

THE DREADFUL ALTERNATIVE.

From the Norfolk News, England. With what indifference we are apt to regard the probabilities of war, if only it does not enter our borders, or dip too deep into our purses. We think but little, or not at all, of that fearful expenditure of life—that waste of men—which now, more than ever, is inevitable when controversies have to be settled on the field of battle.

The York Herald.

RICHMOND HILL, MAY 13, '59.

THE SESSION CLOSED.

Our Parliament men have finished their work of legislation for another session; and after pocketing their \$6 per diem, have gone home to mind with greater diligence their own business. The session has been a very short one, and comparatively a quiet one. There has been less personal abuse than usual, and coupled with that, we must add that the requirements of the Province have been ill-attended to. We wanted economy and retrenchment in every branch of the public service. How have they met this want? Why, by adding more than seven millions of money to our provincial debt, of which Lower Canada, as a matter of course, reaps the principal advantage, and we Upper Canadians have "to pay the piper," thus adding greatly to the outcries against Lower Canadian rapacity and injustice.

MARKHAM COUNCIL.

UNIONVILLE, May 9, 1859.

Members all present—The Reeve presiding. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Mr. BUTTON requested that an alteration might be made in the report of the previous meeting, stating that "Mr. Button presented a petition from R. Millroy and others, praying the Council to grant a sum of money to remove the Town line, at the foot of the 8th and 9th, half of the 10th concession, between Markham and Scarborough."

to break up Union School Section, No. 7, Markham and Witley. Mr. MARSH introduced a By-law to establish and revive old School Section No. 16. Said By-law read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time next meeting. The Council then adjourned to meet the last Saturday in this month.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening last a lecture was given in the vestry of the Wesleyan Church of this place, by the Rev. James Dick, on "The Common School system of Canada." The lecturer ably reviewed the system in all its bearings, showing where it was faulty, but stated that the system was, on the whole, the best adapted for this country, and was justly its pride and glory, and would advantageously compare with any other national system. He was of opinion that there was no need for Separate Schools, as the moral and religious instruction conveyed through the books in use was eminently unsectarian, and the existence of such schools was dangerous to our noble system.

Correspondence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No communication of a purely personal character, and having no bearing on the general interests of the community, will be published in this paper. Communications, however, on all interesting subjects will be thankfully received and willingly inserted. To insure attention, correspondents must send their names and write in a legible hand. Let each communication be as brief as the nature of the subject will allow.

THE TRUTH.

To the Editor of the York Herald. Sir,—I have much pleasure in enclosing to you the copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Thos. Simmonds to S. R. Wright, Esq., in which it will be seen that Mr. Simmonds repudiates as a forgery, the foul slander which appeared in your paper of last week, over his name. This honorable conduct on the part of Mr. Simmonds is promptly contradicting a base attempt to injure Mr. Wright and myself is highly creditable, and an act for which I return him my warmest thanks.

Yours &c., DAVID REESOR, Markham, May 10, 1859.

MARKHAM, May 10, 1859.

To S. R. Wright, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called by a friend to a letter over my name, which appears in the Richmond Hill Herald of the 6th instant, and which, in speaking of my suit with Mr. Reesor, refers to you in anything but becoming terms. That letter is a forgery, and my object in writing is to assure you that I never authorized or consented, directly or indirectly, to the publication of that, or any other letter reflecting on you; that the statements in reference to you are totally false, in every particular; and that although Mr. Reesor and I may differ about the meaning of our agreement, still I would be the last man to give currency to so false a slander against him or any other person in connection with our transaction.

While I exceedingly regret that your name has been mixed up with this matter, I pledge myself to take immediate steps to discover the author of so foul and malicious a production. You are at perfect liberty to make what use of this letter you think proper, and I hope you will accept of this explanation as satisfactory, so far as I am concerned, and which is alike due to you as well as myself. Yours, truly, (Signed) THOS. SIMMONDS.

[With respect to the above communication we have only to say that, if there has been a forgery foisted on us, we shall use every effort to assist Mr. Reesor, in bringing the matter home to the guilty parties. We hold the original communication purporting to be signed by Mr. Thomas Simmonds.]—Ed.

THE WAR COMMENCED.

From the Globe.

