a regular system of delusion, to which I was once (however unintentionally, as Mr. Roebuck still is,) an active party, and which, while it occasions the most erroneous views here as to the nature of the dispute in Lower Canada, has a still more mischievous effect in deceiving the French Canadians as to the state of feeling in this country with respect to their position and objects.

As to the nature of that dispute, and the state of affairs in the colony, the truth will probably be known here before long; when many will only have to wonder at the depth of their previous ignorance. I wish that the unhappy Canadians were as likely to be undeceived as to the state of feeling here with respect to them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
E. G. WAKEFIELD.

FRELINGSBURG, Jan. 1st.—After our paper had been nearly made up we received from a friend, the following particulars of the depredations committed by the brigands upon our borders, on Sunday morning last:

One of the most heinous transactions that ever Satan devised, or his devils executed, took place on Sunday morning at Beech Ridge, on the Province line, Rouville. The night had been awfully tempestuous, the snow was driven before the storm in whirling clouds, and the thermometer ranged between 10 and 18 degrees below zero. In such a night who but monsters in crime could think of perpetrating the horrors we are about to relate.

About two o'clock, A. M., a band of American ruffians from Alburg, to the number of 15 or 20, armed with muskets and swords, came across the line about half a mile, and broke open the house of a loyalist of the name of Gibson. The terrified family awoke from their sleep, and saw the glare of their barn on fire, overpowering the beams of the full moon. To save his life, Gibson leaped from a window, naked as he was, and fled. The wife and family, consisting of five infant children the

oldest not 13 and the youngest an infant, were ordered by the miscreants to flee. The poor woman prayed to them, in the name of our Saviour, to permit her to throw some clothes on her children and herself. But the monsters drove them out with imprecations, and set fire to the house. The mother with her babe in her arms and her shivering ones by her side, without a shoe on her or their feet and scarce a garment on their bodies, was compelled to drag herself through snow and snow drifts three quarters of a mile, before she could find a shelter.

The wretches then proceeded to the next house, occupied by Isaac Johnson, a loyalist, with two daughters, ordered the inmates to leave it, and then set fire to it also and the barns. They then came on to Mr. William Clark's, the next loyalist, and set fire to his barns, stove in the doors and windows, and were only prevailed upon not to fire the dwelling house, by the prayers and entreaties of Mr. C's mother-in-law, who was watching the sick bed of her daughter, being unable to escape or be removed. The barns of Mr. Manie, the next loyalist, shared the fate of the others, but the house being unoccupied was not fired. The scoundrels were at this place fired at by a guard which had in the most cowardly manner fallen back before them, and made good their retreat back to Vermont.

The name of the leader is Grogan, an American, who formerly lived on the Ridge, and who owns a farm there. Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Gibson and the two eldest children are all severely frost bitten in the feet. As we looked upon the work of the inhuman savages, and listened to the account given by the afflicted mother, we could not help thinking that there are men enough on this side of the line, and buildings enough on the other.

Grogan's buildings were by some means or other set fire to and consumed.

The Beech Ridge enormity is one of so horrible a character, that we leave it to the Government to settle, satisfied that it is impossible our Sovereign can overlook it, or fail in demanding reparation. We make no comments. A recital of the facts will create excitement enough.

The barns containing the whole grain produce of the farms, and all the buildings were a heap of smouldering ashes before sunrise.—*Missisquoi Standard.*

THE NEW STAR IN THE HORIZON OF FASHION.

For several weeks past the Editor of this Journal has been favoured with anonymous communications respecting the forthcoming ascension in the horizon of fashion of a star of such splendour and magnificence, that even Royalty itself will be rivalled, although it cannot be eclipsed. We are generally somewhat sceptical on such matters, but the reports reached us from so many different quarters, that we could no longer refuse to give credence to the authenticity of the general outline of the story, although the details seemed too romantic for belief.

New particulars pressed upon us so fast that we felt compelled, in justice to our readers to set on foot such enquiries as should enable us at once to give a positive contradiction to these rumours, or explicit information upon the subject. Our agents have been successful, and we have the gratification of knowing that we alone can give authentic particulars of the individual alluded to.

It appears that, in the year 1826, Messrs. A. W., DeV— and Co., received advices from their correspondents in Calcutta, the nature of which was altogether kept secret from the gentlemen in their house, who, in general possessed their unlimited confidence. This mysterious reserve of course gave rise to a good deal of speculation as to its cause, and wonder was not lessened when one of the partners proceeded to take on lease a magnificent house in — square, and to furnish it in the most sumptuous style, entirely unsuited to what had hitherto been considered the amount of his income and expectations, and this too without giving up his usual residence. At first those who knew the circumstance were inclined to believe that there was a lady in the case; but this supposition was negatived, not only by the fact that Mr. DeV— was a moral and religious man, but that he was never seen to enter the house but once a quarter, and the only thing known was that the firm every year passed to the credit of Mr. DeV—'s account £5,000 more than he was entitled to under the partnership deed. Time wore away, and these circumstances no longer were the theme of wonder, though as mysterious as ever.

