

St. John



Newfoundlander

No. 503.

THURSDAY, March 16, 1837.

Sixpence.

JACK THE DEVIL.

(By the author of "Stories of Waterloo.")

I had been delicate from infancy—and the enervating effects of an unhealthy climate, obliged me to retire upon half-pay, and quit Ceylon for England, to try if native air would restore a shattered constitution. I came to London for medical advice; and while my physician was anxious that I should continue immediately under his eye, he recommended me, for amusement and exercise, to make frequent excursions around the British capital.

No advice could be more congenial to "a truant disposition." I, who had been buffeted about the world from my boyhood, willingly became a roamer after health; and in the vicinity of the metropolis, there were few spots unvisited in the course of my wanderings.

Every suburban retirement—every scene of holyday dissipation—every signboard which a cockney treasures up in the tablet of his memory, is familiar to me. I have spent weeks upon the river and the road, become resident in steam-boats and stages, witnessed many an adventure, consorted with strange companions, and become extensively acquainted with the whole family of man.

It was a sultry day, and I was sitting in the bay-window of the Pier Hotel, at Gravesend, contemplating the unceasing bustle that Father Thames presented. The steamer was to return to town at five, and I rang the bell to order dinner, and thus fill up an interval of two mortal hours. The gentleman of the napkin appeared, produced his *carte*, and enologized the contents of the larder—for there, as he averred, everything eatable in August would be found. He added, that dinner was just being served at the *table d'hôte* below; and probably rather than dine *tout seul*, I would prefer uniting myself to the party. Undoubtedly I would. I seized my hat and cane, and following as true a descendant of Hal's "Francis" as ever served a long lease to the clinking of pewter, entered the public room and joined the company.

The party amounted to a dozen, of whom a moiety were of the gentler sex. All, with one exception, were denizens of Cockayne and inhabitants of the modern Babylon. They were all and every, no doubt, "good men and true;" of excellent reputation upon 'Change, and exemplary in their private relations; cherishing their wives, and correcting their children, as became citizens of character and credit. The ladies were fat and comely, and one of them positively handsome. She was a fine, joyous and laughter-loving dame, with teeth exquisitely white, and the blackest eyes in Bishopsgate-street. I saw her steal from beneath her pink silk bonnet an *espégle* glance at the stranger; and then, probably checked by the proximity of her liege lord, she turned her eyes demurely on the table cloth.

Mr. Hopkins, when he espoused one so young and pretty as she of the pink bonnet, was certainly a bold man. He might easily have had an older daughter; and was moreover a short and bilious gentleman, neither in face nor figure designed by nature for a lady-killer.

I mentioned that one of the party was a stranger to the rest. He was a tall, stout, devil-may-care, dark-whiskered fellow: I never heard a more decided brogue—I never met a wilder-looking gentleman. He was fashionably dressed, apparently on excellent terms with himself, and dying to be very intimate with the rest of the company. He placed himself *vis-à-vis* to the fair citizen; and, more than once, I detected a furtive glance stealing underneath the pink bonnet, when Mr. Hopkins was otherwise engaged.

Dinner proceeded: the citizens ate gallantly—the stranger rattled on—graciously the pink dame smiled—and all were occupied according to their respective fancies. Mrs. Hopkins was indubitably "a fine animal;" but—may heaven pardon her! she used a knife with fish, and swilled "bottled stout" like a Life Guardsman.

When people are limited in time, it is marvellous how expeditiously they contrive to get on. I never met a company who drank fairer: sherry disappeared, brandy and *blue ruin* succeeded; the day was hot—the ladies thirsty: all had come out "on pleasure bent," and hilarity was the order of the day. Mr. Hopkins's cheek was losing its lemon tint insensibly, and acquiring the true *couleur de rose*; and I fancied that his wife's eyes every moment became blacker and brighter! Alas! it

was a sun-gleam before a tempest. Suddenly he bounded from his seat like a racket-ball, and, with a deep imprecation, declared vengeance against my next neighbour, the wild-looking gentleman.

Up the company rose *en masse*. They were all married, and therefore made common cause. There was a deceiver in the room—a Giovanni in the presence—for the stranger, not contented with looking "things unutterable," had actually attempted to establish a pedal communication with her of the pink bonnet; and, confound his awkwardness! he pressed the wrong foot.

It was unpardonable in the wild-looking gentleman. I felt for Mr. Hopkins. Had the delinquent trodden upon my toe, he would have been my destroyer; for I was afflicted with tight shoes and angry corns.

Never did a company appear more unanimous in denouncing a deceiver. At the audacious attempt the gentlemen were irate; and at the bungling execution the ladies were indignant—no wonder! If people will press feet, let them tread upon the right ones.

All and every assumed a hostile attitude, and assault and battery seemed to be the order of the day. An irritated drysalter from Tooley-street, commenced buttoning his coat—and the whole corps seemed to be combining their efforts for a general onslaught.

Nor was the wild-looking gentleman insensible to going events. I never saw a person more disinclined to submit quietly to martyrdom; and, seizing the poker, he bade a bold defiance to his assailants. The thickest skull has but a sorry chance against "cold iron;" and none of the angry citizens, although doubtless men of approved courage, volunteered to lead the assault. I took advantage of the lull, offered my mediation, and the stranger was permitted to explain. The offence was perfectly accidental—a cramp caused the mischief—Mr. Hopkins was appeased, harmony restored, and a fresh supply of liquids promptly ordered and produced.

How long the armistice would continue unbroken, I did not pretend to guess. The steamer's bell sounded the note of preparation; cockneys by the dozen flocked on board; the paddles revolved briskly, and I went splashing up to town, leaving the wild-looking gentleman to "complete his destinies."

Months passed; autumn was over, and a murky atmosphere with drizzling rain told that it was a London November. I was returning from dinner to my lodgings, when, at the corner of a dark mews, I was hustled by several men, who commenced a simultaneous research into my pockets. Unluckily, I had that evening more cash upon my person than I felt inclined to part with, and accordingly offered a sturdy resistance. But it would have been unavailing, had not a stranger suddenly crossed the street and hurried to the rescue. He was indeed a powerful ally; down went a couple of the Philistines—off ran the rest, and I escaped spoliation. I turned to thank my deliverer, and in the stout stranger recognised my quondam friend, the wild-looking gentleman!

Nor had I been forgotten: he recognised my voice, tucked me under his arm, and we proceeded to a neighbouring tavern. We supped, and over a midnight glass, I recalled to his memory the dinner at Gravesend, and asked him how he had subsequently progressed.

We remained in conversation until a late hour. My friend was leaving London next day, but promised to find me out on his return. We separated, he having presented me with his card, on which was engraven "Captain John Blake."

Spring came, and I heard nothing of my deliverer, when one morning, in "The Times," I saw his marriage regularly gazetted; and, joyful intelligence! it was declared that the lady of his love was passing fair, and rich as an Israelite. After an elaborate account of the dresses and *déjeuners*, it was farther intimated, that the happy pair had returned to town, and were now resident at Ibbotson's. And had the wild-looking gentleman actually become a Benedict, and an heiress committed her happiness to his custody? My curiosity was roused—I longed to learn the history of his good fortune from himself; it would be but civil to offer my congratulations; and, next day, I drove to Vere-street, and sent up my card.

My friend was out, but the servant informed me that his lady was *visible*. I was paraded to the

drawing-room, announced as an old acquaintance, and found myself in the presence of the loveliest girl that ever vowed obedience at the altar.

I have, during my march through life, gazed on many a beauty, but never did I view a sweeter expression of artless loveliness, than the bride's face presented when she blushingly received my congratulations. In conversation she was easy and intelligent, and before a quarter of an hour I came to a conclusion, that matrimony may be endured; and that, in the lottery of life, the wild-looking gentleman possessed, as they say in Connaught, "the luck of thousands."

Our *tête-à-tête* was so agreeable, that time slipped on unnoticed. I heard the door unclose, and observed the bride's eyes lighten, as she said, in a soft voice, "It is my husband." I sprang up to welcome my unfortunate friend; but, in a moment, started back in dismay—I had caught a stranger by the hand, and intruded, under false pretences, upon the privacy of a gentleman to whom I was unknown.

