# The Canadian Post.

Vol. XVI. Whole Number 837. LINDSAY, ONT., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1875. Terms, $1.50 in Advance.


## NORTH VICTORIA.

### The Nomination Proceedings.

The nominations for North Victoria in the Ontario Assembly took place in Simpson's Hall, Coboconk, last Friday afternoon. There was a considerable attendance of electors, though the weather was cold and threatening. Quite a number from Lindsay were present. Mr. H. Dunsford opened proceedings by reading the writ for the election, and then called for nominations of candidates.

Mr. DUNCAN MACRAE, proposed by Mr. John Fell, seconded by Mr. Jas. Armstrong, of Woodville.

Dr. P. H. CLARKE, of Woodville, by Mr. J. D. Smith, seconded by Mr. Arch. Campbell, of Woodville.

Mr. A. W. LAUDER, of Toronto, by Mr. Jos. Staples, seconded by Mr. Ashman, of Eldon.

Mr. JOHN D. NAYLOR, of Fenelon, by Mr. James Dickson, of Fenelon Falls, seconded by Mr. J. W. Folliott.

Mr. J. BRUCE SMITH, of Lindsay, by J. W. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Nelson Heaslip.

Mr. WM MARGACH, of Lindsay, by Mr. Thos. Howie, of Bury's Green, seconded by Mr. Havelock Davis.

Mr. F. WHALLEY, by Mr. Samuel Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Nicholas Duer.

Hon. S. C. WOOD, by Mr. John Swanton, seconded by Wm. Mackezie.

Mr. A. BOULTBEE, by Mr. J. W. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Jas. Sutherland.

Mr. J. A. WILKINSON, of West Durham, by Mr. E. D. Orde, seconded by Mr. John McTaggart.

Mr. JOS. STAPLES, by Mr. Wm. Swanton, seconded by Mr. John Griffin.

Mr. J. F. CUNNINGS, by Mr. J. W. Folliott, seconded by Mr. W. S. Dowson.

Mr. E. D. ORDE, by H. F. Perdue, seconded by Mr. Wm. Ashman.

Mr. JOS. STAPLES—Mr. Returning Officer,—I beg leave to nominate the whole crowd. (Cheers and laughter).

The RETURNING OFFICER,—Excuse me, sir, I hav'nt room for them in the ballot papers. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. JOHN FELL, by Mr. Samuel Luke, seconded by Mr. Wm. Swanton.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, of Eldon, by Mr. Jno. D. Naylor, seconded by Mr. Borland.

Mr. Macrae appointed Mr. Samuel Jamieson, of Balsover, his agent for election expenditure; and Dr. Clarke appointed Mr. Peter Ferguson, of Woodville. The Returning Officer made the necessary announcement in regard thereto in accordance with the statute. The hour for nominations having expired the Returning Officer read the list of nominations and the polling places. A poll was demanded by Mr. Jas. Armstrong. The Returning Officer said it was necessary for him to go away, and upon motion of Mr. Jas. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. N. Heaslip, Mr. J. D. Smith was appointed chairman, Mr. John McTaggart was appointed secretary.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the audience for the honor they had done him, and suggested that as the speakers were numerous some arrangement should be made as to the time to be occupied by each speaker. On motion of Mr. Fell it was agreed that each candidate should have fifteen minutes. Most of the candidates gave their time to the leading speakers.

Mr. D. MACRAE on coming forward was received with cheers He said his record for four years in the house was well known to most of the electors, and he would leave them to judge of it. He thought he had fulfilled his duty, and had discharged every promise he had made when elected by a large majority of the people of this riding. He had gone to the House as a supporter of the Sandfield Macdonald government. That government had fallen a short time after the House had been called together; and then he had taken something of an independent position. He had supported such measures as the government of the day brought forward that he had considered worthy of support; and such measures as he had not considered worthy of support he had voted against, as had many of the thick and thin supporters of the government. He thought he had full authority to act as he had acted; and in doing so he thought he had done his duty. On the present occasion he stood in the same position. If they put their confidence in him and returned him he would deal with the government as he had before. He had no better opinion of them now than he had then, although he was sorry to see Mr. Wood in the Government for he was a gentleman whom he respected and with whom he had worked honestly and faithfully for the benefit of this riding. However, they would see by the course that he pursued whether the government would be improved or not by the change that had brought Mr Wood into office. He (Mr. M.) would if elected take the same independent course he had pursued in the past. He would not be the slave of any party; but would be the judge of what was done; and as to the course pursued by the present government he could not approve of it at present. He would leave his cause in the hands of electors; and would not say much, only he hoped that they would in judging between himself and his opponent, bear in mind that he (Mr. M.) had fulfilled all the offices that could be bestowed upon him in the township and county for the last seventeen years, from pathmaster to the position he was in last. He did not think there was anything in his record during the fulfilment of these offices that any person could bring against him. (Cheers). As there were gentlemen here abler than himself to deliver speeches, and who could handle the subjects of the day better than he could, he should withdraw in order to give an opportunity to the strangers here, and it would be a treat to hear them. He trusted the electors would go to the polls and return him by a handsome majority. (Cheers.) He had every faith that they would do so; and that they now had the faith in him that they had before. But there was one thing he wished to remark. The public press that had been supporting Mr. Smith's party had been stating that it was a mean thing and a small thing that he should have protested against the late election and unseated Mr. Smith upon such a trifling charge, and that he should not have endeavoured to ascertain whether Mr. Smith was the legally elected representative or not. He believed from the investigation that he (Mr. M.) was the candidate elected by the qualified votes of the riding Therefore he held that no person should find fault with him for protesting against the election for Mr. Smith was not elected by the legally qualified votes of the riding. He wished to impress upon the minds of the electors not to listen to such factious statements made by the papers; but that they should go to the polls and give him a hearty support, and they might depend upon it they would find him to-day where they found him before; and where they found him today they would find him to-morrow.

