

HOWE'S LAST DAY'S.

Great Nova Scotia Patriot on His Death Bed.

DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE LIFE.

And Quoted from Shakespear.

The Halifax Reporter of June 2, 1873, contained the following relative of the last hours of Hon. Joseph Howe, who died at Government House in that city the previous day: About a fortnight ago the writer called at Government House and was requested to go up and see Mr. Howe. He found the veteran in his private room in dishabille. "There," said he, "I don't mind you. You know how much easier it is to write with everything loose about you, as a newspaper man. You are welcome at any time. Then he began to tell of the changes that had taken place in journalism since he was a journalist, and how these changes, more than anything else, warned him that he was becoming an old stager, soon to slip away from the footlights, and cease to act any part. The conversation then turned upon the sudden destruction which overwhelmed the crew and passengers of the Atlantic, Mr. Howe drawing from the capacious stores of his memory scenes and incidents connected with shipwrecks on the Nova Scotia coast from a very early period. Then came up by natural and easy transition, the great question of the after-death."

He quoted Shakespeare's famous passage in Measure for Measure: "Aye, but to die, and go we know not where; To lie in cold obstruction and to rot! This sensible, warm motion to become A kneaded clod; and the delighted spirit To bathe in fiery floods; or to reside In thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice; To be imprisoned in the viewless winds And blown with restless violence round about The pendant world; or to be worse than worst Of that lawless and uncertain thoughts. Imagine howling! 'Tis too terrible! Thr weariest and most loathed worldly life That age, ache, penury and imprisonment Can lay on nature is a paradise, To what we fear of Death."

He spoke of the word "de-lighted" in the fourth line as apt to deceive the casual reader. There should be, he said, a pause between "de" and "lighted" when read, a hyphen when printed, and the meaning was evidently "deprived of light" instead of "happy," as would be suggested on the first reading. He then said that Shakespeare had evidently a great fear of death; that that fear was natural to man as was the fear of an old woman to enter for the first time a railway car, or the fear of a novice to descend into the depths of a coal mine. But if the right view was taken, death should not be dreaded—rather welcomed. The grub shivered and trembled. But its death was development. The gay golden winged butterfly sprang into existence. Development was everywhere the result of death. Man was no exception. The Great Author of Life was wise and good, and having impressed the great fact of "development" upon nature, had by so doing, bidden man to conclude that he too, was to obey the same law. Not leaving man to find his way to a sound conclusion by the dim light of reason. He had provided the blazing sun of revelation. "I often," said he "think of that passage, the sense of which is, 'We know not what we shall be; but this we know; we shall see Him, and shall therefore be like Him.' That is enough for me," said he.

The conversation then turned upon other subjects. The writer feels that no apology is needed for thus referring to a private conversation—either to the mourning household or to the sympathizing public—for the sentiments uttered by Mr. Howe were the conclusions of a great mind, and were not derogatory to her him, but on the contrary, in every way worthy of him. On the occasion of that interview, Mr. Howe's mind was clear and vigorous, and his bodily health seemed better than when he landed, and when, on Wednesday and Thursday last, it was circulated about town that Mr. Howe had been out for an airing, it was imagined that the crisis had been passed. We obtained the following particulars of the last hours of Mr. Howe:

On Saturday night he suffered much from intense pain, but as this had been his experience for many, many nights during the past few years, the household were not alarmed by it. For a long time before he had been compelled to sit up in his chair at least three days of the week, unable to lay down or to walk his study floor and sat in his chair by turns. About halfpast four Mrs. Howe suggested that if he went

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to his bedroom the change might be beneficial, and sleep be induced. He did so, supported by his son William, and followed by his devoted wife. Before he could reach the chair near the bedside, Mrs. Howe observed that he gradually sank to the floor, as if his strength had suddenly gone. Mrs. Howe said, "Joseph, can you get to the chair?" His answer was, "No, my dear, I'm too weak." He retained consciousness, telling them that he suffered much, and conversed with his wife and son, but that nothing could be done for the time that he left the study, the him. In less than ten minutes from great heart of Nova Scotia's great son had ceased to beat.

AND HER NAME WAS MAUDE.

Norwich, Ct., Jan. 7.—Sold thirteen

times in a week, an average of over twice a day, the bay mare Maude, which was touted as a descendant of Mande S., changed hands for a silver dollar, the seller being a local livery-man, and the buyer an auctioneer. Where Mande came from is a mystery to the horse world of Norwich. She suddenly appeared, sleek and fat, and apparently as mild tempered as any of David Harum's stock. Her first owner appeared on the speedway, expecting to surprise the natives, and he did. His son discovered that Maude could kick harder and faster than any mule on record. His sleigh was reduced to kindling wood and he had a narrow escape.

That night he disposed of Maude at a discount to an unsuspecting purchaser. Since then Maude has become more and more of a bargain, having smashed at

last a dozen sleighs and caused amusement to all but her owners. The auctioneer proposed to raffle the mare, but the Humane Society has interfered and may take charge of her.

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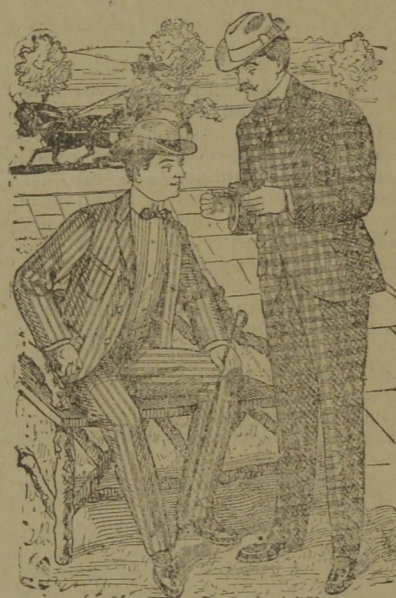
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