

THE FREE LANCE.

A friend of mine, a bank clerk, is dead in love with a pretty girl in Blenry street. The other evening he called upon her with the air of a man who had hit upon a happy idea.

"Do you know, Jennie," said he, "that, in a dream I had last night, you allowed me to kiss your pretty cheek."

"Well, your dream must come true, I suppose," and she presented her snowy face to his lips.

"And now, Willie, I too had a funny dream last night."

"What was it, dear?"

"I dreamed that you had bought me a diamond bracelet."

"O thunder," exclaimed the affrighted clerk, "you dream too strong for me."

Two friends meet:

"Hello! Where did you get so much watch and such fine jewellery?"

"Hush! Don't speak so loud. Judge—might hear us. These were lent to me for a little while by poor Jones, who is in the Insolvency Court."

If you want to know the value of time, stand at a corner, waiting for a street car.

Five minutes there look remarkably like fifteen.

Two young ladies went into a large dry goods store, on Notre Dame street, to view the spring purchases. Their attention was especially attracted by a new French Corset. While they were asking the clerk full particulars about it, the dandy shopwalker sauntered up in his most insinuating manner and said:

"Corset SELLERS, ladies, conducive to both health and morality."

The younger lady giggled and turned her head aside. The elder's cheek flamed with indignation, and they both hurried out of the store.

"Love me little, love me long."

Is a rule you must observe;

If your ardor is too strong,

Both our natures you'll unnerve.

We were married on this morning,

And I know you mean no wrong,

But to make it sure, take warning—

Love me little, love me long.

Stop your kisses, one's enough

When you go and when you come,

All this coming is silly stuff,

Shameful in a Christian home;

No sharp squeezing of my fingers,

No soft pinching of my arm,

Time is lost that softly fingers

Not too hot, but only warm.

Don't you kiss me on the lip,

That is vulgar and it hurts,

Drink my love in sip by sip,

Do not squander it in spite;

Violent things are never lasting,

Love a proverb true but true;

Useful is a little fasting,

And the wine cup crowned with rue.

If you moderate your passion

When I am young and fresh and fair—

When I am old and out of fashion,

With the white streaks in my hair,

You will love me still, and nightly

Put my head upon your breast,

While the home fires flutter brightly

And our babies lie at rest.

Now don't stand there, lost in wonder,

At the lecture of your wife;

Go to work and deeply ponder

On this lesson of a life—

We were married on this morning,

And I know your love is strong,

But to make it last take warning,

Love me little, love me long.

A prominent citizen, known for his absent-mindedness, walked out of the Terrapin after buying a cigar. He had forgotten to light it at the counter, so politely asked of a gentleman who was passing to give him a light. Taking the cigar, our friend carefully obtained a light, threw the other cigar in the gutter and walked away. Of course, there was a tableau. After satisfactory explanation, both returned into the Terrapin and got fresh cigars, heartily laughing over the incident.

A miserable old bachelor, says, "I like those new two-story cars of the C. P. R. because I don't think the ladies will be able to climb up there and stare a fellow out of his seat."

There is a minister near Booneville, Ind., who has been married three times, his first two wives being sisters, and his wife stepmother to his first two wives. In what relation does the last wife stand to her husband?

One of the French papers of the city contains this curious advertisement:

WANTED.—A person to introduce an article indispensable to *Coffin Makers*!

The annoying adherence of the ice-bridge just above Quebec was the only topic of conversation last week. A stiff and disgusted old Tory, of this city, who attributes all the ills of the country to the domination of the Reds and Grigs, said:

"What else could you expect? Is it not called *Cap Rouge*?"

According to contract, the ice-dealers of the city begin to deliver the crystal blocks on the first of May. That day, this year, instead of being summery, was decidedly wintry. As soon as the cubes of ice were deposited before the

doors they were immediately covered with a coat of the falling snow.

"What nonsense delivering ice on such a day as this," said one gentleman, walking down the street.

"Why," said his companion, "I think it is decidedly a *nice* arrangement."

On that same May-day while the snow was falling, the wind blowing, and the whole outlook was of the bleakest, an ice-cream man, nothing daunted, trundled his little go-cart along, crying out "Ice-cream, ice-cream," at the top of his lungs.

"Scream away, but not so loud, you idiot," muttered a crusty old fellow passing by.

LACLEDÉ.

THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.