Dr. CLARKE next addressed the electors and was received with cheers. He said he was more accustomed to practice than he was to preaching, (laughter and cheers) and in consequence he should not be able to address them very eloquently or even vigorously, but he fancied his speech would have one merit—that of being very short, (Cheers.) The little he had had to say on former occasions of this kind was not for himself. It was for others whose interests he preferred to his own. He had lived nearly forty years in this country, and he had never before solicited a vote for his own personal advancement, and now, when he accepted this position, it was with a great deal of diffidence lest he should not acquit himself to the satisfaction of his friends. (Cheers.) If he could but retain their good opinion after this contest was over, let the result be what it might, he should have little to regret. In answer to some of the charges that had been brought against him, it would be necessary for him to trespass upon their patience with a short recital of private occurrences. About twenty-six or twenty-seven years ago he made up his mind to become a resident of the United States of America. Glowing accounts were given of the rapid advancement some had made who had left this country for that, and the idea that prevailed in his mind, as it did in many others, was that in leaving this country we left a state of depression for one of greater activity and general prosperity. In addition to all this the Great West loomed up wonderfully in the distance We were told of lucky adventurers who had jumped into fabulous wealth; that enterprise was better than experience; and energy than capital; and as he lacked both experience and capital, he concluded he could in some way make use of the other two, and in time be able to push his fortune with some degree of success. He accordingly took his departure for that purpose, and after several months of severe toil he secured the right of practising his profession in any part of the American Union. He received nothing but kindness from the people. Though the picture he had drawn had not been effaced, though this vision had not been dispelled, and the Great West not taken up, and still holding out inducements for the homeless, he had retraced his steps to the land of his birth, penniless, and legally disqualified from business. (Cheers.) He met with keen opposition on every side, and discouragement such as the poor must feel, but in all those years of gloom which it took to overcome distrust and establish confidence, the thought had never entered his mind of changing his allegiance, and for the past twenty years he had not been absent, but it altogether, one month from the Riding. (Cheers.) As an individual he had done all he could to make the land of his birth respectable in the eyes of all people. He believed Canada contained within herself the elements of a great nation, and all that was necessary to her in habitants. She could reward her sober and industrious sons with plenty, and confer all the honors her ambitious children could deserve, so that no Canadian need, and no true Canadian would (cheers) look outside of his native country for marks of distinction, (cheers) which the people of Canada, those who were truly loyal to their country, may properly regard as the reward of personal services. In view of this he hoped that no one would presume to charge him with a lack of patriotism or love of country, upon which all of our best affections are based. Without love of country loyalty was a sham; like the coat of the hypocrite, it gave the wearer a fine appearance, but underneath its drapery palpitated the heart of a Judas or a Cataline. (Laughter and cheers.) We have now for a moment to consider the present Administration, and he must confess that with him it was a difficult matter to form an opinion. In the first place the accusations were made by interested parties who had the strongest motives for making them, and the denials rested upon the same foundation It was a maxim in law that every man should be held innocent until proved guilty by competent and disinterested witnesses. But in the case before us where would we find such evidence! The Ministry explain and the Opposition accuse. The parties were respectable and intelligent, but as he said before, each was interested in his own case, and so far as the parties were concerned, there the matter stood. But what said the press, that independent, disinterested and watchful guardian of liberty? (Cheers.) It said the same; and coupled with the accusation and denial all sorts of slanderous charges and abusive epithets, such as no gentleman would or dare make to another. (Loud cheers.) The Hon. Mr. Mowat when a chancellor was declared by the press to be a high minded Christian gentleman, and an ornament to the bench. But when he took off the Judge's gown the same press that lauded him so highly, soon made the discovery that he was a low designing intriguer, and when he took up the stateman's pen, his character was prostrated to the dust. So we see the press on which we so much rely for information can blow hot and cold almost in the same breath. (Cheers.) Was it right or reasonable to convict honorable men who had all their lives stood well before the public, upon such contemptible evidence as this? The press was the mouth-piece of irresponsible political hack-writers, who haunt its sanctums, and rush out and stab and mangle the reputation of their opponents. (Cheers and laughter.) At best, they are a set of political cettifiggers pleading at the bar of public opinion. Their whole object is to make out a case right or wrong for the side they are on, or for the side at the time pays them best. Their reason and logic are sophistry and abuse, and their facts are suggestions, misrepresentations and lies. (Cheers.) The whole case of the Opposition against the Government was submitted about a year ago to the electors, the Grand Jury of the country, and they answered nobly and well—no bill. (Cheers.) The case was submitted again to the intelligent and wealthy electors of South Victoria, and was argued over by the Ministry and the Opposition, and they in as spirited a manner returned no bill. (Cheers.) The case was then taken to South Oxford and every effort was made to secure a verdict against the Government; but the answer was unmistakable: it was such as would gladden the hearts of the people; it was a majority of over three hundred in favor of good government. (Cheers.) And there he would prefer to let the matter rest; but if it was to be tried again in this riding, he had no doubt it would reach the same result. He was sure the free and independent electors of this riding would consult their own interests, and the interests of the country too well to throw back a verdict so just and proper in the face of the whole country, because they were desired to do so by a few disappointed politicians. (cheers and laughter) who had always stood and would forever stand in the way of the best interests of the people (Cheers.) The present Administration was in his (Dr Clarke's) opinion composed of our best public men, and he had every confidence in their ability, honor and integrity, and that if properly supported, as they had been by the country, they would administer the affairs of the province in a wise, just and impartial manner. (Cheers.) If their policy was calculated to improve our social condition as a people, and develope the resources of the province by giving encouragement to railroads, improving the navigation of the back waters, constructing colonization roads, amending the laws and passing new ones as the wants of the people may require, and if all this were done with prudence and economy, (cheers.) he should, if elected, give them a proper support. But he should not be a blind follower of the Administration he had just expressed so much confidence in. He should reserve the right of judging all their measures according to the reasons that might present themselves to his own mind. (Cheers.) And if it was their pleasure that he should represent them for the purpose of looking after their interests in the Legislature of Ontario, it would be his constant desire to meet their approval of all he should say or do. It should be his highest ambition to serve them faithfully and well. (Loud Cheers.)

