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[*From the New York Ledger.*]

LINES.

As distant lands beyond the sea,
When friends go thence, draw nigh,
So Heaven, when friends have farther gone,
Draws nearer from the sky.

And as these lands the dearer grow,
When friends are long away,
So Heaven itself, though loved once dead,
Grows dearer day by day.

Heaven is not far from those who see
With the pure spirit's sight,
But near, and in the very hearts
Of those who see aright.

JANUARY, 1857. C. E. STUART.

THE ISLAND PRINCESS.

A Romance of the Old and New World.

BY EMMA D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH,
Author of "The Lost Heiress," "The Deserted Wife," "The Missing Bride," "Retribution," etc.

CHAPTER I.

AN INTERRUPTED WEDDING.

It was the first of May, the marriageday of the Viscount Montressor of Montressor Castle, Dorsetshire, and Estelle, only daughter and heiress of Sir Parke Morelle, Hyde Hall, Devonshire.

A glorious morning! the cloudless blue sky smiled down upon the green hills and dewy dales and deep woods of Devon; and the park around the Hall was all alive and musical with the joyous songs of birds, and the merry laughter of young men and maidens gathering to celebrate their May-day festival, and to do honor to the marriage of their landlord's daughter.

The elm-shaded, winding avenue that led from the highway to the house, was arched at each terminus by a mammoth wreath of flowers, and many were the carriages that passed under them on their way to assist at the wedding;—for a still more numerous party had been invited to meet her at the altar. The villagers and tenants, grouped about under the shade of the great oak trees, or wandering over the greensward on either side the avenue, watched these equipages as they rolled on, commenting as usual on such occasions.

"Oh—dear me! the weddingers won't pass till nearly twelve! and here we are to wait two mortal hours"! said a young girl to the gamekeeper.

"Hush! my darling, look, here comes his Lordship's carriage, itself, just as sure as you're the prettiest lass in the country."

It *was* Lord Montressor's carriage.

Early that morning a note from his affianced bride had been put in his hands, summoning him to a private conference with her at the Hall, before they should proceed to the church. Surprised and filled with vague uneasiness, his lordship lost no time in obeying her behest.

Within the most secluded of her suite of richly furnished apartments at the old Hall, half buried in the depths of a cushioned chair, reclined the bride expectant in bridal array.

She was alone, her attendants having, by her own desire, withdrawn.

Estelle Morelle—or "la belle Estelle," "Beautiful Stella," "the Midnight Star,"—as, for her resplendant dark beauty, she was poetically named—was at this time twenty-five years of age, and more beautiful than a poet's or an artist's ideal. Her form was of medium height, and very slender, though well-rounded, with a graceful head, over which fell rich masses of jet black silken ringlets, shading a face of pure, pale olive complexion with large mournful dark eyes, habitually veiled by the long, drooping lashes, and delicate, though full, curved lips, ever patiently closed as in silent resignation. The prevailing expression of her dark, brilliant countenance was a profound melancholy.

The announcement of Miss Morelle's approaching marriage with the Viscount Montressor had created a profound sensation in the fashionable and aristocratic circles. A peerless beauty, the only child of the oldest wealthiest, and haughtiest baronet in the West of England, her heart had been as much the object of aspiration to the youthful and ardent, as her hand and fortune had been the end of desire to the mercenary and ambitious.

At the early age of seven years, Estelle had been placed at one of the first class female institutions in Paris, then as now, considered among the very best institutions of their kind in the world, and there had been left to remain until her sixteenth year, when the sudden and calamitous breaking up of the institution and her own severe illness, had occasioned her removal. *That illness had been attended with marked changes in the constitution and temperament of the young girl.*

Estelle, previously the most careless, light-hearted and capricious of children, left the chamber of convalescence a subdued, thoughtful, melancholy woman! The laughing lips of girlhood closed in patient sadness; sparkling eyes sheathed their beams under long, shadowy lashes, now seldom lifted; the silvery, elastic voice sank into deep and thrilling tones; the free, glad motions were measured and controlled.

She never entered another school, but completed her education under the best masters, at home. To dissipate what was considered a transient melancholy, her parents traveled with her over Europe, pausing at each capital and chief town, to show her anything that was amusing and instructive. But though their daughter repaid their attentions with the sweetest gratitude, and obeyed them with the gentlest docility, she showed no interest in the passing scenes. And though everywhere her extreme beauty and sweetness of disposition, not less than her fortune and position, drew around her many friends and admirers, Estelle remained alone in her isolated thoughts and feelings. Every most distinguished physician in Europe had been consulted upon her case, and the result of their wisdom was a decision that this melancholy was not the effect of ill health, still less of secret sorrow, but that it was a constitutional phase that would probably pass away with maturing years.