The last words of our despatch by the Adelaide announce that the Austrians have crossed the Ticino, and hostilities have commenced. Even were this statement premature it would not be less certain that ere now, the Austrians and their opponents have met in conflict. We have no expectation of hearing that the former have gained the easy victory which some have predicted as certain to follow their prompt advance upon Sardinian territory. General Marmora, an experienced and gallant officer, has a well-appointed though small force under his command, besides a numerous body of volunteers, the flower of the youth of Italy, and even in the absence of the French, it is probable that he would be able to hold his ground for some time. The French are very near, however. They are already landed at Genoa, from whence there is railway communication to Turin, and they had also been conveyed in large numbers to Grenoble, only forty miles from the railway terminus on the southern side of the Alps—also communicating with Turin. There need be no apprehensions, therefore, of the matter being settled in a few days. It is to be a long struggle, and the ablest generals, the longest purses, and the most loyal and determined people, will win the day. Austria has her strongholds in Lombardy to fall back upon, and will probably find it advisable soon to abandon the Sardinian territory.

The existence of the secret alliance between France and Russia is still in doubt. The Times is notoriously opposed to Louis Napoleon, and its statements on the subject are open to doubt, yet the positive assertions quoted by the telegraph must surely have some basis. At all events they are believed on the Stock Exchange, and terrible have been the consequences on the funds. If such a treaty has been concluded—if the Czar sends a fleet to the Mediterranean to assist France, and establishes a corps of observation in Bessarabia, which will have the effect of keeping an Austrian corps on the opposite side of the frontier to watch it—we fear it may be considered that Russia intends to secure a share of any plunder which may be going. It is not her cue to labour on behalf of one of her Crimean opponents for nothing, even though it does revenge her upon another, and perhaps the one that she hates most. There are some considerations, however, which would induce Louis Napoleon to pause before receiving to act in direct opposition to the policy of England. The French Emperor does not need to be told that though England might not be able to prevent Russia seizing the principalities, she would be able to avenge terribly a breach of the recently concluded treaty of Paris. Her fleets would play the mischief with the commerce of France, while the strength of that empire was being wasted on the plains of Lombardy. She would be able to supply just what Austria lacks—money and naval power, and she possesses a key to the sympathies of Continental liberals which might be made to tell tremendously on the French Emperor, even in his own capital. Arguing on the same side, we cannot now see what Louis Napoleon has to gain in exchange for the presumed concessions to Russia. The motives of the French Emperor are inscrutable, however. In the depths of his heart he may nourish desires for the acquisition of territory in Switzerland, Savoy, or Germany, which we know nothing of as yet, and he may rely upon England being kept quiet under the aggressions of Russia, by the sympathies of the British people with the Italians. Time alone can unravel the tangled political web in which the States are involved, and develop the policy of the chief intriguers.

The rising of the Tuscan army and the flight of the Grand Duke is a most favorable movement for Sardinia. It indicates that the volunteers who have flocked to Genoa to be enrolled under Marmora's banner are genuine representatives of the feelings of the people of Tuscany. The Romans will probably follow the example set to them, and the Austrian garrisons in the Central States, instead of being able to send reinforcements to the army in the field, will have difficulty in holding their ground. The Austrians may even be assailed in Lombardy from the south, by a united force of French, Romans and Tuscans. We would hail with more pleasure these auspicious movements, had we any confidence in the desire of Louis Napoleon to establish freedom in Italy. In many respects the Italians are better fitted for self-government than any other people on the continent; we believe that representative institutions might be worked among them with entire success. Will the boon be granted to them, or will they again be forced to bend under the sceptre of Austria, while Louis Napoleon gratifies the French by an accession of territory in another quarter? We hope for the best; but fear the worst.

A MAN TWICE HANGED.

