

law requires the production of one of the witnesses of a marriage that took place at a distance of ten thousand miles from the Australian courts, and may be of twenty or twenty-five years standing. A case of bigamy has recently brought to light the imperfect or the iniquitous state of the law of marriage in Australia, according to which every married woman from Great Britain or any other country now in that colony, unless she can produce one who was present at her marriage in Britain, is, in the view of the Australian law, no wife. The *Sydney Empire* says, "There are many such cases. One case is at this moment recurring to us. A most respectable and excellent woman arrives, as an emigrant, with her husband. The wretch spreads a rumour that she is not his wife, abandons her to sorrow, want, and sickness, and marries another woman. He cannot be prosecuted, because the sufferer cannot be a witness in her own case, and no certificate she can bring will stand her in any stead in a court of law. So she perishes, and he escapes. The moral evidence is here most convincing, but, against it, iniquity, or rather villainy, triumphs. The case presented is no fiction; it is a terrible reality, and it may be only one out of many." The case of bigamy to which we allude is that of John Gerrie, who deserted his wife and child at Keith, in Banffshire, in July, 1854, and who, on arriving at Sydney about the beginning of 1855, with a letter of introduction from the Rev. A. McGilvray, Free Church minister of Keith, to the Rev. A. Salmon, represented himself as an unmarried man. He gained the affections of a highly respectable young woman, named Jane Warren, and the result was a second marriage between him and Jane Warren, 1st August, 1855. His subsequent treatment of this young person corresponds with his abandonment of his first wife, Ann Lawrence, and his child. He is said to have behaved to her so as to compel her to leave him, and to seek a refuge from his violence. Partly from private correspondence, the Rev. A. McGilvray was led to furnish the information and extracts which were used in an unsuccessful attempt to avenge the injured second wife, by bringing the villain, John Gerrie, to justice. Application was made to the Attorney-General, who was then Mr. Plunkett. His reply contains the following passage:—"I beg to state that, as the first step in a prosecution for bigamy is proof of the first marriage, unless there be some witness in the colony who was present at the ceremony, the charge could not be substantiated, so as to obtain a conviction and punishment."

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AT HALIFAX—POWDER MAGAZINE BLOWN UP.

(From the *Acadian Recorder*, August 15, 1857.)

Shortly after twelve o'clock on Thursday night, our citizens were aroused from their slumbers by a terrific shock, similar to that of an Earthquake, which shook the entire city from centre to circumference, and for a time held our citizens spell-bound, spreading confusion and alarm in all directions. Houses were shaken to their very foundations, windows broken, doors thrust open and furniture displaced. Females and children were alarmed, as if some fearful catastrophe had visited them. But few indeed were inclined to venture out to ascertain the nature of this unaccountable explosion, which must have taken place somewhere in the neighborhood of the city. Many were impressed with the belief that one of the Powder Magazines in the vicinity had exploded, while others entertained different opinions. It was soon discovered that the City Powder Magazine at Richmond had blown up, and various and conflicting were the reports which spread like lightning. Those who witnessed the explosion, from a distance, describe it as one of the most imposing and brilliant sights they ever witnessed, yet conveying death and destruction in its train. On hastening to the spot, (for we were on the ground at an early hour), a most desolating scene was presented to our gaze. We first discovered the house at the north-west corner of the Naval Yard battered in—and learned that no injury had resulted to the inmates. Not a vestige of the City Magazine was to be seen. Most fortunately the fire did not communicate with the Government magazines immediately to the south, although the roof and sides were considerably damaged. The sailors from the *Indus* soon had the Dockyard Engine at work on the latter. The house, and adjoining one, occupied by Patrick Stokes and others, which we believe was a sort of boarding-house, were both in a heap of ruins. Some of the inmates escaped unhurt, others were carried out in a mangled condition. To the north of these premises, a large house belonging to Mr. W. A. McAggy, and occupied by Mr. S. Goodwin and family, was a perfect wreck. The inmates miraculously escaped with their lives. The fire bells in the city rang for a considerable time, and some of the engines were on the spot, but, of course, they were of no service. The people in the Dockyard and neighborhood were dreadfully alarmed—the injury to property being more or less according to proximity. It was truly a distressing sight to see women and children making their escape from the ruins. Messrs. Kaye's and Jordan's houses suffered considerable damage—the former being a new house.