I never found myself in a more embarrassing situation, and attempted of course, a blundering apology, while the stranger politely requested me to sit down. It was, indeed, a ridiculous mistake. In name and rank there was certainly a strange coincidence; while, stranger still, in age and personal appearance, the Benedict of Ibbotson's might pass as twin brother to the admirer of Mrs. Hopkins.

I noticed this singularity. "And may I ask," said the stranger, "where you met this duplicate of mine?"

"How might he have been engaged on these occasions?"

"On the first, in making love; on the second, in thrashing pick-pockets."

"I fancy I know your friend," said the stranger. Would you favour me with the particulars of these adventures?"

I consented; and during the recital he laughed immoderately, while the bride appeared to be equally amused.

"Well, sir," he observed, when my narrative was ended, "your acquaintance is, indeed, my loving cousin,—one who, in name and resemblance, is said to be my counterpart, but whom, I suppose, either for sake of distinction, or from his superior vivacity, he has pleased his associates to designate as 'Jack the Devil.'"

I groaned; the identity was proven, and the *so-briquet* indubitably belonged to my worthy friend, the wild-looking gentleman.

"Good heavens!" I exclaimed, "how stupid and unpardonable must this offence of mine appear!"

"Far from it," said the bridegroom; "I have heard of you repeatedly from my kinsman; and Colonel ———'s name is quite familiar with Emily and me. Will you waive ceremony, and break our matrimonial *tête-à-tête*? and after dinner I will give you the last intelligence which has reached me of our excellent countryman, 'Jack the Devil!'"

Little inducement was requisite to make me accept his invitation; and from that day, I date the commencement of a friendship that promises only to terminate with life.

SPECIMENS OF A MODERN DICTIONARY.

DISTANT RELATIONS—People who imagine they have a claim to rob you if you are rich, and to insult you if you are poor.

BELLE—A beautiful, but useless insect without wings, whose colours fade on being removed from the sunshine.

HEART—A rare article, sometimes found in human beings. It is soon destroyed by commerce with the world, or else becomes fatal to its possessor.

HOUSEWIFERY—An ancient art, said to have been fashionable among young girls, and wives; now entirely out of use, or practised only by the lower orders.

EDITOR—A poor wretch, who every day empties his brain in order to fill his stomach.

WEALTH—the most respectable quality of man.

VIRTUE—An awkward habit of acting differently from other people. A vulgar word. It creates great mirth in fashionable circles.

HONOUR—Shooting a friend whom you love through the head, in order to gain the praise of a few others whom you hate and despise.

LAUGHTER—An agreeable and contagious con-

vulsion of the human countenance on receiving a tailor's bill, or being asked to return an umbrella.

OPERA—A species of dramatic entertainment to which the audience bring apples and oranges.

CICAR—A slender, yellow, speckled tube formed of the leaves of a wonderful plant, discovered by Raleigh. When women turn false, and men selfish—when your creditor duns you like a fiend, and your debtor takes the Act—when the future looks dark, and the present dreary—by the fragrance of this little instrument, extorted by means of fire, you are for a brief period rendered insensible to every sorrow, and lulled into dreams more entertaining than those of sleep.

SATIRICAL POEMS—Harmless impertinence in verse.

MARRIAGE—The gate through which the unhappy lover leaves his enchanted regions and returns to earth.

DEATH—An ill-bred fellow, who visits people at all seasons, and insists upon their immediately returning his call.

AUTHOR—A dealer in words who gets paid in his own coin.

FRIEND—A person who will not assist you because he knows your love will excuse him.

WEDDED BLISS—A term used by Milton

BARGAIN—A ludicrous transaction, in which each party thinks he has cheated the other.

DOCTOR—A man who kills you to-day to save you from dying to-morrow.

LUNATIC ASYLUM—A hospital, where detected lunatics are sent by those who have had the adroitness to conceal their own infirmity.

GAOL—The penalty of misfortune, and often the reward of virtue.

TRAGEDIAN—A fellow with a tin pot on his head, who stalks about the stage, and gets into a violent passion for so much a night.

CRITIC—A large dog, that goes unchained, and barks at every thing he does not comprehend.

JURY—Twelve prisoners in a box, to try one or more at the bar.

YOUNG ATTORNEY—A useless member of society, who often goes where he has no business to be, because he has no business where he ought to be.

KING'S EVIDENCE—A wretch who is pardoned for being baser than his comrades.

PUBLIC ABUSE—The mud with which every traveller is spattered on his road to distinction.

Poetry.

FORGET ME NOT.

"The beautiful little flower, commonly called 'Forget Me Not,' blooms in luxuriant profusion on the graves of the heroes of Waterloo."—JOURNAL OF A PRIVATE GENTLEMAN.

Amid the fallen warriors' tombs,
Where heroes ashes rot,
A lovely little flower there blooms—
The sweet "Forget Me Not!"
It fair and beautiful appears,
Though shown mid carnage, groans and tears.

There are, whose mouldering ashes lie
Where banners proudly sweep,
Where gilded scutcheons mock the eye,
And marble statues weep:
Oh! there is grief enough in stone,
But hearts that burst with sorrow—none.

More holy far than these, the spot
Where rest the warrior's bones;
Though marble statues mark it not,
Nor monumental stones;
There needs no sculpture pile to tell
Where those who bled for freedom fell.

For Britain's sake their strength was spent,
Their blood for Britain's part;
In British hearts their monument
Immortally is built;
Nor shall their memory fade away,
Till memory shall herself decay.

Oh! no—beneath her silent pall,
Should dark oblivion hide
The fond remembrances of all
We hold most dear beside;
The flowers upon their graves forbid,
That their remembrance should be hid.

Their flowery epitaph is writ
Where Nature's footsteps tread;
'Twas freedom's self indited it,
Above the deathless dead;
And you may read upon the spot,—
"Forget me not—Forget me not."

THE NEWFOUNDLANDER

Pa. Ed. ISLAND, FEB. 17.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, JAN. 30.

THE KING'S COUNTY RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. Haviland, by command of his Excellency, delivered the following Message—

J. HARVEY, Lieutenant Governor.

In laying before the House of Assembly certain Documents connected with the proceedings of a public Meeting held at Hay River, in King's County, on the 20th December last, and to which proceedings the names of William Cooper, John W. Le Lacheur, and John McIntosh, Esquires, three of its members, are subscribed as having presided in their capacities of Representatives of the County, the Lieutenant Governor has no other object, than to bring to the question which these Documents involve, and by which this Island has been so long agitated, its prosperity obstructed and its peace disturbed, fully and fairly under the calm and dispassionate consideration of the popular branch of the Legislature; and through it, to appeal to the loyalty and good sense of the colony at large.

Lengthened as is the statement upon which the arguments of the Petition and Resolutions agreed to at this Meeting rest to the Lieut. Governor, it appears that the real question may be reduced into a very narrow compass. However unfortunate it may have been for the interests of a colony possessing, as this Island eminently does, so many Agricultural capabilities, (and that it was most unfortunate, no one can be more thoroughly convinced, than is the Lieutenant Governor,) that it should originally have been granted in large blocks to persons upon whom an almost impracticable condition of settlement was imposed, these Grants did not the less firmly convey that indisputable title to the Grantees and their heirs and assigns, which the Crown had an undoubted right to concede; and so long as the Crown is pleased to recognise the continuance of those rights, so long must they remain unimpaired.

The following extract from an opinion given by the highest law authorities of the Realm may serve to place these rights in a point of view which cannot be mistaken:—

"It is an established maxim of the Law of England, founded upon the plainest principles of justice and convenience, that no Tenant shall be permitted to question the title of the Landlord from whom he has taken the premises. When the Landlord sues for rent, or distrains, he makes a conclusive case by merely showing that the tenant took the premises from him—His title cannot be inquired into." When to this conclusive legal authority is added a recent declaration by our gracious, just, conscientious, and paternal Sovereign, "that no consideration, however urgent, of temporary or apparent expediency, could reconcile His Majesty to any measure, the principle of which would endanger the foundation of all proprietary titles and social rights," the Lieutenant Governor trusts that he has sufficiently shewn the utter inutility of repeating applications to the Throne for that extreme measure which the Petition advocates, and which His Majesty feels himself restrained equally by law and by conscience from entertaining, and from which it appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be the duty of every loyal subject to abstain, more especially after the clear and explicit declaration of His Majesty's decision upon this subject, conveyed in the Colonial Secretary's Despatch of the 10th of August last. With these views of the subject, it appears to the Lieutenant Governor that for any person, but more especially for individuals occupying the prominent and influential position of representatives of the people, to tell their Constituents that they are at liberty to violate a compact deliberately and advisedly entered into (whether by themselves or their ancestors) and ratified from every necessary form of law, under the plea, not of any departure from that compact by the other party, but of a defect having been subsequently suspected or discovered in the character of the Title which that party derived from the Crown is to hold language and to inculcate sentiments inconsistent alike with law and with common honesty; but to go still further, and to tell these deluded men, or to insinuate in language, the meaning of which cannot be misunderstood, that it is their duty and their right to take the law into their own hands, by forcibly resisting the legal measures which the Landlord may think proper to adopt for the recovery of his rights, appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be conduct so utterly at variance with the well-being of society within the Colony, as to call upon the House of Assembly to record their reprobation of the dangerous doctrine promulgated in the Resolutions referred to.