The Chicago Press of Friday last, thus describes the execution of a criminal named McNamee:

The mode of adjusting the fatal noose is known as the French method. To prevent just what subsequently occurred, the slipping of the knot, thus substituting slower strangulation for the instant death of dislocation of the neck, the cord about the neck is exchanged for a thick double-sewed belt of leather, nearly a hand's breadth wide, of length a little less than the circumference of the neck. In the ends are eyelets through which the rope passes. Thus a stiff collar is made which renders dislocation inevitable. The collar used yesterday was the same used at the execution of Staub. It was adjusted to the neck of McNamee, his hands were bound, the black cap drawn over his eyes, he stands upon the fatal trap, the clergy repeat the prayers of the church, and while in the utterance of "Our Father, which art in Heaven," the drop falls, the bound frame of the condemned wretch descends a distance of eight full feet upon the straining cord, it holds, but horrible to relate, the collar parts at the eyelet, and the victim falls heavily fifteen feet upon the floor of the jail basement. A cry of horror escapes the spectators. There is no movement of life in the black robed and hooded body. Officers Bradley, Palmer, Kennedy and Greene, raise it, bear to the head of the stairs, before the first symptoms of consciousness on the part of McNamee are noticed.

The hood is removed, and under the excitement of that awful hour the bruises of the fall, at another time no light affair, were probably dulled by the wretched man. He was asked "can you stand alone?" and probably misunderstanding the question answered, "Yes I can stand that and twice that."

The rope was then re-adjusted, this time the usual noose. The priests take their position at his side, he bids them adieu, and at a given signal the clang of the falling trap, the rush of the descending body and the sharp twang of the straightened cord, and the struggling frame of McNamee was suspended in the air. By some misadjustment this second time the knot slipped aside, and the neck was not broken. When the body had hung fourteen minutes the heart circulation was still apparent, though faint. The struggles of the expiring wretch continued for some minutes. We have no mind to incur the charge of pursuing that officer with a vindictive spirit, by any comments of ours on Sheriff Gray's management of the execution of poor McNamee. That it was badly conducted, and thus from these mistakes gathered horrors new and needless even to the gallows, we submit for the verdict of our readers.

The drop fell for the second time at ten minutes past three o'clock. The lifeless remains were cut down at ten minutes before four, p.m. They were placed in a black walnut coffin, and delivered to his sister. A little later a hearse was driven into the Court House square, and the remains of poor McNamee was borne away from the scene of so much terror, even as he has passed from the presence, though not from the remembrance of his fellow men.

FIRE IN TORONTO.

A LUMBER YARD BURNED DOWN.

At two o'clock on Thursday morning, Constable Steeling, who was on duty on King street, perceived a small blaze in the lumber yard of Mr. E. W. Gilbert, on Adelaide street. The fire was in a small bundle of laths under the roof of a shed in the southern part of the yard, and in a short time the entire range of sheds from one end of the yard to the other, extending more than the length of Kitchener's Terrace, was in a blaze. The sheds were all filled with laths which ignited like so much tinder. Fortunately there was very little wood. Volunteers then set to work to remove the piles of lumber which were most in danger, and in this way large quantities were carried off, and deposited in Adelaide street. By this means, together with keeping up a continuous supply of water upon the fire, the blaze was somewhat subdued about 3 o'clock, and it was then apparent that the fire had reached its height. From this time it gradually became less, until at 4 o'clock, it was so subdued as to dispel any further fear that might have been entertained. The blaze was still great, however, as we went to press. There were no dwellings in such close proximity to the yard as to be injured, and the whole damage therefore, which has been done, is confined to the yard itself. The loss, so far as could be roughly estimated will be about \$8,000. We are not able to learn whether there was any insurance on the lumber.

A large body of police, under the charge of the Deputy Chief, was present to keep order.—Leader.

DROWNED.

On Tuesday three young men went out, with their nets to fish, in the river Humber. While so engaged one of them named Shepherd, a young man of very respectable connections, got unfortunately entangled with the nets and fell into one of the pools—between Howland's and Gamble's Mills, and before assistance was obtained sunk in the deep water. This happened about mid day; and when the body was taken out life was extinct. An inquest was held by Coroner Fisher, in Hall's Tavern—and the verdict rendered in accordance with the above facts.—Leader.

SIX MURDERERS SENTENCED.

New York May 7.—Judge Davis, in the Supreme Court, to-day, passed sentence upon six murderers. The young Chinaman, Quambo Appo, who murdered Mr. Fletcher, was sentenced to be hung. Ilon Bosquet, the Italian, who murdered a fellow countryman, to the Penitentiary for life. Michel Flynn, who killed Freeman Cutting, ten years imprisonment. John Glass, ex-policeman, for the murder of William Dickson, 20 years. James Higgins, an accomplice, 20 years. John D. Pfromer, who killed Charles F. Sturges in a restaurant, four years.