We could not, however, gather material sufficient at this time for a full report, so we determined on re-visiting the scene of this disaster in the morning.

FRIDAY MORNING.—We repaired this morning to Richmond, for the purpose of collecting all the particulars, so as to present our readers with something like a detailed account of this fearful casualty, and enable them to form some idea of the extent of the injury. At an early hour there seemed to be the most intense excitement, and hundreds of persons might be seen winding their way to Richmond. All along Water-street the effects of the explosion was visible, as also in other parts of the city. Window sashes were thrown out, and windows broken, and even locks were sprung, and several stores and ware-houses were thrown wide open. We will not pretend to particularise the different residences where the windows were broken; we may mention, however, that even the stores in Granville-street did not escape. The effect of the shock was visibly felt at Fort Massey. We give the subjoined list to show the amount of property injured in the vicinity:—

R. Davis's row of houses, Harris's hot-house, A. S. De-Wolfe's residence, and properties to the north—in all of these the windows are broken.

One of the hinges from the door of the magazine, together with stones of the building, entered the Gate Porter's Lodge, doing a great deal of damage. The force with which stones were driven against the stores, near the water's edge, actually started the bungs from the hogheads. The Naval Hospital is also considerably injured. The damage to Mr. Briton's house is more than was at first anticipated. Strange to say that one of the large stones, which reached the house, was driven with such force that it entered through the trunk of one of the large trees north of the premises.

A fine new building erected, near the Magazine Wharf, and intended by Mr. McAggy for a steam-mill, was completely swept away; as also a wharf in connection. The other property, already referred to, is almost a total wreck.

The Stokes' property and one adjoining—scarcely a stick standing. A small house to the north of Goodwin's, damaged. Mr. Kaye's property—windows broken, house terribly shaken, and interior greatly damaged.

Mr. Jordan's is not so much injured, although quite enough to require a thorough overhauling.

Messrs. Williams's & Starr's mills and wharf property injured, extent unknown, machinery disarranged, &c. The houses up the hill to Alderman Jennings's, and all in the neighborhood, more or less shaken.

The New barracks, or rather, Officers' Quarters, sustained a complete riddling. We believe there is not a whole sash or window in that fine building. Through the politeness of J. W. Shirras, Esq., Chief Engineer and Architect, we were permitted to inspect the building. The principal damage done is to the plastering. Perhaps it may never sustain such a broad side again, and we are safe in saying that notwithstanding the concussion, which would have sent any ordinary building toppling over, it stood as firm as adamant, and its

brick and mortar seemed to defy a whole magazine of artillery. In the whole building there is not as much as one brick started; it is perhaps the best certificate the contractors could have of the substantial character of the building. We had nearly omitted mentioning that a stone weighing nearly three hundred weight, was driven through the roof and carried away several feet of the wood work inside. We could hardly suppose that so large a stone would be propelled to such a distance. Immense stones were embedded in the earth just back of Mr. Vieth's property. His house sustained considerable damage.

The Admiralty fell in for a considerable share of damage. The old pile rocked like a cradle. We learn also that several Houses in Brunswick and Gottingen streets had a good shaking. The residence of J. H. Anderson, Esq., met a similar fate.

One of the ceilings in the House of W. Murdoch, Esq., Spring Gardens, was thrown down by the concussion.

Her Majesty's Ships *Indus* and *Pyramus*, and the shipping in Port, were very sensibly moved by the shock. It is quite possible the *Canard* Steamer, which left a short time before, will bear the tidings to England, of having experienced the shock of an Earthquake off Nova Scotia.

We think we have now pretty nearly enumerated the greater part of the damage. We do not pretend to estimate the value of the loss.