They returned to England, presented their daughter at court, and introduced her into all the galeties of fashionable life—but with no happy effects upon the spirits of Estelle, who remained profoundly unmoved amid the *eclat* that greeted her *debut*. Her picturesque beauty was the theme of all tongues—her mournful glance was fascinating—her deep tones thrilling—her touch magnetic; all felt her power, yet she who could move all others, remained unimpressed. She who sought no conquests, for that very reason, perhaps, made many. A peer and two commoners, in succession, laid their fortunes at her feet, and were in turn kindly and firmly rejected.

So passed her first season in London, at the close of which her parents took her down to their seat in Devonshire. Here, in her thoughtful, unostentatious manner, she engaged in works of benevolence among the villagers and tenantry. And her father, hoping much from this employment, gave her full liberty of action, and smiled to see that she seemed less pensive than before.

At the beginning of the parliamentary term the family went up to London.

And it was here in her second season in town that Estelle formed the acquaintance of Lord Montressor, a young nobleman but lately acceded to his titles and estates, but already known as man of the most high toned moral and intellectual excellence, as a righteous, as well as a rising statesman, and as one, who in the event of a change of ministry would be likely to fill a high official position in His majesty's Cabinet. Aside from the glare of rank and wealth and power, Charles Montressor was a glorious specimen of the Creator's workmanship. Above the average standard of height among his countrymen, broad-shouldered and deep chested, with a noble head, and a face full of wisdom and goodness, his appearance truly indicated the warm benevolence, clear intelligence, and pure spirit of the man. His presence soon inspired Estella with a faith that she had not been able to feel in any other that approached her. He drew nearer to her than any other had been permitted to come; he crossed the magic circle of her isolation, and conversed with her as no other had been allowed to do. The world looked and said that the beautiful Stella had at last met her master and was conquered.

At this stage of affairs, the parliamentary term being over, Sir Parke Morelle and his family left London for Hyde Hall.

Lord Montressor asked and received permission to follow them, and in less than a month availed himself of the privilege to do so. Thus it was in the home of her ancestors, after having obtained the cordial sanction of her parents, and believing himself sure of the affections of their daughter, Lord Montressor offered his heart and hand to the lovely Estella, and was to his profound astonishment instantly and firmly rejected! In thus rejecting his suit she wept long and bitterly, praying his forgiveness, that the happiness she had experienced and exhibited in his society should have betrayed him into making this declaration, and beseeching him never to renew his suit; but to leave and forget her. There was something in the tone of her refusal which confirmed and deepened his previous conviction that—even in rejecting him—she loved him! But with his high-toned sentiments he would not in the least degree presume upon that knowledge. Taking her hand with deferential tenderness, he said—

"Stella! a man never but once, in his whole existence, loves a woman as I love you! I will not inquire the cause of the rejection, which you have certainly a right to make without assigning any reason for the act. And after having received this repulse, I may not in honor distress you by a renewal of my suit. But this, in parting, I must say to you—that, though I go hence, I shall not go out of the reach of your friends; I shall never address another woman; so if ever in the course of future weeks, or months, or years, however long, you may think proper to review the decision of this evening, Stella, I implore you to let me know! Write but one word, 'Come,' and I will return to lay an unchanged heart at your feet!"

Estella was weeping too bitterly to reply.

"Stella will you promise to do this?"

"Lord Montressor, best and dearest friend! do not think to bind yourself to one who can give you nothing in return! Try to think of the melancholy girl that you have pitied and loved—only as a shadow that fell for a moment across the sunshine of your path, and then passed away forever!—and so forget her!"

"Stella! I have pledged my honor never to renew this suit, unless you reverse in my favor the sentence you have pronounced upon it; but, inspired by the deep and deathless love I bear you, and 'hoping against hope,' feel impelled to implore before leaving you, that, in the event of a favorable change of sentiment or purpose towards me, you will not hesitate to give me leave to return. Stella will you promise me so much as that?"

"Noblest friend that I have in the world! how gladly would I promise, but I must not. Monstressor. Were I to do so, you would feel bound to await the changes of my mood, and so, for a most undeserving love, might miss, in some nobler woman's affections, the happiness in store for you!"

"Stella, will you raise your sweet, mournful eyes to mine, one moment, that you may read my soul while I speak?"

Estella lifted her dark orbs to meet the clear, pure, blue eyes bent with so much love and candor upon hers, and read the deep, unchanging truth of the constancy of his soul as he said—

"Stella, in the presence of the heart-searching God who sees and hears me, I assure you that I shall never love another woman as I love you, and, therefore, of course, can never wed another; so that whether you give me this slightest of hopes or not, I am equally and forever bound! *Now* will you promise, Stella? Remember, it is only to let me know in case of a change in your sentiments."

For an instant the light of an unutterable love and joy broke on her beautiful, dark face, and her smiling lips parted to speak—when—as if a sudden memory and warning had gripped her very heart—she uttered a low, sharp cry, turned paler than before and then said—

"No! no! my Lord! Stella cannot even give you that! She is poorer than the poorest, in gifts to you! She can only pray that you may forget her and be happy!"

