THE LOYALIST.

"GOD AND MY COUNTRY."

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THE LOYALIST,

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THE PRESS.

BY THE REV. T. GREENWOOD.

The Press! the venerated Press!
Freedom's impenetrable shield;
The sword that wins her best success,
The only sword that man should wield,
Deign, Britain's guardian, still to bless
Our Isle with an unfettered Press.

Unfettered! Who or what, shall bind?
No chains a tyrant could devise;
This essence of immortal mind
Ready, Samson like, their feeble ties,
Springs with fresh vigour to the fight,
And puts forth thrice its former might,

Fetter the Press! Attempt to throw
A bridle o'er the roving breeze,
Instruct it at your will to blow;
Impose restrictions on the seas.
Dotards! as soon shall these obey,
As the Press crouch beneath your sway.

Look to the past! When despots bade,
As Canute once, the waves retire
If for a moment they were stay'd,
'Twas but to mock, not shun, such ire,
Daring to wait the stern rebound,
Power has been crush'd, and grandeur drowned.

Look to the future! What has been.
Instructs us what is yet to be
A pause but seems to intervene—
The Press is by its nature free;
And every effort to enslave,
Courts but the overwhelming wave.

'Twill come, 'twill come—that ample tide
Which o'er the delug'd earth shall roll,
A sea of knowledge deep and wide,
Impetuous, if it meet control.
Genius shall to the flood allure,
And science keep the waters pure.

While all that have shall melt away,
Like clouds before the morning sun,
Preparing through a summer's day,
His courage in god-like pomp to run.
Error shall quit each happy shore,
And ignorance be known no more.

The Press! the glorious Press! to her,
The herald of that age divine,
I turn, her humblest worshipper,
And lay this offering on her shrine,
O! would she but extend to me,
Her boon of immortality.

ALISON, in his 10th. volume of "The History of Europe," just published, after speaking of the great natural advantages possessed by Mexico says of Canada;—

Canada, and the other British possessions in North America, though apparently blessed with fewer physical advantages contain a nobler race, and are evidently reserved for a more lofty destination. Every thing there is in proper keeping for the developement of the combined physical and mental energies of man. There are to be found at once the hardihood of character which conquers difficulty, the severity of climate which stimulates exertion, the natural advantages which reward enterprise. Nature has marked out this country for exalted destinies: for if she has has not given it the virgin mould of the basin of the Missouri, or the giant vegetation and prolific sun of the tropics, she has bestowed upon it a vast chain of inland lakes which fit it one day to become the great channel of commerce between Europe and the interior of America, and eastern parts of Asia. The river St. Lawrence, fed by the immense inland seas which separate Canada from the United States, is the great artery of North America. Descending from the distant sources of the Kaministiquia and Saint Louis; it traverses the solitary Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods, opens into the boundless expansion of Lake Superior and after being swelled by the tributary volumes of the Michigan and Huron waves, again contracts into the river and lake of Saint Clair; a second time expands into the broad surface of Lake Erie, from which it is precipitated, by the sublime cataract of the Niagara, into 'wide Ontario's boundless Lake,' and again contracting, finds its way into the sea, by the magnificent estuary of the St. Lawrence, through the wooded intricacies of the Thousand Islands. Nor are the means of water navigation wanting on the other side of this marvellous series of inland seas. The Rocky Mountains sunk there to five or six thousand feet in height, contain valleys capable of being opened to artificial navigation by human enterprise. No considerable elevation requires to be passed in making the passage from the distant sources of the Saint Lawrence to the mountain feeders of the Columbia; the rapid declivity of the range on the western side soon renders the latter river navigable; and a deep river and swelling stream soon conduct the navigator to the shores of the Pacific. As clearly as the Mediterranean Sea was let in by the Straits of Gibralter to form the main channel of communication and the great artery of life to the old world, so surely were the great lakes of Canada spread in the wilderness of the new to penetrate the mighty continent, and carry into its most remote recesses the light and the knowledge of christian civilization.