At a late meeting of our leading musicians, it was resolved to establish a Conservatory of Music for the purpose of fostering a love for the higher class of music among the public and of protecting art and pupils against incompetent teachers. Although not one of the originators, or in any way connected with the new-formed association, still being an ardent lover of good music and a sincere well-wisher to the undertaking, I take this method of pointing out to these gentlemen the difficulties to be contended with, and to propose the only means to ultimate success. The Conservatory is an absolute necessity here.

Montreal has made giant strides of progress in every branch of art but this, which for want of union on the part of the professors, and for abundance of apathy on the part of the public, has been lingering, and dragging, and frittering its strength away, in having no one point of unity, in having no direct encouragement. The great masters remained almost a sealed book. Thoroughness and the science of Harmony have been decried as a terrible, agonizing study, Composition as an impossibility; a state of things which bade fair to be the death of all artistic musical feeling.

Thanks to the gentlemen associated in forming the Conservatory of Music, a better day is dawning, and soon the light of knowledge will bring order and beauty out of the present chaos, will separate the chaff from the grain and by its moral force will produce good and sound tuition, while it will obliterate the pseudo-teachers and make their existence an impossibility. The principal dangers to the success of the Conservatory are the absence of an acknowledged head and the well-known jealousy among musicians. A Conservatory of music without an actual School is an absurd contradiction, as the duty of the institution consists not in conferring annually a certain number of degrees, but in imparting a thorough knowledge of music in all its branches—both practical and theoretical—to its pupils, the distribution of diplomas being only accessory as fit reward to the most industrious and advanced scholars. To gain this object the Conservatory requires absolutely a head, a principal, a president, or whatever title may be chosen for this office. The Chief-Executive will establish certain rules, to which both professors and pupils must conform. The principal difficulty now lies in exactly these two points: "Who shall be the head?" "Who shall have the right to lay down laws to be binding for all?"

As drama and music are twin-sisters, I am compelled to make a slight digression before answering these questions. Within a short time a new theatre, the Academy of Music, has been established here and met with great success; its building contains many rooms most suitable for the Conservatory. Both institutions would be greatly benefited by a closer union. I do not mean amalgamation by any means, but by working harmoniously together let each branch of art assist and benefit the other. The advantage of this mutual support will be most apparent in the vocal and mimic department of the Conservatory. A Directorate is already in existence to advance the interests of the new theatre; a Directorate—if possible the same as for the Academy—is the keystone to the ultimate success of the Conservatory of Music. But this Board of Directors must contain a majority of non-professionals to counteract all possible petty jealousies among the professors. The duties of this board shall consist in drawing up a set of by-laws to govern the institution, to submit it to a general meeting of the active members of the Conservatory for sanction or to make such alteration as a two-thirds vote shall deem proper and expedient. With these adopted laws an application for incorporation shall be made to the Dominion—not Quebec Government, as such an institution bears an absolutely national character. Having gained the necessary sanction it will then become the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint professors. In this matter all jealousy will be avoided by dividing the active members in two classes, as is customary in German universities, in ordinary and extraordinary professors. As ordinary (or permanent) professors shall be ranked all teachers holding first-class diplomas from any of the leading European conservatories such as Paris, Leipzig, Milan, Brussels, &c., &c. Let the Board distribute among them the different branches of tuition according to the diploma received, and guarantee to each ordinary professor a certain income, say \$600 per annum. As the number of professors holding first-class European diplomas is not large, the staff of regular or ordinary teachers will not exceed the demand, and as, furthermore, each and every one has already his course of pupils, the risk to the Board of Directors to pay the guaranteed amount is infinitesimally small. The ordinary professors are

bound, as a matter of course, to give tuition in the rooms of the Conservatory only. As extraordinary professors are to rank all those teachers being at present members of the Conservatory and not possessing a diploma; they shall have the right to give instruction in the rooms of the institution, but with the distinct understanding that no income will be guaranteed to them, and that after a period of two years they are to visit an European conservatory and procure a satisfactory diploma, failing which they shall cease to be members of the institution. A uniform scale of remuneration by the pupils for tuition received shall be established for both classes of professors, which every member will be strictly bound to adhere to. The ordinary professors having, of course, connections with the European conservatories, can easily establish with them a recognition of their pupils passed and degrees conferred. There exists no possible cause or reason, why our Conservatory of Music should not be in time as far-famed as any in Europe.

Regarding monetary matters, I understand that the present members propose to tax themselves to meet all current expenses, hence the outlay in cash by the Directors of the Academy would be null; all that will be required is a small part of their time, their influence in balancing the scales justly and fairly, and to superintend the plain matter-of-fact work of the institution. Hence I propose that two committees of the Directors of the Academy and of the members of the Conservatory respectively, may be appointed and at an informal meeting discuss these matters. The advantage of mutual support will be so self-evident, that I cherish the sanguine hope of seeing by those means our Conservatory of Music, in a short space of time, firmly established on a sound basis.

