

THE “SANDFIELDS.”



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Obtained by lying craft and stealth,
Gie brainless fops and silly flirts
Their paltry toys and gaudy skirts,

To holy men and sinners too
Accord alike whate'er is due;
But gie oh gie the Deil his ain
The bloody Sandfield robber gang.

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Professor Bradshaw.—Good evening Mr. Eldernap,
I am happy to find you at home.

Mr. Eldernap.—Good evening Mr. Bradshaw, I am
delighted to see you, I anxiously awaited your
arrival, and I trust you will now find the air
and retirement of these gardens as congenial
to your tastes, as they are agreeable to mine.

Professor Bradshaw.—You need entertain no fear as
to that Mr. Eldernap; for I have ever loved
the tranquility of a Gothic villa amid rural
scenery: around it, and away from the bustle
of city life, there seems to linger a charm to be
found nowhere else, and when I look out from
this drawing room on the moonlit-scene
before me, and listen to the rippling murmur
of the woodland stream as it winds its silvery
course through yonder peaceful grove, I can-
not but admire the sweet and silent beauty
that surrounds us and be deeply impressed
with the sublime grandeur of Nature's works.

Mr. Eldernap.—Our conceptions and impressions, Mr.
Bradshaw, are identical in this respect, and

from the similarity of our feelings I had certainly flattered myself that you would be pleased with my retreat : it is here of late years that I spend the most of my time : for it is well adapted as you perceive for contemplative study and historical research.

Professor Bradshaw.—Nothing Mr. Bradshaw could be more so, could be more adapted for the acquisition of historical knowledge, which is no doubt with you a favourite literary pursuit.

Mr. Eldernap.—Yes I am much attached to it, and the study of political economy.

Professor Bradshaw.—A delightful study the latter, Mr. Eldernap, and one which has afforded me the greatest pleasure.

Mr. Eldernap,—Indeed Mr. Bradshaw, our literary inclinations are then the same : on some future evening when you shall have recovered from the fatigue of your journey I should be happy to learn your political views, the more so, Mr. Bradshaw, that during the long interval we have been separated you must have acquired, from study, from observation and experience, a vast fund of information especially as regard continental politics and their bearings.

Professor Bradshaw.—It will afford me much pleasure Mr. Eldernap to gratify your desire, for I have certainly very much profited of late years by my travels in foreign lands.

Mr. Eldernap.—No doubt Mr. Bradshaw, for it is many years that we have been separated, that we have been debarred the pleasure of one another's society.

Professor Bradshaw.—It is now Mr. Eldernap, let me see, about a quarter of a century.

Mr. Eldernap.—Yes, I presume it is, Mr. Bradshaw, do you not perceive many changes in this locality since then.

Professor Bradshaw.—Many indeed, Mr. Eldernap, in science and agriculture, in literature and art, but not at all as many as I would expect to find among self-reliant and energetic Scotchmen; the roads, for instance, the first element of human civilization, are a scandal to the country, a disgrace to the people, and it very much astonishes me, Mr. Eldernap, that its representative, (whoever he may be) has not devised some means or other to render at least one highway passable at all seasons of the year.

Mr. Eldernap.—It will astonish you the more Mr. Bradshaw upon learning that he and the whole family owe their very position and existence to the kindness and generosity of the Highlanders of Glengarry.

Professor Bradshaw.—Is it possible Mr. Eldernap? How comes it then that he neglects the interests of his constituents?

Mr. Eldernap.—Simply, Mr. Bradshaw, that the object of their kindness and generosity is too selfish, too much devoted to his own interests, to consult the interests of the people at large; if a few dollars were to be made by speculation the acquisition of them would be of more importance to him, than either the condition of the roads or the welfare and the prosperity of the community.

Professor Bradshaw.—How long then, has he held a seat in Parliament, and were he or they the means of effecting any good which might atone for his negligence in the one respect and his selfishness in the other?

Mr. Eldernap.—For near five and twenty years, Mr. Bradshaw, has the representation of this County remained in their family and during this long period, instead of effecting any good, they have inflicted immense evil politically and otherwise: all in fact our representative can

boast of, is that having once procured at a sacrifice from a wrecked steamer a quantity of parasols and prunella boots he imported them hence with some nutmeg, molasses, codfish and candy, and exhibited them as new and fashionable articles of merchandise direct from the far famed east ; and it is almost unnecessary to state, that he has retailed and still continues to retail the same at a scandalous figure.