If instead of such conduct, the Tenantry, acting under sounder and kinder advice, had adopted the only proper mode of proceeding, by throwing themselves upon the consideration of their Landlords, for the purpose of making the best terms they could as respects the past or in the event of the failure of such an appeal, by relinquishing the possession of lands with the tenure of which they were dissatisfied, and in such case petitioning the King representing their distressed state, and praying for fresh grants of land in this or any other of His Majesty's North American Colonies, and even pecuniary aid to enable them to remove their families, and to establish themselves upon those lands—for the attainment of such objects they should, and still shall, if they think fit to avail themselves of them, have the Lieutenant Governor's assistance and best exertions in their behalf.

It only remains for the Lieutenant Governor to state that while it will always be his most pleasing duty to give every facility and assistance in his power, in obtaining for the people of the Colony the redress of any real grievances, provided that relief be sought by lawful and constitutional means, and be applied for in language such as befits His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects to use in any Petition intended to be laid at the foot of the Throne, he feels it to be his duty, as it is his firm determination, to assert and to maintain the supremacy of the laws.

Government House, Jan. 30th, 1837.

To the Hon. T. H. HAVILAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Haviland also delivered to the House a copy of the Royal Gazette of the 10th January, containing the draught of a Petition to the King, and a series of Resolutions, adopted at a public Meeting held at Hay River on the 20th December last and signed by William Cooper, J. W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh, Esqrs.,

as having presided at said meeting in their capacity of Representatives of King's County, the two last of which Resolutions are as follow:—

3d—Resolved, that the representations just read, in the draught of a petition to His Majesty, and agreed to by this Meeting, are truths which cannot be controverted, and exhibit a scene of fraud, deceit and oppression, on the part of the grantees and land monopolists, against the inhabitants of this Island, which, in the opinion of religious and reasonable men, is wickedness in the sight of God, derogatory to the honour and dignity of the King and the British Nation, and subversive of the sacred right of property; that longer to pay rent to such Landlords, under such circumstances and after our repeated prayers for justice, is to foster oppression and to reward crime.

4th—Resolved, therefore, that this meeting is moved by the sacred obligations of religion—by the honour and dignity of the King and the British Nation—by the rights of men to the fruits of their labour—by justice and equity (the basis of good government and civilised society,) to preserve from the distress of such landlords the fruits of our industry, raised for the maintenance of our families, and the dwellings we have erected for our homes, until His Majesty is informed of the true situation and condition of his subjects in this Island, and his decision obtained according to the merits of the case.

Ordered, that the preceding Messages and Documents be referred to a committee of the whole House on Friday the 3d of February.

On motion of Mr. Green, a Call of the House was ordered for Friday, at 11 o'clock.

February 3.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

Mr. McDonald having taken the Chair of the Committee, the business commenced, by the Clerk's reading His Excellency's second Message of the 30th ult., transmitting to the House various documents connected with the proceedings of a Public Meeting, held at Hay River on the 20th December, and published in the Royal Gazette of the 10th January, all of which were also read at length, together with the published report of the proceedings referred to.

Mr. Cooper was then heard in explanation. He disavowed any intention of promoting combinations to resist the authority of the law; he did not think that the language of the Resolutions would bear that import, but as it had been thought otherwise by the authorities, and by many whom he thought his friends, he was willing to disavow the sentiments therein expressed. He therefore begged to tender the following as his apology. Here he pulled out a paper and read as follows:—

"Whereas His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has, by Message to this House, submitted certain documents relative to resolutions passed at a meeting at Hay River, on the 20th December, to which the names of William Cooper, John Le Lacheur and John McIntosh are signed, as having presided at that meeting in their capacity of Representatives of the County; and His Excellency has pointed to the concluding part of the greater portion of the fourth of the said Resolutions, as bearing the import of a determination on the part of the meeting to resist by an illegal combination the law of the land—I William Cooper have endeavoured to explain to the Lieutenant Governor, that the Resolutions were not intended to convey sentiments to resist the laws and authority of government; and I am sorry for having used words or favored measures of proceedings which His Excellency or this Honourable House would deem illegal or unconstitutional, and humbly offer this as an apology."

Mr. Le Lacheur and Mr. McIntosh were then severally heard in explanation, after which the three Members were directed to withdraw, when they retired to seats within the bar, the Committee continuing their deliberations with open doors.

Mr. Binns, after animadverting with great severity on the conduct of the three Members, not only with reference to the language of the Resolutions, but also to the scandalous reflections on the proceedings of the House of Assembly, and the motives of the majority of its Members in pressing the Escheat Address of last Session, contained in several passages of the draught of the Petition to the King, adopted at the Hay River meeting, and which the House was more particularly called upon to mark its reprobation of, proposed the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having been pleased, by Message, to call the attention of the House of Assembly to the proceedings of a public meeting held at Hay River, in King's County, on the 20th December last, and to which proceedings the names of William Cooper, John W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh, Esqrs., Members of this House, are subscribed as having presided thereat, in their capacities of Representatives of the said County—at which meeting the draft of a Petition and certain Resolutions were agreed to, and signed by the said Wm. Cooper, J. W. Le Lacheur, and J. McIntosh, and which documents are conceived and expressed in language calculated to excite the unwary inhabitants to disloyalty, by illegal combinations to resist the execution of the known laws of the land—to bring into contempt the King and his government, and all connected with the administration of justice; and also by knowingly and wilfully misrepresenting the proceedings had by the House of Assembly in its last Session, relative to an Address to His Majesty on the subject of establishing a Court of Escheats in this Island, have been guilty of false and scandalous libel on this House, & of a gross breach of its known privileges.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pope, who enforced the propriety of adopting the Resolution. He reprobated in strong terms the attempt which had been made to bring contempt upon the House by its own Members. He was followed on the same side by Mr. Palmer.

Mr. M'Callum, seconded by Mr. Ramsay, moved an amendment to the Resolution, by striking out all the words after "disloyalty."

After some discussion, the Committee divided, when it was negatived upon the following division:

For the amendment—Messrs. M'Callum, Ramsay, Clark, M'Nutt—4.

Against it—Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Binns, Pope, Palmer, Lord, Green, James, Nelson, Thornton—9.

The Resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. Pope then proposed the next Resolution, which is as follows:

2. That this Committee having called upon the said William Cooper, John W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh for an explanation of such their conduct, and they having thereupon severally expressed their contrition, and disavowed any disloyal or dangerous intention, or having designedly committed any breach of the privileges of the House of Assembly—but especially the said John W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh, who appear to this committee to have erred more through ignorance than design, in following the evil advice of the said William Cooper, and at whose instigation they appear to have acted—

Therefore Resolved, That the said William Cooper, John W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh be severally required to apologize to the House in the words following:

"I humbly apologize to this Honourable House, for having, at a Meeting at Hay River, in December last, grossly misrepresented the proceedings and motives of the House of Assembly, in relation to an Address of the House in its last Session to His Majesty, on the subject of establishing a Court of Escheats in this Island, thereby having been guilty of a breach of the known and established privileges of this House."

Mr. M'Callum moved an amendment, to the effect that the apology which had been offered by Mr. Cooper be deemed satisfactory—which was negatived by the same majority as the former amendment. The Resolution was then put and carried.

It was then moved and carried, that the Speaker take the Chair, and that the Chairman report the Resolutions agreed to.