Perhaps a more desolating catastrophe has never occurred in Halifax. It is infinitely more serious than fire; for, without a moment's warning or the least time for preparation lives were lost, and thousands of pounds worth of property destroyed. The sentinel on duty at the Government magazine had the presence of mind to prostrate himself on the ground until after the explosion had subsided, and with great difficulty succeeded in reaching the guard-room in safety.

A poor man named Larney, of Steviacke, a boarder in Stokes' House, who only came to town the previous day, was so injured that he died before morning. Two other men named Buckley and O'Neil, said to be dangerously ill, are likely to recover. Several persons had their limbs broken.

The shock was distinctly felt at Dartmouth. A number of windows were broken across the water, doors were thrown off their hinges, and furniture displaced.

There are all sorts of rumours afloat respecting the origin of this melancholy catastrophe. We believe there is little doubt but that it was the work of an incendiary. Could the vagabonds be discovered the guillotine would be to good for them. Rumour says that men were seen at the wharf, in a boat, about an hour before the explosion. We trust no pains will be spared to ferret out the ruffians.

Since writing the above, a proclamation has issued from the Provincial Secretary's office, offering a reward of £500 to any persons, not concerned in the commission of the crime, who will give information that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offenders—as there is every reason to believe the explosion was caused by persons unknown. His Worship the Mayor has offered a like reward.

A military court are investigating the circumstances.

THE LATE STORM.

(From the *Miramichi Gleaner*, August 8, 1857.)

Our attentive Correspondent at Shippegan, under date of July 31, furnishes the following detailed account of this terrible calamity:—

The late gale of the 21st and 22nd inst., has thrown the shades of night over this once flourishing settlement; all is cast into gloom and sorrow; the stroke is severe and will be felt for years to come. Thirty-one of our primest and best Fishermen have been consigned to a watery grave; ten of these are married men, leaving widows and large, helpless families to mourn over their sad bereavement, for all the help they had has gone, their sons along with the fathers. Nineteen are all young men from twenty to twenty-five years of age, and three boys under twenty. No settlement in this Province could boast of a finer set of young men for high moral qualities, energetic and industrious, good farmers, capable of making all their utensils, building their own boats and sailing them. The calamity is not confined to their own homesteads, for such a set of valuable men are a loss to the whole Province. They were men of sterling value, and will retard the progress of the place for years to come. "Peace be to their ashes."

I have held conversation with most of the well informed and experienced of the survivors; they all agree that there was not wind sufficient to raise such an unaccountable sea as ran during the gale, and from all the accounts we have been able to collect, we are persuaded that the cause must be from some great convulsion of nature; they state that the sea ran to the height of fifty feet, and that the top of each sea formed a cone or sugar loaf shape; all the boats that upset were on the top of these seas, and in one instance a boat was hurled down like a ball from the top of some high hill, then turned over and turned upright. At the entrance of Big Tracadie Gully another was turned over stern foremost, and all on board perished. In running before it the boats felt a tremendous motion, as if they would be shaken to pieces, along with sudden jerks, so as to throw or pitch a stone off the deck. One boat had her cabin jerked out; another rode out the gale in ten to fifteen fathoms water;—the crew describes the sea as similar to a pot of boiling barley soup over a sharp fire, bubbling up stones, sand and gravel all around them, and the sea changing its hue and colours until it became terrific to look on. Some boats that took in seas in thirty-five or forty fathoms of water, after bailing out found a large quantity of sand and gravel left. This must show that there was some singular and great commotion at the bottom; and boats falling down into the trough of the sea, in these soundings, felt a sensation as if the bottom of the boats were about to ground, or using the phrase "she smelt the bottom."—One boat off Tabusintac was upset as described above, and next day was found drifting up Miramichi River, picked up and taken into Neguec, with one dead body on board: this shows that a dreadful current must have been running to the southward, as she was found, in about twenty four hours afterwards, nearly thirty miles in a straight line from where the accident happened, her route might double that distance or more.