The superficial extent of the British Possessions in North America is prodigious, and greatly exceeds that which is subject to the sway of the United States it amounts to above 4,000,000 of square geographical miles, or nearly a ninth part of the whole terrestrial surface of the globe. Probably seven-eighths of this immense surface are doomed to eternal sterility, from the excessive severity of the climate, which yields only a scanty herbage to the rein-deer, the elk, and the musk-ox; but Upper and Lower Canada alone contain 300,000 square miles, of which 95,000 are in the upper and richer province; and, altogether, there are probably not less than 500,000 square miles in the British dominions in that part of the world capable of profitable cultivation, being more than six times the superfices of the whole British islands, if the wastes of Scotland, not less sterile than the polar snows, are deducted. Of this arable surface, about 120,000 square miles or somewhat more than a fourth, has been surveyed or is under cultivation. The climate is various, being much milder in the upper or more southerly province of Canada than in the lower; but in both it is extremely cold in the winter, and surprisingly warm in summer. In the lower province the thermometer has been known to stand in July and August at 93 deg. of Farenheit, and it is usually from 80 to 90 deg. in the shade; while in winter, it is not unfrequently as low as 40 deg., so as to freeze mercury.

But, notwithstanding this extraordinary variation of temperature, the climate is not only eminently favourable to the health of the European race, but brings to maturity, in many places the choicest gifts of nature. Vast pine forests scantily intersected in the vicinity only of the great rivers, cover indeed nine-tenths of the northern provinces, as of the corresponding districts of Russia and Sweden in the old world, but they constitute no inconsiderable portion of the national wealth; for in them is found an inexhaustible store of timber, the exportation of which constitutes the great staple of the country, and employs four-fifths of the eight hundred thousand tons of shipping which now carry on the trade between Great Britain and her magnificent transatlantic possessions. Even in Lower Canada however, when you approach the basin of the St. Lawrence, the earth becomes fruitful and yields ample supplies for the use of man. Grain, herbage, potatoes, and vegetables grow in abundance. The almost miraculous rapidity of spring compensates for the long and dreary months of winter; and the fervent heat of summer brings all the fruits of northern Europe to maturity. In the upper province, the winter is shorter and milder, and the ardent rays of the summer sun, so temper the northern blasts that the vine, the peach and apricot as well as cherries and melons ripen in the open air. In both the same change took place which has been observed in Europe since the dark masses of the Hercynian forest were felled, and its morasses drained by the laborious arms of the Germans, and the climate, every season becoming more mild, has undergone a change of 8 or 10 deg. on the average of the year, since the efforts of European industry were applied to the cultivation of their territory.'

A PRARIE ON FIRE.

While some of our party were digging into the sand near the edge of the stream with the hopes of finding water more fresh, and others enjoying the luxury of a bath, a loud report, as of a cannon, was heard in the direction of the camp, and a dark smoke was seen suddenly to arise. 'An Indian attack!' was the startling cry on all sides—and instantly we commenced huddling on our clothes and bridling our horses. One by one as fast as we could get ready, we started off for what we supposed a scene of engagement. As we neared the camping ground, it became evident that the prarie was on fire in all directions. When within a mile of the steep declivity which cut off the prarie above from the valley, the bright flames were seen flashing among the dry cedars, and a dense volume of black smoke arising above all, gave a painful sublimity to the scene.

On approaching nearer, we were met by some of our companions. They stated that the high grass had caught fire by accident, and that many of the waggons had been consumed, and among them the commissioner's, which contained not only our trunks but a large number of cartridges. The explosion of these we had mistaken for the report of our cannon.

We dashed ahead with the hope of rendering assistance to our companions, but before we could reach the place of the steep and rugged hill, the fire was dashing down with frightful rapidity, leaping and flashing across the gullies and roaring in the deep and yawning chasms with the wild and appalling tones of a tornado. Ever and anon, as the flames would strike the dry craggy tops of the cedars, a report as of a musket would be heard, and in such quick succession did these reports follow each other, that I can liken them to nothing save the irregular discharge of infantry.