Professor Bradshaw.—Why, Mr. Eldernap, he must be the vilest of scavengers !

Mr. Eldernap.—You could not possibly regard him in any other light, and, were you only acquainted with his selfishness and his pride as well as I am, you would hold him responsible not only for the backwardness of this county, but also for the tardy progress it now makes in social economy and the development of its resources.

Professor Bradshaw.—Indeed, Mr. Eldernap, you surprise me much.

Mr. Eldernap.—Tis nevertheless true, Mr. Bradshaw. Will you not refresh yourself with a glass of wine ?

Professor Bradshaw.—With pleasure Mr. Eldernap. Your health and happiness.

Mr. Eldernap.—Thanks my dear Sir. I shall join you and drink to your safety and return.

Professor Bradshaw.—Well then, Mr. Eldernap, are no changes as yet contemplated which would tend to the amelioration of the state of society here ?

Mr. Eldernap.—None to my knowledge, Mr. Bradshaw, of a beneficial nature.

Professor Bradshaw.—I should think, Mr. Eldernap, that such would be desirable, the more so as we find here in all its Highland genuine perfection, that generous spirit of hospitality

which lends the sweetest charm to existence, which endears the society of stranger and of friend, and alleviates the cares and the trials of this life.

Mr. Eldernap.—Certainly Mr. Bradshaw it would really be gratifying to learn of the introduction among us of changes in social economy and domestic life, which would prove conducive to the general welfare of the community, and honourable to the spirit and enterprise of our public men.

Professor Bradshaw.—I entirely agree with you Mr. Eldernap, but the history of mankind demonstrates clearly that such changes as you speak of are seldom silently effected in the social and political history of a people. Yet Mr. Eldernap if evidence of a desire to introduce such reforms were afforded us, even by such a character as the representative of this County (whoever he may be) even by one whose political career had ever been at variance with time honoured maxims and the cherished traditions of British rule ; would it not afford valid cause for congratulation, and commend the character of the man at least in this respect to the approbation of every true lover of his Country ?

Mr. Eldernap.—Yes Mr. Bradshaw, undoubtedly it would ; but if instead of this, if in the absence of such praiseworthy designs, we perceived one here who, while professing spotless integrity and honourable intentions, was a designing knave and a secret robber of our wealth, if we daily beheld one who while decrying ; strife, while preaching charity, while praising chastity and proclaiming truth, was the plunderer of our peace, the maligner of our reputation, the defiler of female purity, the moral murderer of innocence, the unblushing lying hypocrite and the cowardly upstart assassin ; if, I say, we beheld such a one betraying our interest, impeaching our honour and

bartering our reputation as a people to prevent the downfall of his despotism, to perpetuate his iron rule and promote his own aggrandisement among a noble but mistaken people, would it not kindle your indignation inflame your anger and imperatively entail on every honest man the necessity of exposing the danger he saw threatening and surrounding the peace, the welfare, the happiness and prosperity of his native place?

Professor Bradshaw. --It would not only impose the duty indicated by you, but the man who would neglect to discharge the same, would be guilty in my estimation of a grave offence, would transgress all law natural and divine, and render himself the deserving object of boundless contempt.

Mr. Eldernap.—It is for these reasons Mr. Bradshaw, that we propose at no distant day to avail ourselves of the classic calm, and the shady tranquility that surround us here to brand with deserving infamy a brutal scorpion that satiates his wrath on the houseless widow, and the homeless orphan; to depict in a word the chameleon character of that most disgusting political abortion of the nineteenth century.—

That vile silly ass, and that ignorant member,
Whom insulted religion will long, long remember,
Well known far and near on his own native clay
As the overgrown baby, the base born D. A.

Professor Bradshaw.—What, Mr. Eldernap, did you say “D. A.” Is he your representative, D. A., the being, if I mistake not, whom I saw on the Beauharnois Canal instigating the massacre of unfortunate Irish exiles, and afterwards had a contract of the Montreal Water works, where, I am told, he swindled the Corporation out of some £40,000 or £50,000. Is he your representative?

Mr. Eldernap.—The very identical monster.