Mr. A. W. LAUDER was received with cheers. He said this was the first time he had had an opportunity of meeting the electors of North Victoria, and had come because in the legislature he had formed a high opinion of the integrity and independence of his friend Mr. Macrae. They were called upon by the writ to elect a "fit and discreet" person to represent them, and the electors knew which of the two candidates was the "fit and discreet" man to whom they could entrust their material interests, for Mr. Macrae had served in their local councils, and knew what they needed. He would not insult the common sense of the farmers here by critizing the speech which the ministerial candidate had read, for they could decide about that; and he was not inclined to be unchartable to beginners, but he would have to discontinue that practice if he went to Toronto, for there they did not allow speeches to be read. He would therefore advise the candidate to commence the practice of speaking at once in this tussle. He then bore testimony to the wisdom, independence and integrity of Mr. Macrae, as evinced during four years in the House. Mr. Macrae protested against and condemned certain acts of members of the Reform Administration, as his honest friend Mr. Wood, had done; but Mr. Wood was now bound to the Administration, and every squeak of independence was squeezed out of him (Laughter.) He had no time on this occasion to review the general course of the Administration; he would have to confine himself to certain acts and show by facts and arguments the stand taken by the Opposition. He wanted to know if there was any Reformer here who would support every act of the Reform Administration? The ministerial candidate had referred to the verdict at the late election; but it should not be forgotten that a great many Reformers had got in by professions of independence. (Mr Lauder here received a telegram announcing that the decision of the Court of Error and Appeal had been given in favor of Mr. Hector Cameron. The statement was received with loud Conservative cheers.) Mr. Lauder in commenting on this said the Reformers, had made loud professions of purity; but the election trials had shown a different state of things. Would they take the "Globe" or the election courts to decide this matter of the purity of the party? He then proceeded to compare the expenditure of the Sandfield Government with that of their successors. He asserted, and he challenged Mr. Wood to deny it, that the Sandfield Ministry had purchased certain furniture and fixings of the Parliament buildings for half the price that the new men had paid. He complained that the Mowat Government had not supplied the public accounts for 1874, and probably they would not until it pleased them, and here were the Ministry with five millions in their hands, and refusing information about the expenditure. The McCandless matter was reviewed in some detail, as a specimen of the "terrible misrule of the Grits;" and he professed to be able to give from his scrap-book specimens of extravagance and corruption. Would it not be better, therefore, to send a man like Mr. Macrae to the house to keep a check, as a man of independence, upon the Government. The ministerial side was the sunny side; there were offices and pickings to be got; and it was, he admitted, sometimes hard for the Opposition to resist temptation from the Government side. He then condemned the re division of constituencies, until his time was up; and concluded by advising the electors to remember the fitness and discreetness of the candidates.

