

## The Saint John Monitor.

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## THE LONDON TIMES.

The whirligig of time has brought its revenges on The London Times. Pearson and Harmsworth, the Hearst and Pulitzer, respectively, of English journalism, came into the London field and "Americanized" a half dozen of the cheaper newspapers. The Times could not stand the strain. The Walters (in whose family the "Thunderer" has been kept for three generations), had to give it up; and now Pearson owns it.

The Times was always bitterly opposed to the national aspirations of the Irish. It vilified every Irish patriotic movement, from O'Connell to Parnell. This sort of blind hatred over-reached itself in the Pigott episode; and the verdict dealt a lasting blow to the paper's reputation. Long before, Richard Cobden had spoken of The Times as "a moral assassin" for though its splendid news service was universally recognized, the spirit of the paper was never either liberal or charitable. Michael Davitt notes just one bright spot in its Irish record: It could not repress its abomination of the conduct of the Irish landlords at the time of the Irish famine. But, then, who could?

## THE DRUCE ROMANCE.

Some day the novelists will take up the material supplied by the Druce trial and give to the world a fine crop of romantic stories as the elder Dumas loved to weave. At any rate, they will not be short of suggestions for strange and sensational situations. These are offered in abundance by the evidence. Nor has mystery been banished by the discovery, the other day, when the coffin was opened, of the body of an aged and bearded man and of an inscription on the coffin plate bearing the name of Thomas Charles Druce. The story as presented in Court is that the fifth Duke of Portland was the same man as T. C. Druce, the owner of the Baker-street Bazaar; that he maintained a dual personality; preserving his individuality as a shopkeeper, and using false beard for the purpose, that whilst in good health he conceived the idea of getting rid of the Druce personality, and to that end decided upon a mock funeral and interment and that the intention was carried out, a coffin being filled with lead, solemnly conveyed to Highgate Cemetery, and consigned to a grave. Upon the strength of this contention the claimant, Mr. George Hollamby Druce, son of George Druce, the eldest son of T. C. Druce by his first wife, is prosecuting Mr. Herbert Druce, a son of T. C. Druce by his second wife, on the charge of perjury, for having stated that he had seen his father's body in the coffin. The plaintiff's lawyers hold that the mere fact of a body being found in the coffin by no means disposes of the case, and whatever the legal view may be, for many readers of the newspapers the mystery has only been deepened.

## MODERN VANDALS.

There is no other city in the world where the monuments of the Christian and pre-Christian past stand side by side in such goodly numbers as in Rome. When the splendor of the old Empire was passing away the re-

mains of its glory were treasured during the dominion of the Popes. One after another the Pontiffs encouraged art in every department and diffused throughout the Eternal City that spirit of reverence for antiquity which has saved for modern generations so many priceless relics of former times. But with unbelief has come an inrush of barbarism. Rejoicing in their triumph over the "Clericals," the Blocards, with Syndic Nathan at their head, have displayed contempt for what is dear to antiquarians as well as for the religious feelings of the poor. Between the Porta Pinciana and the Porta Salara they have made four fresh breaches in the city walls, sacred for their antiquity. The walls were pierced some time ago for the formation of three arches, but now the masonry has been entirely cleared away, so that at the four passages not a particle of the ancient structure remains. The object of this exhibition of Vandalism appears to be to raise the prices of house property outside the walls. What has been done cannot now be undone, but the destructive energy of the Blocards in this direction will, doubtless, be checked by the indignation which it has aroused amongst the leading archaeologists of Europe.

## AN OLD RESIDENT.

Star, Tuesday.

There lives in the West Side, a woman who was born 104 years ago today. She is Mrs. Anna Holt and she first saw the light of day in a little village in County Sligo, Ireland, in 1804.

Mrs. Holt bears her tremendous burden of years with remarkable ease. She reads with the aid of glasses and frequently knits stockings and mittens. She is quite bright and vivacious and an entertaining conversationalist. One of her peculiarities is that she prefers not to sit in a rocking chair or on an easy chair, choosing always an ordinary straight-backed chair.

Her husband was Jas. T. Holt, for many years a stone mason in this city, but later located in the west. Mr. Holt returned from the west, about fifteen years ago, but while on a business trip to Colorado died rather suddenly.

Mrs. Holt's maiden name was Anna McCann, and she was the daughter of Bartholomew McCann of County Sligo, Ireland. Her mother's maiden name was Mary Caveney, of the same place.

Her parents removed to St. John when the present Mrs. Holt was five or six years of age. Her father went into the junk business and was also largely interested in real estate, being the owner of several on Pond street and in other sections of the city.

Mrs. Holt's memory, for one so old, is exceptionally good. She distinctly recalls the war of 1812, and many other events of national importance which happened early in the last century as well as many local events that happened before the time of most of the oldest inhabitants.

Mrs. Holt is, beyond a doubt, older by several years than any person living in the province, excepting one, and if physical and mental condition may be taken as a sign, she is apt to live for several years to come.

Eleven children, four of whom are dead, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Holt. The seven surviving children are: Mrs. T. Donovan, of the West End, and Mrs. Alois Warner of this city; William of St. Louis, formerly with the A. Christie Woodworking Co., Matthew, at present located at Goldfield, James, an iron moulder, at John E. Wilson's Foundry, Edward, a machinist at Mispic pulp mill, and B. J. Holt formerly a partner in the firm of McLean and Holt.