VOX.

REVIEW.

"The Decline and Fall of Keewatin" is the title of a very clever pamphlet published at the Grip office, Toronto. The object of the satire is the decline of our native industries under the withholding of Protection. The allegory throughout is well sustained, the Indian lingo and buncombe ably reproduced, and the covert allusion to our principal men amusingly telling. We repeat what we have several times stated before, that these attempts at a humorous literature of politics are a very healthy sign, and that the talented pens engaged in them ought to be generously sustained. There are some illustrations in the book by Bengough.

We have received a copy of a little book entitled, "Readings and Recitations for Temperance Workers and Social Gatherings," edited by Jacob Spence, Secretary of the Temperance and Prohibition League, and published by the enterprising firm of Belford Bros., Toronto. The object of the book is clearly a good one, but we regret that we cannot express unqualified commendation of its contents. Many of the selections are numbingly, several of questionable literary taste and much of the verse is mere doggerel. The cause of temperance is a good one to serve, but it should be served in a thoroughly elevating spirit, moral, artistic and literary.

The life of Norman Macleod to which we referred last week, as about to be published by Belford Bros., is, we are pleased to learn, destined to a large sale in the Canadian copyright edition. Already five thousand copies have been ordered from the publishers. Dawson Bros., of this city, have the exclusive sale for the Province of Quebec.

SALE OF THOROUGHBREDS, TORONTO.

The spirited sketches we present this week were taken at the great opening sale of thoroughbreds held in Toronto a short time ago, to inaugurate a series of such sales under the direction of Mr. White, the well-known breeder of Bronte. The scene at Grand's tri-weekly sales is always lively, but the fame of the Canadian breeder, and the quality of the racing stock furnished by Dr. Morton, of Bradford, drew together a multitude of buyers from all parts of the country, whose interest in the sale came as near to excitement as the well-known reserve of the typical horse men would permit. The prices were good considering the times, which however, is no consideration at all to men whose wavering fortune on the turf and insatiable love of horse-flesh has rendered regardless of expenditure. Out of the hundred and fifty half-bred steeple-chasers and green trotters on view, we have ample scope for admiration as a looker-on, or opportunity as a buyer before coming to "the last lot," that standing but perishable commentary on hard times—a *monument mori* to all horse flesh, the meek recipient of kicks and passive butts of an auctioneer's wit. Any one of an ideal turn, with Lady Mary Norton's "Arab's address to his horse" in his memory, may, if he likes, ascribe the apathy of the owner in parting with his one faithful friend through changing years and trying circumstances, to the fact of his not being an Arab but a Westerner. No allusion is made to the horse's father, as generally happens in mitigation of broken down humanity; he stands on his own merits and feels his position painful indeed. To be assured of the moral nature of the horse, one has to watch its demeanor pretty closely; however, we may not moralize. "Man's rights and claims are paramount" at an auction. "Harness and all gentlemen. No reserve on her; any advance on five dollars. Going: third and last time; going—gone," and then begins another page of this eventful history.

SCIENTIFIC.

DR. BENEDICT, of Vienna, who has just concluded the examination of a number of brains taken from rabid dogs, is of the opinion that the poison remains latent for some time in the brain, and eventually breaks out in certain parts of it.

A St. Louis scientist estimates that the annual loss to farmers caused by insects average \$100,000,000; that the chinch bug alone, in 1875, caused a loss of \$30,000,000 to the Western States, and that in three years the grasshoppers have caused a loss of \$50,000,000.

A German has so far deciphered the hieroglyphic records sufficiently to prove that one of the pyramids was built 3,019 years before Christ, which is 1,000 years earlier than any chronological date previously established. This fixes the building of the pyramids at a period considerably before the biblical date of the deluge.

The underlying principle of the much talked of Fryer process of reducing ores is that all elements which unite with the precious metals are oxydizable. The discoverer's theory is that while the noble metals cannot be destroyed, all others can, and when the treatment is severe enough to destroy the base metals, there will be nothing left but the valuable ones. He has made over 1,000 tests of ores of all kinds, and has never failed to obtain all the gold and silver contained in the rock operated upon. The process does away with stamp-mills and amalgamation pans, and by preventing the flouting of mercury, is capable of saving many millions of dollars each year.