The damage done to the fleet of Boats, about 100 sail, was heavy; there will not be thirty left for our Fall Fishery, the rest have all come in in a crippled state, their Hulls shaken, some lost masts and sails, others their anchors and cables; those cannot be replaced here, therefore all our trade is paralyzed. The whole loss, including the fall fishing boats and material, cannot be estimated at less than £3,000 in Shippegan alone. From Caraquec no particulars are known here, but it is feared there are great losses there and on the Canada shores. The following are the names of those drowned, very few of the bodies are cast up: Richard Bulger and Son, Abraham LeBreton and brother, Henry Mallet and brother, Vital, Oliver Chaisson, (son of David Chaisson) Peter Goodin, (stepson of Andrew Storey), Benjamin Mallet and son, Policarp Lutin, Augustine Robichaux and two sons, two sons of Joseph Dagen, two sons of Marcell Savoy, Silvanus Laclau, one son of Sebastian Achi, one son of Louis Goutiez, (Miscou) three sons of John B. Gurguard, two sons of Jos. Gurguard, three sons of Gilbert Dagen, one son of John Louis Dagen, two sons of Simeon Bouche, Andrew Noil, son of Joseph Noil. Thomas Mallet, an old and respectable inhabitant, who is over 70 years of age, and has fished out of this place for over fifty years, was out along with his sons in the gale, and almost in his sight lost one son, one son-in-law, and four grand children, who leave four widows and families to share with him in their mournful loss, along with their orphan children.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., AUGUST 24, 1857.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS BILL.

The *Islander*, being well aware that the above measure is no favorite with the country, is anxious to use it as an instrument for casting odium on the Government; and with this praiseworthy object in view, proceeds to discuss in its last issue, in a manner which nobody can understand, the details of the Bill submitted to the House of Assembly, and printed at the close of the last Session for the purpose of eliciting public opinion regarding the main principle of the measure. Who cares about the details of the Bill? The House never passed any opinion on those details. The minority was as silent as the majority in reference to them. The object of the Government, in bringing forward the Bill, was to ascertain whether the country was or was not favorable to the adoption of municipal institutions. The country, blindly apprehensive that they would entail burdensome taxation, is not favorable to their adoption. There, then, is an end of the matter. The Bill of last Session is a dead letter. There is, therefore, no occasion for all the excitement and alarm that have been got up about it. The Government wisely and prudently deferred to public opinion in merely allowing the Bill to be printed. Public opinion appears to be against it, and the Government are too cautious to force it.

Our own opinion regarding the necessity and advantages of municipal institutions, remains unchanged. But our opinion in reference to the details of the Bill of last Session, is quite another affair. We never admitted that particular Bill, and would, indeed, be sorry to see it placed upon our Statute Book. But so long as the country refuses to receive municipal institutions—no matter how wisely they may be framed—we are not inclined to advocate their establishment. We trust, however, that the day is not far distant when the people will view the subject in a different light from that in which they at present regard it.

The *Islander* alludes to the fact that Messrs. Warburton and Whelan recently visited their constituents, and states that the object of their visit was to canvass "preparatory to a new election." The statement is not true. The parties mentioned did not canvass for any votes. They are not aware that it was necessary to do so; nor are they aware—which the statement of the *Islander* infers—that a new election is close at hand. Mr. Whelan pleads guilty to the offence of having addressed several large bodies of his constituents on the general affairs of the Colony—as has been his practice almost every summer for the last ten years—for the purpose of diffusing correct information, and setting aside the misrepresentations and falsehoods of the common enemy; and in so doing he has the satisfaction to believe that he has rendered some service to the Liberal cause. We are confident that Mr. Warburton's object was the same, and we have no doubt that he has been equally, if not more, successful. In close connection with the statement regarding the visit of Messrs. Warburton and Whelan, the *Islander* asserts that "the immediate object of the Government appears to be to talk the electors into supporting a Municipality Bill," &c. For Mr. Whelan we can safely say, that he attempted nothing of the kind. His constituents have always permitted him to exercise an independent judgment on every public question; and they would not object to his supporting municipal corporations, if he felt so inclined. But not being the leader of a party or a Government, he never attempts to drag other constituencies in the wake of his own. We have had some account of Mr. Warburton's meetings, and we have heard of no attempt on his part to "talk" his constituents into an expression of opinion on behalf of any measure not generally approved of. He met his constituents not as a member of the Executive, but as a member of the House of Assembly, and the Government are as free from identification with the opinions which he may have expressed at those meetings as they are from the opinions enunciated in the columns of the *Islander*.

