

ify confiscation. The only object of the act seems to be to make the tenants the owners of the soil. The act provides that "a proprietor shall be construed to include and extend to any person receiving or entitled to receive the rents of any lands exceeding five hundred acres in the aggregate, leased or unleased, occupied or unoccupied." The act is the result of years of agitation, during which many of the tenants have refused to pay their rents.

**THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**

The Montreal Academy of Music opened in a most brilliant manner on Monday the 15th inst. We cheerfully endorse all that has been written by our contemporaries in respect to the success of the inauguration. The public did their duty by appearing in large numbers, and they gave a prestige to the occasion by doing what we should like to see made the rule, instead of the exception—being present in full evening dress. There is nothing to prevent this being done, even in the most severe weather, for the Academy, if it has not all the advantages, is admirably heated, and ladies may be as comfortable on its benches as in their own drawing-rooms. The habit of toilet at a theatre gives it a character of dignity and respectability which influences both the actors in their play and the audience in their behavior. With regard to the company, we may speak of it with almost unqualified approval. It is certainly by far the best resident company within our experience of several years. The manager, Mr. McDowell, is himself an actor of great versatility and intelligence, while the ladies vie with each other in their various styles of excellence. A special feature of their acting is its harmony and homogeneity, admirably displayed in such dramas as "Rosedale," "Saratoga" and "Mary Warner."

As we have been among the earliest and most strenuous advocates of theatrical reform and revival in Montreal, we shall make it our business carefully to review the weekly events at the Academy of Music, being jealous of its legitimate success, but to day we judge it more advisable to confine ourselves to a few business considerations, founded on some little personal experience of theatrical matters. In the first place, we should remind those gentlemen who insisted upon building the Academy on its present site, instead of in a more central place and eligible position, that they have taken the dramatic reputation of Montreal into their own hands, and are, therefore, bound to sustain it. If this theatre should fail, we have no hopes of a successor to it in the next ten years. It is the middle classes that patronize and encourage the drama, as a rule, but in the present instance our upper classes have stepped in and must persevere. One way, and a very effective way, of doing this would be to buy seats for the season, as is done in Europe, and thus secure the management a certain sufficient sum to rely upon through all contingencies. We have spoken neither to Mr. McDowell, nor to any one else on the subject, but we calculate that it is necessary to his success that he should play nightly to an average house of \$400. He might drag through with \$300, but not in a way to encourage him or his company. To enable him to secure this average, he should have the spontaneous help of the directors and their wealthy friends in the way just indicated.

Another thing that must be accomplished in order to success is the drawing the centre and eastern portions of the city. Mr. McDowell will have to play to the gallery, which is the old mainstay of all theatres. The gallery of the Academy can alone furnish from \$150 to \$200 on a good night. And decent, moral plays so constructed with scenic effects, or so dashed with smart dialogue and amusing incident, as to please the gallery, where there is no other criticism but nature, will also please the rest of the house.

A third suggestion we should make is arrangement with the City Passenger and Transfer Companies for a number of sleighs to be stationed at the door of the theatre between ten and eleven o'clock. A half dozen of these running east, west and north, respectively, would ensure the attendance of hundreds, from even the limits of the city. The distance of the Academy would be annihilated by the convenience of the conveyance. We shall not go beyond these remarks to-day, reserving other observations for future occasions as they may be called for. We shall only repeat that the people of Montreal owe it to themselves to do full justice to their fine theatre and fine company.

**LECTURE ON HARMONY.**

Mr. Robbins, who spent a portion of last winter in Montreal, has just returned from a very successful visit to Quebec, and is likely to be detained here some time on business connected with his publications. This gentleman, who has devoted forty years to the study and teaching of Harmony, has reduced this science to its simplest expression, and expounds its principles in the clearest and most forcible manner. He makes of the study of Harmony, as Macaulay did of History, a pleasure, not a task.