Mrs. Holt at present boards at Mrs. Perry's, Watson street, West End.

## CITY CORNET BAND ENTERTAINMENT.

At the Opera House, on Monday night next, the City Cornet Band will present the beautiful drama, "Hazel Kirke." They will have the assistance of several well-known amateurs. Between the acts there will be first class specialties.

## THE NICKEL.

There has been a very large attendance this week at the Nickel. The "Two Orphans" and "Ben Hur" delighted the immense crowds who attended.

## WHEN APPETITE FAILS

It is because your food does not digest properly. Your stomach, liver and bowels need strengthening. Don't neglect the danger-signal.

## TAKE MOTHER SEIGEL'S

Price 60 cts. per bottle. Sold Everywhere.  
A. J. WHITE & CO., MONTREAL.

## AN ENTERTAINING RACE.

Says Lady Randolph Churchill, writing in the Century Magazine: "I can truly say I cannot remember during the three years we lived in Ireland meeting one really dull man. From the Lord Chief Justice to the familiar carman all were entertaining."

Yet these exceptionally bright people are not considered intelligent enough to manage their own political and economic affairs. The country which is the happy hunting ground of dull men feels that it must keep Ireland in a state of vassalage and tutelage. Only a dull-witted people would fail to see the absurdity of this.

## THE ROYAL BANK HAS A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The excellent exhibit of the Royal Bank, as it appears in their statement published in this issue of the Monitor, will gratify the shareholders, customers and friends of the bank. That exhibit is good evidence of wise management of the institution. That the Royal has maintained its exceptionally strong position, and at the same time afforded legitimate credits to its customers, is shown by an increase of nearly \$3,000,000 in commercial loans. Deposits have increased over \$800,000 and now exceed \$33,000,000. Liquid assets, consisting of cash, bonds and balances, due by banks, are equal to 52 per cent. on liability to the public, an exceptional showing. The net profits for the year were the best in the bank's history, \$792,034.39—19 per cent. of the capital and an increase of nearly 2 per cent. over 1906—and have enabled the management to make a most substantial reduction of \$250,000 in the bank's premises account. The usual addition of \$10,000 has been made to the officers' pension fund, and a balance of \$156,090.76 has been carried to the credit of profit and loss. The employees have shared in the bank's prosperity, a general bonus of 10 per cent. having been declared by the board. The shareholders of the Royal Bank are to be congratulated. The directors are: Thos. E. Kenny, Halifax, president; H. S. Holt, Montreal, vice-president; Thos. Ritchie, Wiley Smith, H. G. Bauld, Hon. D. MacKeen, Halifax; Jas. Redmond, F. W. Thompson, E. L. Pease, Montreal; G. R. Crowe, D. K. Elliott, Winnipeg, and W. H. Thorne, St. John.

There are two branches of the Royal Bank here. Mr. T. B. Blair is the manager of the one on Prince Wm. street; the North End Branch, Main street, has Mr. R. E. Smith as manager.

## HOW THEY CAME.

"Were there ever any fools in your family?"  
"Only those who married into it."  
Houston Post.

## OPERA HOUSE

MONDAY, JAN. 20

## City Cornet Band

Assisted by several well known amateurs, will present the beautiful drama

## Hazel Kirke

Sale of seats at box office Friday morning, 17th inst.

Prices—Lower floor, 35c.; balcony, 25c.; gallery, 15c. First class specialties between the acts.

Doors open at 7.15. Curtain at 8 sharp.

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Secretary.

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Leasehold Property, Germain Street, West End—\$1,500.	Leasehold Property, Minette Street—West End—\$2,200.

These are all good paying properties and afford an excellent opportunity for investment—Farms, Vacant Lots, &c., for sale—Full particulars on application to

JOHN F. GLEESON,

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## Going Out of Business Sale

My Whole Stock Of  
FURNITURE

To be Sold At Once.

Anyone going housekeeping in the Spring can get their Furniture at cost. I have arranged to store goods purchased, in one of my reserve buildings, as long as wanted, without extra charge.

Buy now—while stock is complete.

JOHN WHITE,

93-97 Charlotte Street.

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Fresh Lobsters and Oysters.

All kinds Fresh, Smoked and Salt Fish,

Cleaned and Delivered to any part of the City.

Telephone 450.

No. 9 Sydney Street, near Union.

Ferguson &amp; Page,

WATCHES,

Jewelery, Diamonds,  
ETC.

41 King Street.

## NEW DRUG COMPANY.

Another large wholesale drug company is being formed, with headquarters here. Mr. Charles E. Farrand, who has been with the Canada Drug Company for some years, is associated with the new enterprise. Mr. Richards, the North Shore lumberman, Mr. John O'Regan and others are also interested.

A. Levine has been appointed clerk in the post office and Cyril MacDonald has been appointed porter. They went on duty on Wednesday.

Branch 134, C.M.B.A., held an assembly in their rooms on Wednesday evening. The chaperones were: Mrs. Joseph Harrington, Mrs. W. E. McIntyre and Mrs. Thos. McGuire.