Professor Bradshaw.—Good God, Mr. Eldernap, when will miracles cease! I saw him only a few times, but the impression of his character left on my mind, from the length of his ears and the peculiar sinister expression of his countenance, rendered more hideous by his thievish looking eyes, was certainly of such a nature as to inspire me with the belief that he was a being that no man with the slightest self-respect, with the least pretensions to common sense, would ever associate with. I am thunderstruck at your having such a member. *He is not a man.*

Mr. Eldernap.—It is a subject, Mr. Bradshaw, of painful surprise, not only to you but to many; and humiliating in the extreme to reflect that such an animal parades himself as the Glengary Salon, while in the Legislative Halls of our Country he sits an Egyptian Mummy, the dumb connecting link between the monkey and the man.

Profossor Bradshaw.—Mr. Eldernap do you really regard him as such?

Mr. Eldernap.—I do Mr. Bradshaw.

Professor Bradshaw.—Are you not aware, Mr. Eldernap, that you are thereby exposing yourself to the censure of grave philosophers for questioning their well grounded belief, and generally received opinion among them, that such a being is more allied to the monkey tribe, than possessed of anything which could establish his relationship to the human species?

Mr. Eldernap.—I am conscious, Mr. Bradshaw, of the danger, I am exposed to in differing from my brother philosophers, and though I admit that he is possessed of nothing which could legally establish his possitive connexion with the human species, I nevertheless hold to my

opinion. Moreover, Mr. Bradshaw, he has not *a tail*—that essential perquisite of the monkey, neither has any of the family.

Professor Bradshaw.—True, Mr. Eldernap, but being an older resident here than myself, you must remember that it is reported on good sound, substantial authority, that their grandmother who kept a groggery, a worthy personage, I believe, well known in her time and still remembered as the “*change a veck*” cut them off as a compensation for stolen whiskey, which they were extremely fond of.

Mr. Eldernap.—The report, Mr. Bradshaw, is no doubt true. I believe it to be true. Yet for the honour of old Glengary, I am still inclined to look upon him as a *rara avis*, as indeed the dumb connecting link between the Monkey and the Man, between the brute creation and that portion of animated nature, which a wise and beneficent Providence endowed with reason and with speech.

Professor Bradshaw.—We will not dispute your hypothesis; the more so as we ourselves belong to that honourable class of philosophers who are inclined to view men and things in as mild a spirit and favourable a light as possible.

Mr. Eldernap.—So do I, Mr. Bradshaw, belong to the same honourable class, and glad indeed would I feel, could I point to one redeeming quality in his character; for like charity, you know, 'twould cover a multitude of sins; but alas, Mr. Bradshaw, it grieves me to tell the world, that I cannot, for from early youth to sober manhood, his moral conduct has been as low and base, as vulgar and detestable; as his political career has been degrading to the soul and sickening to the heart. I love justice as I hate iniquity; and would to God, Mr. Bradshaw, I could even find in the circumstances of his birth, in the character of the crude and meagre instruction he received, in the rottenness of his

rusty brain and the stupidity of his clouded intellect, something to plead in extenuation of the character of the man, but alas! alas! my God I cannot; Mr. Bradshaw.

Professor Bradshaw.—What, Mr. Eldernap, can nothing be found in the accidents of his vulgar existence, which could mitigate the depravity of the monster?

Mr. Eldernap.—Nothing, Mr. Bradshaw; and from my knowledge of the nature of the animal, I am satisfied that his brutal propensities altogether predominate over whatever little reason or instinct he may possess.

Professor Bradshaw.—I should think so myself, Mr. Eldernap, were I to judge from the conformation of his carcass and the pig like-structure of his skull; but who, Mr. Eldernap, was his worthy progenitor? I am sure it would be interesting to know the amalgamating process by which he was begotten.

Mr. Eldernap.—All we know of his paternal ancestors, is that one “Alek Ban Pedlar” was his father or reputed such.

Professor Bradshaw.—What, Mr. Eldernap, Alek Ban Pedlar! The name sound familiar; ’twas certainly familiar in other years. Alek Ban Pedlar, was he his father, the father of the Sandfields? Pray Mr. Eldernap what was his character; for it strikes me very forcibly that he is the individual so notorious some years ago for his prayer Book speculation, whereby he received the subscriptions, pocketed the cash and retained the books.