On the Resolutions being reported to the House, Mr. M'Callum again moved his amendments, but they met with the same fate as in the Committee, only the same four members voting for them—and the question being put on the resolution, they were concurred in by the House.

Mr. Cooper was then called in, when the apology dictated by the House was read over to him. When the Speaker informed him that that was the apology he was requested to make, he replied, that he was not conscious of having wilfully misrepresented the proceedings of the House, wherefore his conscience would not allow him to make that apology.—Mr. Le Lacheur was then called in. On the apology being read over to him, he said, that he had consulted the Town Clerk of Ephesus, and could not make the apology. Mr. McIntosh, on being called in, said he could not, in conscience, make the apology required. They were then directed to withdraw.

And thereupon, on motion of Mr. Pope, it was ordered, that in consequence of the said William Cooper, John W. Le Lacheur and John McIntosh having refused to make the apology dictated by the House, that they be committed to the custody of the Serjeant at arms, until the further pleasure of the House be signified; and that Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant accordingly.

Mr. Pope then moved, that the House do come to the Resolution following:—

RESOLVED, That it is the imperative duty of the Representatives of the people, at all times, to entertain complaints of any real or supposed grievances from their constituents, and to use their utmost endeavours to obtain the redress, by every constitutional means, of such as are real; yet this House cannot refrain from expressing its unqualified abhorrence and utter detestation of the highly improper and dangerous principles and language embodied and set forth in certain parts of the Petition and Resolutions adopted at Hay River, in December last, and referred to by the House in Committee of Privileges, but more especially in the third and fourth of the said Resolutions. And this House feels called upon to express its decided conviction, that such sentiments are not entertained by the great body of the people of this Colony, but have solely emanated from a few disaffected, designing and ignorant persons.

This motion was met by Mr. M'Callum by a motion of adjournment, which was negatived by a majority of three—Messrs. M'Callum, Ramsay, Clark, M'Nutt and Lord voting for the adjournment, and eight against it.

The question was then put on Mr. Pope's motion, and agreed to by the House.

The House adjourned at Eleven, P. M.

The Newfoundlander

ST. JOHN'S, (Thursday,) March 16, 1837.

By the *Hero*, at Bay Bulls for this port, from Halifax, we have received Nova Scotia papers to the 22nd February, from which we have selected the extracts in the preceding columns relative to the extraordinary proceedings in the Assembly at Prince Edward's Island, ending, as they have done, in the committal of three of its Members to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms. The House of Assembly of New Brunswick, have, by a very large majority, voted an address to His Majesty for the removal of the Lieutenant Governor of that Province, Sir Archibald Campbell, declaring him to have forfeited their confidence by refusing to assent to a Bill providing for the Civil Government, which they assert had received the sanction of the Home Government. His Excellency, however, deferred giving his assent without further instructions. Upon being presented with a copy of the address, His Excellency observed to the deputation:

"Gentlemen,—The conscientious rectitude of my own conduct renders the subject of this Address to me a matter of the most perfect indifference.

"I have had the honor of serving His Majesty for nearly half a century in almost every quarter of the Globe, and I trust those services have been such as to suffer no diminution in the estimation of my Sovereign from any representation that may be made by the House of Assembly of New Brunswick."

We are happy to be enabled at length to announce the departure of the Sealing Fleet from this Port, after having been detained by the ice in the offing, and by contrary winds, for several days. With a few exceptions all the Vessels sailed in the course of yesterday, with a fresh breeze and favourable prospects, which we sincerely hope may be amply realised. We shall be glad to hear that Conception Bay was sufficiently clear to permit the Sealers in its several harbours to avail of the same opportunity to proceed to sea. The following will, we believe, be found an accurate list of the Vessels, &c., at this Port. The amount of tonnage

will appear somewhat reduced in proportion to that of other years owing to so many of them having been registered under the new system. We shall not be far wrong in estimating the amount of capital invested in the whole outfit at £130,000:

Vessels' Names, and Masters.	Tonnage.	Men.
<i>L. O'Brien,</i>		
Kingaloch, Stanton	110*	33
Elizabeth Crawford	69	24
Isabella, Fitzgerald	94*	29
<i>Bland & Tobin.</i>		
Huskisson, Hennessy	116	30
Despatch, M'Grath	77	24
<i>Charles M'Callum.</i>		
Rowena, Warner	92*	29
<i>Hunters & Co.</i>		
Lady of the Lake, Taylor	111*	30
United Brothers, Bryan	130	28
Superb, Gordon	125	28
Daniel O'Connell, Burke	108	27
John & Horatia, Dwyer	96	29
Belleisle, Manning	92	27
Abeona, Williams	60	21
Theresa, M'Grath	56	18
<i>Trimingham & Co.</i>		
Dove, Roche	91*	26
Clondolin, Hagarty	77*	27
<i>James Stewart & Co.</i>		
Hibernia, Callahan	86	22
Scipio, Prim	110	27
<i>John Wyatt.</i>		
Nine Sons, Ryan	140	30
<i>Thomas D. Quinn.</i>		
Annabella, Treacey	70	24
<i>William Warren.</i>		
Adonai, Gearon	108	30
<i>John Eales, jun.</i>		
Cambrian, George Rex	80	26
<i>Ewen Stabb.</i>		
Creole, Furniss	79	22
Metis Packet, Culliton	76	22
Sarah, Dooley	63	18
<i>Codner & Jennings.</i>		
Dew Drop, Furler	91*	30
Rainbow, Fury	77	24
Daniel O'Connell, Howlett	75	23
Charlotte, Angell	68	18
Water Lilly, Carroll	100*	29
Mary Jane, Prior	77	25
<i>W. & H. Thomas & Co.</i>		
Mary, Houlihan	91	25
Margaret, Morey	61	21
Sultana, Butt	42	13
<i>Mudge & Co.</i>		
Gleaner, Walsh	103	28
Dart, French	90	24
Hunter, M'Grath	52	16
<i>John Brine.</i>		
Sir Charles Hamilton, Blake	118	27
Emigrant, Mulcahy	56	19
<i>Daniel Fowler.</i>		
Hope, Furneaux	67	24
<i>Robert Alsop & Co.</i>		
Christiana, Burke	110	29
Tryon, Houlihan	85	25
Lady of the Lake, Carew	89	29
Catherine & Ann, Dwyer	115*	32
Brazilian Packet, Dalton	75	22
<i>Monier Hutchings.</i>		
James, Kent	144	33
<i>Perchard & Boag.</i>		
Dirk Hatterick, Butler	103*	30
Mary Ann, Hartery	131*	31
Water Witch, Geron	64	20
<i>Newman & Co.</i>		
Prosperity, Mealey	109	29
Oderin, Motley	82	18
Duck, Shipton	07	27
Goose, Grills	06	28
Avalon, Mealey	84	20
Dingwell, Carew	20*	29
Alligator, Carew	51	14
Gull, Lamzed	07	29
Drake, Chafe	07	27
Brothers, Lee	61	22
Henry & Mary Ann, Chafe	99	28
Susanna Ford, Hughes	54	16
Catherine, Morey	75	21
<i>John Nichols.</i>		
Privilege, Power	66	18
<i>Baine, Johnston & Co.</i>		
Adventure, Pitts	94	28
Eliza, Mullens	121	29
Clydesdale, Hearne	117	30
Harriet Elizabeth, Walsh	114	27
John Fulton, Neale	94	21
Trial, Cosgrove	42	15
Sarah, Breenock	84	25
Wellington, Hally	74	20
Shaver, Allen	132	31
Joseph, Foran	69	24
Jane & Mary, M'Carthy	59	17
Catherine Power, Power	105	26
Argyle, Silvey	86	22
Mary Jane, Mackay	108	31
Billow, Shea	90	25
Perseverance, Prendergast	70	20
Revenge, Wood	71	21
<i>Butler, Bulley & Co.</i>		
Eliza, Farrell	105	29
Ann, Barrington	76	22
Antelope, Ebsary	93	25
Victory, Pike	74	18
Margaret Helen, Bambrery	92*	22
<i>Andrew Howard & Co.</i>		
Actual, Pike	67	22
Haberdine, Maher	65	19
<i>Lawrence Machessey</i>		
Lady Young, Coady	100	25
<i>John Bulley.</i>		
Joseph, Geary	60	18

