KINGSTON OBSERVATORY.

N. F. Dupuis, A.M., Observer.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 1868.

DAY.	BAROMETER CORRECTED FOR 32 ° 9 A.M.	3 P.M.	THERMOMETER. 9 A.M.	3 P.M.	MAXIMUM.	MINIMUM.
Sunday					58.5	53.5
Monday			59.0	62.5	65.0	54.0
Tuesday			61.5	67.0	68.5	53.5
W'dnesdy			64.0	70.0	71.0	54.0
Thursday			62.5	68.5	69.5	60.5
Friday			66.0	70.0	71.0	62.0
Saturday			60.5	63.5	64.0	58.5

Comparative temperature for May for 1865-6-7-8 —

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Mean temp	53.3	48.3	47.5	53.4
,, max.	59.7	54.8	52.6	59.6
,, min.	46.6	41.9	42.4	47.1
Highest	72.5	62.0	64.0	71.0
Lowest	36.6	32.8	23.5	32.0
Range	35.9	29.2	40.5	39.0

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Travellers' Guide.

Trains arrive and depart from the Kingston Station as follows:

GOING EAST.

1:45 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	Mixed train 3:15 a.m.
	1:50 "	" " 6:15 "

GOING WEST.

4:15 p.m.	3:30 a.m.	Mixed train 6:45 a. m.
4:35 "		" " 10:00 "

[This is by Montreal time, from which deduct 12¼ minutes for the difference between Montreal and Kingston time.]

Single copies of the DAILY NEWS may be had at the counter of the publishing office. Price 2d.

☞ Single copies of the CHRONICLE AND NEWS, containing the news of the week, may be had in wrappers for mailing. Price 3d. each, issued every Friday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Anonymous communications can receive no attention. Everything forwarded for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of authenticity. It is also requested that correspondents will only write on one side of the sheet of paper. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Daily News.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 2.

☞ *SEE FIRST PAGE.*

The Queen's reply to the address of the Irish bishops is a model of official replies, and shows how cautious Her Majesty's advisers are in refraining from committing her to any line of policy in regard to the Irish Church that might bring the Sovereign into conflict with Parliament. The following is the text of the reply:—"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I trust that the blessings which you invoke for myself and my family may be vouchsafed to the advantage of the Church and kingdom. In compliance with the prayer of an address from the House of Lords, I have issued a Commission to inquire into the state of the Church in Ireland; and I will not doubt that my Parliament, when fully informed through the labours of this Commission, will adopt such measures as shall be at once just and conducive to the maintenance of true religion among my people." This must have been a keen disappointment to the signers of the address, as it is well known according to the English papers that the Bishops and their friends had been going about saying that the Queen was on their side and would intervene to prevent the disestablishment of the Irish Church. This reply, and more particularly the reply in response to the address of the House of Commons, shows how closely Queen Victoria adheres to the British line of constitutional government. The true principles of a limited monarchy have been repeatedly exemplified during the reign of Victoria, and still shine out in her dealings with a most difficult and perplexing question to one in her position, that of disposing of the Irish Church.

A long criminal trial has just come to a conclusion in the United States and is attracting considerable attention on account of the political position of the accused. Theophilus C. Callicot has been convicted of defrauding the United States government of $46,000, tax upon two hundred barrels of whiskey, by conspiring with a deputy collector and others. Mr Callicot was the Republican Speaker of the Legislature of New York, and, as may be presumed, this exposure and fall of a prominent politician is food for the journals. It appears that Mr Callicot, originally a Democrat, deserted his party to join the Republicans, who held out to him higher political rewards, and that for some years past his course has been tainted with the touch of the lobby. Now comes the conviction of his guilt in using the advantages of his position to commit an immense fraud. Though the American papers are sure to turn this affair to partizan account, and will put it perhaps to the strongest uses during the political campaign now begun, the fact of detection, exposure and conviction of a political sinner will do good. It will exhibit to those who make mammon their only law the shame and danger to which they expose themselves, and may so exercise a deterring influence, and assist in purifying the political atmosphere.

American financial affairs command general attention from the universal market which has been sought for the securities of the United States. Consequently the movement for the resumption of specie payments must be of immediate interest to capitalists and to persons engaged in trade as well as to political economists, whose only concern consists in the solution of these problems of national finance. As directly opposed to the movement aiming at the earliest possible resumption of specie payments, it is to be noted that the finance committee of the Senate has just recommended an expansion of the National bank circulation, to the extent of twenty millions. This is a proposition that must lead to an argument between those advocating a contraction of paper money, and those whose interests are favoured by an expansion of circulation, for practically the influence upon values and upon national credit will be the same whether the new issues take the form of greenbacks, for the redemption of which the government is primarily responsible, or of national bank notes which are pledged upon the strength of government securities. Another decision must now be made either for expansion or contraction—a decision which cannot fail to affect public confidence in the securities and affairs of the United States.