Mr. Eldernap.—The very same, Mr. Bradshaw, but as the unfortunate peddling founder of the Sandfield *dynasty* is now no more: as he sleeps with the unhonoured and the forgotten dead; we will not revive his memory by recalling to the minds of the rising generation the low cunning

and the foul deceit, the thievish propensities and the hellish hypocrisy, the grovelling sensuality, and the brutal amativeness which blasted his reputation when alive ; and I fear, damned his soul when dead ; for the legacy he bequeathed us, the harpy brood he left behind him have, God knows, sufficient murder, sufficient blood and rapine to account for without the blackened vices and the infamous career of their detestable father.

Professor Bradshaw.—I commend your prudence, Mr. Eldernap, and approve your charity to the dishonoured dead, but I nevertheless maintain that, as a God of Justice, in his infinite wisdom ordained the visitation of the sins of one's fathers on the heads of their descendants, till their vices would cease to cry vengeance from the grave ; so there are times, Mr. Eldernap, when forbearance against the living becomes a crime, a crime against society, a violation of the laws of morality and the ordinances of God.

Mr. Eldernap.—True, very true, Mr. Bradshaw and it is on account of these considerations, so truthfully assigned by you, that we propose exterminating this vile and vulgar Sandfield crew, by consigning them to the pillory of scorn and scourging them with the lash of infamy and death.

Professor Bradshaw.—I admire your spirit and revere your patriotism, Mr. Eldernap ; and if the other members of the *Tribe* are as vicious and bloodthirsty as the crimsoned butcher of the Beauharnois Canal, in their chastisement you will indeed be conferring a benefit on this country, which the Canadian people will not fail to appreciate, for which the lonely orphan's silent prayer will ascend in gratitude to Heaven ; for which children yet unborn will bless your memory, and hand down your name to posterity as the benefactor of your race, as the guardian of their welfare and their peace.

Mr. Eldernap.—They are all equally corrupt, Mr. Bradshaw, for what one of them lacks in brutality, the other is sure to account for, in rascality : and when I shall have discharged the duty I have imposed upon my myself, a duty which in the sacred silence of eve I solemnly swore to perform at the altar of Faith, at the Hallowed shrine of a crucified God, my best reward, the only reward I could desire in this world, my greatest consolation, the consolation I should love to experience in the winter of life when the sunny spring of youth and the golden autumn of manhood have gone by, will be, Mr. Bradshaw, the solacing reflection of having promoted the welfare of my friends, of having contributed to the prosperity of my native place, and of having fearlessly and conscientiously fulfilled my obligations to society at large.

Professor Bradshaw.—The wise man's consolation and the christians hope, Mr. Eldernap, a consolation and a hope which have cheered the heart of many a patriot in exile, and soothed the soul of many a martyr in the agonies of death. But how, Mr. Eldernap, did the crew succeed in elevating themselves to their present position and retaining it so long ?

Mr. Eldernap.—Your enquiry, Mr. Bradshaw, is more easily proposed than satisfactorily answered. It has really been a matter of surprise to many worthy men how they did succeed, seeing that their endowments so much approximate to those of the brute creation. The majority of people, I believe, are inclined to attribute their sudden rise from the degraded condition of their ancestral state, to accident and the freaks of Fortune ; and consolidated by the influence which wealth is sure to command in a rural community, however dishonourably acquired or thievishly procured. There is, no doubt, a great deal of truth in this view of the case, but besides this we ourselves have good and

sufficient reasons for supposing that the Institution known as the family compact, the rotten remains of which yet obstruct the welfare of our community, had a great deal to do with their material prosperity and success.

They ushered themselves by some means or other into the order, and once in, being naturally selfish, they were not slow to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by such an alliance in those days and to secure to themselves a vast preportion of the plunder.

Professor Bradshaw.—Well, well, Mr. Eldernap was this the secret of their rise ?

Mr. Eldernap.—Yes! Mr. Bradshaw, 'twas the primitive source of their prosperity and what this failed to supply they obtained by robbery and theft.

Professor Bradshaw.—What, Mr. Eldernap, were they addicted to acquiring wealth by these means ?

Mr. Eldernap.—Of course [Mr. Bradshaw, being gambling thieves by nature, their pigmy intellects were adapted for nothing else than the prosecution of this their natural trade.