He looked profoundly disappointed and troubled. But soon mastering his despondency he said hopefully—

"Well, dearest Stella, although you reject me without apparent reason, and refuse to give me the slightest promise or the most distant hope, yet I repeat—should you in the long future, change your purpose, and write to me one word—'Come,' I will hasten to lay at your feet an unchanged heart! Good bye! God be with you!" and raising her hand, he bowed over it, pressed it to his lips, turned and left the room.

Some moments after Lady Morelle, who came to seek and congratulate her daughter upon what she imagined to be the only possible result of the interview—found Estelle lying in a swoon upon the floor!—It was followed by a long and terrible illness, terminating in a tediously protracted convalescence. The town season was at hand before Estelle was able to re-enter society.

They went up to London, and once more the 'star of beauty' arose upon its world. And though the cloud upon her life settled darker and heavier, day by day, she was more followed, flattered and courted than before.

Thus three years had passed away, when one morning, while the family, then occupying their town house in Berkely Square, were seated at a late breakfast, and Sir Parke was engaged in *reading aloud from the London Times, an account of the saving of the French ship—Le Duc D' Anjou—wrecked off the coast of Algiers—Estelle uttered a low cry and sunk fainting from her seat.*

This attack was not, as the other had been followed by illness; on the contrary, from that day, the cloud seemed lifted from her head, and even those who had most admired her face in its shadow, were enchanted to see how brilliant was its beauty in its sunshine! Her health and spirits daily improved, yet in the midst of all this flowing tide of new life, Estelle astonished her friends by suddenly, in the height of the London season, retiring to her father's country seat, where she remained in strict seclusion from the world for eighteen months.

At the end of this period, Lord Montressor, who had never left England, or lost trace of his beloved Stella, and who was now staying at his castle in Dorsetshire, was one day seated at breakfast when the morning mail was brought him. Among a score of letters the first that attracted his attention was a dainty white envelope superscribed in a delicate handwriting. He took that up first and opened it—it contained but one word—'Come.'

The light of an ineffable joy broke over his face! 'Oh! he had waited, patiently, hopefully, years, for that word, and at last he received it! Thanks to heaven in the first instance! and then pushing all the other letters unopened aside he sprang up, rang for his valet, and ordered his valise packed and horses put to the carriage.

In twenty more minutes he had reached the railway station just as the cars were about to start, and in three hours he was at Hyde Hall and standing in the presence of Estelle!—she looked so beautiful and happy.

With the old chivalric enthusiasm of devotion, he dropped at once upon his knee, and raised her hand to his, saying—

"For four years I have waited for one word from you, and at last, beloved, you have written—'Come,' and I am at your feet, as I said, with an unchanged heart!"

"But I," she said, deeply blushing, while she held both hands to raise him, "I my lord, have not an unchanged heart! for, longer than four years I have loved you more than woman's tongue may tell—and never more, than at the hour in which we bade farewell, as I thought forever!"

"I know it, beloved! knew it *then!* knew it *always!* I never doubted it!—Could I be deceived in the dear heart of the woman I loved! No! and that was the secret of my patience!" he replied taking a seat on the sofa by her side.

"And yet you never inquired and do not even now inquire, why, without explanation and without hope, without apparent reason, I summon you back!" she said, as a shade of the old sadness fell upon her beautiful face.

"Your motives, dearest, were, and are your own. Not until your spirit moves you to do so, shall you give them to me! I have full confidence in you, beautiful Stella!"

"*Confidence! oh my God!*" she exclaimed in a low, deep, thrilling voice.

"Why, what is the matter, dearest?"

She looked up suddenly, a smile of worshipping love, breaking like sunlight over her dark face, and said—

"Nothing, nothing my lord! but that all your thoughts and feelings are so elevated beyond your poor Estelle's! And yet she would almost choose it so! for could she be an Angel, she would wish you to be something far higher—a god!"

"Sweet enthusiast! moderate your aspirations, or the world and its people will disappoint you! Be not an idolator; worship only God, my Stella."

Such was their meeting.

Yet, occasionally, throughout the interview, a sudden shadow like the recurrence of a painful thought, would fall upon her bright face and then pass as it came.

They were engaged, and within a few days the marriage was announced to take place on the first of May.

But it was observed by the nearest friends of the bride, that from the day of her betrothal, her spirits had been marked by the strangest fluctuations. Sometimes with her beautiful dark face illumined with a deep, still, almost religious joy, she moved about as it were, on "winged feet," or sat brooding in a happy trance. At other times, she fell into deep gloom and anxiety, as inexplicable as it was alarming to her friends, who greatly feared her relapse into the deep melancholy that had so long overshadowed her, and that they had grown to dread as a serious constitutional malady. But they hoped every thing from her approaching marriage with the man she loved. Lord Montressor observed with the deepest interest the uncertain moods of his betrothed; but with the high-toned sentiments that distinguished him, refrained from inquiring and awaited her voluntary revelations.

