

mal sense save that of taste. In fact he thought it was very strange that his new friends had not as yet offered him any refreshment. Still he was loath to consider them as deficient in the duties of hospitality; he remembered that he had been expressly invited to a feast; and he satisfied the eager cravings of his appetite as well as he could with picturing to his greedy fancy the treat that awaited him at the banquet to which he had been summoned. Hearing, however, no allusion to the subject, his natural voracity at length induced him to say, "The air of your river is a great stimulus to the stomach, I perceive."

"We find it so," was the reply.

"I am happy to hear it," rejoined the mackerel, "as I hope you will be able to do justice to the feast to which you were so polite as to invite me."

"We doubt it not," rejoined the fishes again.

"I begin to wish that your banquet were ready," resumed the mackerel, who thought his new friends kept intolerably late hours, and had become on a sudden very laconic in their replies.

"Here is the spot upon which we intend it to take place," said the fishes, gliding into a dark deep hole under the bank. The mackerel eagerly followed them, and not observing the slightest preparation for the expected entertainment, exclaimed in a tone of great disappointment, "I do not see your fine banquet."

"No matter, we do," replied the fishes, with greedy looks, "and a most inviting one it is."

"Where, where," inquired the mackerel.

"Here!" replied the fishes, turning their ferocious eyes upon the terrified mackerel. "We told you," said the treacherous pike, "that your presence would form the greatest attraction at our feast. When we invited you, we anticipated indeed a greater variety of viands; but since we have not been so fortunate as to procure any thing else, we are content to make our dinner entirely upon you!" So saying, they all darted upon the luckless mackerel, headed by the pike, who took the first bite. The credulous stranger, having been bidden to a feast at which his fare was not to eat, but to be eaten, thus afforded a melancholy addition to the list of the unwary victims of flattery, who have become the prey of those in whom they have placed hasty and misjudging confidence.

A Ride Gratis.—We learn that a few days since, while a young lady was crossing one of our streets in the vicinity of the State House, which afford the boys an opportunity to practice their favorite but exceedingly annoying amusement of coasting, (sliding down hill,) she was struck with a sled, which came with prodigious force, tripped up her heels, and laid her fairly on her back, as a sailor would say fore and aft," across

the sled. The poor boy instead of being overjoyed, was sadly frightened at such an unexpected accession of freight—but the impetus which the vehicle had already acquired was so great, that he found it impossible to check its speed, he therefore wisely judged it best to make the most of his bargain, and with admirable presence of mind, steered the sled with great care, avoiding all obstacles, at the same time bawling out with the lungs of a Stentor. — Hold on Ma'm, hold on—keep your feet well up, and there is no danger."

The double loaded sled sped with the velocity of an arrow—and the astonished damsel, who never travelled at such a rate before, and probably never will again even on a rail road, or in an air balloon, found herself, before she had hardly time to take breath, or scream for assistance safely landed at the bottom of the hill.—*Boston paper.*

FOR THE MIRROR.

A Quaker, who was a barber having been sued by the Parson for tithes, went to him and demanded the reason why he troubled him, as he had never had any dealing with him in his whole life; "Why" said the parson "it is for tithes." "For tithes!" said the Quaker, "I pray thee friend upon what account?" "Why" said the parson for preaching in the church." "Alas! then" replied the Quaker "I have nothing to pay thee; for I go not there." "Oh, but you might," said the parson, "for the doors are always open at convenient times;" and thereupon said he would be paid, seeing it was his due. Yea and nay shook his head, and making several wry faces, departed, and immediately entered his action (it being a corporation town,) against the parson for forty shillings. The parson, upon notice of this, came to him, and very warmly demanded, why he put such disgrace upon him; and for what he owed him the money? "Truly, friend," replied the Quaker, "for trimming." "For trimming!" said the Parson, "Why I was never trimmed by you in my life." "Oh! but thou might'st have come and been trimmed, if thou had'st pleased, my doors are always open at convenient times, as well as thine. J.

The Temperance Societies of this town met last evening, at the Acadian School room, and the meeting was numerously attended. The Rev. Mr. Knight presided. Able addresses were delivered by Judge Marshall, the Rev. Messrs. Cogswell, Crawley, and McDonald—B. Murdoch and J. Slayter, Esqrs. and Serjt. Benson of the 96th. Regt. This was the day appointed for the simultaneous meetings of Temperance Societies.

The Religious Tract Society held its anniversary meeting last week, a committee was appointed to carry into effect a resolution passed at this meeting for a systematic distribution of Tracts to the seamen of this port.

THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, FEB. 27.

We commence publishing this week (and intend continuing) a series of articles headed "Common things." These will be found to contain a vast fund of information for youth, and indeed for those more advanced in years. We propose every third or fourth week to insert questions upon the several subjects treated upon, as we feel persuaded that this method will be found beneficial in impressing upon the youthful mind "common things" worth knowing.

The affairs of our neighbours, (the Americans) with France, assume a warlike aspect. A motion has been made in the House of Representatives, to grant to the President, power to issue letters of marque and reprisal, unless the French Chambers consent to ratify the Treaty, granting 5,000,000 dollars to the United States. Insurance Companies at New York, have refused to take French risks.

By the Industry which arrived yesterday in 3 days from Boston, accounts have been received from France to Jan. 14. We give our readers the following extracts, which will put them in possession of the posture of affairs between the Americans and French. The King has recalled M. Serrurier, his Minister at Washington. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has made known this resolve to the Minister of the United States in Paris, informing him at the same time, that THE PASSPORTS WHICH HE MIGHT REQUIRE IN CONSEQUENCE OF THIS COMMUNICATION, are at his disposal. In consequence of the engagements entered into by France, the project of a law relative to the American debt, will be presented to the Chamber of Deputies to-morrow. A clause will be added, the purport of which will be to guarantee eventually those French interests which may chance to be compromised.

The 'engagements entered into by France' here referred to, are no doubt the solemn pledge of the King, that the Bill of Indemnity should be presented to the Chambers. This will accordingly be done, but it will doubtless be rejected instantly. In the meantime the recall of the French Minister and the prompt order (for such it is in effect) for the American Minister to quit Paris leaves no doubt of the determination of the French Government to WITHHOLD THE INDEMNITY AND PREPARE FOR WAR.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 17.—As far as we can calculate, the number of members elected up to this time amount to 456, of whom 280 are reformers, and 166 ministerial, giving a clear balance of 124 in favour of reform and against ministers.