Mr. J. D. NAYLOR said he had not come prepared to make a speech; he had no brief as Mr. Lauder had, but he was confident the electors would give their verdict in favor of Dr. Clarke. Mr. Lauder had lawyerlike endeavored to prove black was white, and had given them a confused jumbling of Ontario and Dominion affairs; but the farmers of North Victoria were sufficiently intelligent to decide the questions before them.

Mr F. WHALLEY expressed his sympathy with the candidature of Mr. Macrae, and believed he was well worthy of re election. He was confident Mr. Macrae would be elected by an overwhelming majority.

Hon. S. C. WOOD on coming forward was received with enthusiastic cheers. He said he would state here as he stated elsewhere, that all he wanted on an occasion like this was fair play, and he was confident he would get that even if the audience were composed wholly of Conservatives. It would have been only fair to the electors and to the Government if he had been called upon to reply to the indictment which the Conservative speakers could bring against the Government; but they did not want to have it that way and he was indebted to some of his Conservative friends for his nomination on this occasion. A good deal had been said about Mr. Macrae's independence; but the present surroundings of that gentleman must be considered; and where he was now supported by two dyed in the wool Conservatives like Mr Boultbee and Mr Lauder they would know what value to place upon those claims and professions. The question to be decided was whether Mr. Macrae should go to the House to support the Opposition or Dr. Clarke should go as a supporter of the Government. He (Mr. Wood) was surprised at the character of Mr. Lauder's speech. He had said nothing about the important measures of the Government, and their general expenditure; but had devoted himself to proving extravagance in buying a few chairs and tables; and had brought in a few Dominion matters. Mr. Wood justified the manner in which the Government had dealt with marriage license appointments, and claimed credit for effecting a considerable reduction on the price of the licenses. With regard to the increase in expenditure between the two administrations it should be borne in mind that there would always be a general increase in the public expenditure as the population and wealth of the country increased. The increased expenditure on Education, and on Colonization roads and other back country improvements, as well as in encouraging immigration, could not be condemned, for it was wise and necessary, and there could not be a better use made of the public money. He next defended the course of the Government in the Agricultural College matter; and showed what party and unmanly motives had influenced the Opposition leaders in dealing with the McCandless Scandal. He then met the challenge thrown down by Mr. Lauder about the extravagance of the Reform Administration in purchasing carpets and champagne glasses, as well as the Mrs. S picture, and showed that the purchases had been made by Sandfield Macdonald and John Carling. (Cheers and laughter.) He (Mr. Wood) had challenged Mr Lauder to go through the public offices and see if the furniture was extravagant and unnecessary, but Mr. Lauder had backed down. Mr. Lauder had endeavored to make it appear that Dr. Clarke had, when in the States for a year some thirty years ago, taken the oath of allegiance; but he (Mr. W) was prepared to state most positively that no such oath was taken. It was most unfair to make such a charge. It was most uncalled for and improper for Mr. Lauder to anticipate the decision of the judge in the Muskoka case, and to say that the Reform candidate was to be personally disqualified. It was very reckless for a politician who hoped in ten or fifteen years to be Commissioner of Crown Lands to make such statements for they would come home to him and give him trouble. Mr. Lauder had referred to Mr Scott as being acquitted by the election court, but why should not Mr. Lauder state the whole truth? Mr. Scott's case was taken to the Court of Appeal, and was not yet finally decided. Mr. Lauder had made many charges to-day against the "Globe"; but there was a time when that gentleman was very anxious to get the support of the "Globe." He wanted to cotton to the "Globe", but the "Globe" would not cotton to him, and now he never lost an opportunity to attack that paper. The present Opposition could not claim the virtues of the Sandfield Macdonald ministry, though they claimed office on that ground. He next adverted to the railway aid policy of the Sandfield ministry, and to the Conservative theory that the Government should decide the expenditure without consulting the House, while the Reform party had successfully maintained that the peoples' representatives should have a voice in the matter before the expenditure took place.

Mr. LAUDER—But you were elected to support the Sandfield Government, who did that?