At last the first of May, the marriage day upon which I have presented the parties to the reader, arrived, and all the *haut ton*, as I said, were gathered at the Hall or at the Church to do honor to the solemnities.

And the expectant bride, in her bridal robe and veil, waited within her boudoir the arrival of the bridegroom, whom she had summoned to a private interview before they should proceed to the church. She had not long to wait. He who quickly responded to her slightest inclination, immediately obeyed her call.

Yet when she heard his firm elastic step approaching.

"Now God have mercy on me!" she prayed, and covered her face with her hands.

He entered, unannounced, and saying,—

"My beautiful Stella! I am here, you perceive by your commands!"

She dropped her hands, and revealing a face pale with misery, spoke in a thrilling, deep, impassioned tone—

"You are here by my *supplication*, my lord! I have no right to command."

"We will waive that! What is your will, my dearest Stella?"

"My *prayer*, my lord—is first, for your forgiveness."

"*Forgiveness?*—my Stella?"

"Ay! my dear lord! you see before you a penitent and a supplicant, who may soon be something far more wretched!"

"My Stella! what mean you?"

"Come to the window, Lord Montressor!" she said, rising and preceding him. "Look out," she continued, putting aside the rose-colored hangings, and revealing a view of the park below, alive with its restless multitude. "What are all these people waiting for, my lord?"

"What are they waiting for, my Stella?—for that, for which I also wait, with how much more impatience!" he answered, while a deep flush of love and joy, for an instant supplanted the anxiety on his face.

"They wait to see a bride pass, where a bride may never go!" she said, in a solemn voice.

"Stella! great Heaven! what say you!" he exclaimed, gazing on her with profound astonishment.

"That the bride they expect is unworthy to stand before God's holy altar besides Lord Montressor!"

"Unworthy, Stella! You."

"*Most unworthy*, my lord! she said, dropping her arms, and dropping her head in an attitude of the deepest misery. "I should have made this confession long ago Lord Montressor; but I have deceived you—I have deceived you!"

"In what respect, Stella? My God! It cannot be! No, it cannot be! that while betrothed to me, you do not love me!"

"*Not love you! Oh! my dear lord!*" she murmured, in a voice of thrilling tenderness that carried conviction of her truth to his deepest heart.

"What mean you then, dearest one? if indeed you return my deep love.

"Oh I do, I do, Montressor, whatever happens, wherever you go, take the assurance with you! I love you my lord! shall ever love you, even though ever after what I shall have told you, you repulse and hate me and go to our friends and say,—'That woman whom I was about to wed, is but a whited sepulchre, whom I have proved, and whom, I now reject—and so leave me to the scorn of men, still I say—ever shall say—I love you, Lord Montressor! I love you, and the consciousness of being unworthy of your love is the bitterest element in my punishment" she said, in a voice of such profound misery, that Lord Montressor could scarcly continue to believe her agitation unfounded or exaggerated.

He dropped upon a seat, and sitting still and white as a carved image of stone, gazed upon her, waiting he further communications.

The above is all of this beautiful and highly interesting story that will be published in our columns. We give this as a sample. The continuation of it can be found only in the New York Ledger, the great family weekly paper, for which the most popular writers in the country contribute, and which can be found at all the stores throughout the city and country, where papers are sold. Remember, to ask for the New York Ledger of May 30, and in it you will get the continuation of the story from where it leaves off here. If you cannot get a copy at any news office, the publisher of the Ledger will mail you a copy on receipt of five cents. Fanny Fern writes only for the New York Ledger; Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., writes only for it; Emerson Bennett writes only for it; and nearly all the eminent writers in the country, such as Mrs. Sigourney, Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth and Alice Carey, contribute regularly to its columns. Mrs. Southworth will write for no other paper hereafter. Geo. D. Prentice, Esq., of the Louisville Journal, prepares the Wit and Humor Department in the Ledger. It is mailed to subscribers at $2 a year, or two copies for $3. Address Robert Bonner, publisher, 44 Ann st., New York. It is the handsomest and best family paper in the country, elegantly illustrated and characterized by a high moral tone.

Townsend the Murderer identified, and surrendered to the Canadian Authorities.

As we stated yesterday, the notorious murderer and robber Townsend, into whose identity examination has been going on for several days in Cleveland, has at length been fully indentified, and formally surrendered to the Canadian authorities. He successfully evaded justice for a length of time, and at the examination in Cleveland his friends spared no efforts to make it appear that he was a different person; but the evidence against him was too clear and convincing.