POLICE COURT, Tuesday.—There was no business before the court this morning.

BOARD OF COMMON SCHOOL TRUSTEES.—The regular meeting of the School Board will take place in the Council Chamber at half-past seven o'clock this evening.

ARRIVAL OF AMMUNITION.—Two car loads of ammunition for the Imperial troops arrived yesterday afternoon, and the men were busily engaged in removing it until ten o'clock this morning.

LA CROSSE MATCH.—The match between the Kingston and Prescott clubs came off this afternoon on the cricket ground. The Prescott club won all three games.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The Synod of the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland begins its session this evening in St. Andrew's Church at half-past seven o'clock. The Moderator, Revd Kenneth Maclennan, M.A., of Whitby, will conduct divine service. The proceedings are open to the public. The attendance will be much larger than usual, and the business will be important.

The band of the Royal Canadian Rifles will play in the Park on Wednesday, the 3rd, commencing at 4 p.m. The following is the programme —

Overture...Zanetta	Auber.
Quadrille. Bon Jour	Zikoff.
Selection. Romeo e Giulietta	Gounod.
Valse.... Morgenblatter	Strauss.
Reminiscences of Donizetti	A.F. Godfrey
Galop....Bon Soir	Godfrey.

God Save the Queen.

HAMPTON SCHOOL FREE READINGS.—The third of these interesting entertainments was given last evening at the Hampton School, Queen street, and was, as usual, largely attended. The principal of the school, Mr Spring Rice, Dr. Whiting, of Cape Vincent, Rev. Mr Elwell, and Mr Riddell assisted, and added much to the evening's enjoyment by their excellent readings. The singing of the pupils was very good, and evinced a marked improvement upon former occasions. Miss Callaghan presided at the melodeon during the evening.

POLICE INSPECTION.—An inspection of the police force took place this (Tuesday) morning in the Council Chamber. Present, James O'Reilly, John Creighton, and J. Breden, Esqrs., Commissioners. The force was found in good order, and no complaints were made.

The Chairman was requested by the Board to ask the loan of twenty stand of arms from the Colonel commanding, for the use of the police in the event of any trouble on the frontier.

Corporal Twigg's resignation was accepted with regret by the Board, he being a most efficient officer.

The Inspector of cabs was instructed to notify the drivers that the cab licence money is due, and to enforce payment.

THE BLOCKADE RUNNER CHICORA.—This fine vessel arrived here this morning en route for Buffalo, to be refitted. She was built during the troubles of the American war at Liverpool as a blockade runner for the Southern Confederacy, is of iron plates, and is 227 feet long, 26 feet beam and 11 feet hold, and is composed of six water tight compartments. Her machinery and works are of the very best description, while her narrow beam, clean run, and admirable proportions make her speed undoubtedly great, and well adapted to the purpose for which she was built. She was seized by the United States government, from whom she was bought by her present owners, Messrs. Molloy Brothers, Toronto. She left Quebec in charge of her present Captain, D. McLean, about two weeks since separation of a portion of her bows having been made at that place to enable her to pass through the locks on her route up. The destination of the Chicora is Lake Superior, to run regularly between Collingwood and Fort William. The sum of $11,000 has been given her owners as an inducement to open up this route. The vessel has been laid up in Halifax for some time. Her arrival excited a good deal of curiosity, and large numbers visited her during her stay. She left again this afternoon.

MILITIA APPOINTMENTS.

41st "Brockville" Battalion of Rifles—No. 2 Company, Gananoque.

To be Ensign (temporary):

Thomas Fleming, Gentleman, M.S., vice Legge, promoted.

NEW INSOLVENTS.—Wm. Douglas, Montreal; John Dayfoot, Brompton; Joseph Maurice, St. Joseph de Chambly; Theophile Veronneau, Roxton Falls; Isaac Swackhammer, James Barber, Athol; William Butler, Goderich; Peter Reighart, Dunwich; F. B. Dufresne, L'Industrie; Angus McDonell, and Angus McPhail, Cornwall; Alfred Atto, Ascott; Alfred Giles, Fontbill; Harvey Wait, Blenheim; Donald Fraser, Perth; Wm. C. Lewis, Perth; W. Vanatter, Dumfries; Jno. Townsend, Elma Centre; John Brown & Co., Montreal.