Hon. Mr. Wood said anyone from South Victoria would know that he had condemned on every platform the principle upon which the Sandfield Government acted in that matter. He had not taken two grounds. Mr. Lauder was now in Victoria and not in East Grey. (Cheers and laughter.) He next defended the sale of timber limits by Mr. R. W. Scott; the Central Prison; and other public matters. He believed the policy of the Government had been productive of so much good to the county that they would return the ministerial candidate.

An interruption was caused in Mr. Wood's speech by a fight in the yard.

Mr. BOULTBEE complained that Mr. Wood, who was a tricky, cunning chap, with a Jesuitical mind, had not treated him fairly in taking up so much time when he (Mr. W) knew that he (Mr. Boultbee) and his friends had to leave for a meeting twelve or fourteen miles distant. He admitted having had Mr. Wood nominated in order that he should not have the last speech. He proceeded to dilate on public matters in his usual style. He went on to eulogize Duncan Macrae, and to attack Dr. Clarke, sneering at his loyalty. He was unusually reckless in his statements, and was several times brought to book by Mr. Wood and compelled to modify or retract.

The proceedings closed about seven o'clock, with cheers for the Queen and the candidates.

### Meeting in Eades' Settlement

In the evening a well attended meeting in the interest of Dr Clarke was held in the school house in Eades' settlement. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Howie, and addresses were delivered by Dr Clarke and Hon. S. C. Wood. There were no Opposition speakers present.

### DOMINION NOTES.

—Ottawa is crowing over a "champion" tomato, which weighs one pound and three quarters.

The St. Lawrence was so low last week that some of the ferry boats of Montreal had to change their landing place.

There was an American visitor staying in Goderich last week who stood six feet 6 inches, and weighed 308 pounds.

Reporters are sly. Fancy putting a doctor after an accident by saying that the "patient is doing as well as can be expected under the care of Dr. Smith."

A Mount Bethel township farmer cut open a hornet's nest, just to examine the inside arrangement. He says he thinks he will be able to see his barn in about two weeks.

Chief Justice Wood has received a commission from the Ontario Government to hear evidence and report on the claims for the $5,000 reward offered for the murderers of Scott.

Mr. Baker's expenses as candidate in Missisquoi County, in the recent provincial elections, were $1,90, the lowest yet published, and Dr. Dionne's, in Ottawa County, $400, the highest on the list.

George A. Flint, son of Samuel Flint, of Brockville, about 15 years of age, shot himself in his room on Monday morning. He left a note bidding his friends good-bye, saying "I have gone crazy." Dread of returning to school is assigned as the reason.

A rumor is prevalent in railway circles that the staff of the Great Western is likely to be soon reduced by the dismissal of three or four superintendents of departments, and a good deal of talk is created thereby. The railway is at present in an advanced state of reduction.

Servant girls get good wages in Manitoba from $10 to $12 in private families, and $16 to $20 a month in hotels. The ladies are in such a divided minority in that province, and are so much in request as wives, that no white girl stays long in service, and hence the high rate of wages. Here's a chance for some of our fair damsels who are pining for husbands.

A young man named Peter Dixon, lately from the old sod, was arrested at the bridge the other day, as he was about to lead a young girl named Louisa Hargreaves, a protege of Miss Rye's, into the delightfully monotonous state of Uncle Sam, for the purpose, he claimed, of marrying the girl, who, though not yet sweet 16, thinks she is old enough. Peter is now serving out a sentence of six months in Welland jail.

Two other shipments of American cattle left Montreal last week for Britain. This trade is likely to grow to very large proportions, if the vexatious restrictions in reference to disease be removed in Britain. And while this will be a welcome addition to the trade of Canada, it will also prove of great advantage to the consumers in Britain as it will tend to keep the price of meat in that country within reasonable bounds.

The proposed poor house for Brant received a rude shock at a meeting of the County Council held a few days ago. The scheme evoked the indignation of some of the people, and their representatives have been to their wishes, and now the council finds itself burdened with a "white elephant" in the shape of a farm and one horse, purchased by some enthusiastic councillor to begin operations. The whole affair will now be characterized by that "one horse."

Mr. Louis Knapp, of Smith's Falls, in company with Mr. G. Hominik, of Shelburne, drove from the former place to Shelburne in about four days. Smith's Falls is situated on the Brockville & Ottawa Railway, about 65 miles below Kingston, and is about 320 miles distant from Shelburne; each day's drive was therefore 80 miles. Mr. Knapp offered to wager $100 that he could drive the same horse and 100 miles a day without doing any permanent injury. The horse that accomplished this feat is a chestnut bay, seven years old, and is the property of Mr. Mooney, of Shelburne.