The United States Commissioner appears to have discharged his duties in the matter with ability and impartiality. The Cleveland Herald of the 28th inst., in noticing his identification and surrender to the Canadian officers, says:

"At three o'clock to-day Commissioner Grannis pronounced his judgment in the case of Townsend, and delivered him up to the Canadian authorities. No unbiassed person who had heard the testimony in the case, could anticipate any other result. The evidence on behalf of the prosecution, as to this man being Townsend, was clear, candid and convincing. The defence threw in a mass of testimony, which at a glance might seem to contradict the claim of the prosecution; but so much of that testimony as was really relevant, and entitled to credit, was clearly reconcilable with that of the prosecution, and the main facts stood uncontradicted.

"Commissioner Grannis has been patient and unwearied during the long and tedious examination, guarding at every point the rights of the prisoner giving him every indulgence, and yet keeping his eye single to the only point really at issue—viz: the identity of the prisoner with the murderer Townsend. The decision of Commissioner Grannis was lawyer-like and logical, exhibiting uncommon talent in the weighing of testimony and great clearness of appreciation of evidence. The Commissioner has had a very trying position, and one of great labor; but has discharged his duty ably, honestly and promptly."

ITEMS OF NEWS.

The Editor of the Georgian Citizen has been sued for libel to the tune of $20,000, for publishing the name of a subscriber who had moved off without paying his subscription dues.

Mr. C. J. Brydges, the managing director of the Great Western Railroad, has had his salary increased from $6,000 to $8,000 as a mark of the confidence and esteem of the English Directors.

The Quebec Chronicle states that the Mayor and U. J. Tessier, Advocate, have been nominated delegates to England, to represent the claims of Quebec to be the permanent Seat of Government.

The greatest number of points ever made in a game of billiards around the table, was Michael Phelan's 243. In the Spot Ball Game, Higham's 1700 is the highest.

It is stated, and we believe truly, that Mr. Bell has obtained £60,000, sterling, to complete the Ottawa and Prescott Railway, the money being advanced by the Grand Trunk Company, who take a third mortgage on the road. Mr. Bell's energy and perseverance have triumphed at last, and we are told that he received able support from Mr. Egan and Mr. Yielding.

BERMUDA CROPS AT NEW YORK.—The Hamilton Bermudian, of the 6th inst., shows that the exports this Spring amounted to 153,450 bbls onions, 3,898 bbls. potatoes and 3,059 boxes of tomatoes. Six vessels cleared for New York during the period mentioned, taking in the aggregate 2,259 bbls. potatoes, 3,309 boxes of tomatoes, and 450 bbls. onions. These productions ripened several weeks earlier than usual. Onions were exported the 20th of April. The potato has yielded bountifully, and is almost wholly free from disease. One planter's crop yielded at the rate of twenty-four barrels for every barrel planted.

The news from Washington, of the rejection of the Dallas Clarendon Treaty by Great Britain, means only,—that England must first act and agree with Honduras as to the Island of Rustah, before she can accept the Treaty as modified by the Senate. There is no doubt, that Great Britain will advise or enforce upon Honduras the Rutan acceptance, and then itself ratify the Treaty. There is no feeling whatever on the subject in Great Britain.

THE BRITISH FRIGATE SEVERN AND ITS TREASURE.—The Boston Sub-Marine and Wrecking Company's brig Monagous, on April 20th, were working on the wreck of the British frigate Severn, on Silver Key bank. They had been very successful in blasting, and were in hopes, should the weather continue fine, in the course of a fortnight, to have for Turks Island with a great portion of the $500,000 said to have sent in her. Officers and crew all well, and sanguine of success.

It is reported that Lord Elgin, who dined with the Emperor of France before leaving for Malta on his way to China, made such representations as induced Napoleon to increase the number of Marines to be sent to the Chinese waters, on the supposition that an Anglo-French occupation of certain points will be necessary for some time. A French journal says that the additional French vessels which are preparing to start for China, will carry out 1,000 soldiers for service in that country, if required. The French Government, it is again asserted, intends to insist on relations with Pekin, as the only means of avoiding future difficulties.

On the 20th instant, as a man named Noble attempted to get off the Great Western train at Waubuna station, the train being in rapid motion, he was thrown on the track and instantly killed.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

May 22.

In the Legislative Council this evening, Col. Prince presented a petition from Mr Donigan of Capitol street, Montreal, complaining that an Act had passed the House of Parliament under the title of "An Act to amend the Harbor commission Act of Montreal," which really legalized a nuisance, for which the Commissioners had been corrected in a Court of Justices, no notice having been given of such a clause, and he gave notice of a motion for an address to His Excellency praying him to disallow the bill.

The following bills were read a third time:—

To amend the Charter of the Colonial Bank.

To amend the law relating to mortgages and personal property in Canada West.

To confirm a conveyance made by the Goderich town Council.