An American paper mentions the rapid growth of Omaha city, the capital of Nebraska. In 1860, it had only 1,950 inhabitants. They now number 10,000 and are rapidly increasing. The cause of such progress is attributed to the construction of the Pacific railroad. Omaha will probably soon be one of the largest cities of the West. Many persons now living remember when Buffalo was called the Far West.

The Quebec *Chronicle* states that the 30th Regiment will not be withdrawn from Canada as intended, nor will any of the regular force be ordered home at present, but will most likely be increased, in view of Fenian movements. On Thursday, five hundred thousand rounds of ammunition were forwarded from Quebec to different points along the frontier, and another supply was to have been shipped on Friday morning.

Arnheim Island, slightly separated from the continent of Australia, has recently been thoroughly explored by Captain Cadell, who gives a graphic account of its advantages for a colony. This island was first touched at and marked about two hundred and fifty years ago. Its area is as large as that of the two islands of Britain and Ireland put together. Its tropical soil is rich in rivers, minerals and vegetation, and is capable of supporting a population of fifty millions of people.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE, KINGSTON, 1868.

To-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock, the forty-fourth Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, commences its session in the Sydenham-street Church. It is the seventh out of the forty-four which has been held in this city. It may be interesting to our citizens, and acceptable to a large number of clerical visitors, if we should introduce the reports of Conference business this year by a brief review of the past history of the Kingston Conferences, and the progress of the Methodist body in Canada. Of Kingston itself we must speak or write with the respect due to antiquity, using that term in an American sense. The European settlements in North America were few and far between, when Champlain, discouraged by the failure of his North Western explorations, and returning therefrom, cast his keen French eyes on the broad expanse of the "fresh water sea" of Lake Ontario. It was late in July 1615, when he pitched his tent in this neighbourhood, and, not far from the spot where Kingston now stands, dreamed of the consolidation and extension of the French power in America; but in those dreams not foreseeing the overthrow of that power, and the building of flourishing cities and towns all along the "wild woodland" shores of that vast inland sea, of whose extent he had not as yet any true conception. He made his way to Caughnawaga, to Hochelaga, and Stadacona, with great difficulty, by reason of Indian hostilities; but regarding this point of great importance, we find it subsequently a fortified position; and whether as Cataraqui, or Frontenac or Kingston, it is to occupy a conspicuous place in the history of Indian wars—English conquests and Protestant ascendancy.

About the same time that Champlain and others were contemplating schemes of progression and aboriginal subjugation, with a view to the glory of "New France," the ancestors of the founder of Methodism began to be distinguished for their piety, learning, and genius. Bartholomew, John Wesley's great grandfather, was born about 1595, and was educated either at Oxford or Cambridge. Bartholomew's son John, was a truly pious and learned man. His son Samuel was admitted of Exeter College, Oxford, in 1684, when he was about 17 years of age; and John Wesley, the name so justly celebrated in modern church history, as the great reformer of the nation's religious life and morals, was thoroughly educated at Oxford.

Passing over a long period of conflict in British and American history, and without more than a passing reference on the rise and progress of Methodism in America, it is proper to remark that the Conference this year holds its session not far from the region of country where Methodism in Canada achieved its first victories over ignorance and wickedness, not without violent opposition. James McCarty, a convert of Whitfield's, came to Kingston in 1788. In Ernestown he was encouraged by success, but was opposed and persecuted by some bigots, who said they would have "no religion but the Church of England." McCarty was brought to Kingston, and although the Sheriff declined to restrain his liberty, there is reason to believe that his persecutors succeeded in their determination to prevent his preaching, for by their hostility he lost his life, and thus became a "martyr for the Gospel."

