

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B's favor came too late. Shall we not here from him again?

Local.—Is rather slow. Fire up old boy and try again.

D. C.—Would not be interesting to our readers.

B.—S.—Shall appear next issue.

BRANIGAN'S

Chronicles & Curiosities,

Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice
SHARPSHANK.

HAMILTON, SATURDAY, MAY 7th, 1859.

LEGISLATION EXTRAORDINARY.

Whither are our rulers driving? A certain party of fanatics, and well-meaning but weak men have for some years past been busy in attempting to have established what is called the Maine Liquor Law in Canada. We find, in this age of reform and popular rights, still the same antagonistic principles that animated man towards man in the tyrant feudal times. Love of power and the exercise of authority on the one hand, were the characteristics of the prince or the baron; love of liberty and the resistance of oppression on the other, marked the advancement of civilization in the people. The power infused by the Norman conqueror and his nobles in the twelfth century still finds a parallel in our popular legislation. Restrictions and sumptuary laws were imposed by the oligarchy in those times—fines and imprisonments are dealt out at the caprices of a dominant democracy, in these. William the conqueror, to keep the Saxon in subjection and subdue his spirit, enacted his curfew (*courrefeu*) law, which ordered all fires to be extinguished at the close of day—our representative rulers shut up our places of refreshments and social enjoyments at 7 o'clock on the only evening the working man can set apart for a little relaxation from his toils. Is this enactment the pure emanations of a benevolent spirit on the parts of our legislators?—Is it the result of an expressed opinion that the people of this country are incapable of regulating their own habits, and that it is necessary that in all their personal whereabouts, they should be in senatorial leading strings? If it be so what a puerile, silly, worthless community we are!! We shall next, it may reasonably be presumed, have to submit our backs to the birch and go to bed, like naughty boys at 8 o'clock under the tutelary keeping of a patriarchal police. What shall we not have to yield to? We are regarded as incompetent to the duty of taking care of ourselves—where then, will the wise arrangements of our governors end? Our clothing, dietary and domiciliary economy will remain in

their hands and at their disposal. Our tastes, manners and customs will all have to give way to the notions of our legislative masters; and, like good supplicative boys, we shall have to cultivate, in the properly imploring tone and key—"pray don't!"

The act to restrain the sale of intoxicating liquors from 7 o'clock on Saturday evening till 8 o'clock on Monday morning, appears to be the most wanton encroachment on the rights and liberties of a free and enlightened people ever perpetrated by a deliberative state assembly. The liquor law of the State of Maine, however absurd and insulting to men's common sense, applied, at least, impartially to every member of society. This Saturday night law, on the contrary, is levelled against the working man's indulgence of his only hour of relaxation. Upon other classes the restriction is comparatively inoperative. The man of means has his club, social coterie or domestic circle where he may at any time expand in social interchanges and sweeten his cup of existence—the hard working and industrious have only their Saturday nights.

In every point of view this law is likely to be productive of evil. Those upon whom it especially bears and oppresses will view such legislation and its authors with abhorrence and hatred, and others, personally disinterested, will, certainly, not consider themselves bound to strengthen and support it. Is it not dangerous to the reverence for all laws to enact one to be treated with contempt and opposition? Let this one crickly be modified or repealed.

SABBATH DUTY.—Report hath it that one of our City Aldermen employs himself during a considerable portion of the week y day of rest in spying out the manner in which his fellow-citizens relax themselves in their hebdomadal cessation of labour.—This worthy civic representative, in doing this work, may flatter himself with the self-persuasion, that he is actuated by charitable motives, and that he is performing the duty of a christian mission. He will find that his fellow-men think differently of him, as well as of all such busy bodies. The day is set apart from the toil of the week and the trouble of our every-day avocations. It is, besides, from the great event which it commemorates, a day of gladness and rejoicing, and not one of gloom and austerity. The city father in question may differ with us, on this point, and he shall have our credit for his doing so sincerely. We cannot record to him, however, our belief in his sincerity of purpose when he looks over window blinds and peeps into houses with half open doors with the intention of putting hose to trouble who simply differ from him in religious thought and action. The duties and abnegation of Lord's Day, are, Scripturally, undefined; and it was left to the Puritans and the Blue Laws of Connecticut to establish, in the abomination of a hypocritical sanctity, the observance of it. Our

would-be-esteemed-righteous Magistrate, who, we believe belongs to the body Puritanic, would do well to see to the reasons of his own faith that is in him, instead of disturbing the practice of that of others. As a civic dignitary it is indecent in him to take advantage of his position to enforce, by oppression, the views of his peculiar faith.

Eureka! Found at Last.

Some of our friends having expressed a desire to know who and what the *Growler* is, we have made considerable search, and our efforts are at length crowned with success; in the *London Times* (England,) the following advertisement appears, which was detected by the eagle glance of our facetious friend "Punch":

"Dogs and Curiosities. Mr. Growler has for Sale One of the handsomest Pug Dogs in Creation, with a self coloured face (supposed to be the only one in England), 12 months old, direct from Holland; also one of the most perfect little White Pet Female Dogs ever seen, with a most beautiful long curly coat, equal to floss silk, two years old, direct from Spain. This amiable clean little animal is fit for Buckingham Palace. Also a remarkably handsome Female Spanish Goat, colour a beautiful black, with tan points: she has a splendid long flowing coat, age 21 months. Also a magnificent glass case of superb Foreign Stuffed Birds, plumage and execution of exquisite beauty. Apply at Growler's breeding kennels, Catenton Street, Houndsditch."

We suppose the "handsome pug dog" is the "junior editor" whose feelings were so lacerated a few weeks since at the adoption of his synonyme by a correspondent of this journal.

Our Seven-Leagued Boots.

To be seen at our Hanging Gardens, the Seven-Leagued Boots, with which we distanced Officer Useless and his three brethren. They will be regarded as great "Curiosities," as so far from presenting the gigantic proportions associated with those of nursery tales notoriety, they are composed simply of Kidderminster Carpet, and leather, and are familiarly known in every household, as *slippers*! Such at least would be the impression formed by their appearance, an evidently erroneous one, or how could we have successfully contended in the Olympic game with four members of such an efficient police as this City is happily possessed of, no, it cannot be. The marvellous lamp of Aladdin, and equally so Cap of Fortunatus, were of the current pattern, but mark their wondrous power! we remember how they astounded our juvenile mind, but matured age is equally astonished our feat, but what boots it, we eschew the subject as our stock-in trade is exhausted.

In reference to a letter over the signature of "A Hamiltonian" in our last week's issue agent a charge of *disorderly conduct* against Mr Fred. Manning, as it will come up again before the Recorder's Court, we have, at present, little more to say, than that it is one of a number of cases alike disgraceful to our Police establishment and derogatory to our Police Court—members of the former made a charge against a citizen—the latter refused evidence to repel the accusation. Instead of the bench giving their servants a knock over the knuckles or dismissing them, for a gross perversion of their official duties, in imprisoning an honorable and peaceful