To declare the meaning of the Auction Duties Act, as respects auctions in small districts.

To incorporate the Montreal Elevator Company.

To amend the Common Law procedure act.

The following bill was read a second time:

To regulate the fees of clerks of the peace.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the fishing act.

In the Assembly the millers' association bill was read a third time.

The petition of the Toronto Board of Trade for payment of expenses incurred in obtaining the Reciprocity Treaty was referred to a special committee.

The House went into committee and passed a resolution affirming the property of giving 1,500,000 acres to the St. Maurice Navigation Company.

The following bills were read a third time, viz:

To encourage the general civilization of the Indian tribes.

To amend the criminal law referring to the uttering of Counterfeit Coin.

For further increasing the efficiency and simplifying the proceedings of the Court of Chancery, a motion in amendment for the abolition of the Court being first lost.

To authorise the issue of debentures to assist the law society of Upper Canada in erecting buildings.

For the imposing of tolls on the public works.

To authorize the construction of a line of railroad from some point on the Great Western Railroad.

Further to protect the rights of married women.

To amend the act to abolish the rights of Primogeniture, and to afford relief to parties succeeding to the real estate of persons dying intestate in Upper Canada.

To incorporate the International Bridge Company.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, May 18th

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Roblin introduced a Bill to incorporate the Town of Napanee.

Mr. Supple introduced a Bill to provide for the separation of the County of Renfrew from the County of Lanark, for municipal and judicial purposes.

Attorney General Macdonald introduced a Bill for the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrates in the unorganized Territories of Upper Canada.

HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY.

A message was read from his Excellency in transmitting copy of a despatch relating to the Hudson's Bay Territory, and other papers:—

The Governor General lays before the Legislative Assembly a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, relating to the Hudson's Bay Territory, and other papers.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Toronto, C. W., May 18th, 1857.

(Copy.)

Downing Street, April 30th, 1857.

No. 58. SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you that at the suggestion of the Royal Geographical Society, Her Majesty's Government have decided to recommend to Parliament a grant of public money in aid of an Exploring Expedition, which is about to proceed to that portion of British North America, which lies between the northern branch of the Saskatchewan River and the frontier of the United States, and between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains.

The information hitherto possessed of this tract of country is extremely scanty, and rests for the most part upon almost imperfect authority; but in the rapid progress, both of British North America and the United States, public attention must ere long be directed to it. Her Majesty's Government have, therefore, not hesitated to avail themselves of this opportunity for acquiring increased and trustworthy knowledge of this extensive region.

Among the objects of the expedition, which it is proposed should be accomplished in the course of two seasons, is included an examination of a portion of the country lying between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake not lying immediately on the ordinary canoe track.

Mr. John Palliser, whose services as leader of the exploring party Her Majesty's Government have willingly accepted, accompanied by three or four gentlemen, selected for their scientific attainments, will leave England for North America by the steamer of the 16th proximo.

This expedition, although prompted by a grant from the Imperial Treasury, will not bear a political or commercial character, but be mainly directed to scientific objects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Sir EDMUND HEAD, &c. &c.

(Copy.)

Toronto, May 12th, 1857.

SIR,—Having observed in the "Globe" newspaper, of this morning, a paragraph on the subject of the transport of troops to Red River, via Hudson's Bay, which is described as a "ridiculous plan," I have thought it proper to address to the Lieutenant General commanding the forces, a letter explaining the reason which induced the Hudson's Bay Company (who are charged with the duty of transporting the troops) to adopt the route via Hudson's Bay, in preference to that by Lake Superior and Lac la Pluie. For your Excellency's information, I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Sir William Eyre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. SIMPSON.

His Excellency Sir Ed. W. Head,
Bart., &c &c. &c.,
Toronto.

(Copy.)

Toronto, May 12, 1857.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the "Globe" newspaper, of this morning, headed, "The Route to the Red River," wherein the intention of forwarding troops to that place from Canada via Hudson's Bay, is called a "ridiculous plan" which it is hoped, may be reconsidered "by military authorities." A very few facts will serve to show how little the writer of the above paragraph understood the subject. In the interviews I have had with you on the subject of the transport of troops to the Red River, I have explained the difficulties of the only two available routes from Canada, (that through the United States being out of the question) viz., by sea to York Factory, and thence by boats—or by steamer to the head of Lake Superior, and thence by canoe.

The Hudson's Bay Company upon whom devolves the duty and expense of transporting the troops, and who if may be assumed, possesses the very best information connected with their territory, have decided on adopting the route via Hudson's Bay as the only practicable one. In the year 1816 when troops were sent to Red River, the same route was adopted, after very careful consideration. The leading objections to the route by Lake Superior are—

1st. That the greater part is practicable for no other craft than "north canoes" (barks) and of so dangerous a character that it can only be navigated by experienced canoe men. The necessary provisions for the long journey, and the equipage of the craft, would barely afford space to such canoe for five passengers and ten small packages, say personal baggage and appointments. The detachment now to be forwarded, I presume, will, with families, number about 180 passengers, requiring 36 canoes and 180 experienced voyageurs. Several canoes besides those employed in conveying the passengers, would be required for the transport of the Commissariat stores.