ARRIVAL OF THE PERSIA.

NEW YORK, May 11.

The Royal Mail steamship Persia, from Liverpool April 30, a.m., arrived this morning. The main features of her news have been anticipated by the 'Adelaide' at St. Johns, but the details add some facts of interest.

The Austrian correspondence of the official journal of the 29th, after detailing the progress of affairs, says:—"Austria must draw the sword to maintain European order." The London Post of the 29th says there was still hope for peace, as the last English offer of mediation was under the serious consideration of the Emperor of the French, and if the Austrians refrained from advancing a pacific settlement might be made.

The following are the provisions of the Russo-French treaty, as given by the Times. By the first treaty Russia binds herself in the event of France being at war with Austria, to assist France with the co-operation of her fleets in the Baltic and Mediterranean, and to place an army of 50,000 men on the Austrian frontier.

This the Times says is directed obviously against Austria, and its existence is proof that the enterprises, which are thus to be protected are such, that it would be impossible for England to allow it to pass unchallenged. The Russian army, of observation, the Times concludes, is to excite insurrection among the Hungarians and slaves, and the second treaty provides that in case Austria shall invade Sardinia, Russia shall declare war against her within 15 days of her violation of the Piedmontese soil.

The Times maintains that England need take no active part so long as the war is confined to Italy, but if France and Russia attack Austria in Germany, Russia seeking perchance indemnity from the Government, and the inference was that Spain would throw herself into the arms of France. 27 gun-boats of light draught and some vessels of larger size were building on the Thames for the Spanish Government. It was suggested that Spain might probably be acting merely as the agent of others.

Large quantities of ammunition and guns were being shipped to Gibraltar and Malta. General Williams, of Kars, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the army in Canada. The quarterly returns of emigration from Liverpool show great activity in the movement towards the United States, and it was believed that the next few months' emigration to America would be the largest experienced for several years.

SUICIDE CAUSED BY PECUNIARY DIFFICULTIES.—Coroner Scott held an inquest yesterday, (Tuesday) on the body of Wm. Lowe, at his late residence, corner of Edward and Centre Streets. The deceased, it appears, had been a stockholder in the Provincial Insurance Company, to the extent of 59 shares. He had paid on the stock \$295 in all, being 25 per cent of the whole stock. In last December the Directors made a further call of 5 per cent, which in the case of the deceased would have amounted to \$29.50. Being already very much put about by the investment of the \$295, for which he had never received the return of a farthing, he became very much excited on this call being made. The Company sued him for the money and he, not being able to pay it at the time, gave them a note for the amount, which falls due on 15th inst. The time being very near at hand at which the note became due, and seeing no way of meeting it, although having a reasonable amount of property, he put an end to his existence by swallowing an over-dose of laudanum. He leaves a wife who by his death is left a second time a widow, although not over 23 years of age—a very intelligent and amiable woman, and one child. He was himself a bricklayer, and took contracts for work of that description.—Leader.

THE COST OF A KISS.—The case of Dawson v. Cooper, which was tried at the Liverpool Court of Passage, on Saturday, excited considerable interest. It was an action to recover damages for a kiss, given under the following circumstances:—It appears that some lawsuits were pending at the time, and that the defendant, who is an attorney, was engaged against the plaintiff. On the 24th December last he called at the public-house then kept by the plaintiff, and whilst there kissed the daughter, a nice-looking girl, about fifteen years old. She immediately told her mother what had occurred, who rebuked the defendant for what he had done, upon which he asked where the mistake was, and kissed her too remarking that it was, the sweetest kiss he ever had, to which she answered that it might be the dearest. The daughter was called and stated, that she told her mother, a dirty old Jew had kissed her. She slapped his face several times for taking the liberty. Mr. Brett made a humorous speech for the defence, in the extension of his client's conduct. Mrs. Cooper's curls, he said, tickled the defendant's cheeks, and poor man, the temptation was too strong for him, especially as it was Christmas-eve. The learned Assessor summoned up, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £5.—Liverpool Advertiser.

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