His career since he first visited this city, and the encomiums, printed, manuscript, and oral, every where bestowed upon his method, have only confirmed our conviction that Mr. Robbins' system, and his method of imparting it, are superior to anything heretofore taught and

practised. Many amateurs and artists availed themselves of his former visit here to learn harmony thoroughly. Many more, desirous of doing so, have been deterred by, let us say, hard times. Several, encouraged by the satisfactory results of the class which was organized in Quebec, have expressed their desire to form a similar one here, and some have given their names to Mr. DeZouche for that purpose. This movement has spread further, and now it is suggested that Mr. Robbins be requested, during his stay here, to favor us with a Public Lecture on Harmony, so that the greatest number possible may get an insight into his method. This is an excellent idea. Such a lecture would be a novelty, and prove, we are certain, highly interesting and instructive to all present. Mr. DeZouche would doubtless consent to manage the enterprise. We sincerely hope the opportunity will not be allowed to slip by, and we invite teachers of music to lay aside their professional pride, and help, or at least attend, the lecture. If there be something in it to learn, they should know it. If the system be a humbug, they should expose it. They must be unwise indeed who think there is nothing more for them to learn, and no professor of music will lower his standing, in listening for an hour to an intelligent man who imparts the condensed result of forty years' study. The impression made in Quebec, (a very musical city), by Mr. Robbins may be learned from the following clippings of local papers:

"MUSICAL.—If people who are still in doubts as to the utility of Professor Robbins' system could have witnessed the examination of his class at Bellevue convent this morning, we think they would be satisfied that his claims are quite too modest. The Professor awarded premiums to the four pupils who should remain longest on the floor under questioning, and it is certainly remarkable that it required two hours and thirty minutes of rapid questioning to clear the floor of thirty pupils. Such work speaks for itself."

And referring to the Public Lectures: "In the class were some very advanced musicians including teachers of music and organists, and all who attended the course uninterruptedly, express their unqualified satisfaction at the results, among whom we are permitted to include the organists... Dr. Marsden rose and asked permission to say a few words, as he had been the means of inducing a large number of the ladies and gentlemen present to join the class, and in doing so, said he had told many of them that the method was the most perfect he had ever seen, and that he had learned more in an hour or an hour and a half from the Professor than in all his life before, although he had been taught and had studied under other masters and methods that made confusion more confounded..... The Doctor continued that he for one was greatly indebted to the Professor for his instruction, and that he felt confident that there was not a lady or gentleman present who would not then or hereafter thank him (the Doctor) for having induced them to attend the course; and if they or any of them were not satisfied to say so, and they might then and there pass a vote of censure upon him by holding up their hands, and this he repeated several times, but the smiles and other expressions of approbation entirely negated any such conclusion; and many openly declared their entire satisfaction."

The *Evening* says: "The Professor produced upon his audience the most favorable impression, by the clearness, precision, and talent with which he treated the subject of Harmony, as well as by his elegant and correct delivery."

**FROM THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.**

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS—SPEAKER'S DECISION EDITORIAL CHANGE—BLANK SHEET OF PAPER.

QUEBEC Nov. 17.—The principal result of the last days' debate on the Address was the fall of Hon. George Irvine who, after Joly's amendment had been defeated, moved one with it, is believed, the sole idea of testing his, much talked of by others, power in the House. But the result proved disastrous, for not a single vote in the House could he bring across with him, his own being the only change in the previous division. Since that afternoon there has been little or nothing doing up to yesterday afternoon, and a large number of members went home, the majority, however, having returned yesterday and this morning. Yesterday, a debate arose on Hon. Solicitor General Angers's Bill to amend the Controverted Elections Act, 1875. The provisions of this Bill are to allow communications to religious or legal advisers or to State Officers to be privileged in election trials; to preemptorily suspend all proceedings in enquete in contested elections during the Sessions of Parliament and three days before and after; to make any agent, whose bribery or corruption shall cause a member to be unseated, liable for the costs of trial, and contains provisions for collecting the same from such agent and, if default, then the member becomes liable. Wurtele also has a Bill to amend the same Act, but the provisions of his are somewhat different; instead of making the suspension of the proceedings during the Session preemptory, it leaves it to the option of a Judge as to whether the presence of the sitting member be necessary at the trial or not, and, if not, then the trial may be proceeded with. The discussion was confined entirely to these two ideas, the Government supporting Angers's Bill and the Opposition that of Wurtele. During the speech of Wurtele, he proposed to withdraw his Bill and make it an amendment to Angers's Bill. This brought forth cries of Order! Order! and the Speaker was called on for his first decision since

taking the Chair, which he gave correctly and unhesitatingly. Anger, in discussing Wurtele's Bill, had remarked that it had been altered since having been read a first time. This Wurtele acknowledged having done and apologized to the House for having unwittingly transgressed the rule. The Speaker, in his decision, pointed out that the Bill after being read a first time had become the property of the House and could not be withdrawn during the discussion of another Bill, nor could its provisions be moved in amendment. The Angers Bill, however, at a late hour, last night, after a desultory and very unprofitable discussion, was read a second time and referred to a Committee of the whole House, when Wurtele immediately withdrew his Bill and will move an amendment to Anger's Bill in Committee this afternoon.