Bulley, Job & Co.			
Mary, Kenna	68*	21	
Union, Norman	118	27	
Revenge, Ennis	60	16	
J. B. Barnes,			
Angler, Casey	116*	32	
Royal William, Williams	80*	30	
Patrick Jordan.			
St. Patrick, Ryan	94	22	
Richard Howley.			
Eliza, Puroell	97	29	
Bennett Morgan & Co.			
Eliza, Boig	135	32	
Renown, Coady	56	18	
William & Ann, Knight	85	22	
Betsey, Stephens	97	26	
M. Bride & Kerr.			
Ranger, Walsh	128	30	
Amity, Cahill	125*	30	
Diana, Cuddihy	72	20	
Reliance, Ryan	76	20	
Naney, Coady	56	16	
Speculation, Burn	84	20	
Kitty, Pilly	53	17	
George, Mackay	73	20	
Charlotte, Furneaux	99*	35	
Patrick Morris.			
Feronia, Kavanagh	83	20	
Maria Ann, Shea	53	14	
Rennie, Stuart & Co.			
Britannia, Martin	98	28	
Active, Casey	74	22	
Nimrod, Barron	118	30	
Loyalty, Maddin	60	22	
Brothers, Malone	57	18	
Juno, Pike	94	22	
Rose and Thistle, Feehan	80	22	
John Stuart, Cotter	130	29	
Mary Woodley.			
Hope, Bulger	76	24	
Thomas Blake.			
Only Son, Lynch	63	20	
Vessels. Tons. Men.			
Total.....	121	10648	2940

Rotterdam, who stood for them, but the sea ran so high and night coming on he could not take them off, but lay by them all night, and on the following morning took them off and brought them into this port on Saturday last. The vessel was fast sinking when the crew left.—*New York Advertiser*, January 30.

To the Editor of the Newfoundland Ledger.
 Sir,—Having noticed with satisfaction in the *Ledger* of this day, that a meeting of the Inhabitants of St. John's is called for Saturday next, in order to take into consideration the propriety and advantage of establishing a Joint Stock Bank in this town, the operations of which shall be confined to Newfoundland, I beg leave, through the medium of your paper, to throw out some ideas which, possibly, may not be wholly unprofitable to that portion of your readers interested in the establishment of any institution having for its object the prosperity of the Island generally, and of this thriving commercial Town particularly.

It appears to me to be all but positively certain, that a Bank established here on a proper basis, and acting upon liberal principles, must necessarily promote the welfare of the community at large, though unquestionably not, in the first instance, the interests of those Merchants carrying on an extensive trade, and whose capitals are amply sufficient for their various operations; for a local Bank cannot improve their facilities, whilst its issues and discounts must, in the degree, lift up the moderate Traders, and men of acknowledged industry and integrity, so as somewhat to approach the hitherto overpowering capitalists. I doubt not the latter Gentlemen, with the keen-sightedness allied to man's interest, clearly perceive the effect which I have pointed at; but in place of aiming at, or planning, the subversion of an establishment already in operation amongst us, they wisely determine to lend their influence to the forming of one that shall be entirely local, and their support to maintain it in respectability and independence, and thereby ensure to themselves such a proportion of the profits from their shares, as probably to compensate fully for any disadvantages that may accrue to their commercial concerns, from the increase and diffusion of floating capital, consequent upon the introduction of the Banking system to our shores.

I feel the more disposed to laud the policy which has dictated, or the generosity which has prompted, the course pursued by the Gentlemen who have called the Meeting for the 18th, as, otherwise, it is more than probable the good sense of the town of St. John's would suggest to the middle classes and less wealthy traders—who possess unemployed capital quite sufficient for the purpose—the adoption of a similar measure before the end of the present year. Should the Meeting on Saturday decide unanimously on the formation of a Joint-Stock Banking Company—as I am led to think it will—Merchants, Traders and others, will then have but one duty to perform, namely, the rearing and maturing of their infant establishment, in order to make it productive to the shareholders, and essentially useful and beneficial to the community at large.

I find that various opinions have been spread abroad on the subject of banking, generally, but more particularly with reference to the issue of paper, or local Bank Notes, and the discount of promiscuous paper, by which I mean every Bill, Note and acceptance, representing money.—I shall separate these two important points for examination. Many are alarmed at the bare mention of a paper currency for the local circulation of St. John's, its district and neighbourhood. Some, not feeling any degree of alarm, imagine that a paper currency would yield no solid advantage to the banking company; whilst others, not partaking of the fears of the former, nor of the sentiments of the latter, maintain that local Bank Notes would have the effect of banishing dollars from the Island. In answer to these several objections I must beg leave to observe, that I cannot imagine any probable evil that should result from an issue of bank paper, payable in specie, on demand. Such a condition must, as a matter of course, induce wholesome caution on the part of the Bankers, whilst the conviction that the notes, on presentation, would be exchanged for cash, would, in due time, ensure to them a circulation calculated considerably to facilitate the great purposes of discount and accommodation—for it must not be forgotten, that both these purposes are extended or limited in all commercial countries, in the proportion that paper may be substituted for a metallic currency on the one hand, or as circumstances may require its withdrawal from circulation on the other. I do not in this instance see how the proposed Bank can be an exception to the general rule, and I do see both a very great convenience, as well as profit, to be derived from the practice. Let us suppose that the Capital of the Bank may be fixed at £100,000, in £50 shares, and a deposit of 20 per cent required from each subscriber. This would produce an actual capital, in specie, of £20,000—which I conceive amply sufficient for all purposes where dollars would be indispensably necessary. Under such circumstances, surely, there could be no possible danger in issuing paper to a like amount—or, if necessary, double that amount—three-fourths of it would very soon find its way into the hands of the shareholders—and it is quite unnecessary to add, that they could not harbor a disposition to run upon their own Bank—whilst the Trade would be supplied with a circulating medium, useful for every purpose whatsoever, and secured by, probably, the majority of the wealth and intelligence of St. John's.

I hope I have shown that a paper currency, to a certain extent, judiciously circulated, cannot be attended with injurious consequences, and, I doubt

not, that its utility to the Bank and the Public must be obvious to all reflecting minds. Such is the practice amongst some of the most cautious people in Great Britain—the Scotch for example, and highly beneficial they have found it;—and in the City of Bristol, and almost throughout England and Wales, as well as in Ireland, the practice is very general. All that is deemed important is to know that the Issuers possess property and sufficient means to meet their engagements.

As regards the apprehension of banishing specie from the Island, that I believe to be fallacious; for under every possible contingency that may be imagined, Dollars will still be required for many purposes, where Bank Notes would not be found an equivalent; and, therefore, cash must continue in demand. For instance, all persons from the Outports dealing in St. John's, whether Traders, Planters, or others, will be certain to take from hence their balances in specie; and many persons residing here will, from an inordinate love for the precious metals, keep money by them in preference to paper, no matter how attractive the latter may be in point of security. In the Customs, duties will be exacted in specie, in all probability; and, from time to time, Cash for the payment of the Troops will be imported here—to say nothing of the occasional importations of the Merchants when dollars may be low in Great Britain, or foreign Exchanges may render such a measure desirable in return for Fish cargoes. But, above every other consideration, let it not be lost sight of, that the Bank must meet its engagements in Cash when required;—this circumstance alone should satisfy the most sceptical alarmist that the Proprietors will never allow their issue of Bank Notes to exceed their means of discharging them on the shortest notice.

On the subject of discounts, it strikes me forcibly that errors can scarcely occur in this limited community, from any want of knowledge of the parties to be accommodated, or from ignorance of those transactions out of which notes and acceptances generally arise. In the large cities and towns of Great Britain and Ireland, it is morally impossible, in many instances, to distinguish mere accommodation paper, from that which has grown out of *bona fide* transactions; but, in St. John's, such an instance would be of rare occurrence, from local causes well understood by every member of the Mercantile Body.

In fact, every man residing in this district and neighbourhood worthy of confidence, whether from the possession of actual property, or from industry and unblemished reputation, would, assuredly, be known to the majority of the Bank Proprietors, and, therefore, to their representatives, and would accordingly have his fair measure of support and accommodation meted out to him; for, apart from the liberality of a Joint Stock Bank Company, it would be the interest of the Proprietors, or Shareholders, never to refuse aid on any legitimate occasion where ultimate protection could be secured to them against their advance.