It is folly in the extreme to suppose that Government could have any interest in forcing on the country Municipal Corporations. The inevitable tendency of such institutions is to lessen the power of the Executive, and to concentrate and strengthen the democratic element. In offering to the country the Municipal Bill, the Government have plainly said—we will allow the people to regulate their own local affairs in the manner they may deem best calculated to subserve their interests. In refusing the Bill, the people virtually say to the Government—we do not want this increase of power—we distrust ourselves, and would rather that you should continue to keep us in leading-strings. Government don't decline the responsibility; and the fact of the people leaving it with them shows that their confidence is not withdrawn.

THE LATE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Tuz intense glorification of the Tory press at the barren honor which has been achieved by some of the nominees of the Unholy Alliance, can surprise no one who remembers how small has been the measure of success which has fallen to the lot of Toryism generally for several years past. It is a sad heart, indeed, that never rejoices, and we should be sorry to complain of Tories giving way to all the mad exuberance of their joy. It really does one good to see them so mightily "pleased with a rattle, tickled by a straw." How they chuckle and snigger, and dig their elbows into each other's ribs, and fling their beavers in the air, and cry "Hurrah for the Holy Alliance!" It took about two months' issues of the *Islander* to give a properly full utterance to the exultation of the over-joyed patrons of that publication, on the election of a young gentleman who was lately a protegee of the Liberal Government—held an office under it—who abandoned his political supporters to vote for Mr. Haviland at the Prince-town election, and who, while canvassing for a seat for himself, vociferated from the press and from the hustings that he was no-party man—that he would not pledge himself to join the Tories any more than the Liberals. It was, however, such a glorious thing for even a no-party man to beat a member of the Government, that the Tories—feeling convinced that a man who was ashamed to avow his honest convictions would soon become one of their allies—easped, and frolicked, and cheered, and caroused for weeks together, and had the editor of the *Islander* hard to work for two mortal months to exhaust the gas in the shape of editorials. The flare-up at last came to an end, as all flare-ups must; and then commenced preparations for the civic elections. The Unholies—wild with the success of their cause in Prince County, which they attributed