Arising out of a municipal squabble is the sudden withdrawal of Mr. Amyot from the position of Editor of the *Courier du Canada*, he having undertaken to censure a Committee of the City Council for having declined to give a certain contract to a Mr. Pitou.

Mr. Amyot, it will be remembered, ran against Mr. Joly, at the late Provincial elections. Irrespective altogether of politics, the members of the Press will regret his retirement, for they all had a warm esteem for "Our Fritz," one of the names by which the Opposition Press have distinguished him. The new Editor (actual) will be Mr. R. Pamphile Vallée, a notary of this city, who some years ago served a brief apprenticeship in the Gallery.

The business, on the 18th, was but of slight importance, till the motion to go into Committee on the Bill to amend the Controverted Elections Act, when the Opposition renewed their objections, all of which, however, were voted down and after a considerable discussion, the Bill passed through Committee with the rather important amendment that the penal clause regarding Agents, should not apply to pending cases. The third reading is fixed for this afternoon, when I expect the Opposition will make a final attempt. They, however, cannot prevent the Bill passing. Their opposition is only harassing and rather tending to try their strength. An amusing occurrence took place during the afternoon. Mr. Landry introduced a Bill relating to the Department of Public Works which Garneau said was unnecessary and asked it to be withdrawn. Mr. Joly asked to see the Bill and found only a piece of blank paper in the hands of the Speaker. Now, the day previous, Mr. Angers had taken Mr. Wurtele to task for altering a Bill after it had been introduced and, accordingly seeing the Bill to be blank, up jumps Mr. Wurtele and very aptly remarks, "Mr. Speaker, according to the ruling, yesterday, if that Bill be carried, the Hon. gentleman will have no right to alter it," and sat down amidst roars of laughter.

REP.

**SCHOOL LIFE IN PARIS.**

A French correspondent writes to a London paper: The great majority of boys in Paris are boarders in the school or a lycée. The lycée is a state establishment. Some in Paris—the greatest in number—take boarders, some do not. Two especially are in the latter class—the Lycée Fontanes, in the Rue Caumartin close to the St. Lazaire railway station, and the Lycée Charlemagne, in the Rue St. Antoine. But in all of them, whether they take boarders or not, there is twice a day a class of two hours' duration, which is presided over by university professors, and which is attended by the boarders of the lycées or those of private schools. These classes include in their curriculum of education Greek, Latin, mathematics, the modern languages, &c. They are divided in forms, through which the boy is expected to pass successively. The lycées of Paris, being only nine in number, and all boys who want to get an education having to attend them, it follows that each form includes by far too large a number of boys for the professor to do justice to them; each of them includes, in fact, about sixty boys. But I will leave aside to-day that part of the subject, which would require a great many explanations, and will return to it some other day. I only wish to call your attention to the physical part of our system of education. It is the same both in private schools and lycées, so that I may describe the one or the other, with the only exception that the boys boarding in schools have to walk over to the lycée four times a day whatever may be the state of the weather. Boys get up in all our schools at half-past five, both winter and summer. They sleep in large dormitories, including usually some forty or fifty beds—I know of some even larger ones. Each bed is about half a yard to a yard distant from the neighbouring one, and is not surrounded by curtains. Each dormitory is under the charge of one *maitre d'étude*, or usher, usually called in school the *pion*. The class these *maitres d'étude* belong to is a shame for most of our schools. Exactly as half-past five strikes a porter comes to the door of the dormitory and rings a large bell; in lycées a man with a drum comes and beats that. Boys are allowed half an hour to wash and dress. In many schools they are still obliged to come down in the court-yard to school. It was always the case when I was at school in Paris, and I remember many a time when we had to break the ice in winter to get a little water. It is the only time during the day a boy approaches a lavatory. At six they go into what are called the studies—long rooms with desks. Each boy is expected then to prepare his lessons for the classes at the lycée. This study continues till eight o'clock. Then breakfast. The breakfast in French schools usually consists of a kind of

