

Up to the time of death, Mr. Booth appeared to be in excellent health, and the news will be a great shock to his family, who are all at present in Boston. Besides his wife and daughter, he has another daughter, married to a former Kingstonian, now in Boston.

### LITERARY NOTES.

An appeal is made by Michael Austin, M.P., the Very Rev. Canon Murnane, V.G., on behalf of the widow and orphans of the late Peter O'Leary, who in his lifetime had been "a consistent Irishman and an advocate of the rights of labor." Mr. O'Leary was a prominent figure at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1886, and was the author of a volume describing a tour through Canada.

Among the calendars received at the office of *THE JOURNAL OF FABRICS* none is more appreciated and none finds a more prominent position in our office than that of Morton, Phillips & Co., stationers and printers, Montreal. It cannot be excelled for practical use. The Calvert-Wilson Wool Company have sent us a most tasteful wall-calendar in black and gold. We propose to look at it every day, not only to remind us of the date, but to enjoy a sight of it.

The second mid-winter carnival opens in Quebec on the 27th January. A grand souvenir number, printed in eleven colors, and containing hundreds of original illustrations printed on beautiful coated lithograph paper, together with three superb colored supplements and pieces of music, making the most elaborate work of the kind ever issued in Canada or the United States, will shortly be published by the *Quebec Daily Telegraph*, the promoter of the winter carnivals. Messrs. Gilbert Parker, J. M. Lemoine, J. M. Fairchild, jr., Dr. Prosper Bender, N. Levasseur, Faucher de St Maurice, John J. Procter, C. P. Storey, P. Spanjaardt, and many other well-known litterateurs, have contributed interesting stories and sketches of the habits and customs of the Canadian people. A work of art and beauty, costing thousands of dollars. Mailed to any address in Canada or the United States on receipt of 40 cents. Address *Daily Telegraph*, Quebec, Canada.

Henry M. Stanley, in an article on the "Development of Africa," which is to appear in the February *Century*, recalls the fact that troubles with the Boers in southern Africa first induced David Livingstone to travel to the north, and so led the way to the opening of Equatorial Africa. Livingstone, who was a missionary at Kolobeng, accused his Boer neighbors of cruelty to the natives. They resented his interference, and threatened to drive him from the country. He published their misdeeds in the Cape newspapers, and his house was burned in revenge. This led to his leaving southern Africa and going to a region where he could follow in peace his vocation as a missionary, unmolested by the Boer farmers.

### THE PREVENTION OF SECONDS IN KNIT GOODS.

The prevention of seconds is a deeper and more vexatious subject than would be at first supposed. An almost synonymous expression is "How to run a mill successfully." The prevention does not lie in the knitting department alone, but it extends to all others as well. Then again, "What are seconds?" This term has a wide significance. In the cheaper grades of goods, "everything goes," all kinds are thrown in together: good, bad and indifferent. But in the better classes finer distinctions are made and some of the seconds are nearly as good as the firsts. The layman's idea of a second is sometimes very crude. The following is a fact that came to the writer's notice: A person looking after retail bargains at the mill (the pest of busy hands), after pulling over enough seconds to fill a thirty dozens case, innocently inquired, "Are the seconds not made of cheaper stock?"

The sure prevention of seconds begins with the buying of the stock. It should be selected with due regard to the working qualities. It is quite needless to say that a slippery camel hair and a low grade of cotton will not work well together. Careful attention should also be paid to the long threads sure to crop out in the

botany thread waste, that makes the goods feel so soft, but if not worked correctly, will produce many seconds. Those using card waste and low grades of shoddy should avoid trying to spin the yarn too fine, for thin places, if not absolute breaks, on the frames, will result. Tar spots are also to be kept watch of. If there is any tar in the wool used for whitework or work to be dyed, it will leave a blur when finished. It cannot be washed out and will have to be made into a second. Wool should be examined thoroughly before buying, and all with tar in it rejected.

A machine greatly overlooked and underrated is the mixing picker. It acts as teeth to masticate, and the cards do the assimilation. What is the result when one chews his food only once and then swallows it? It does not assimilate well. Now, exactly the same thing applies to the stock when it gets in the cards, if it is sent through the mixing picker but once. It should be put through twice, and care should be taken the first time to put in but a small portion of each kind of stock at once. This all tends to make even work and prevent seconds.

In the carding department the best preventive of seconds is good card clothing. The cylinder of the finisher card is the most important part of the three. Every strip of card clothing should be perfect on that.

The end threads of the finisher give a carder the most trouble, because they are so often apt to be light. All good carders, of course, make an allowance on their end-doffer rings, even then the threads are apt to be light. Then the round card-board end, that goes on the fancy shaft, must be used to keep the stock from being blown away.

It is always best to keep the spinning room clean. Spinners ought not to work ankle deep in waste, for it "creates flyings," that get twisted in the yarn, and even if they do go through the winder guides, they are apt to fill up the needles on the frame and cause a smash.

All the bands should be at an uniform tension, for good work cannot be made on a jack when one end of the carriage strikes the head before the other. The machine should back off quietly, not too quickly, for when it rebounds suddenly it makes 240 fine places in the yarn. Some of these will surely make a hole on the knitting frame. To always prevent this, set the roping gear to work just a moment before the jack gears.

The knitting department is the most important place to prevent seconds. The greater share of them are made at this stage of the manufacture. The first thing is to see that the cone that the base of the winder bobbin rests on when in the winder does not touch the neck of the bobbin, for when that occurs, the yarn is cut and an end runs in. Someone has remarked that the bobbin itself has caused more seconds than all the other causes put together. I think that statement can be taken "*Cum grano salis*." But it is quite true, nevertheless, that the bobbin does cause many seconds. When the base has a dirty, greasy covering on it, the yarn will cling to itself rather than that; and when the yarn is nearly unwound, suddenly, all that is left on the bobbin tries to go in at once. Then a quarter runs up. Many times the neck is only slightly splintered, but the yarn will catch on the splinter, and the result will be either a hole in the cloth or a break in the yarn.

To prevent these things occurring the base should be covered with a coarse flannel, or some like better a seamless felt bobbin base cover. The neck should have an annual sand papering and shellacing, or better still, a metallic tube drawn over the neck of the bobbin and made fast. This will effectually do away with the splintering and annual repairing.

The next thing to look after are the knitting frames, for one cannot be too careful with them. The needles should be of the best quality of wire and set in metal that is neither too hard nor too soft. If the metal is too hard there is no "give" to the needles, and they will soon break off, and when it is too soft they will soon get out of alignment. The burrs give a great deal of trouble if not adjusted properly. The sinker burr, especially, with the little nick in the edge of the wing, which is so liable to become rough, will make many seconds. The burrs inside the cylinders must not be neglected. The landing burr must work in unison with the presser, and