The wind was blowing fresh from the west when the prarie first caught, carrying the flames with a rapidity astounding over the very ground on which we had travelled during the day. The wind lulled with the sun, and now the fire began to spread slowly in the other direction. The passage by which we had descended was cut off by the flames, and night found our party still in the valley unable to find any other route to the land above. Our situation was a dangerous one too; for had the wind sprung up and veered into the east, with such velocity did the flames spread, we should have found much difficulty in escaping.

About nine o'clock I was fortunate enough to meet with some of our men, who directed me to a passage up the ascent.—It should be remarked here, that our party who had started from the river by this time were scattered in every direction, each man endeavouring to find his way to our camp by his own road. Fortunately the fire had been checked in a western direction by the peculiar formation of the ground and by the wind.

Worn down by fatigue, hungry and almost choking with thirst, I laid down upon the blackened ground that night, but it was long before sleep visited my eyelids. A broad sheet of flame, miles in width could still be seen in the east, lightning up the heavens with a bright glow, while the subdued, yet deep roar of the element was plainly heard as it sped on with the wing of lightning across the praries. In the valley far below us the flames were flashing and leaping about among the dry cedars, resembling a magnificent display of fireworks, the combination forming a scene of grandeur and sublimity it is impossible to describe.—*N. O. Picayune.*

AGRICULTURAL ANECDOTE.—A knowledge of the habits of animals is sometimes of great service even in the salvation of cities. James in his recent History of the Black Prince, gives an amusing instance of this in the defence of Rennes, a town of Brittany, besieged by the Duke of Lancaster. In order to effect the surrender of the place, the Duke enforced a strict blockade, which soon reduced the garrison to great straits; but he knew they would hold out to the last extremity, and determined to try a trick of war. For this purpose he drew off his soldiers, as if he had left the place, and formed an ambuscade in some bushes behind the town. He then caused a number of hogs to be let loose in the plain, in the hope, that the starving garrison would rush out for the prize. But they understood his trick, and turned it to their advantage. They opened one of the sally-ports, and hung up a young sow by the hind legs to the gate. She of course made a great outcry, and the hogs came rushing up to the place from whence the noise proceeded; she was then cut down, and driven through one of the streets, and forced to keep up her music. The soldiers sprang up from their ambuscade, in order to try and prevent this unlooked-for termination of their experiment; but James says, the hogs, with that intuitive perception of the way their masters do not wish them to go, which has marked their nature, went rushing tumultuously into the town, and afforded the garrison very seasonable relief.—*Louisville Jonrnal.*

A DAMPER.—A young city fop, in company with some belles of fashion, was riding into the country a pleasuring, when they saw a poor rustic looking lad at work by the road's side. Thinking it a fine opportunity to show his wit to the damsels, by sporting with the poor boy's ignorance, he thus accosted him:—'Can you tell me, Mr. Zebedee, how far it is to where I am going, and which is the most direct road?' Poor Zebby, not at all daunted, but with the most sober, and composed countenance, replied:—'If you are going to the gallows, it is but a short distance: if to the jail, it stands a few rods this side; but if only to poverty and disgrace, you are now in it, and cannot miss the way.' Dandy dropped his head and drove on.

THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR.—This day being the anniversary of the victory obtained by the immortal Nelson over the combined fleets of France and Spain, off Cape Trafalgar, on the 21st of October, 1805, the Victory, lying in Portsmouth Harbour, as the ordinary guardship, exhibits annually, upon the occasion, a scene of extreme interest. The vessel is decked throughout with flags and other naval insignia, and a profusion of laurels and evergreens, which impart to her a very imposing appearance. A grand dinner is given on board, at which the Admiral presides in person, and, if circumstances will admit of it, the muster of that officer is held on this especial day. A general invitation to dinner also is issued to all the officers of the ships in commission in the harbour. The animation that pervades the crew upon the occasion, and the enthusiasm manifested by the very few who fought by Nelson's side when he so gloriously fell in the arms of victory, are well worth the description from the pen of some naval historian. There are still surviving on board the Victory, two of the brave fellows who shared in the glories of which to-day is the anniversary. Wm. Booth, boatswain's mate, who at the battle of Trafalgar was one of Nelson's boys in the ward-room, and Philip Barrow, who fought by the ninth gun on the main deck, are still old seamen on board.—There are also several others, who have since been appointed to the Victory from the Royal Sovereign and other ships, which were engaged in the above memorable action. Among them is Mr. Hughes, the gunner, and Mr. Cator, the additional acting-master. All the men who stood the brunt of the 21st of October, 1805, belonging to the different ships in the harbour, dine on board the Victory on this celebrated day, and are allowed grog *ad libitum*, to keep alive those patriotic feelings which the immortal hero of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar inspired his men with on the day of his death, and which are still recorded in the memorable words which he signalled throughout the British fleet upon that occasion, and which are stamped upon the poop, the captain's state-rooms, and upon a garter immediately below the figure-head, viz, -"England expects that every man will do his duty."

CROMWELL'S SPEECH TO THE LONG PARLIAMENT—The following are the very words spoken by Oliver Cromwell to the Long Parliament. The document was found among some other old papers which had belonged to the Cromwell family:—

"It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice. Ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would, like Esau, sell your country for a mess of pottage, and Judas betray your God for a few pieces of money. Is there a single virtue now remaining among you? Is there one vice which you do not possess? Ye have no more religion than my horse—Gold is your God.—Which of you have not bartered away your consciences for bribes? Is there a man amongst you that hath the least care for the good of the Commonwealth? Ye sordid prostitutes! have you not defiled this sacred place, and turned the Lord's Temple into a den of thieves? By your immoral principles, and wicked practices, ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation. You who were deputied here by the people to get their grievances.

"Your country, therefore, calls upon me to cleanse this Augean Stable, by putting a final period to your iniquitous proceedings in this House, and which by God's help, and the strength he hath given me, I am now come to do. I command ye therefore, upon the peril of your lives, to depart immediately out of this place. Go, get you out! make haste ye venal slaves, begone!—Poh! Take away that shining bauble there, and lock up the doors."

The Editor of the 'New world,' in an able article on English Politics, speaking of the present ministry, says:

"It has so modified the Corn Laws by reducing the duty, and altering the scale that more grain was imported into Great Britain during six months of its administration, than during the whole period of the Melbourne ministry. 2nd. It has taken hold of the 1150 articles of the Tariff with something very much like a free trade grip; reduced many of the duties, and removed some prohibitions. 3rd. It has passed Lord Brougham's great bill, virtually abolishing imprisonment for debt—a measure long demanded by the sentiment and temper of the age, long earnestly worked for by a large party in England, but always unsuccessfully under the do-nothing and promise-everything policy of the Whigs.

The Tory ministry then has done what the Whigs certainly did not, and we believed dared not do; it has opened wider portals of the nation, for bread to feed her starving people; it has given new opportunities at home and abroad to the working men of the kingdom by taking a bold and decided step toward freer trade; and, at a time of embarrassment, poverty and suffering, beyond recent example, at a time when such a measure was most demanded by all the humanities of legislation, the ministry periled itself for the salvation of the great debt owing the multitude of the kingdom.

EXTAORDINARY PHENOMENON.—In the Lynn Locomotive, we find the following extract of a letter frm an eminent astronomer, connected with Yale College, at New Haven, to a scientific gentleman at Lynn. It will be found highly interesting to men of science, detailing some most astonishing changes in the great machinery of nature.

* * * * There is certainly some extraordinary change going on in the solar system. Whether the result will be a speedy dissolution of the present harmonious arrangement, is of course known only to him who instituted the laws which govern the courses of the stars. For some time my attention has been directed to the rapidly developing phenomena, and I have been assisted in my observations by gentlemen eminent for their scientific attainments. And within a few days I have had placed in my hands a paper from the celebrated astronomer Hanff of Berlin, detailing his own discoveries, and indicating that the subject is beginning to excite intense interest among the scientific of Europe. It is evident that the inclination of the earth's axis with the ecliptic is changing. There is now a nearer approach to a coincidence of equator and ecliptic than has ever before been known. Since the autumnal equinox the obliquity in the earth's course has sensibly diminished; and if no counteracting influence intervenes, there will soon be a perceptible change in the seasons, and in the relative lengths of day and night.