Of the Hecks and Emburys, of Losee and Dunham—of the first formation of classes in Canada—of the labours of the eccentric Lorenzo Dow in Kingston and the neighbourhood, of these and other historic persons, we could not now write without extending this introductory sketch beyond reasonable limits. We look at Kingston then as a mere settlement; it has after a few years the status of a village. In 1811 the venerable pioneer Bishop Asbury visited Canada, coming from Vermont by way of Cornwall. The glorious old Englishman finds his heart beat with reviving loyalty as he touches the soil of the old Empire, and he regrets the overshadowing cloud of war which arose threateningly from the land of his christian zeal and arduous toil. On arriving at Kingston in company with the still surviving patriarch, Henry Boehm, the good old Bishop preached in the new chapel which the people had erected, very different in size and style from the beautiful structures now standing in Sydenham and Queen streets. It was probably in this humble building where Asbury preached in 1811, that the first of the Kingston Conferences was held in 1830, about eight years before the passing of the act by which the village became an incorporated town. The devoted Wm. Case presided at the Kingston Conference of 1830, and James Richardson was the secretary. Bishop Hedding was present, and at the request of the Conference conducted the Sabbath services, ordaining the elders and deacons who had been elected to those offices. Among the elders then set apart we find the names of Egerton Ryerson and Anson Green, both of them retaining the affectionate esteem of their brethren. Among the deacons, there stands the name of "Ephraim Evans," who, after so many years, and after nearly ten years of active and useful service on the Pacific coast, is this year again with his brethren, representing the important mission field of British Columbia.

It is worthy of remark that at the Conference of 1830, the constitution of the Upper Canada Academy was adopted, and then was laid the foundation of Victoria College, an institution which has exerted through all those years a beneficial influence on the whole country.

In 1834 Kingston again received the Conference under the Presidency of "Edmund Grindrod," a man of sterling worth. The death of Thomas Madden was reported after 31 years of ministerial service, during which he was highly esteemed, and extensively useful.

The Kingston Conference of 1838 was held at a time of great political excitement, and the crisis of the clergy serve controversy was approaching. The late Wm. M. Harvard was President, and Egerton Ryerson was elected Secretary. The Conference was one of great interest, and its decisions excited a vast influence on the mind of the country. There were visitors from the United States, and Jesse T. Peck is still remembered as giving promise of the greatness which he has since attained in his own country. Mr Harvard being about to retire, the Conference recorded its "grateful sense of the kindness, diligence, zeal and piety with which he had discharged the functions and duties of his important office." The number in the church is reported 15,328. The number in 1828 stands 9,768.

Eight most eventful years in the history of the church passed away before the Conference again met in Kingston. Years of controversy respecting ecclesiastical rights, duties and responsibilities. Happily there comes a prospect of harmony and returning union on a satisfactory basis. The Conference is held at Kingston in 1846. The late venerable and greatly beloved "Thomas Beavitt" is chosen President, and the Rev. G. R. Sanderson is appointed the Secretary. The death of dear old Father Whitehead is reported in the 83rd year of his age, and the 62nd of his ministry. The numbers in society are this year 21,557, a large increase during the eight years. Very important resolutions passed the Conference, intended to promote the prosperity and permanency of the work of God in the societies. Messrs. Green and J. Ryerson were sent a deputation to England "with proposals to settle the differences between us on the plan of North American Conferences." An adjustment was effected in 1847, and has greatly tended to the extension and consolidation of Methodism in Canada. An address to the newly appointed Governor-General, Earl Cathcart, is adopted by the Conference. The act of parliament incorporating the town of Kingston as a city, passed May 18th of this year, and the popular and worthy "John Counter," who had been three times elected Mayor of the town, is on the 13th of June elected the first Mayor of the city. The removal of the seat of government from Kingston had a very depressing effect, proportionate to the sudden and unlooked-for elevation, and it is doubtful if Kingston has ever fully recovered from the effects of these strange transitions.

In 1852 the Conference met in this city. Dr. Wood is for the second time President, and is chosen to the honourable and responsible position five other times in that number of successive years. A special appeal is made to the church in behalf of Victoria College, and several practical resolutions are adopted to give strength and permanency to connexional institutions.

In 1854 the convention of lay delegates met in Kingston, and very important changes were made in the temporal economy of the Church, which were subsequently adopted by a large majority of the quarterly meetings, and have since been in successful and beneficial operation.

In 1860 the Conference assembled again in Kingston, under the Presidency of the late Dr. Stinson. The most remarkable feature of this Conference was the consideration of the University question, and its bearing on the interests of Victoria College and other colleges. We cannot more than refer to the discussions of that period. It is more than likely that the Kingston Conference of 1868 will be compelled to re-open the question of the rights and claims of colleges, as likely to be affected by the recent declaration of the Ontario Government. This college question is of supreme importance—the Toronto monopoly will not be tolerated, and the general educational interests of the province cannot be sacrificed at the shrine of religious bigotry and political ambition.

The large number of ministers attending the Conference have been readily provided for. The generous hospitality of the Christian people of Kingston is known to all the land. This year they will again demonstrate their claim to have a first place in the affections of conferences and synods, and we trust that the assemblies themselves will be favoured with the blessing and direction of the Great Head of the Church.