Mr. Bradshaw.—Wonderful depravity, Mr. Eldernap! many indeed and notorious must be the instances of their pillaging.

Mr. Eldernap.—So many and notorious, Mr. Bradshaw, that they are too numerous to mention, that their injurious effects will outlive their memory and be sorely felt by generations yet unborn.

We might point for instance to the lonely emigrant landing on our shores from the green vales of Erin, and robbed of his rights by these infamous, jobbing, political blacklegs.

We might picture too, the ruined Highland homesteads of this county, and turn to their once happy owners, now silent in the grave, and ask them who caused their mournful

desolation and their heart-rending ruin, who plundered their effects under the guise of law who deprived their youthful offspring of a peaceful home; who blasted the cherished hopes of maiden innocence in the flowery spring of youthful love; who laughed at the dying injunctions, who mocked the ardent intercessions and scoffed at the fervent aspirations of hoary age in the agonies of death; but no, Mr. Bradshaw, we will refrain from doing so, 'tis too sad a subject, too mournful a theme, we will simply advert to the burning and the plundering of the Robert Peel, as one of the most lucrative of their cruel and their shameful robberies. By this scandalous transaction alone, effected by their skeleton chief, the whole gang were suddenly enriched, while the blame was attached to, and the robbery, to this day, generally fathered on the unfortunate Bill Johnston and his followers.

Professor Bradshaw.—The burning and plundering of the “Peel”, Mr. Eldernap, I well remember the shocking event; but little did I suspect the real authors of the plot.

Mr. Eldernap.—You may well say so Mr. Bradshaw, and little did others too, for few, very few in those days ever dreamt of the possibility of such rascality being enacted. However the amount stolen enriched them all, and immediately thereafter enabled their grim and crafty leader to sport a pair of white ponies, to the jealousy and surprise of Cornwall pups, and the gratification and delight of Cornwall flirts.

Servant Flag,—A visitor, Mr. Eldernap! Shall I bid him enter?

Mr. Eldernap.—Yes, Miss Flag.

Mr. Eldernap.—Oh! Mr. Fairfield, I was not aware.
 • it was you, I am happy you have arrived.
 Allow me to introduce you to my friend; Mr

Bradshaw, Mr. Fairfield. Mr. Fairfield, Mr. Bradshaw, is a youthful and promising member of the legal profession.

Professor Bradshaw.—Indeed ! Mr. Fairfield permit me to congratulate you on the choice you have made, for I have ever regarded the study of the law as one of the most useful, the most refined and dignified of human pursuits ; and when devoted to its study in the proper spirit and the proper disposition, nothing I think tends more powerfully to refine the human mind, to elevate its perceptions and strengthen its sensibilities.

Mr. Fairfield.—Yes Mr. Bradshaw, 'tis a study which when prosecuted as you say should have those effects on the human mind, should preclude the possibility of pettifogging, and invariably beget a profound knowledge of human nature.

Mr. Eldernap—Without flattering myself gentlemen, or laying claim to any vast legal acquirements, I can, from my own limited experience, certify to the truth of your remarks ; but deferring, for the time being, our encomiums on law as a study, I would suggest my friends the propriety of refreshing ourselves with a small decoction of life's liquid. What do you prefer, Mr. Fairfield ? You are not I presume a teetotaler, for lawyers, like all poets, are generally partial to the vine. There is Bourdeaux, Sherry, Port, and some of my own manufacture.

Mr. Fairfield.—Being an advocate, Mr. Eldernap, of home manufactures, I will patronise your own production.

Mr. Eldernap—And you Mr. Bradshaw ?

Professor Bradshaw.—I will follow the example set me by my friend Mr. Fairfield.

Mr. Eldernap.—I am flattered, gentlemen, by your selection, it being my own favorite beverage, and as our tastes in this respect so much agree, perhaps our views on matters of more importance would diverge not to any appreciable extent.

Professor Bradshaw.—I am satisfied myself, Mr. Eldernap, that the opinions politically and otherwise we mutually entertained in our youth would yet harmonise in our old age. I know not indeed what may be the views entertained by my friend, Mr. Fairfield : but I would be enabled to judge pretty accurately had I his estimate on the whole of the merits or demerits of the characters who formed the subject matter of our discourse this evening.

