

# SCIENTIFIC CANADIAN

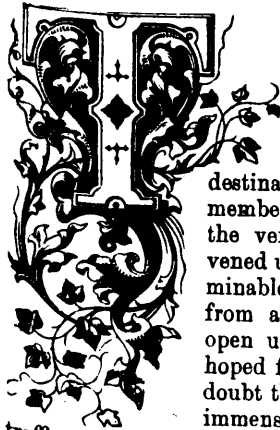
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HERE is much talk in London of a central Railway Station to supply the Metropolis with an arrangement by which all the lines might be united to reach a common destination. To those who can remember a first visit to London, and the vexation of spirit which supervened upon the discovery of the interminable distance of any one terminus from any other, the prospect will open up visions of a hardly to be hoped for Utopia. There can be no doubt that such a plan would have immense advantages, especially to

traffic passing through London, as a large proportion of the foreign traffic does, and vice-versa, and the project has been discussed at some length in a paper read by Mr. Arthur Ellis before the Institute of Bankers on a collateral subject, the advantages of centralization as applied to the clearing system in trade. Meanwhile as is natural, men's minds are moved to consider the shortcomings of the existing railroad stations, more particularly in point of architecture, and a comparison is instituted with the *termini* of continental lines. There is nothing which makes us feel so small, or at least should do so, hearing another reproached for a fault which we ourselves exhibit in even a greater degree, and surely to a Montrealer the much abused Victoria Station would seem a perfect gem of architectural beauty. There are rumors in the air that our disgrace is not to be long lived, and that the chief city of Canada is no longer to welcome its visitors in an ugly dilapidated barn to which courtesy allows the title of a Railroad Station. At all events we live in hope.

THE usefulness of glass is becoming daily more fully recognized. Already for some time glass roofs have been gaining in popularity, and deservedly so. Now that it has been demonstrated that the expense of a glass and iron roof is little if at all greater than that of a wooden or wood and iron one, the imperishable nature of the material, and the great boon of transparency are

bringing it into very general use for store sheds and lean-tos, where light is difficult to obtain, and its introduction through the roof of great value. In this country there has been a proposal to introduce glass into stove-lights in the place of mica, which will, if successful, introduce a revolution in the trade. But the last novelty in the use of glass is its substitution for wood in the manufacture of brewers' vats. The wooden vats have long been giving trouble by their absorption of liquor, and the consequent impossibility of keeping them properly clean, especially in summer. Slate has been tried, but is too perishable, and iron conducts heat too freely. The new material is said to be a pronounced success in Germany, where it has just been tried. The glass vats are a little more expensive, but they are correspondingly durable, and by saving of labour in the cleaning, soon make up the difference of first cost.

LONDON is exercised, and not without reason, over the recently discovered dangers of gas baths. The introduction of these into the homes of the middle classes has been no doubt productive of great convenience, and where they are properly fitted under competent direction they may be a great addition to the comforts of a home. But builders are too apt to act in these matters without proper architects supervision, and where they do so should be warned of the consequences which may be incurred by neglect of proper precautions. Mr. Charles Frederick Deacon, a solicitor, living at Anerley, went into his bath room for the purpose of taking a warm bath, the water being heated by an atmospheric burner. After the lapse of an hour and a half, his wife, becoming alarmed, called a friend who forced the door, when Mr. Deacon was found leaning against the wall quite dead. The surgeon, who made a *post mortem* examination, found all the organs of the body healthy; but from the appearance of the intestines and the organs, he was led to the conclusion that death resulted from inhaling carbonic acid gas and carbonic oxide. He considered that the atmospheric burners used for heating the baths were extremely dangerous. They threw off a considerable quantity of poisonous fumes. There was, too, no ventilation in the bath room where Mr. Deacon met his death. The most remarkable part of the case is the statement of Mr. Tur-