

ced in the matter. A company from some rural district occupied the shooting stands; though armed with the Snider, one half of them attempted to ram their cartridges down the muzzle. A goodly proportion shot their ramrods away during the day. The markers, however, enjoyed a day's holiday, but not so the cattle within a radius of five miles. One stalwart grenadier refused point blank to discharge his piece, giving as a reason that he was afraid to. As for hitting a baystack, we question if there was one in that company who could have hit Gibraltar Rock at fifteen paces. The General can rightly call for more funds to improve his Provincial battalions.

A fair sample of journalistic enterprise is shown in the petition presented to the Minister of Justice by the Judges of Montreal, asking that a law be passed preventing the publication by the press, of warrants before their execution. Another muzzle for the irrepressible reporter.—What an individual is this dreaded reporter. To be found in all the nooks and corners of our large cities; nothing escapes his eye, excepting perhaps his salary, which is usually invisible to the naked eye. A worse paid, hard worked lot of mortals do not exist. Kicked from pillar to post, denied admittance in all quarters, the reporter turns up serenely, however, tablets and pencil in hand ready to chronicle even the sensation of that last bounce. His cheek is unlimited, and so is his good nature. His conscience is elastic and he troubles himself little as to facts, which to him particularly are stubborn things. He gets there from time to time, all the same, and the community in general is benefitted. He is often the detective's jackal; many a detective has reaped praises and profit, in cases in which the reporter was instrumental in tracing up. His powers of description are well known. He will describe the progress of a dog fight, and a marriage ceremony in the same breath, as it were, with equal accuracy

and never get mixed up. In the recesses of his cranium, is encased an unlimited supply of references, applicable under all circumstances. He is a judge of horseflesh, understands music, has a knowledge of astronomy and will minutely describe the phases and changes of the last moon eclipse. He is next found criticising the last play, or latest preacher. His rounded off phrases are the envy of all conversationalists. Flage, with him, are festooned, not hung; his doors are "portals, even his bobtailed, clipped eared, yellow dog is described as a species of *caninus*. A frightened horse, does he not describe as the "quivering equine," or "frantic steed," and so he continues.—Though of mild and gentle disposition, he delights in harrowing scenes and incidents. A railway smash-up with great loss of life, is his pet subject. A brutal murder is as the gentle zephyrs, and a suicide is sweet savor to his nostrils. A wonderful man is the average newspaper reporter.

We are in receipt of Juneau, Alaska, papers up to 9th February last. We notice by the *Alaska Free Press* that the citizens of Juneau are justly indignant at the malicious reports circulated by Mrs. Voorhees of New York, and Mr. Coler about the immorality of the residents of that portion of Alaska, and the relations existing between them and the native Indians. A mass meeting was held at Juneau 19th January, at which a series of resolutions were passed refuting the accusations made, and protesting against the publication of such scandalous and libelous statements, which it is intimated have been circulated by grasping, perverting office seekers. If Mrs. Voorhees made her Alaskan trip of 2,200 miles in eleven days, she could not have had much opportunity to ferret out the immorality of the people from personal observation, and hear-say evidence is a poor weapon with which to attack an entire population. Lax ideas of morality prevail in most native tribes and it is not likely that the Alaska Indians are an exception to the general rule.

According to the *Alaska Free Press* the Yukon River and some of its tributaries, promise to turn out the richest gold fields yet discovered on this Continent. David

Hart who has spent three years prospecting on the Yukon, brought out \$10,000 worth of nuggets which he washed out of a claim on Forty Mile River in 38 days, when he was stopped by high water. This river is a northern tributary to the Yukon, 400 miles below Stewart River, and derives its name from the fact of its being 40 miles above Fort Reliance. The stream is shallow and crooked, full of boulders, and has a gravel bottom. The diggings were discovered in 1886, and thus far the working period has been limited to 3 months in the year, from 1st June to 1st September, when the exposed portions of the banks are partially thawed out, causing the earth to slide into the stream, which changes the current and forms bars, in which the gold is found. Before the coming of high water last spring, two Norwegians uncovered a portion of the nearly dry bed of the stream where the ice was three feet thick and succeeded in scraping out the gravel from a space about 11x14 feet from which they washed out over \$2100 worth of nuggets. About 120 miners were last season scattered along the river for a distance of 60 or 70 miles.

The reply of Hon. Mr. Robertson to the Premier in the budget debate, shows how delusive are figures, and how much reliability is to be placed in the statement that the treasury contains a surplus, when the several items of receipts and expenditure are placed where they properly belong. A Government that can wantonly give away \$400,000 of the people's money cannot be expected to have a surplus, and no other country under the sun has a government that dare do it. It will require a good many more J. P. appointments to quell the indignation that must sooner or later culminate from such overt acts.

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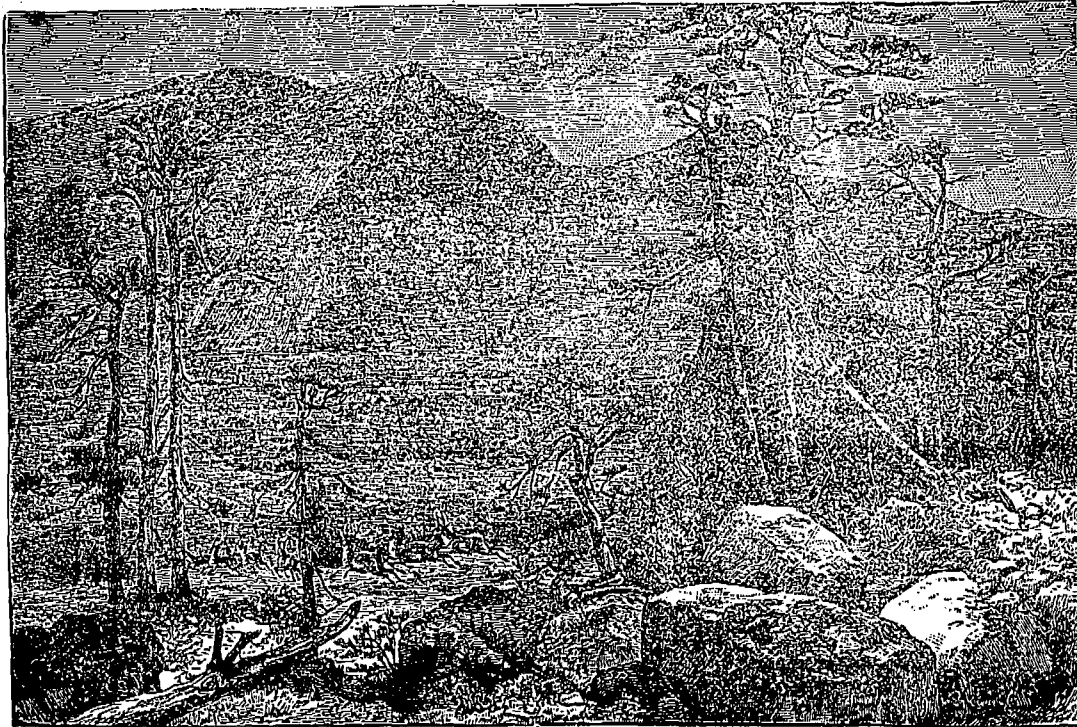
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