Mr. Eldernap.—I know not myself, Mr. Bradshaw his view regarding them ; but I have no doubt he will favour two old philosophers like ourselves with a conscientious avowal of them ; We have had occasion this evening, Mr. Fairfield, to offer a few observations on the social status and political career of the Sandfields, pointing out the *lowliness* of their origin, the suddenness of their elevation, and the lengthy duration of their rule ; and in doing so we were gratified to find that Mr. Bradshaw's estimate of their characters corresponded on the whole with our own : and since we both have the pleasure of your company this evening, I would take the liberty of requesting as a special favour to an old and faithful friend, to one who has ever taken a deep and unselfish interest in your welfare, the expression to Mr. Bradshaw and myself, of the opinions you may entertain with regard to the members of the family themselves, and the influence of their rule on the welfare and prosperity of the community.

Mr Fairfield.—It will afford me much pleasure my friends to comply with your request, by giving expression to the opinions I may have formed,

and the views I may entertain with regard to the Sandfields ; to the nature of their influence and the character of their rule. But though it does, I would nevertheless indeed prefer being silent on such a subject, and leave to others, better qualified than our humble selves, the expression of their views thereon ; not that we would fear the anger of the *Dynasty*, or dread the hatred of their snubbed conceit, should we in the course of our observations have occasion to characterize our respect for them as beneath our regard for the Hottentot ; should we have reason to prove, that their intelligence is on a par with that of the idiots of Rockwood, or have cause to declare as our conscientious conviction, and well grounded belief, that their component parts on the whole, for their position and field of action, are altogether inferior to those which adorn and qualify the monkey in his sphere.

No, gentlemen, not at all ; but simply because in our anxiety to do them justice, we are half inclined to believe that there are not to be found in the whole vocabulary of the English tongue, terms sufficiently expressive to convey a correct idea of the *Gentleman*, or sufficiently appropriate to paint in deserving colours the vulgar nature of their influence, its bastard origin and damnable effects on the present generation.

Nevertheless, we will proceed, for we are thoroughly convinced that the day has long since arrived in this county when it behoves all honest men who pride in the welfare of their country, the stability of her institutions, and the morality of her people, to examine with care, and to weigh, with precision the daily actions and the bombastic professions of this Sandfield crew, those political baboons who would dictate to us with more than Roman tyranny, and Russian insolence the principles we should profess, and the policy we

should advocate. Unfortunately, gentlemen, for the social happiness and political welfare of this country they were heretofore so comparatively unknown beyond the immediate locality in which they were born that few scholars of refinement, few men of intellectual attainments ever heard of their existence 'till by one of those uncountable freaks of Fortune the Canadian public to their surprise and astonishment beheld them in a position the duties of which they were no more qualified by education or by nature to discharge than an Ourangoutang would be capable of occupying the Throne of Great Britain with credit to it species and honour to the Empire.

It was then, gentlemen, but not till then that reflecting and cultivated minds beholding alike their incompetency and vulgarity their ignorance and stupidity, became amazed at their senseless ambition and barefaced aadacity in aspiring and attempting without the moral qualities that command respect and the intellectual abilities that acheive success to establish their dominion and consolidate their rule over a free and independent people. But to those who knew them of old, to those who were conversant with the history of their career to those who could narrate the circumstances of their birth, such vain ambition and foolish audacity, such silly vanity and detestable hypocrisy as they manifested were nothing new. They recognized those traits of character which they ever evinced in every sphere of life from their earliest youth to the the present hour, and with due compassion they attributed their continual manifestation of them less perhaps to their native inborn depravity, than to the vicious impressions imprinted on their minds in other days, the days of childhood innocence, to the worse than defective education they then received and to the contaminating influences of the low, the grovelling, and gossiping society they moved in.

The baneful operations resulting from such a state of existence, were not few ; they had their effects, for born as they were in the home of indolence and crime, bereaved of the love and care of a tender mother, nursed by a garrulous aunt and instructed by a peddling thief, they attained the age of early youth with the feelings reared and the sensibilities blighted, with the love of candour and of truth extinguished in their souls and the degraded morality of a whisky Den instilled into their corrupted hearts. They thus left their paternal roof for objects for a house of correction, than the society of the world, which was all before them, without a *home*, without one social tender tie to sweeten thought, without one vision bright to gladden hope, or cheer the silent memory of the past while forth they vomed and journeyed on the path of life. Ten years rolled by. They struggled with its trials and vicissitudes, they learned the bitter lessons of worldly experience, but still, my friends no mental change occurred, no social reformation ere took place ; for the same blind ignorance of their youth was yet settled on their manhood's brow, the same fanatical folly marked their course, the same vanity, the same hypocrisy was there. Ambition, mad ambition urged them on, they followed the phantom wild till it led them up the mountain of pride and the tower of self conceit. And there, blind alike to conscience and to honour, they invoked the spirit of Mammon, they knelt at his shrine, they blest his name and forsook their god.