W. S.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE ALFRED.

THE TRIAL OF O'FARRELL.

Sydney, March 31.—The witnesses for the prosecution merely recapitulated the evidence given at the preliminary inquiry.

For the defence several witnesses were called yesterday, who proved that O'Farrell suffered from epileptic fits and *delirium tremens*, and that he had on one occasion only spoken in favour of Fenianism.

The Crown to-day called rebutting witnesses, who proved that in frequent conversations O'Farrell had expressed himself rationally; also that they had heard him defending Fenianism generally, and the Clerkenwell outrage particularly. No professional witnesses were called.

Mr Aspinall commenced his address at eleven o'clock, and urged the prisoner's insanity.

At half-past twelve Mr Martin replied on behalf of the Crown, denying that insanity had been proved.

The Judge, in summing up, entreated the jury to dismiss extraneous matters, such as the Prince's rank, &c., from their minds. The three considerations for them were—first, the wounding; of that no doubt whatever existed. Second, whose hand had inflicted the wound. His Honour here read over the notes of the evidence, clearly proving that it had been the prisoner's hand. Third, the intent, which was the *gravamen* of the case. He commented on the arguments respecting insanity, and read authorities showing that if the prisoner had been insane, and yet knew the difference between right and wrong when the offence was committed, and also knew the consequences, he was responsible. His Honour then read over the evidence for the defence, and advised the jury to consider the difficulty the prisoner's counsel had felt in the medical witnesses from Ballarat not coming to depose to the prisoner's mental state. He called their attention, also, to the rebutting evidence showing his sanity during his residence in Sydney. He advised the jury to pay particular attention to the law on the subject, which he read. If they believed the accused insane, they would acquit him; if not, the Crown expected a verdict. His Honour, in conclusion, complimented Mr Aspinall's ability in defending the prisoner.

The jury retired, and returned into court, after one hour, with a verdict of Guilty.

O'Farrell, when asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced, replied, in a firm tone, "No, Sir, nothing."

His Honour then passed sentence of death in the usual form, and the prisoner was removed.

THE PRINCE'S RECOVERY.

The Melbourne correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 31st March, says: His Royal Highness has several times appeared in public since his recovery. Everywhere he has been received with the warmest marks of sympathy and enthusiasm. We are informed, however, that he will not make his once purposed visit to New Zealand, but that he will proceed to England direct on the 6th proximo. I think that the Prince has been wisely advised to take this course. Within the last month we have read a long and elaborate account in a New Zealand paper of a piece of Fenian foolery, viz: a sort of mock funeral of the Manchester murderers, called "martyrs" by their countrymen, in the township of Hokitika on the west coast. That there is any extensive Fenian organization in this part of the world I am by no means inclined to believe; but that there are large numbers of Fenian sympathisers in all these colonies cannot be doubted. The Sydney police have, as is reported on good authority, made some material discoveries, which as yet it is not deemed expedient to make public. At Grafton, in Queensland, a warder of a gaol has been dismissed for avowed Fenianism, and there are among us colonial publications principally stuffed with the most rabid Fenian articles and paragraphs copied from the *Nation* and other similar newspapers at home. In short, a Fenian in England or Ireland is a Fenian in the colony—

"Cœlum non animum mutant, qui trans mare currunt."

Why, therefore, should the Prince go to a colony to expose himself day after day amid masses of people who regard murderers as martyrs? All the loyal population of New Zealand, including every honourable Irishman, must, of course, feel annoyed, but can hardly be surprised, at the Prince's change of purpose. It has been reported from Sydney within the last few days that the Prince was desirous of an interview with O'Farrell, and had expressed a wish that his life may be spared. I apprehend that, whatever desire there may be in the Sydney Executive to defer to the Prince's wishes where they can be properly consulted, both justice and policy require that the fate of O'Farrell shall be decided on other and far different considerations. If he be proved and found to have been insane when committing the act, of course his life will be spared, and he will be consigned to an asylum; but if he was sane, why, then, he is only not a murderer because, to use his own words, he "made a mess of it;" and such an act as his is capital, be the subject of it prince or peasant.

Edward Payson Weston, the celebrated American walker, has been matched against Geo. Topley, the English champion pedestrian, to walk 100 miles, for $6,000, in Boston, between the 15th and 18th of June next, under a forfeiture of $1,500.

The paper-hangers and paper-makers are much excited just now with news of the invention of gutta-percha paper which, for durability and imperviousness, surpasses all previous attempts at fabrication of a damp-resisting medium. It is to be prepared for paper-hanging.