This riddle is now solved. Captain M— employed, in addition to the Captaincy in the service of the Honorable East India Company, the onerous and profitable rank of Adjutant to the regiment. His elegant manners, and the generosity and openness of his disposition, rendered him an unusual favourite, not only in his own corps, but in the service generally. The dulness and *ennui* consequent on the head quarters of the regiment being in an isolated and lonely part of the Peninsula induced a spirit of gaming among most of the Officers. Unfortunately, Captain M— was no exception to the rule. His affairs became dreadfully involved, and there was every reason to believe that he had, in an unguarded moment, made use of money belonging to the regiment. Investigation became necessary, and Capt. M— did not dare to await the result: he fled—whither no one could guess, or if any of his brother officers had any suspicion or knowledge of his intentions, they too sincerely admired and pitied, though they could not justify him, to give any hint to the authorities which might lead to his being taken. All inquiry was fruitless, Capt. M— was not heard of again: this was in the year 1814 or 1815.

In 1824, the British power became involved in a war with the Burmese. The result of that war is too well known to need to be detailed here, suffice it to say that the British triumphed.

During the time the preliminary discussions respecting the settlement of the various differences between the two powers were going on, Mr. F—, a gentleman high in the civil service of the Indian Government, and who was one of those to whom was entrusted the

management of the affair, was sitting alone in his quarters enjoying his hookah, when he was interrupted by the entrance of a servant, who informed him that a person, of evidently high consideration, and who belonged to the Birman embassy, requested to be allowed to pay him a visit, but not of ceremony. Mr. F— was very much astonished at this announcement, because of the remarkable reserve and ceremoniousness of the Burmese, neither could he understand why he, who was not in actual communication with the Burmese authorities, should have been singled out for so signal an honour, nor how his proposed visitor could have become acquainted with his name or even existence. After some hesitation Mr. F— consented to receive the stranger, who shortly after arrived and was admitted to his apartment. He was a fine, portly individual possessing much dignity of manner and courteousness of behaviour. The conversation was carried on through the medium of an interpreter, and the visitor exhibited strong powers of mind, though, as Mr. F— thought, limited information. After spending a couple of hours, with Mr. F— the stranger retired, but not without a promise, on the part of that gentleman, that he would return the visit, and leaving on his mind a very favourable impression of his visitor. In a few days Mr. F— determined to fulfil his engagement with the Burmese Nobleman, and was conducted to his residence. Again had Mr. F— the pleasure of a long conversation with his new and interesting acquaintance, whose object seemed to be to obtain information respecting the manners and customs of the English in their native clime. Mr. F— gratified his curiosity, which seemed insatiable, to the utmost. After some time refreshments were tendered, and it was signified that he would be left alone for a short period, when his entertainer would return. He had not long been engaged in discussing the delicacies set before him, when his attention was attracted by the entrance of some person. It was a gentleman in the prime of life, in the address of a British officer—in that officer Mr. F— at once recognized his host and the long-lost Capt. M—. This interview we cannot pretend to describe, we can only give an outline of the unfortunate man's story.

When Captain M— found that his defalcations were detected, and that punishment and degradation were inevitable, his agony of mind was insupportable. He at first thought of committing suicide, but better thoughts prevailed. Still he could not bear the thought of facing the horrible degradation of appearing before his late comrades as a dishonoured and criminal man. He determined to fly, but whither, was the question. He knew that the influence of the British power was so extensive that the service of any native Prince would surely lead to the detection, and, almost as certainly, to his being given up if demanded. After hours of anxious deliberation he determined to make the hazardous attempt of reaching Ava. His extensive geographical knowledge, and considerable acquaintance with the language and dialects of the states through which his course lay, rendered this extraordinary attempt more feasible than might at first be considered. He accordingly laid his plans, and fled; and after immense toil, and undergoing almost incredible hardships, enhanced by the constant fear of detection, he at last succeeded in reaching the frontiers of Ava. Here our information somewhat halts, but it appears that he was ultimately received into the service of this Burmese Majesty, that he obtained high military rank, and became the object of the affections of a daughter of the Royal house. He at first hesitated about responding to her advances, but the precariousness of his situation, determined him to accept the proffered honor, and he was married with the consent of the Monarch of Ava! By this lady he had one son. On the approach of the British army he insisted upon being allowed to resign his military command;—his request was after much demur, granted, but he was immediately appointed to some high civil employment. His object in making himself known to Mr. F— seems to have been an intense desire that his son should receive an European Education. He described himself as possessing immense wealth, and some influence. It was not without difficulty that he persuaded Mr. F— to undertake the task of conveying the youth to Calcutta, to be thence sent to England—he overruled that gentleman's objections by stating that the removal of his son, though it could not be done with the open consent of the Burmese authorities, would be connived at. The youth accompanied Mr. F—, and was consigned by him to the care of the eminent firm we mentioned. The conclusion is soon told. He has had an excellent education, and is gentle and unassuming in his deportment. It was originally intended that, on the completion of his education, he should return to India, but to this he has shown extreme reluctance. Both Captain M—and the Princess, his mother, have been dead some time, and he only awaits the arrival from India of his guardian, Mr. F—, to make his *debut monde*. It is stated that his wealth is boundless.—*Court Journal.*

CONSIGNMENT.

THE Subscriber has just received by the latest Steamers, a large quantity of TEAS consisting of Gunpowder, Hyson, Twanky Young Hyson, Souchong, Congo of different kinds, and Bohea, part of the Clifton's and part of the Hon. East India Company's Teas, comprising an excellent assortment for family use or Retailers.

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MARK NEEDHAM.

Fredericton, Nov. 13, 1838.—tf.

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