NEAR the town of Nordhausen, in the Province of Saxony, lives a certain Herr Henze, M. D., who has invented a new type-setting machine, of which we receive the following particulars:—By means of a lever, which is worked by a series of notes, something like a piano, the letters are raised out of the box in which they are kept, and placed in a position fixed for them. By employing a very simple mechanism a second setting apparatus can be adjusted, and by these means the sentence is twice set in the same time. The machine is of the simplest construction, and yet can be worked easily, and performs the setting in a quick and correct manner. Three compositors cannot work so quickly and surely as one with such a machine. The price of the new invention will vary from 30 to 60 thalers.

At the Faculty of Sciences at Marseilles, M. Marion has described a highly important discovery which has been made in the neighbourhood of Marseilles. There has been in the valley of St. Clair, near Germenes, a station (place of habitation and sepulture) of the prehistoric ages of humanity. It is a grotto which opens in a fault or fissure of the Jurassic limestone. At the bottom were accumulated human bones belonging to a dozen subjects, men and women, as well as cutlery, serving as arms or instruments, and some fragments of rough pottery. The chief characters of the skull were large openings of the orbits, the development of the zygomatic bones, the flattening of the root of the nose, the prognathism of the upper jaw, the lower being orthognathous. The limbs were slight, and the stature low. The pottery resembles that of the dolmen of Dragnignan.

LITERARY.

Miss BROUGHTON is engaged upon a new novel, which will be published by Messrs. Bentley & Son in September.

THE late Lord Amberley's book on "Religious Belief," is all in type, and is only waiting for an index before it is published.

Lieutenant CAMERON will shortly publish a full account of his expedition in a volume to be entitled "Across Africa." The work is in course of preparation.

AMONG forthcoming books is one by Sir Thomas Erskine May, bearing the title of "Democracy in Europe: a History." It will be in two volumes, and will be published by Messrs. Longman.

THE house in which Balzac lived during the last year of his life, and in which he died, remains just as it was when he breathed his last. In his study the furniture has not been moved since his death; the pen with which he last wrote is imbedded in the dry ink in which he left it.

MR. G. E. WIEZ has written a scholarly and faithful German translation of Dr. Mason Neale's well-known hymn, "Art thou weary?" It is published on a sheet, with the English text side by side with Mr. Gladstone's rendering in rhyming Latin verse, and also an earlier Latin translation by the Rev. Charles Ingham Black.

A NEW dictionary is under consideration by the London Association of Correctors of the Press. At the usual monthly meeting of the association on April the 10th, an adjourned discussion on "Spelling Books and Dictionaries" took place, in which the evils of spelling a word in various ways were shown to be very serious to all engaged in literary work; and the association resolved to attempt at once to remedy them by preparing a dictionary of words of disputed spelling, giving each word in one form according to usage among best modern standard writers. As the orthography of nearly every word issued from the press is practically settled by the association, the dictionary will doubtless be welcomed by authors, printers, and the general public.

ARTISTIC.

THE Hobbema of the late M. Schneider's picture gallery at Paris has been purchased for the museum at Antwerp for 100,000 francs.

MISS THOMPSON'S new picture, "Balaclava," will be exhibited by the Fine Art Society. Additional interest attaches to this picture, as we learn that it is the last war subject that this lady artist will paint. She has just received the distinguished honour of being selected honorary foreign member of the Royal Academy of Florence.

A magnificent illustrated edition of Victor Hugo's "Quatre-vingt-treize" has recently been published in Paris. The great author himself, who is said to have considerable talent as an artist, has contributed three illustrations to this work. The other engravings are by such artists as Morin, Langon, Brion, Daniel Vieille, Gilbert, Karl Bodmer, and Ed. Bayard.

THE Council of the Royal Academy has given permission to Mr. Alfred Marks to photograph the ear tomb of the Holy Family, by Leonardo da Vinci in the Academy's possession. It is intended to issue, at cost price to subscribers, permanent photographs of the ear tomb, as has been already done with regard to the "Triumph of Julius Caesar," by Mantegna at Hampton Court.

WHEN the Prince of Wales was in the Terai, he presented Mr. William Simpson, of the *Illustrated London News*, and Mr. Herbert Johnson, of the *Graphic*, with a neat silver medalion to wear on the watch-guard. On the obverse were the Prince of Wales's plums, and on the reverse an inscription, stating that they were presented by the Prince, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Johnson were enjoying a chat round the camp fire when His Royal Highness went up to them, and, in giving the medals, expressed his satisfaction with the sketches he had seen made by each of the above-named "special artists."