Horse railroads are increasing all over the country. The latest railroad statistics that have been published show that there are now in the United States 983 miles of horse railroads. Boston has 169 miles, New York 179, Philadelphia 162, Brooklyn 179.

The following are the signatures of the Bishops who waited on Her Majesty with a memorial deprecating the proposed resolution respecting the Irish Church:—M. G. Armagh, Richard C. Dublin, Samuel Meath, J. T. Ossory and Ferns, Robert Cashel, Robert Down and Connor, Wm. Killaloe, John Cork, Hamilton Kilmore, Charles Limerick, Charles B. Tuam, Wm. Derry.

THE STORMING OF MAGDALA.

Before Magdala, April 14.—Magdala has been taken, and Theodorus, killed by his own hand, lies, under the guard of a British sentry, in the last and strongest of the wondrous series of his strongholds. It would be affectation to pity a tyrant who himself knew no pity, who was as unscrupulous and crafty as he was cruel, and who had indeed every reason to style himself the Scourge of God sent to punish the people.

Yesterday nothing was left to the imagination; the tragedy was forced in all its naked horror upon our revolted senses. A strange smell, for which there was no apparent cause, made some of our party look over the edge of a steep cliff, almost within a few yards of the spot from which the guns were beginning to play upon Magdala, and there, on a ledge about fifty feet below them, lay two large heaps of mangled human bodies, closely piled upon each other in ghastly confusion, their limbs protruding from the mass in all sorts of repulsive attitudes and contortions, and presenting altogether a scene of horror such as no pen could adequately describe, could any pen be found to undertake the task.

Of the strength of Magdala itself it is perhaps impossible to give an adequate idea. It is protected by lofty, almost overhanging cliffs, so precipitous that a cat could not climb them, except at two points, north and south, at each of which a steep narrow path leads up to a strong gateway. It was by the northern gateway, as being on the side commanded by Salassee, that our troops had to effect an entrance. . . . One Snider makes many. In another instant every man anywhere near with a rifle in his hand was banging and blazing away as if all his prospects in this world and in the next depended upon the number of charges he could get rid of in a minute. This naturally created an impression that an action was going on somewhere, and a general scamper was at once made to a spot which commanded a better view of the plain before Magdala, and on which, to the great delight of the scamperers, some of Theodorus' guns and mortars were unexpectedly found. An artillery officer, Lieutenant Nolan, happening to be one of the party, promptly resolved to use their own guns against the enemy if possible, and this being considered apparently in the light of a humorous practical joke by a few civilians and "loafers" escaped from their staff or regimental duties to the front, a sort of comic siege of Magdala was carried on by the forces of all arms, dresses and undresses for more than an hour.

One of these excursions led, oddly enough, to the unearthing of M. Bardel, the Frenchman who has been suspected of poisoning Theodorus' mind against the captives. On the first of the enemy's guns being fired by Lieutenant Nolan, a woman rushed out frantically from a small tent near the line of the fire, evidently under the impression that her tent was about to undergo a heavy cannonade, and with vehement gesticulations offered to capitulate. The tent was entered, and there in bed, to the intense astonishment of every one, was found a European, who proved to be M. Bardel.

After this incident the siege of Magdala was resumed, and, to the intense gratification of the besieging force, one round shot from Theodorus' own gun was sent bobbing along the ground sufficiently near him and his small party to induce them to retreat into Magdala and desist from the attempt they had hitherto been making to carry a gun up there. After this the firing ceased altogether on the part of the besieged and became very languid on the part of the besiegers.

I feel that as a patriot, perhaps, the less I say of this siege the better. For fully half an hour the storming party remained, most of them huddled helplessly in the path, and if Major Cooper, who commanded them, had not found a way into the place over the stockade near the gate, there might have been a heavy loss of life. As it was, fifty determined men might have done great mischief, but luckily Theodorus had not apparently more than half a dozen—his principal chiefs—who really meant to die at their post in his cause. At first the perfect *feu d'enfer* raised by the sniders, as the head of the storming column moved up the path, did, no doubt, admirable service. Volley followed volley with a blinding, deafening vehemence and rapidity, and showers of bullets rattled, without an instant's intermission, round every crack and crevice of the gate and adjoining stockade, leaving scarcely an inch of wall unexplored from which an opposing shot could safely be fired, such as might well have shaken a far cooler and more experienced foe than the Abyssinian.

