

duty that the journal or bearing was not attended to when necessary. That we have had no loss of life is something to be grateful for, but that the matter should be passed over as a mere newspaper item is not permissible. It is necessary that the strictest attention to duty should be paid by those in charge of machinery, and especially when many lives would be endangered by their carelessness; that a steamboat should enter a rapid with a hot bearing, or that another one should strike a rock, when others have safely passed, are fit subjects for investigation. "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" is true; how much better is it therefore to take proper precautions to prevent a serious loss of life? We generally make a reformation after the evil has been done.

The following is apposite with regard to the formation of a Bohemian Club in Montreal,—in an article on the Bohemian of journalism who once flourished in New York, Charles T. Congdon says:—

"The incoming generation of journalists will have much greater chance of doing valuable and successful work than that which is about to take leave of life, its fluctuations and its vast concerns. Every day the newspaper is becoming more important to the happiness, the comfort, the convenience, and the progress of the world. The Bohemian element of journalism, though it may still linger in certain newspaper offices, is now no more tolerated in those which are carefully managed—no more, in fact, than it would be in the oldest and most solemnly respectable banking-house in Wall street. Order, system, punctuality, industry, are now looked for quite as much as brilliant ability and a ready pen. The different departments of duty are well defined, and there is no longer much chance for the man who plumes himself upon doing one thing as well as another.

"It is with journalism as with every other department of human enterprise and energy. Brains are not quite enough; albeit they are eminently desirable. Literary resources are not all sufficient, although they may be many and various. It may happen, in the race for newspaper success, that the tortoise will beat the hare. Many people when they get old enough are likely with a sigh to say: 'If I had done so and so, and had not done so and so, I should now have money, fame, competence, serenity of mind.' Well, perhaps, and perhaps not. Who knows? One may be sure, however, of the day which is passing, or of the night in which he complies, arranges, makes all manner of manuscript under the midnight gas, and wins the right to slumber until the next day's noon. This is about all which any man in any field of labour can be sure of. And if he be true and faithful, day by day and hour by hour, he need not fear to see the last light of life extinguished, and may look with confidence for the first gleam of the eternal surprise."

A religious paper here favours us with stories and extracts of a stereotyped kind, meant to serve a good purpose, and which, perhaps, satisfy the readers for whom they are intended. Without doubt, the "medicine of morality" can be administered in a "syrup of fiction," such as is liberally given by the above paper, and it may not cloy the palate of those who do not take the trouble to analyze this "goodey-goodey" stuff, though it surely does not satisfy the cultured mind in search of logically and intelligently religious matter.

We would take this opportunity of drawing attention to a very ungentlemanly habit which is becoming quite common here in Montreal. We refer to the staring at ladies in which many persons at present are indulging. The unpleasantness to ladies resulting from this habit ought to induce every right-minded person to avoid it. Of course, in a few cases, there is some slight reason for it, but even if a lady endeavours to attract attention by some peculiarity of manner or dress, there is no excuse for rude staring. Reports of some very disagreeable instances have come to our ears, and though it is inadvisable in matters of this kind to take any means of punishment—yet the act may become so annoying as to necessitate this.

Messrs. Thos. White and John Crawford are sparring with each other about the City Passenger Railway; and Mr. Thos. White seems, so far as the correspondence is concerned, to have got the best of it. Many will not be simple enough to accept innocence as existing to the extent that Mr. Crawford would have us believe. We are much pleased to learn that Mr. Greene is not now hostile to the Company, and will be much more pleased when we find that "he has exacted the uttermost farthing from the Company," though if he manages to do this he will have executed a hitherto impracticable deed.

The Princess Louise will return to Canada in three months, probably sooner, if her health permits.

Why is it that some buildings are still allowed to remain standing on Bonaventure street whilst others have been long since removed? The work of improvement goes on but slowly, if it may be said to go on at all, while the sidewalk on the west side is in a disgraceful state. We should like to be certain the improvement was to be finished before the influx of visitors to the Dominion Exhibition, and can not see any reason why this could not be effected. There is very little to be done to the street itself. The delay arises from the fact that building material is allowed to remain in the street at the convenience of the builders. Where is the Building Inspector?

The ways of men are dark, and we find in Quebec no exception to the rule. That such a primitive act as leaving the city for even a single night to darkness and to burglars should have occurred in these times is unaccountable. Truly,—the city of Quebec is the Ancient Capital. The *Chronicle*, in an article on the subject say:—"It is estimated that since the gas was turned off in the streets no fewer than fifty recorded and unrecorded attempts at burglary have been made in the city. A striking commentary, surely, on the criminal imbecility of the men who, as a body, comprise the City Council of Quebec. Indeed, the Council—every man of them—are morally responsible for these crimes, and should be made legally so. Never in the history of civilization has so gross a piece of indecency been allowed to go unpunished by a people. Strangers and tourists are astonished, and well they might be, to see a large city like Quebec, in this nineteenth century, unlighted at night. If the whole thing were not a scandalous crime it would be simply ridiculous. By allowing this to continue a night longer the citizens will place themselves on a par with the Council itself. A meeting is to be held to-night, but something more than mere words must come of that meeting. The people will not be satisfied with arguments only."

We are pleased to notice the progress and enterprise of the *Toronto Telegram*, of which every issue is now stereotyped. It is a fearless, independent, outspoken journal, and is opposed to chicanery and fraud, whether political or otherwise. We notice the celerity with which news is obtained and placed before the public, and wish that we had a paper of this stamp and character in our good city of Montreal.

The Chicago and Grand Trunk first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds are now selling at 106-7.

Tanner has made the fastest time on record, and has disturbed dogmatic medical professors. There is one view of this affair which is a sad and dreary one,—we shall now doubtless have shoals of humbugs and mountebanks who will endeavor to make money out of this absurdity by entering into fasts of every possible nature. Mr. Terence McGuff writes to the *N. Y. Truth* offering, "as another step in the right direction, to live three days and three nights in a whale's belly if the Y. M. C. A. will provide a suitable whale and have it comfortably furnished." This proposition is not a whit more ridiculous than the exhibitions in the way of fasting which we will shortly have. The craze will have its day—but we are of the opinion that the consumption of food will not be materially lessened—and then some other folly will take its place.

A commission, having under consideration the subject of a World's Fair, in 1883, at New York, is to meet in a few days, and will decide upon the necessary steps. A long list of names has been paraded, but so many are not required; all that is requisite in affairs of this kind is to secure men of high probity and ability in whom the public at large will have confidence; there is no satisfaction or benefit in having a long list of names—as in many cases the names are frequently inserted merely as complimentary, and the individuals are seen at the Exhibition wearing badges and occupying the best positions; beyond this they do nothing to make an Exhibition a success.