to their exertions, while white-eye and religious fanaticism exercised a far more potent influence—now began to put on more steam, determined to run down and sink the Liberals in the race for civic honors. A meeting every night regularly was a thing of course, and many of the more ardent members deeply regretted that the night appeared so long in coming, it was found so hard to keep their enthusiasm corked up for the awful space of four-and-twenty hours. The poor Secretary was nearly worked to a skeleton, and surveying and conveying had of course to be knocked in the head. As for Hatch, his intimate friends became alarmed about the state of his health, which threatened to break down under the daily exertions of perambulating every street at a terrific pace, and starting children, and making horses shy at every corner, when his over-strained lungs gave forth the announcement:—"O Yes! O Yes! a meeting of the Holy Alliance this evening at the Temperance Hall," &c. &c. (It is consoling to his friends to know that the indefatigable crier has quite recovered his voice, and will not be a burden on the Alliance for a pension, though some of them give out hints that his services should be rewarded by the presentation of a silver bell.) The Insurance Offices, it was rumored, had refused to take risks on any property in the immediate neighbourhood of the Temperance Hall, owing to the fears that were nightly entertained of a terrible explosion in that direction. But now it is gratifying to know that the elections are over, and that Hatch and the community are at rest—that the ginger-pop enthusiasm of the Alliance has fizzed itself away, not leaving a particle of the froth behind,—and that the Temperance Hall and the surrounding buildings are safe. But newspaper readers cannot hope to escape so easily, and so soon from the din of exaltation in the Tory camp. It took two months to work off the effects of the Prince County election, when there was only one man to shout for,—we have now six, including some men about whose politics "there can be no mistake," (which was not the case with Mr. J. C. Pope), and if the Tory press has to accord the same measure of praise to the six which it gave to the one, and makes six times the fuss and splutter, we shall be fortunate if we see the end of the whole thing by Christmas next. The *Islander* has already disfigured some quires of paper on the subject, and the *Monitor* man has only just commenced his work. The former affects to be astonished at the audacity of the Liberals in presuming on an opposition to Mr. Haviland's election, leaving its readers to infer that this gentleman had an inalienable right to the head civic chair; and after duly rating the Liberals for their presumption in attempting, as it is said they did attempt, to give a political complexion to the elections, the *Islander* goes on to inform its readers how many more votes were given for the nominees of the Alliance over those recorded for the Liberal candidates; and that the result was the endorsement of the opinion recorded in the third district of Prince County. It is perfectly fair and right, according to the logic of the *Islander*, for Tories to bring their prejudices and predilections into our civic affairs, but it is a monstrous crime for the Liberals to think of doing any such thing. Now, the Liberals, as a party, abstained from any contest in those late elections. There was no opposition to Mr. Haviland. The mere fact of Mr. Hutchinson having been put in nomination by a few of his personal friends, on the morning of the election, against his clearly expressed wishes, does not show there was any organized opposition. As for the elections of the Councillors, the Liberals, as a party, did not put forward any man. Two of the candidates indeed—those in the first and second wards—are persons favourable to the Liberal interest, but no stir was made on their behalf by their political friends; in the third, fourth and fifth wards, there was no recognised friend or supporter of the Liberal party in opposition to the nominees of the Alliance. In fact, the Liberals concluded that it was best to leave all the elections to the Unholies. The Corporation, as an institution, was not over-popular—the citizens grumbled at being taxed more than they were under the old state of things, while there was small return for their money in the shape of public improvements. All the machinery of a City Government cannot be put in motion without great expense, and for the first few years this expense is sure to give rise to discontent. As the Unholies were so very anxious to be put in office where they would have to work for nothing and find themselves, we think it was wise to let them go there, to give themselves a sickening of their thankless employment, and the citizens a sickening of them.

The *Islander* eulogises the successful candidate of the 4th ward by reminding us that he is a man "about whose politics there is no mistake." We admit all this, for those who can remember his exploit on the night we celebrated the fall of Sebastopol, when his warlike propensities suggested the storming of Government House, and when "Harvey's brig" was made to afford him a berth until the evaporation of the gas he imbibed made him conscious of the absurdity of his intended Quixotic enterprise—those who can remember this occurrence are not likely to be much mistaken in the man.

We have only a few words to spare for the benefit of our resuscitated friend the *Monitor*; and let us, in the first place, congratulate him on his recovery from the kick he received at the *Protector* office. We don't mean that the corpus of the worthy editor received any indignity; but that unlucky advertisement of Duncan Maclean, and the unhappy delusion that the use of another man's press and types should be had for nothing—threatened to prove fatal to the *Monitor*. The lovers of polite literature have to be thankful, however, to the Unholies for the substantial aid it ministered to the poor *Monitor* when it was thrown upon its back; and though the attempt made by it, as soon as it was able to limp before the public, to rob the Alliance of its share of glory in the late elections, may be regarded as a proof of ingratitude—we are inclined to view the thing in a different light, and to believe that the *Monitor* man is only nervously anxious to convince his readers that he is quite independent of the world in general and of the Alliance in particular. His dependent position and his swagger of independence involve him in such a dense maze of contradictions that we are really in doubt which of his numerous absurdities we shall first parade for the amusement of those of our readers who may be curious to know the style of writing which passes current for sense with the moral and intellectual organization of the Unholies.

We are informed, in the first place, that it was false that the new Councillors were the nominees of the Alliance, but were nominated by the electors themselves at public meetings. As to the publicity of the meetings, they were summoned by the bell of Mr. Town-Crier Hatch—the herald of the nascent glories of the Alliance—who invited to the gathering only those who were invested with the festal garments of the