The change is so great already, that many intricate calculations for the present year will be found inaccurate. Some of the important calculations of the Nautical Almanac will be soon found perplexing to the mariner as he takes his observations. And some of those heretofore highly useful tables in the American Almanac, founded on the bearings of some of the fixed stars, as well as planets, will prove entirely unsafe if the progress of the change continues. An experienced and intelligent shipmaster, a day or two since, casually observed to me that on a recent voyage from the East Indies, when he had sailed about six degrees to the north of the equator—the region from which the North Star is usually first seen after crossing the line, the haze rendering it invisible while nearer the horizon—he was astonished and perplexed in his observations. The unusual variation of his chronometer from the time indicated by stellar observation, led him to doubt the accuracy of his former faithful guide.

Should these changes continue, a variation in the altitude of the North Star will soon be apparent to the most casual observer; at those points of time, April 15, June 19, August 23, and December 24, when all the time keepers should agree with the sun, the chronometer will be found essentially varying, and many other very important results will be developed. An attentive and accurate observer in the high latitudes, even at the next solstice, cannot fail to recognise various astonishing phenomena.

But the changes going on in regard to the earth are less remarkable perhaps than those which are affecting some of the other planets. The poles of Venus, to all appearance, are now elevated full thirty-five degrees, and she seeths to be changing from her former clear radiance to a colour approaching that of Mars; the change in this particular, however, is as yet slight, barely perceptible, under close observation, to the naked eye. By the aid of a powerful glass, there may be perceived what appear to be waves of fire rolling over her disc. This appearance I have watched with much interest; it commenced some months since, on the southern limb, and gradually advanced over the whole breadth, till the planet was completely enveloped. The motion of this planet in her orbit, too, seems to be retarded, as though she were under the influence of some new power of attraction.

Herschel has the appearance of having greatly diminished in size, and has failed to reach a given point to its orbit at the usual time, and in short, seems to have broken the bonds which have connected it to the solar system, and commenced its course as a member of some remote celestial retinue.

Saturn also is assuming an unwonted aspect. To all appearance, there is a mighty conflagration going on in the hitherto dark line which divides her rings. To such an extent has it already attained that in one or two places the whole breadth has assumed the appearances of ragged ranges, glowing as if they were red hot iron, and throwing a lurid reflection upon the adjacent portions of the ring.

The changes seem also to extend beyond our system. The beautiful star Betelgnese, in the constellation Orion, has varied to such an extent from the vernal to the autumnal equinox of the present year, that its distance may be ascertained. It seems to be approaching the solar bounds.

The Wise in Heart.—This phrase is met with no where except in the bible. Like other phrases of the 'holy men of old' it has a deep and peculiar significence. It describes not the learned, not the gifted, not the profound, not the man of knowledge, nor the man of genius, nor the man of intellect. But it describes the man of pure intent, and simple faith; the man who loves the truth and the right; the man who walks straight onward in the path of duty, assured that it ends prosperously, because *his Father* bids him walk therein. This is heart-wisdom, in comparison of which all head wisdom is mere folly. Not that head-wisdom is useless; but it needs to be associated with heart-wisdom and to be subject to it. Let science explore the skies, and pierce the earth, and question nature everywhere, and bring to light all the secrets of existence; let history unfold the record of past ages, and teach lessons of experience; let art, with wonder-working power, analyze and combine what ever science has discovered or shall discover; there is a still higher wisdom than this. It is the wisdom which teaches man his duty, and discovers to him the springs of happiness, and conducts him a willing pilgrim in the paths of purity and peace, through the valleys of humility and penitence, to the true life, not of the spirit only, but of the body also.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

Wordsworth, the Poet: has had a pension of £300, conferred upon him by Queen Victoria.