If you think, Mr. Editor, that any thing contained in this Letter is possessing interest sufficient for a place in your columns, I shall feel obliged by your giving it insertion in your next.

I am, Sir,
 Your obedient Servant,
 MERCATOR.

St. John's, March 14, 1837.

Notices.
JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY.
 St. John's, March 10, 1837.

At a Meeting, casually assembled, of a few gentlemen favourable to the establishment of a JOINT STOCK BANKING COMPANY in this Town, it was unanimously Resolved—That in order to obtain the sentiments of the public generally, on the expediency of establishing a Joint Stock Bank in this Town, the general operations of which shall be confined to this Colony, it is desirable that a Meeting of all persons favourable to such an institution, do take place at the EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, on SATURDAY next, the 18th inst., at 12 o'clock, in order that the subject may be brought under discussion.

LAND For Sale.
 100 ACRES on the NORTH side of Windsor Lake, bounded on the South by the Portugal Cove Road; and,
 100 Acres on the SOUTH side of Windsor Lake, and bounded on the North by said Lake.
 For Further Particulars apply at the Office of Messrs. BLAND & TOBIN.
 March 16.

DESERTED from the service of the Rev. CHARLES DALTON, of Harbor Grace, in November last, a Youngster named EDMOND BRENNAN, aged 25 years, and about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches in height. Whoever harbors or employs said Deserter after this public notice, will be prosecuted as the law directs in such cases.
 Harbor Grace, 15th February, 1837.

WANTED.
 A HOUSE-SERVANT, who understands the management of HORSES.—Apply to
 February 23. Wm. THOMAS.

Those marked thus* are of the admeasurement Tonnage under the late Act 5th & 6th, Wm. 4th, cap. 56.

Outfit for the Seal Fishery at this port, in the undermentioned years:—

Year	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1830	92	6198	1985
1831	118	8046	2578
1832	153	11,462	3294
1833	106	8665	2564
1834	125	11,029	2910
1835	126	11,167	2912
1836	126	11,425	2965

We regret to announce the loss of one of the Sealing Vessels at the very commencement of the voyage. The Schooner *William & Ann*, Knight, Master, in going through the narrows yesterday, struck on Prossers Rock, but was soon got off without apparent damage. The vessel had not, however, proceeded far beyond the harbor's mouth when she was discovered to be in a sinking condition, and the Master and Crew had little more than time to take to their boats, when she went down.

MELANCHOLY SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.
 —The brigantine *Gratitude*, Hore, master, which sailed hence for Halifax with a cargo of fish, on the 28th December last, was totally lost (supposed off Cape Liscomb) on the night of the 2d January, when, melancholy to relate, all hands on board (consisting of the crew with two male passengers) perished, with the exception of the Captain, who alone is left to tell the tale. It appears that on the 2d January, at 4 P. M., the Vessel steering W. by S. made Cape Canso, bearing E. N. E. At 10 P. M., the wind blowing very hard from the S. E. with thick snow and a heavy sea running, the vessel struck upon a ledge and in a few minutes turned head to wind. Both masts were then cut away, in the expectation that she would pay off, but without effect, and the sea made a fair breach over her. At about 2 A. M. the vessel parted, her bottom falling from her, when a heavy sea came and swept every soul from the deck. The Captain was providentially thrown ashore, but did not recover his recollection until sun-rise, when he found himself about 500 yards from the beach where he had, no doubt, crept in a state of insensibility. Some days after the bodies were all washed ashore, with the mainmast and part of the rigging; and Captain Hore having subsequently proceeded to Halifax, took passage in a vessel thence for this port, which put into Bay Bulls early in the last week.—We regret to add that Mr. James Fortune, lately in the house of Messrs. Wm. Stewart & Co. here, was among the number of the unhappy passengers.—*Ledger*.

The British Schooner *Triumph*, Capt. Robert Pierce, sailed from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, the 1st Dec., bound to the Mediterranean with a cargo of Fish. On the 5th January, in lat. 46 16 N., lon. 44 20 W., encountered a heavy gale with a bad sea, which caused the vessel to pitch and roll so much that both masts, bowsprit and camboose were carried away—shipped a heavy sea over the stem which filled the cabin with water, destroying all the nautical instruments and spoiling the provisions. Capt. P. made what sail he could on a jury mast and put her before the wind, steering S. W.; saw three British vessels which came near the wreck which had a signal of distress flying, but did not make any attempt to assist their fellow mariners. On the 19th, these unfortunate men who had been fourteen days on the wreck with nothing to eat but the raw salt provisions and wet bread, were discovered by Captain Kempton of the Brig *Clitus*, from

Notices.
Public Ball.
 THE ANNUAL CHARITY BALL for the benefit of the ORPHAN ASYLUM SCHOOL, will be held there on TUESDAY, the 28th inst.
STEWARDS—
Officers Benevolent Irish Society, and Committee Orphan Asylum School,
 Of whom admission Tickets may be had:—Ladies, 5s.; Gentlemen's, 7s. 6d.
 March 9.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Branch of the above Bank established in this town is now open, and that the hours of business will be from 10 to 3 o'clock. Discount days, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS. Bills or Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank on the days previous.
 Any farther information required may be obtained on application to
 ANDREW MILROY,
 Manager.
 St. John's, Newfoundland, }
 28th February, 1837. }

To be Let.
 For such a term of Years as may be agreed upon, and possession given immediately.
 THAT Capital FARM and FARM-HOUSE, situate near the King's Bridge, and within five minutes walk of the Town, commonly known by the name of "MURRAY'S FARM."
 The Land—which comprises arable and meadow ground, is in a high state of cultivation—and includes a Garden stocked with Fruit Trees of several sorts.
 The Farm House—which is new—possesses a capacious frost-proof Cellar, and is capable of affording comfortable accommodation to a respectable family.
 For further particulars, apply to
 Mr. ROBINSON.
 March 2.

For such term of years as may be agreed on, and immediate possession given—
 THAT very convenient and eligibly-situated DWELLING-HOUSE, late in the occupancy of Dr. SHEA;
 ALSO,
 (And possession given on the 1st of May)
 The DWELLING-HOUSE at present in the occupancy of Mr. Solicitor-General EMERSON.—
 For further particulars apply to
 Dr. SAMUEL CARSON.
 February 23.

On Sale
Cordage.
 20 Tons Assorted CORDAGE,
 Viz—
 Hawser-Laid from 1 to 6 inch
 Shroud-Laid from 6 thread Ratline to 6 inch
 Houseline, Hambroline, Marline, & Spun yarn
 1 and 1 1/2 inch White Rope
 9 and 10 inch Banking Cables
 For Sale by
 W. & H. THOMAS & Co.
 February 16.

BY
BLAND & TOBIN,
 100 Barrels prime Irish PORK, per Blandford from Cork.
 And of former Importations,
 40 Pancheons RUM
 40 Ditto MOLASSES
 30 Hhds. Muscovado SUGAR
 100 Firkins Prime Cumberland BUTTER.
 February 16.
 By
EWEN STABB,
 Ex Charlotte,
 Hide & Shoulder LEATHER of excellent quality CALF SKINS.
 Also on hand, and will be Sold Cheap,
 30 Barrels American APPLES
 8 Marble CHIMNEY-PIECES.
 February 16.

TEAS.
 LATELY RECEIVED AND FOR SALE BY
B. BOWRING & SON,
 Hyson, Twankay and Congo TEA,—
 ALSO—
 150 Boxes Soap, 20 Barrels Currants.
 Feb. 2.

THE HAZARD TABLE.

I well remember the night, when, at the request of his mother, I set out to look in one of the London gambling-houses for the dearest friend of my college-days. Henry Villiers, in mind as well as in person, was eminently calculated to conciliate the affections of all around him; and I thought that he must be changed indeed, if I could not win him back from the fatal pursuit to which he had addicted himself, to the bosom of a family by whom he was almost idolised. He had not been at home for some days, and his absence had created the most serious apprehensions. I had undertaken to remove them.