2nd. That by the Canada route no large package can be transported—arm chests for instance; indeed no package exceeding 90 or 100 lbs in weight, and the bulk of a small trunk.

3rd. That owing to the disuse of canoes in the Hudson's Bay Territory, where boats have been introduced wherever it was practicable, the number of skilled canoe "voyageurs" is so reduced that we cannot possibly collect sufficient to form the crews necessary for the transport of the detachment.

4th. The dangers of the route. This is a serious objection to the conveyance of a large body of passengers. There are sixty six portages across which the canoes and all their lading must be carried. These portages vary in length, from about 100 yards to 8½ miles.

They are generally over very rough grounds, or through morasses, where the formation of good roads would be both difficult and expensive. The landing places are usually at the head or foot of the falls and rapids, often in the rapids themselves, so that there is always considerable danger in embarking and disembarking, which would be increased by the presence of a number of inexperienced persons.

It is not intended as the writer in the Globe fancies, to send the troops home to England and thence by Hudson's Bay. They will proceed direct to York Factory, starting at that place in the month of August, when boats will be awaiting to convey them to Red River. These boats are of about 5 tons burden, and, as compared with canoes, safe and comfortable craft. From experience we know each boat will safely carry 14 to 16 passenger, and nearly 3 tons of cargo, consisting if necessary, of heavy and bulky packages, arm chests and cannon have been taken from York Factory to Red River. Trusting the foregoing information may satisfy you of the propriety of adopting the Hudson's Bay route,

I have, &c.
(Signed,) G. SIMPSON.

His Excellency,
Sir Edmund W. Head, Bart, &c. &c
Toronto.

Mr. Brown said he hoped the Government would take means to have Canadian interests represented on the exploring expedition. [Hear, hear.] From what had fallen from them on a previous day, he had no doubt that they would do so. He was sure that any steps they might take with that view would meet with the assent of the whole House.

Tuesday, May 19.

PRISONS FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, &c.

Attorney General Macdonald moved the third reading of the Bill for establishing prisons for young offenders, for the better government of public asylums, and for the better construction of gaols.

Mr. Brown said that the Bill provided for five Inspectors of Prisons, &c. As men of the first standing would be required, it was obvious that very considerable salaries would have to be paid to them. But it appeared from the Act that the time devoted to inspection was limited to somewhere between 400 and 500 days, less than 100 days for each Inspector. He thought there was no necessity for adding to the public burdens by paying large salaries to five Inspectors, if one, two, or three could perform all the work. He moved in amendment that the Bill be re committed for the purpose of providing that there should be only three Inspectors.

The amendment was negatived by 5 to 26.

The Bill was then read a third time, and passed on a division.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

On motion of Atty. Gen. Macdonald,

The resolutions reported by the Committee of Whole, relative to the appointment of county attorneys, were concurred in, and ordered to be added to the Bill on the same subject.

TOLLS ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Solicitor General Smith moved the second reading of the Bill for the imposing and collection of tolls on the public works.

Mr. Cameron called the attention of the Solicitor General to a petition he had presented on behalf of forwarders, who had invested large capitals in the canal trade, and who had suffered loss from the competition of railroads which had received public aid. They desired that some thing should be done for their relief.

Solicitor General Smith said that this Bill had an entirely different object, but it was not proposed, at all events, to increase the canal tolls.

Mr Cameron—The petitioners desired that they should be decreased.

The Bill was then read a second time at length and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Toronto, May 21.

The House went into committee on the estimates last night about nine o'clock, and that business spirit which has characterized it during the whole of the present session, went through every item by midnight. The statements and explanations of the financial minister were lucid and satisfactory. On a future occasion, we may give a review of his speech. There will of course be a supplementary estimate in a few days, in which, among other things, it is said there will be certain appropriations on account of public works.

Yesterday afternoon the Grand Trunk Railway Bill was read a third time, in the Legislative Council, and hastily passed without discussion. It now only awaits the royal assent to become law. This measure will sustain our high credit in England, and give relief to the greatest of our national enterprises. And we cherish a confident hope that ultimately the earnings of the road will be sufficient to reimburse the Government the capital it has advanced.

THOSE DOMINGO CITY BONDS.—We are very happy to learn from the "Pilot" of last evening, and to convey the pleasing intelligence to those kindred people in Upper Canada who have expressed such deep concern at our condition, that "the Corporation Bonds, given to aid the construction of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, some time since overdue, have been redeemed, and intelligence to that effect transmitted by the English Mail this morning. It would have been better that this should have been done ere the bonds were dishonored. Better this early action, since the dishonor, than any further delay.