soup. Do not fancy it is anything like what you call soup in England; no, it is merely a kind of greasy water in which are soaked a few pieces of bread, and to which is added a piece of bread without any butter or anything else. On the whole, breakfast may be said to consist merely of bread alone, as the soup is so bad none of the boys taste it; at least so it was in my school days, and some young friends of mine tell me it is the same to-day. After, and even during breakfast, as you are not expected to eat your bread in the refectory, there is a recreation of half an hour's duration; then you are off to the lycée. After returning from college you go back again to study for one or two hours, as the case may be; then comes the dinner, usually composed of one dish of meat and one of vegetables, no dessert except on Thursdays and Sundays; on the Friday fish and vegetables; drink in abundance, namely, wine mixed with water. In most schools, and they are all about the same as to price of boarding, it is such an abominable drink—the wine being so bad that boys drink only water. After dinner recreation, lasting one hour, then off to the lycée again. On coming back, lunch, a mere morsel of bread, half an hour's recreation, then study again till eight o'clock, when supper is served, usually consisting of cold meat or vegetables. Then to bed at half-past eight. Such is the life led by our boys at school.

**DRESS IN THE LAST CENTURY.**

Speaking of dress in the last century a writer says: The toilet was the great sum and business of life, the adjustment of the hair the principal employment. Take, for instance, how a lady of fashion passed her day: At ten, after her "dish of Bohea," as it was called, generally taken before rising, the lady arranged herself in a muslin *peignoir*, or wrapper, and had a regular reception of her friends, while, with her hair dishevelled, she was submitted, for the first time in the day, to the hands of her hair-dresser; for usually she dressed four or five times a day. Her hair, dragged off her face, covered with powder, plastered with pomatum, frizzled in stiff curls, was raised, by means of gauze, feathers, and flowers, into an edifice often equal to her height, four ells of gauze have been contained in some of these erections, with butterflies, birds, and feathers introduced—the last of the most preposterous height of, it is recorded, about a yard. After an hour's plastering and frizzing, the hair-dresser's task was over, and a weary one it was, though enlivened by the animated conversation of the visitors. The remainder of the toilet was finished, the most important of which was the arrangement of the patches—a point of great interest. These were made of black silk, gummed and cut into stars, crescents, and other forms. Patches had originated in France under Louis XV., with a view to show off the whiteness of the complexion, but they were never worn by women of dark skins. Great was the art in placing these patches near the eye, the corner of the mouth, the forehead, and the temple. A lady of the world would wear seven or eight, and each had its special designation. She never went without a box of patches to replace any that might accidentally fall off; and these little boxes, generally of Battersea enamel, finely painted by some eminent artist, had usually a tiny looking-glass inserted within the lid to help her repair the accident. Nor was the *rouge-pot* forgotten, *rouge* at that time being an indispensable adjunct to the toilet—so indispensable that when Marie Antoinette came over to France to marry Louis XVI., and begged to dispense with wearing it, a family conclave was held at Versailles on the subject, followed by a formal order from the King to put it on—a command which she she had no alternative but to obey.

**PALMISTRY.**

In his volume on the *Mysteries of the Hand*, M. Desbarrolles divides hands into three sorts—the first sort having fingers with pointed tops; the second, fingers with square tops; the third, fingers with spade-shaped tops—by "spade-shape" is meant fingers that are thick at the end, having a little pad of flesh at each side of the nail. The first type of fingers belongs to characters possessed of rapid insight into things—to extra-sensitive people; to pious people, whose piety is of the contemplative kind; to the impulsive; and to all poets and artists in whom ideality is a prominent trait. The second type belongs to scientific people; to sensible, self-contained characters; to most of our professional men, who steer between the wholly practical course that they of the spade-shaped fingers take, and the too visionary bent of the people with pointed fingers. The third type pertains to those whose instincts are material; to the people who have a genius for commerce, and a high appreciation of everything that tends to bodily ease and comfort; also to people of great activity. Each finger, no matter what the kind of hand, has one joint representing each of these. Thus, the division of the finger which is nearest the palm stands for the body (and corresponds with the spade-shaped type), the middle division represents mind (the square-topped), the top, soul (the pointed). If the top joint of the finger be long, it denotes a character with much imagination or ideality, and a leaning towards the theoretical rather than the practical. The middle part of the finger, if large, promises a logical calculating mind—a common-sense person. The remaining joint, if long and thick, denotes a nature that clings more to the luxuries than to the refinements of life.