It was at the end of a remarkably severe December; for two days previous a snow-storm had raged with unwonted violence; the streets were every where covered to a depth of from three to four feet; and when a projecting corner or accidental winding had created a peculiar current of air, the drift had risen to a height even dangerous to the incautious walker. It had just commenced to thaw, and the cold was much more intense than it had been during the frost. With an involuntary shudder, I wrapped my cloak more closely round me, and with unsteady steps waded through the masses of melting snow, in which, at each moment, I sank above the ankle. I might perhaps have been inclined to turn, for the chill of the night seemed but to second the internal shudder with which I committed myself to the dens of infamy and vice; but that image of the aged mother, as she wept in all the agony of hopeless solicitude over the blighted prospects of her son, rose freshly before me;—I heard the heart-thrilling tones with which she called on the absent Villiers:—"My lost, my ruined child"—still rung in my ears; and I hurried on, with the determination that no effort of mine should be wanting to restore that child to her arms. If I needed any additional inducement, I had but to recal the silent anguish of Miss Villiers, and I felt armed for any conflict of mind or body to which I could possibly be exposed. I pursued my way, therefore, down R—Street with renewed energy. The heavy damp on the lamps completely obscured their brilliancy, and left scarcely light sufficient to show the pallid faces and shivering forms of the wretched victims of vice, whom the cravings of want had driven out even on such a night as this to earn a miserable subsistence. I shuddered at solicitations, in which the utmost efforts could not conceal the hollow tones of hunger and disease; and turning from the costly avenue of fashionable commerce, I passed into the first of a succession of alleys which were to lead me to the object of my search.

A series of involved turnings led me, after a walk of some five or ten minutes, to a retired court, which I had no difficulty in recognising as the place I was in quest of. I gazed anxiously around to discover the house to which I was directed, but the uniformity of all those near me presented almost insuperable difficulties. The lower part of each house in the court seemed, from the closed outside shutters, to partake of the nature of a shop, whilst the patched windows of the upper stories gave promise of a desolation, not very inviting to those whom the label of "Furnished or Unfurnished Apartments," might tempt to look towards them. From many of them issued half-suppressed shrieks or the clamour of drunkenness, where the deep tones of the hardened profligate mingled with the higher notes of his female associate in iniquity. I had just marked one of the windows, where the glare of the lamp showed "Billiards" written in large letters on the panes, when the sound of the patrol in an adjoining street, as he called "Past one o'clock," made me shrink into the shadow of the door nearest me with an involuntary feeling of guilt, as if I were about to commit some act of crime or villainy. Assured, however, after a moment, by the voice of any being connected with society, I pressed my hand on my bosom to ascertain that the pistols with which I had armed myself were still there, firmly grasped my stick, and crossed to examine more accurately the house opposite. There was no appearance of a door, yet I was convinced it was the place I sought; and I moved a few steps aside to search for an entrance, when a tall figure, wrapped, like myself, in a cloak, crossed the court, approached me closely, and a voice in rather gentlemanly tones, though marked by a slight Irish accent, said, "This is the house, I think, Sir."

The question tallied so completely with what was passing in my own mind, that I answered involuntarily, "I believe so."

My new acquaintance, however, seemed, notwithstanding his remark, to entertain no doubts on the subject: for, turning short into a very narrow passage, which the darkness had hitherto prevented me from observing, he approached a small door, or rather panel in the side wall, and knocked three times gently. I kept close by his side. We heard the grating of iron, as a chain was thrown inside across the entrance. The door was then opened so far as to admit a strong glare of light to fall upon us, and a face was protruded through the opening, which accurately reconnoitred the person of my companion, who stood foremost. The scrutiny seemed satisfactory, so far as he was concerned; but a short whisper ensued, in which the phrases, "new face," "fresh 'un," "won't peach, think ye?" were barely audible. The door was then opened to its full width, scarcely sufficient indeed to admit us singly, and I found that we were in a small hall, between the outside entrance and an inner door completely covered with cloth, and surmounted by a brilliant lamp. The attendant turned a spring key in the lock, and ushered us on a very steep and narrow staircase, which my companion and myself ascended with equal steps.

In a room on the first floor, I distinguished a strong light, and a number of eager voices. Thither, then, I was in the act of turning, when the voice of my new acquaintance interrupted me, as he said—

"That is the billiard-room; you go up stairs, don't you?"

"Why yes, I believe I shall," said I, endeavouring to assume an air of as much sang froid as possible, and believing that, up stairs, if there was the hazard table, Villiers was more likely to be found.

We proceeded accordingly to the second floor, and my conductor, for I had fallen in the rear, pushing opposite the staircase, mentioned to me to enter a long and low room, crowded with figures, all of whom appeared deeply interested in their various occupations. I did not at first see Villiers. Close on my right lay the remnants of a supper, to which full justice appeared to have been done, for but a few fragments remained to satisfy the appetite of one or two, who, having been too late for its first glories, were now voraciously swallowing whatever remained that was eatable.

"They sup early, Sir. We are almost too late," said my companion; and throwing aside his cloak, he instantly attacked the remaining viands, with a zeal to which Quentin Durward before Louis could afford no parallel.

"I thank you, I am not hungry," I replied, gazing at the same moment on the form and features of the speaker. Succeeding events imprinted his appearance on my memory with but too fearful distinctness. He was one of the most powerful-looking men I ever met. About six feet high, and made in proportion, his frame was remarkable rather for strength and weight than activity. The face, as his eyes were bent on the supper-table, had nothing in it peculiar, except that the projection of one or two front teeth broke the regularity of the features.

He looked upwards, however, as he addressed me a second time, with "You don't eat, Sir;" and I almost shrank from the expression of his eyes, as they met my view. Small, and deep set, of a light grey colour, but appearing at first view darker, from the overhanging and closely-knit brows which shaded them, they seemed to combine in them all of ferocity and cunning that imagination could picture. I moved hastily from beside him, and walked towards the further end of the room.

On one side was the fire-place, around which were grouped, busily engaged in conversation, half-a-dozen persons, whose shabby dress and air of poverty showed that they had nothing left to risk. Opposite was placed a large table, the most conspicuous portion of which was a circular revolving centre-piece. It was divided into small compartments coloured red and black, and the game seemed to be regulated by the colour into which might chance to fall a small ivory ball, which an attendant rolled round the edge of the circular part. Behind this person were pasted the regulations of the roulette-table; and I gazed for a minute or two at a game, of which I had often heard as the most ruinous among the varieties of play. Few, however, appeared on this evening to be its votaries; and I turned to a round table, occupying the whole end of the room, about which were thronged all who seemed really engaged in the occupation of the place.

My first glance fell upon Villiers. He was sitting directly opposite me, leaning his face on his left hand, whilst with nervous anxiety he watched the person who was throwing the dice. A small pile of counters lay immediately before him, and his right hand rested carelessly on them; but his attention was completely riveted on the progress of the game.

"Cinque-ace:—caster loses," said the attendant, whom I heard termed "Groomporter."

The muscles of Villiers' face worked for a moment with convulsive energy; but steadying himself, by an effort—apparent to me, at least—he pushed across the table about one-half of the counters before him.

"You are fortunate to-night, Mr. Varney," said he. I turned, and saw, receiving the counters, with an air of cool satisfaction, the man with whom I had entered. I barely noticed him, however, for my feelings were too much interested in watching the proceedings of Villiers to allow me to dwell upon anything else.

Alas! how changed he was from the Villiers of my college days! He was pale, almost ghastly; but a hectic flush of unnatural red flitted occasionally across his cheek, and showed but more plainly the ravages of dissipation. His elegant form, always slight, and now greatly attenuated, seemed unfit to associate with the reckless looks and bloated countenances of those who surrounded him.

His dark hair, which I had so often admired, at present extremely long and disordered, was thrown back from his brow, as if its weight was too much for him to endure.

He was not betting, but seemed to have reserved himself until it should come to his turn to take the dice-box.

I sighed involuntarily, and, I suppose, audibly, for Villiers glanced quickly around, and his eye met mine. For one moment a burning blush crimsoned his cheek, and a spasmodic affection seemed to flit across his brow. It was but for a moment. He looked, rather than nodded his recognition, and turned to watch the game.

"You don't play, Sir," said the voice of Varney, at my elbow. "Come, just by way of a flyer, to put you in humour, I'll bet you a sovereign he throws, this time, either a deuce or an ace."

"Very well," said I, mechanically, and not sorry to throw away a sovereign to avoid observation.

The throw was four and one, and I was in the act of handing over to Varney the amount which

I presumed I had lost, when the voice of Villiers prevented me.