One day lately a young man named Charles Sell was engaged on the horse power of a thrashing machine, which was in operation on a farm in the township of Minto, near Mount Forest. While the horse power was in motion, he went out on one of the arms. While in this position his foot slipped and was caught between the arm and one of the travelers throwing it off between two of the pinion wheels, where, in an instant, his leg, from his foot to his knee was ground to a jelly. An effort was at once made to extricate him from his fearful position, but before this could be accomplished the horses had to be taken off and the machine run backwards, in order to unwind his mangled limbs from off the cogs. Medical aid was speedily brought into requisition, and the limb amputated, but the unfortunate young man never rallied, and died the same evening.

### A SONG OF THE EARLY AUTUMN.

When in late summer the streams run yellow,
Spare the bridges and spread into bays,
When lofty sumac blazes near goldenrod and mellow,
And hillsides blaze by hickory sprays.

When the golden-red is golden still,
But the heart of the sunflower is brownier and redder;
When the corn is in stacks on the slope of the hill,
And over the path slides the striped adder.

When butterflies flutter from clover to thicket,
Or wave their wings on the drooping leaf,
When the breeze comes shrill with the call of the cricket,
Grasshopper's rasp, and rustle of sheaf.

When high in the field the firm leaves wrinkle,
And brown is the grass where the mowers have moved,
When low in the meadow the cow-bells tinkle,
And brooklets quaintly utter stock and stone.

When hazy and hollow the robin's whistle,
And thick lies the shade in the heat of noon;
When the air is white with the down o'the thistle,
And the sky is red with the harvest moon.

O then be chary, young Robert and Mary;
Let no time slip—not a moment wait;
If the fickle weather play it must stop its tuning,
And they who would marry must be done with their moaning;
Mind well the cattle, let the churn go rattle,
And pile the wood by the barn-yard gate!

*—Scribner for October.*

### WHY SO SECRET.

(CONCLUSION.)

Questioned as to the cause of her death, he replied by simply stating the nature of the disease, at the same time putting in a copy of his own certificate, entered at the Registrar's office. Shown the needle, and told where it had been taken from, he was next asked if he knew anything about that.

"I do," was his affirmative reply, made promptly as unexpectedly.

The feelings of astonishment was intense; the bystanders stood with bated breath—every eye keenly bent upon the witness, every ear eagerly listening for what he would next say.

"Be good enough," continued the coroner, "to state what you know; and remember Dr. Lamson, you are on your oath."

"I need no reminder of that," testily retorted the witness. "The needle was placed where you found it by *my own hand.*"

The extraordinary avowal could not increase the surprise, already at its height, but a hum of half angry ejaculations rose up from among the spectators. Commanding silence the coroner pursued:

"For that act, Dr. Lamson, we ask your explanation."

"You shall have it. For some months previous to her death Miss Ingleworth was aware that she suffered from heart-disease. Indeed I myself, having become satisfied of the fact, told her of it. Then she spoke of a subject that had much occupied her mind. No doubt most people present will remember the singular circumstance which, just a year ago, caused a crowd to assemble within this same cemetery. I speak of the body of a young girl being found in such condition as proved her to have been buried alive. Miss Ingleworth was one of those who came to view it, and she was very much affected by the spectacle, as she herself told me. It had taken possession of her mind so much as to beget a nervous morbid apprehension that the same thing might happen to herself. I endeavored to laugh her out of the idea: but she remained serious, and to my great surprise made a request to me that, in the event of my being present at her death, I would take measures to make her secure against the possibility of the dreaded revivication. She even prescribed the mode, and herself gave me that needle you hold in your hand. I at first flatly refused, and endeavored to dissuade her from repeating the request. She did so, nevertheless, urging it upon me; and to gain my consent made mention of the large legacy, which, as you all know, she has left me."

"Go on, sir," said the coroner.

"I need hardly expect," continued the witness, with the air of an injured man, "I need scarce hope to get credit for having opposed her wish. Much less am I likely to be believed when I say that it was *not* the legacy that at length induced me to accede to her request. She entreated me, and I yielded—as I now find to my misfortune."

"Have you any proof of her having made this request, which I must characterize as very extraordinary indeed?"

"I had—in her own hand-writing, and with her seal and signature attached—for protection against such an eventuality as has arisen. She gave me that document which to my sorrow and chagrin I only yesterday discovered to be missing. I had placed it carelessly in an open pigeon-hole in my dispensing-room—from which some one has abstracted it."

"Have you any suspicion as to who has taken it?"

"Not any, at present. Many people attend at my house, and patients are often left in the surgery alone."

At this point of the examination Captain Walton—who had been all the while listening attentively—was observed to direct a searching glance toward Lamson's assistant, Nudin, who, as one of the subpoenaed witnesses, was standing outside the enclosure waiting for his turn to be called. From his customary cadaverous hue, it would not be correct to say he turned pale; but the Captain noticed—what passed unobserved by others—a singular twitching in the sinews of his crane like neck, with an expression in his ghoulish eyes that seemed to say—though only to himself—"I am the guilty one."