CANADA BANKS.

	Paid up capital.	Circulation.
Quebec Bank,	$901,119	614,802
City Bank of Montreal,	1,134,720	783,478
Bank of Montreal,	5,302,600	3,483,645
Commercial Bank of Canada,	3,267,890	1,440,062
Bank of Upper Canada,	2,924,230	3,055,278
Bank du Peuple,	838,255	538,146
Molson's Bank,	506,238	419,683
Zimmerman Bank,	453,500	320,195
Niagara District Bank,	218,400	271,091
Bank of Toronto,	312,316	381,994

*** The Provincial Bank of Stanstead, and the County of Elgin Bank are not enumerated.

RAILROAD EXCURSION TRIP TO ST. LOUIS.

[From the N. Y. Evening Post.]

One of the most imposing excursions which have been projected in this country is to take place early in the month of June. The event it is designed to celebrate is the completion of the line of railroad communication from New York to St. Louis. Over twenty-five hundred guests have been invited to join in the projected festivities, and preparations for their accommodation have been made upon a scale of liberality and magnificence proportioned to the magnitude of the enterprise which is to be inaugurated.

Trains for this excursion will leave Cincinnati at six o'clock on the morning of Thursday, June 4th. Guests holding invitation tickets will be passed free over nearly all the roads leading toward and into Ohio, on any day previous to the excursion, after the 26th of May; and returning, on any day before the 12th of June. The tickets, which are not transferable, contain the list of the free railroads to the number of no less than forty, radiating in all directions from Cincinnati to the remote States of the Union.

The completion of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad is the greatest railroad achievement on record. When the road was partly built, its affairs became embarrassed, and Page, Bacon & Co., of St. Louis, undertook to finish it; but they, in turn, failed, and the Company was then in a worse condition than ever. In May of last year, the following gentlemen determined to bring this enterprise to a conclusion, viz:—

Wm. H. Aspinwall,	Charles Gould,
Joseph W. Alsop,	N. T. Carryl,
Henry Chauncey,	H. O. Lord,
Saml. W. Comstock,	M. Escandon,
Edwin Bartlett,	Lewis B. Parsons,
David Leavitt,	James C. Hall,
David Hoadley,	Edwin Ludlow,
Wm. A. Booth,	W. Whitewright, jr.
L. D. Coman,	Fred. Schuchard,
Edward S. Gould,	E. C. Gebhard,
Edward Learned,	Edward Delmo.

The entire road from Cincinnati to St. Louis is 340 miles in length. The length completed by the "associates" above named is 109 miles, and this was accomplished in less than nine months; the building of two tunnels, one nearly 1800 feet, and the other nearly 500 feet, being included in the work. When the road is settled, the regular running time between Cincinnati and St. Louis will be fourteen hours. This road is the broad gauge, six feet in width, and the cars eleven feet wide, are the most elegant and commodious of any hitherto built.

Wm. H. Clement, late chief engineer and superintendent of the Little Miami Railroad, has been engaged by the Ohio and Mississippi Co., and he will hereafter have the principal charge of its running arrangements.

The distance from New York to St. Louis by the several routes is as follows:

	Miles.
Northern Route via Chicago,	1248
Northern Route via Indianapolis and Terre Haute,	1172
Northern Route via Cincinnati,	1162
Middle Route via Cincinnati and Wheeling,	1069

FURTHER BY THE NIAGARA.

The following is the Queen's speech, read by commission:—

LORDS AND GENTLEMEN:—We are commanded to inform you that Her Majesty has availed herself of the earliest opportunity of having recourse to your advice after the dissolution of the last Parliament. Her Majesty hopes that there will be found sufficient time during the present to enable you satisfactorily to deal with various important matters, some of which occupied the attention of Parliament in the beginning of this year. We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that the aspect of affairs in Europe affords a well-founded confidence in the continuance of peace. All the main stipulations of the Treaty of Paris have been carried into execution, and it is to be hoped that what remains to be done in regard to those matters will be speedily accomplished. The negociations upon the subject of the differences which have arisen between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation with regard to the affairs of Neufchatel are drawing to a close, and will, her Majesty trusts, be terminated by an arrangement satisfactory to all parties.

The negociations in which Her Majesty has been engaged with the Government of Honduras, in regard to the affairs of Central America, have not yet been brought to a close. Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that at the date of the latest advices from China, the differences which have arisen between the High Commissioner at Canton and her Majesty's civil and naval officers in China still remain unadjusted, but her Majesty had sent to China a Plenipotentiary fully instructed to deal with all matters of difference, and that Plenipotentiary will be supported by an adequate military and naval force in the event of such assistance becoming necessary.

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that a treaty of peace between her Majesty and the Shah of Persia was signed at Paris on the 4th of March by