Magdala is so remarkable a stronghold—so emphatically one in ten thousand—that some of our engineers, with something of Sir Lucius O'Trigger's feeling about a "pretty quarrel," are disgusted that it was not stoutly defended and more scientifically attacked.

Magdala, April 17.—Magdala was burned this afternoon, and dense columns of flame and smoke from its lofty summits are still proclaiming far and wide to the wondering tribes of semi-savage warriors who infest the surrounding country that the reign of their greatest enemy is at an end, and the crowning act of England's vengeance performed. The town itself was uninteresting, save from its accidental associations as the prison of our fellow countrymen and other Europeans, even for Abyssinia a charge so grave that no man, it is to be hoped, would lightly bring it against any town calling itself Christian. It consisted of the ordinary collection of huts, most of them built of grass and wood, with thatched conical roofs, and did not boast even one building of exceptional beauty or importance. The church was one of the meanest and dirtiest that we have seen in Abyssinia, while the palace of the great Emperor Theodore differed only from the surrounding huts of his humblest subjects in being larger, two-storied, and with a thatched roof, not conical but oblong, giving it much the appearance of an English barn, except that no decent English farmer would allow any animal that he valued to live in a building so dark, dirty and ill ventilated. In the workshop of his European artizans there were of course many signs of modern civilization, though nearly all of a practical, very few of a strictly ornamental or luxurious kind. Workmen's tools and huge glass tumblers, apparently of English make, seemed the principal articles of import, drinking being, next to fighting, the great business of a wealthy Abyssinian's life, and these mixed up with crosses, censers, mitres, bells—the spoils of Gondar churches—Amharic Bibles, odd volumes of encyclopedias, foolscap paper, old match locks, pistols, swords, powder flasks and percussion caps, formed altogether as strange a jumble as it would be easy to find anywhere.

The "loot," on the whole, has rather disappointed the captors. Mr Holmes, for instance, who came out here as archæologist for the British Museum, and who has hitherto had a singularly disappointing and unfruitful journey, was lucky enough to rescue a handsome crown, probably an Archbishop's, and a gold chalice, bearing the following inscription in Amharic:—

The chalice of King Adam Segud, called Yasoo, the son of Queen Brahn Mogussa, presented to Kwoskwan Sanctuary (Gondar.) May my body and soul be purified. Weight twenty-five wokkits of pure gold, value five hundred dollars. Made by Waldo Georgis.

The Emperor's own crown has also been found, and is, I believe, to be sent home to the Queen.

I saw in the hands of an English soldier what, under the circumstances, was certainly a singular and interesting bit of loot, a six-barrelled revolver, with an inscription stating that it was presented by the Queen to the Emperor Theodorus, in token of her gratitude for "the kindness shown by him to her servant Plowden." The soldier told me that he had seen five pistols with this inscription, and had had a hard fight to get one for himself. It is a curious instance of the irony of history that it was not improbably with one of these very pistols—tokens of the British Queen's gratitude for kindness shown by him to her servant—that Theodorus shot himself at the approach of a British soldier; for there is now no doubt that he did shoot himself. A soldier of the 33rd regt., swears that he witnessed the act, and what is more important, both the medical men on the committee appointed to identify the body and inquire into the cause of his death declare that the fatal wound must have been self-inflicted. Twice his followers stood aloof from him in sullen, resentful disobedience when summoned to his side, and refused, when he invited them as the last chance to fly from Magdala, to accompany him and any longer share his fortunes. Even his most favourite chiefs, the very men who in the end remained faithful and died with him, seemed to have wavered strangely between their old allegiance and their new born distrust.

Shortly afterwards Theodore and the chiefs retired within Magdala and there awaited the advance of the British. As the first soldiers appeared above the stockade the chiefs were shot down, but Theodore, who had already dropped his royal robe of silk to escape observation, fled from the gateway to a retired spot higher up on the citadel, and there shot himself, putting the pistol into his mouth. From the plainness of his dress the body was not at first recognized, but as soon as it was identified, and on the approach of Sir Robert Napier, drawn forth into the principal pathway, an involuntary cheer burst forth from the soldiers around. Such a cheer over the body of a fallen foe rather jarred upon the nerves, but still it was pardonable enough, for at bottom it meant, not exultation over the death of an enemy, but delight at the discovery beyond all doubt that the last object of a tedious campaign had been accomplished, and that there was now nothing to prevent the force from turning its face home in triumph. Theodore's escape was dreaded up to the latest moment as the possible source of further detention in Abyssinia, and the soldiers would have been more than human if they had repressed the first outburst of joy at discovering that from this dreaded evil they were now safe.