The coroner continued, still addressing Dr. Lamson, and holding out the needle:

"Explain to the jury how you acted in regard to this. State the exact circumstances: tell everything."

"There is not much to tell. As soon as I was assured that life was extinct, I acted according to my promise given to the young lady, and inserted the needle as she had herself instructed me. Of course I sought an opportunity when no one was present by the death-bed. Had I done the thing openly, it is possibly no one would have objected; but there might have been talk about a proceeding so unusual, and I should no doubt have been blamed—as I am likely to be now."

"More than blamed!" cried a man from among the outside crowd, his remark followed by a chorus of similar observations.

"Silence!" commanded the coroner. "I shall order into custody any one who may again interrupt the inquest."

Then turning to Dr. Lamson, he asked: "Will you swear that heart disease was the real cause of Miss Ingleworth's death?"

"I will—I do swear it. But why question me further? Complete the *post mortem* examination, and that will satisfy you. As you see, upon that needle there is no stain of blood; nor any extravasation around the orifice where it entered. I need not point out to my medical brethren here that such could not be the case had the needle been inserted into the flesh of a living subject. Let this be given the jurors and they will find, as stated in my certificate, a case of heart strophy. On that I shall stake my skill as a physician."

The medical examiners, accepting the challenge, proceeded to determine the truth of his declaration. Indeed it was evident that on more than one of them his words had produced conviction. Still it was necessary they should be submitted to the test of a thorough *post mortem* examination.

But the inconvenience of completing this in the open air suggested the removal of the body into the vestry-room, where the inquest was adjourned, only the coroner, his jury, and other official personages being permitted to accompany it.

When the breast was laid open and the heart disclosed to view it was seen that Dr. Lamson's words were made good. The deceased lady had died of heart disease—of the special kind called atrophy, or at all events, she had such disease before death. After all, it may not have been it that caused her death; and the uncertainty—along with some suspicion, still lingering in the minds of several of the jurymen—caused some questions to be brought before the medical examiners, in the discussion of which there was a dissidence of opinion.

In the assumed condition of the heart, was it not possible for it to have been pierced without interfering with the flow of blood? Outside it no vein or artery had been touched, and therefore the absence of extravasation was thus accounted for. Might it not be the same within the heart itself, and the steel have entered it while still beating? In all likelihood such questions would never have arisen but for that legacy of ten thousand pounds—an amount staggering credulity.

Of course Dr. Lamson was not present in the vestry-room, he with the other witnesses having been directed to wait in an ante-chamber outside.

After a considerable time spent in debating the above points, and night drawing near, the coroner saw fit to postpone his uninished inquest till the tollowing day, and the witnesses were warned of the hour of re-attendance.

Several of the jury advised placing Dr. Lamson under immediate arrest, but in the doubtful state of the case this was overruled, and he was permitted to depart for his own house. Some hisses saluted him as he passed out through the churchyard gate; but bearing it with an indifference that seemed fortitude itself, the crowd became ashamed of its conduct and desisted from further demonstration.

Captain Walton returned home, accompanied by a gentleman named Charlecote, whom he had invited to dine with him—an old friend, who was one of the magistrates of the neighborhood.

As they sat over their wine, smoking an after-dinner cigar, the conversation naturally turned upon the events of the day—soon coming to Dr. Lamson's testimony.

"His story, though certainly very strange, seems probable enough," remarked the magistrate; "don't you think so, Walton?"

"I think it not only probable, but *true*. I have more than one reason for so thinking. The ambitious attempt at evasion, to my mind, proof positive as to the man's innocence of the higher crime, whatever one may think of his conduct otherwise."

"May I ask what other reason you have for believing him innocent?"

"One of a very specific and singular character. Among those whom I had subpoenaed as witnesses you may have observed a lank, lop-sided creature, by name Nudin?"

"What of him?"

After describing his encounter with Nudin on the road, and repeating the conversation that had passed between them, the Captain added:

"I believe Lamson tells the truth about a writing having been given to him by my poor Nelly. He has had such a document, and 'tis this Nudin who has stolen it. By Jove!" continued the generous young officer, "though I have no reason for liking Lamson and detest his cupidity, if it prove as I suspect he shall be paid the ten thousand pounds without any demur or delay on my part."

"Dr. Lamson, sir!" announced the footman, entering the room; "he asks if you will see him, sir."

"Certainly I will Show him in here."

"Shall I stay?" asked the magistrate.

"If my visitor does not object. We shall see."

At this moment the doctor was ushered in, looking grave and pale.

"Perhaps you wish a private interview with me, Dr. Lamson?" said the Captain. "If so, Mr. Charlecotte will——"

"No," interrupted the doctor bowing to the magistrate; "I should prefer both of you hearing what I've got to say and seeing what I have to show. Indeed it is a fortunate circumstance for me that Mr. Charlecote is here. I intended going to your house, sir, this very night, and asking you to favor me with your friendly advice."