"You need not trouble yourself to pay that bet, Sir," said he, coolly.

"Who says so?" cried Varney, with a loudness which instantly commanded the attention of all present.

"I do," answered Villiers, quietly. "The odds were in your favour; you made only an even bet. By the rules of the table, it cannot stand. Groomporter, does the gentleman lose his money?"

The man looked for an instant at Varney, and evidently hesitated; but the tone and manner of Villiers prevailed, backed, as it now was, by that of a number of young men round the table, and with manifest reluctance he decided that the bet was off.

Varney said nothing aloud but my blood curdled, as I caught the scowl of demoniac malignity with which he glared across the table, and, as he ground his teeth, I could hear him muttering, "D—n him, I'll be revenged!"

It now came to the turn of Villiers to take the box. He pushed into the centre of the table all of his counters that remained, and, scarcely waiting until an equal number were risked against them, he threw the dice without naming any number.

"A main, Sir," said the Groomporter. "I had forgotten," said Villiers; "seven's the main."

The dice rolled out, and the next moment I heard the announcement, "Deuce-ace:—caster loses!"

"Nicked out, by Jove!" said one near me. "He's smashed now; he has lost a devilish deal to-night."

My ear caught the words, but my gaze was still upon Villiers, and I started at the wildness visible in his demeanour. His eye was expanded in a glassy stare, whilst his hand passed rapidly over his pockets, as if to see whether there yet remained in them anything to stake.

"Shall I pass the box, or will you take a back, Sir?" said the Groomporter.

"Pass on. But no! no! Who will set this watch?" cried he, as he pushed forward a large gold repeater, which had been given to him by his mother, and which I knew he therefore highly valued.

The stake was unusual, and do one replied. "It's worth forty pounds," said Villiers. "Who will risk twenty pounds against it?"—he paused—"Or ten?" he added.

A note was thrust from behind me into the ring, while I was myself pushing forward ten sovereigns, in place of the watch, which I was determined to save.

Villiers raised his hand, as if to throw; and I feared; I was too late, when suddenly pausing, he said, "Whose money is that, Groomporter?"

"A gentleman's opposite," said the man looking to Varney.

"I do not bet with that person," said Villiers, deliberately. "Will any one else set me?"

Every eye was turned on Varney, and his huge form appeared literally to dilate with rage, as he exclaimed, furiously, "Beggars! what mean you? Dare you to insinuate that I play unfairly?"

Villiers did not answer, but eyed him with cool contempt.

The question was again put, and in a still more ferocious tone.

Villiers looked full in his face, and, taking up his watch, said, "Do I insinuate? The matter is now beyond insinuation. It amounts to certainty."

There was one moment of silence. A rush succeeded, and my eye caught the form of Villiers, as it fell senseless on the floor, while the fierce eyes of his opponent gleamed brightly above him.

"Aye, give it him!" shouted several voices. "Teach these beggarly fops what it is to meet with a gentleman of science!"

I pushed hastily forward, and, taking a pistol from my breast, cocked it, and exclaimed, "The first man who touches him dies!"

Varney drew back in terror; I slowly raised my friend from the ground, and, with the assistance of one or two of the more gentlemanly-looking persons, round me, endeavoured to recal animation.

His forehead had struck in his fall against one of the legs of the table, and the blood was flowing profusely from the wound. In a few moments he revived. His eye glared wildly round, when, suddenly springing from our grasp, and shouting, "Defend yourself, coward!"—he precipitated himself on the huge form of Varney, who stood gazing on the scene in evident triumph.

The movement was so unexpected as to throw us into momentary confusion, and rapid blows were exchanged between the combatants before any one could interfere to separate them.

The conflict was, apparently, most unequal; for Varney was taller, and nearly double the weight of his opponent. But excitement seemed to have lent to Villiers unnatural strength. Still, Varney watched him with a coolness which showed he knew such efforts could not last, when suddenly, in making an effort, which was evidently intended to end the contest, his foot slipped, and his own weight; joined to a blow from Villiers, prostrated him before us.

"Raise the ruffian," said Villiers. "Let him come on again."

The group round the fallen man hastened to obey the direction, surprised that he showed but little sign of animation, and utterly astonished at the casualty of the contest.

Chance, however, had accomplished more than any one believed. One or two deep groans issued from Varney as they raised him; a strong convulsion shook his body; and then, the sinking head and nerveless arms showed, but too plainly, that

the spirit had passed into the presence of Him who created it.

The consternation occasioned by the discovery gave an interval for action. I seized Villiers by the arm, and, thrusting a pistol into his hand, whilst I held forth another myself, dragged him towards the door, and whispered, "Fly for your life! They will be upon you in a moment."

I spoke, however, to one who heard me not, but, mechanically obeyed the impulse, he had descended about half way down the stairs, when a burst of execrations from the room above, followed by a rush towards the door, warned me that we had not a moment to lose.

I gave Villiers a violent push forward. The muffled door below gave way to an impetuosity that defied all barriers. The astonished watchman yielded to the summons of an armed and apparently desperate man. The outer door opened.

"Thank God!" I shouted, involuntary (although with us rushed into the air several of those who had been above) when a firm grasp was laid on my collar, and I found that we were in the hands of a strong police force, whom the noise above had summoned to the spot.

Some of them made their way up stairs, the others guarded their prisoners. The former soon returned, bringing with them the lifeless body of Varney, and several of the men I had seen in the hazard-room. The rest, in the confusion, had managed to escape. We were all marched to the station-house.

Since the discovery of Varney's death, Villiers had not spoken; but as I got closer to him in the narrow entrance of the police-office, I could hear him muttering to himself, "Ruined! eye, ruined! And now a murderer! Oh! God, a murderer!"

The tone was so hollow that I could scarcely recognise it; but I had little time for thought. An examination into the circumstances was immediately proceeded with, which ended in my liberation, and in the detention of Villiers. A private room was allotted to him, and we entered together.

He threw himself on the guard-house bed, which occupied almost the whole of the apartment; pressed his hands convulsively on his forehead, and shrieked, in tones of bitter desolation, "My God!—my mother!—Ellen!"

I drew near to him, and placing my hand on his, said, "Villiers, dear Villiers, recal your senses—be yourself—and all will yet be well."

He started at my touch, sprang from the bed, and, with all the violence of a maniac, screamed, "Off, off, touch me not—it's a lie! I did not do it. Who says so?—No! no! no!"

The excitement had exhausted him, and again he sank back on the bed; but a minute had scarcely elapsed, when he leaped on the floor, and, while his whole frame shook with horror, and his eyes glared at the door, as if he saw there the spectre of the murdered man, shouted, "Look! look! there he is. See in flames, blue flames! He beckons—he seizes me! Oh, save—save—save me!"

But why should I recal the horrors of that long night? Fit after fit followed of frantic despair, succeeded by the weakness of exhaustion. At times it was with difficulty that I, with the aid of my servant (whom I had sent for,) could restrain him from some act of desperate violence; whilst, at other periods, he sank to a state of so great weakness, as to lie in uter insensibility in my arms.

During the few intervals of collectedness which he enjoyed, I gathered, that he had been introduced to the hazard-table, several months before, by a mutual college acquaintance of ours; that he had gradually grown more and more fascinated by the demon of gambling; and, finally, that, for the last five days, he had continually engaged at play, and had never rested during the whole of that time, having been wound up, by repeated losses, to such a height of desperation, as to be insensible to the progress of time.

Varney had been the principal winner, and Villiers had, more than once, reason to suspect him of unfair play. His attempt to swindle me had convinced him that those suspicions were well founded. I had witnessed the closing scene.

"I am now," said he, "utterly ruined; and," he slowly added, "a murderer!"

His mother and sister he dared not, could not meet. Indeed, it was evident to me that at present he was unable to do so; for the very idea was so distracting to him, that convulsion after convulsion succeeded, and, completely exhausted, he sank into a broken slumber, interrupted, every five or ten minutes, by all the agonies of remorse and despair, as the image of the deceased Varney seemed to flit before his view.

Fever and delirium succeeded. Mind and body gave way together, and, at the end of a week, I followed to the grave the remains of him for whom all who knew him had anticipated a long career of happiness and honour.

My friend, my friend, how bright was thy rising, how dark thy close!