Gentlemen, one would suppose this to have been sufficient depravity. But no, when was the human heart unrestrained in its passions, ungoverned in its desires, satisfied with wealth or satiated with gold. Never, gentlemen never since the fall of Adam and the redemption of man. They aimed at power ; obtain it they would, and to secure it they

commenced peddling their political desires (for philosophic views they had none) as their brutal father did before his Biblical wares. They courted public favour, not by the morality of their lives, not by the utility of their actions, oh no, but by the craftiest of means, and the vilest of expedients. They enquired with well feigned solicitude after the health of each family, their welfare and prosperity, the marriage of Peggy and Judy's betrothed. The crops too and their prospects received special attention, and they forgot not to send bull's eyes to the little children, snuff to poor granny and a plug to the bonhomme.

These, gentlemen, were the means by which they thrust themselves on the notice of an honest and conscientious people. These were the expedients the base expedients they took to blindfold the old, the manly and straight forward Highlanders of Glengary who alike honest in their professions and honourable in their dealings were too easily inclined to regard them in the same light and to accord them alas their social confidence and political support.

Having thus then acquired the one and secured the other they brought all the influence of the family compact, all the stolen money of the Robert Peel, all the robberies of contracts and corporations ; all the terrors of the law ; all the weapons of political dissensions and religious animosities, to strengthen their position against the rising tide of public opinion and its invasion by the intelligence of the rising generation.

Such low and detestable methods of guarding their upstart position were alone worthy of such characters, who if a dispute arose even about a dog fight should be the exclusive arbitrators ; who if a sheep or pig were purchased in the remoter parts of this country should know it, as well the purchaser as the price

thereof; and who, what they failed to ascertain themselves, of poking their noses into other people's business, were sure to find out through the agency of pap-paid officials, of such sneaking insignificant, such brainless puppies and illiterate pettifogging pimps as MacKenzie of Alexandria.

To do them justice, however, it is in such matters so congenial to the tastes and inclinations of all blacklegs and buffoons that they could excel or even be expected to transact a skilful part. For in every position gentlemen in which they were placed requiring intelligence and tact, integrity of purpose and honesty of design, they have not only utterly failed to meet the requirements of the occasion, but have proved themselves the base bastards of intellectual life and the vulgar counterfeiters of political science.

Who are they that they should receive the respect due to the benefactors of their race? What have they done to merit the esteem of mankind, or to hand down their names to the reverence of posterity? What work of public importance, what scheme of local advantage, what literary or intellectual achievement, what measure of scientific import or political utility have they ever been the authors or contrivers of. I know of none, and I defy any other than a vulgar admirer of corrupt venality to mention their names with respect.

Mr. Eldernap.—You have forgotten, Mr. Fairfield, the Lancaster road; excuse me for interrupting you, but I have heard it lauded as a piece of engineering skill worthy the age we live in, and the *génius* who designed it, and aided its construction with government money.

Mr. Fairfield.—Surely, Mr. Eldernap, you are not serious. I have heard indeed of such a road, I have heard of its *cost*, and I have heard too of the *individual* in whose pockets were

quietly deposited the scandalous overplus ordered for its construction, and I have no doubt that the grittish triumvirate who shared the spoil do really in the conceit of their vain imaginations regard its mechanism as something superior to the Victoria bridge, or at least equal in beauty and elegance to the via-sacra of the Romans.

But seriously gentlemen, I would ask every honest and independant man every reflecting and cultivated mind, what claims could this compact have on our gratitude and affection.