"In what way, Dr. Lamson," inquired the magistrate.

"This, sir; which I first came to show to Captain Walton in the hope it may to some extent convince him that I have been telling the truth and am innocent of the great crime idle tongues have been laying to my charge. On my return home from the inquest, among other letters lying on my table, I found this, which, as you will see, has been sent to me through the post."

So saying he handed Captain Walton a letter whose envelope, already open, bore the address, "Dr. Lamson," with only a single post mark, that of E——— itself. The stamped date showed that the letter had been dropped into the office that same day. It read thus:

"If Dr. Lamson will consent to part with one thousand pounds out of the ten thousand he is to get by Miss Ingleworth's will, he can have restored to him a document signed with her name, and which he may stand in need of to keep his neck out of the hangman's halter. If he agrees to this proposal, and will signify so by burning a blue light in his bedroom window this night at twelve, by to-morrow morning's post he will receive another communication telling him how to pay over the money and get possession of the paper so precious to him."

There was no name signed, nor any address; only the bald conditions as above.

"Have you any idea or suspicion of who wrote it?" asked Captain Walton, addressing himself to the doctor.

"Not the slightest. The handwriting is entirely unknown to me."

"To me, too," said Mr. Charlecotte, after examining it. "It seems a disguised hand—in all likihood is."

"Perhaps I can put you on a scent, Doctor," interposed Captain Walton, after a whispered communication with the magistrate. "If I mistake not you have in your service a young man named Nudin."

"I have; as honest a fellow as ever breathed—at least, so I believe him."

"It may be that you overrate his honesty. I have reason to think him the very opposite, and that he is not only dishonest, but as great a traitor as ever served a trusting master."

"You astonish me, Captain Walton. I have always found him faithful."

"That is because you have not found him out. You may have an opportunity now. Does he sleep in your house?"

"No; he is only there during the day. At night he goes home to his mother, who lives in a cottage on the outskirts of the town."

At this Captain Walton and the magistrate exchanged significant glances. Nudin's sleeping outside the doctor's house made more probable the suspicion they had already conceived.

Mr. Charlecote spoke first.

"You have said, Dr Lamson, you were coming to me for friendly counsel. Fortunately, from what my friend Captain Walton has told me, I am able to bestow it. I advise you, then, to lose no time in having Mr. Nudin handed over to the custody of the police. As a magistrate, I am able to issue a warrant for his apprehension on charge of forgery, and have him in custody before you can return home. Do you suppose you can identify the document you have lost?"

"I think I can, if I see it."

"Then, Walton, you know what to do. Write a few lines, and I will sign them as a magistrate."

Without a word the Captain wrote a few lines, and the magistrate signed them. Handing the paper to a footman, he ordered him to take it to the nearest police station, and bring back a constable.

In a few minutes the footman returned, accompanied by a stalwart constable, to whom the magistrate gave a few low words of instruction, and he left the room.

"Now, Dr. Lamson," said the magistrate, "we have done all that can be done in your behalf. Nudin will be here in a few minutes, and you can then see if you can identify your document."

The three gentlemen sat in silence for a few minutes, when a sound of footsteps and low murmuring voices was heard in the hall. The door was then opened by the footman, and the prisoner was ushered into the presence of his master.

Nudin was a tall, lank, lop-sided fellow, with a face that would have been ugly even had it been not marked by the pitting of the small pox. He had a shambling gait, and his hands hung down his sides with the nervous twitching of a man who feels himself in the presence of his superiors.

"Do you know why you have been brought here?" asked the magistrate, in a stern voice.

"No, sir, I do not," answered the prisoner, in a whining tone.

"Do you know Dr. Lamson?"

"Yes, sir, I know the doctor."

"Do you know this document?" continued the magistrate, handing him the paper.

The prisoner took it, and as his eyes fell upon it a sickly pallor overspread his face, and he trembled so that the paper fell from his nerveless hands.

"Pick up the paper and give it to Dr. Lamson," said the magistrate.

The prisoner did so, and the doctor at once pronounced it the document he had lost.

"Do you know how this paper came into my possession?" sternly asked the magistrate.

"I do not, sir," answered the prisoner, in a tone of sullen fear.

"Do you know how it came into Dr. Lamson's possession?"

"I do not, sir."

"Do you know how it came into my possession?"

"I do not, sir."

"Do you know that I have the power to send you to prison for the crime of which you have been guilty?"

"I do not, sir."

"Then I will tell you. It was by your mother's cottage on the outskirts of the town."

The prisoner gave a start and a gasp, but said nothing.

"Do you know what I mean by this document being in my possession