Theodorus' body was found, not near those of his chiefs in the gateway, but alone on the hill above. After sending you a telegram to say that he had killed himself I heard that the Commander-in-Chief had telegraphed home that he was killed in battle, and this now seems to be the belief of those who are perhaps likely to know best. His face seemed to me rather a disappointing one after all that has been said about it, but then it was impossible to judge properly after death, especially as the eye was said to be, from its fire and expression, the most remarkable feature. There was a look of bloated, sensual indulgence about the cheeks by no means heroic or kingly, but the forehead was intellectual and the mouth singularly determined and cruel. A very strange smile still lingered about the lips, as if even in the death throe his last thought had been one of triumph at having baulked his conquerors by dying a king.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS FOR THE FENIANS.

Ottawa, June 1.—The state of military preparation for the anticipated Fenian raid under the combined superintendence and directions of Sir Charles Wyndham, commanding Her Majesty's forces, and Adjutant Macdougall, is very complete. The state of matters is altogether different now to what the Fenians found it in 1866. Then, isolated companies had to be brought together and formed into battalions and officers appointed. Now, field brigades have been formed in the several districts, composed of regulars and volunteers, and having attached to each a battery of artillery, and a troop of cavalry, under the command of a Brigadier chosen from the officers of the line. Each of these brigades can act independently or be brought together, as circumstances may require. The tents and field stores of all kinds for these brigades are now ready for use, so that the troops could take the field at a moment's notice, fully equipped for for service, and wanting nothing. The duties of Quartermaster-General and Commissariat Department will be performed by Imperial officers. The rations will be supplied to the volunteers in the same manner that they are supplied to the Imperial troops, and the cost price only will be charged to the Dominion Government. The brigades are organized to act independently, if telegraph lines or railways are destroyed, and also in concert, if needed; and there will be a considerable reserve of regulars and volunteers, should the brigades already formed not be sufficient to meet any emergency. It must also be borne in mind that the regulars and volunteers are now armed with the same weapon, the Snider-Enfield breech loader, and also the same ammunition, of which there is an abundant supply on hand at all necessary points. Full instructions by the Adjutant General to the several staff officers were to-day despatched as a guide for them under all emergencies. The Government, on Saturday, decided to pay fifty cents a day in addition to free rations to volunteers when in active service, and district staff officers were to-day advised of the fact by telegraph. In addition to preparations for service on land, gunboats are now stationed at Prescott, Kingston, Toronto, Fort Erie and the St. Clair, and manned by sailors of the Royal navy, supplied with Armstrong guns. It is satisfactory to be able to state, therefore, that in the event of the Fenians crossing the border, the preparations for their reception are so complete. As on former occasions, no doubt the regulars and volunteers may be expected to give a good account of themselves should the emergency arise. There is not the slightest ground for alarm, however, as we cannot be taken by surprise.—*Globe.*

A CONVICT WITHOUT A RELIGION.—In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr Taylor asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether it was the fact that a prisoner in Mountjoy Prison, who declared himself a Unitarian, was ordered by the Governor to select his religion as Anglican, Roman Catholic, or Presbyterian, and that on declining to do so he was sentenced to penal cell, with bread and water diet. The Earl of Mayo: I presume that the question of the Hon. Gentleman has reference to the case of a convict named John Brophy, *alias* Pagan O'Leary, who was received into the Mountjoy Prison on the 31st of July, 1865, about three years ago. The facts of the case are these:—The governor of the prison inquired in the usual manner what was the religion of the convict, who stated that he was of no religion whatever, and that he never attended any place of worship. He added that he was a Pagan (a laugh), and refused to be instructed in religion of any kind. The director, being a military man, ordered him to select his religion immediately. (Loud laughter.) The governor states that he told the prisoner what was required of him, but he objected to go to any place of worship, as he did not believe in any religion. He was, therefore, put on penal diet for three days. (Much laughter.) Two days afterwards—namely, on the 4th of August—he was removed to the hospital, he was again placed on penal diet for three days—("Oh, oh")—at the expiration of which time he selected the Roman Catholic religion. (Renewed laughter.) Penal diet, I may remark, does not consist of bread and water, though it is considerably lower than the ordinary diet. Since my attention was directed to this case I have caused inquiries to be instituted as to the course adopted under similar circumstances in other convict establishments, and I shall be able to state at some future time what rule it will be advisable to lay down. (Hear.)

DIED.

On the 2nd instant, Cecilia, the late Honourable Charles Lane Longmuir, and eldest daughter of the Coffin, aged 23 years.

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