A compact base and vile of hungry reptiles lank and lean,
Who would know for gold the vitals of our good and gracious Queen

Is it for robbing us of our rights, is it for plundering us of our peace, is it for retarding our progress; is it for maligning virtue and impeaching honour, is it for scoffing at the mysteries of religion and reviling the wisdom God? Is it for gorging their corrupt hirelings with the plunder of the orphan and the widow? Is it for weakening our energies as a people or for plotting the ruin of our institutions and the destruction of our liberties? Gentlemen I know not, but I know that he

"Who knows them well must quit them with disgust,
Degraded mass of animated dust
Their love is lust, their friendship all a cheat,
Their smiles hypocrisy, their words deceit,
By nature vile, ennobled but by name,
Each kindred brute might bid them blush for shame."

But no they are as incapable of shame as they are insensible to honour and they stand before us with all the domineering insolence of upstart family pride, with all the stinking conceit of shallow pated punkin heads, with the unblushing effrontery of ~~seton~~ ^{seton}, and with ~~alas!~~ ^{alas!} the blue blood of the fathers of the orphans of Beauregard ~~staining~~ ^{staining} the hands of the one, and ~~giving~~ ^{giving} that of the Aylwards crimsoning the brow of the other.

Such revolting criminality will receive its reward such plundering thieves will meet their doom—the one at the tribunal of Justice, the other at the hands of an outraged people. And to such a Fate will we leave them for the present consoled as we are with the solacing reflection that the day is fast approaching when we will no longer be dictated to by such illiterate buffoons, when the slumbering spirit of our people will awake again to Freedom, when the youthful genius of our rising generation will assert its manhood, when the untrammelled voice of Wisdom and the beaming soul of classic eloquence will advocate our interests and our rights in the legislative Halls of our country.

For such a day the dawn to us of social happiness and prosperity, of returning peace and plenty, when the Sandfield clouds of ignorance and deceit which now darken the intellectual horizon of our people will be dispelled by the genial light of the rising sun of genius, do we indeed anxiously look forth.

There are those no doubt who would gladly censure if possible these our aspirations and seek as they have sought before at their instigation to impede our progress on the path of life, but while we enjoy the confidence and esteem of those sage philosophers who watched with fond solicitude over our earlier years, and with tender care guided our youthful steps, to the vale of art and the hill of science, we can well afford to smile at their censures and their malice, satisfied that if the sentiments expressed by us to-night with regard to those ignorant apes and political quacks may to strangers appear harsh, they are nevertheless true, and are similar to those opinions which all sensible and reflecting men invariably entertain of such human abortions. And for their edification and delight we will take the liberty of concluding our observations on the *gentlemen* with a song

composed by my friend Mr. Eldernap, some years ago, for better and worthier characters, but which is admirably adapted on the present occasion for an orphan's morning, noon and evening invocation :—

" Oh God of rhyme roll on the time,
When death will make them civil,
Come stop their clack, and send them back,
To their black father Devil.
Bad indeed as thistle weed,
Which checks our fertile mowing,
I compare them nigh the Hessian Fly,
Which kills our grain while growing.
All conquering death come cramp their breath,
And bathe them well in brimstone,
Then send them down deep to hell
To turn the Devil's grindstone."

Mr. Eldernap.—Well spoken Mr. Fairfield, and as the concluding lines were so apropos to the subject I will forgive you repeating any poetical effusions, I may not have published as yet. I owe you a debt of gratitude for the able manner in which you have unmasked the lives of those hypocrites, and I have no doubt my valued friend, Mr. Bradshaw, expresses the feelings of gratitude that I do myself.

Professor Bradshaw.—I have no words my friends, to express to you the satisfaction I experienced while listening to Mr. Fairfield's able and eloquent discourse,—the philosophic views and well merited sarcasms contained therein, alike instructed and delighted me.—But as I never knew that Mr. Eldernap inherited the faculty divine, and as Mr. Fairfield left the detestable crew in the dreary mansions of their Father, I think Mr. Eldernap should inscribe on their tomb a fitting and appropriate epitaph, and thereby conclude their obsequies.

Mr. Fairfield.—I truly agree with you, Mr. Bradshaw.

Mr. Eldernap.—I shall do so with pleasure my friends, and as their career has been one of theft and robbery, we will all now drink to their death and damnation, by inscribing meanwhile for their family vault.

Full five and twenty years,
We've shed both blood and tears,
A treacherous crew, a harpy brood,
Grim Death we long withstood,
But now unhonoured and unblest
Were you alas! by satan sore apprest.

FINIS.

