

rude drinking songs amidst the trophies of wild tribal war. Suppose the mistletoe is the mystical plant of the Druid, though it is difficult to see how the connection can be traced between Druidism and kissing. All this only widens the circle of historic association and makes the festival in a larger sense human. Even the most orthodox among us have by this time pretty well discarded the narrow theology, uncountenanced by any rational construction of the Gospel, which puts the heathen out of the pale of salvation and consigns them to the power of evil for not having heard a word which was never preached to them, or believed in miraculous events which had not then taken place. We recognize the debt which the civilization of which we are the heirs owes to its earliest and rudest founders. We recognize the debt which Christian Ethics owe to Socrates, Plato, Marcus Aurelius, and Epictetus. We scout the monkish morality which consigns virtuous pagans, with one or two arbitrary exceptions, to eternal torments. We have enlarged the bounds of Christendom to the full compass of the designation "Son of Man."

It is in vain that the Puritan tried to dislodge the Papistical, Prelatical, and heathen Christmas by substituting for it Thanksgiving Day.

A holy day of any kind is always popular, and it is very right and meet that we should express pious gratitude for the ingathering of the harvest. But who, except the heirs of the Puritans, cares very much about Thanksgiving Day? With what tender and hallowed associations is its name encircled? Who particularly wishes on that day to gather all whom he loves around him, or calls up with special fondness the image of those whom he has lost? To see a man eating his Christmas dinner alone makes one shudder? Would the sight of a man eating his Thanksgiving dinner alone give one the same shock? Perhaps one who is not a New Englander or a Puritan underrates the intensity of New England and Puritan feeling. But Mrs. Beecher Stowe is a New Englander, and she shows us in her *Poaganne* how, when the burst of anti-Anglican feeling connected with the revolution was over, Christmas, with its little Church pageantries and its genial memories, stole back to its place in the hearts of all but the most austere Puritanical portion of the people. The children even of the Puritan minister cannot keep away. One thing is certain, Thanksgiving can never, like Christmas, be a feast of mankind or of Christendom, since the time of harvest will always differ in different parts of the world. Christmas, it is true, we are apt to associate with winter, with snow, and with storms which, raging out-of-doors, endear by contrast the bright fire and the happy circle within. But it may be kept, and is kept, at once in England, in America, in Australia, and in Hindostan.—*Goldwin Smith in the Week.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, N. S., have put a dynamo into their factory, and use 60 lights. They are manufacturing a number of dock railway cars to be used on the Ship Railway.

Messrs. Christie Bros. & Co., of Amherst, N. S., have added largely to their machinery, and have also put steam heating apparatus into their varnishing rooms, thus doing away with the dust, &c., entailed by the use of stoves.

Year by year, as the mining, lumbering and other industrial interests of the Maritime Provinces grow in importance, we find a proportionate increase in the demand for machinery of all kinds, and steam power to drive it. The old gang saw mills are all giving place to portable circular mills, which are better adapted to the smaller logs. Many farmers who have small wood lots are making use of them to clear land, at the same time producing lumber which would otherwise be destroyed. Messrs. A. Robb & Co., of Amherst, N. S., supply this want with a light circular mill and a peculiar design of portable engine and boiler, which they are able to build as large as 60 horse power without its being too heavy to move on wheels into the forest. Of this class of saw milling establishment they are producing on an average 2 per month, which, with a constant demand for stationary engines and boilers for mining, electric lighting and various other purposes, they have been kept exceptionally busy during the past 12 months, and have found it necessary to extend their work in various departments. They having added about \$3000 worth of machine tools, and have built a suite of commodious offices and draughting rooms for machinery and milling supplies; have under construction a boiler shop 50 x 60 feet, which is to be fitted with two travelling cranes and many improved appliances for building and handling steam boilers. Their foundry, which is 125 x 50 feet, is too small, and will require another addition in the spring to enable them to keep pace with orders. The Ship Railway, which is being constructed across the Isthmus of Chignecto (about 2½ miles from their works,) to convey vessels from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which by the way is the first undertaking of the kind in the world, is always giving them a considerable amount of work, and will, no doubt, cause increased activity throughout that section of the country during the next year or two.

Mr. Cathcart Thomson, of this city, has just completed a process for the steam compressing and shredding of codfish, which promises to be a most important industry, and one that will revolutionize the dry cod fish business, and open out markets in this line hitherto unavailable. Patents for this manufacture have been obtained by the above named gentleman in Canada and the United States, as well as in France and Newfoundland, and the products will find a ready market in the West Indies, Australia, Europe, United States and our own North-West Provinces. The process briefly is as follows: The fish are first thoroughly washed and cleansed, and skin and fins removed, and then put into the steamer, where they are thoroughly

cooked, after which the bones are removed and the fish passed to the shredding machine, where they are finely shredded. After this the shredded fish are subjected to great pressure, and pressed into cakes of uniform thickness, and passed to the shredding machine a second time, which completes the process, giving as a result a white woolly substance consisting entirely of the nutritive portions of the fish in its most portable form. The great and principal advantage of this process lies in the immense saving that would result from its adoption, as the fish is made directly from the green salted fish, and is ready for the market in 18 hours, a saving of 15 per cent. on the annual catch, (averaging about a million and a half quintals yearly,) which is lost to the community by the old process of curing, from the effect of the moist and foggy weather so prevalent during the fish season. In addition there is no waste whatever in this process, the skin being converted into fish glue, (a valuable product,) and the bones and other matter into a fertilizer, so that nothing whatever is lost. The advantages of the steam compressed and shredded codfish for the table cannot be questioned, as being already cooked, it requires but a few minutes to prepare it in the appetizing form of fish balls, patties, &c., and one pound will go as far in this form as two pounds of the boneless or ordinary codfish. It is put up in neat cylindrical packages, handsomely labelled with full directions; those for foreign countries being air-tight and hermetically sealed. Amongst its other advantages for foreign markets might be instanced its portability, reduction in bulk and weight, its keeping qualities, (not being affected by climate,) &c. Mr. Thomson has bestowed much time and careful thought to this problem for a period extending over ten or twelve years, and has at last succeeded in solving it, and perfecting the process which bids fair, and deservedly so, to be a highly remunerative one to the patentee.

Messrs. McArthur, Corneille & Co., Montreal, have sent us a copy of a circular which they have just issued relative to some new patented products just introduced by the St. Dennis Dyestuff Company of Paris, France, and for which Messrs. McArthur, Corneille & Co. are sole agents in Canada. It is represented that these dyes are of great interest to consumers, as up to this time no absolutely fast indigo blue shade aniline has been produced, while the new shades of scarlet can be entered baling without fear of unevenness. Archil substitute is also an important line, producing the same results as archil at a saving of 60 per cent. in cost of dyeing. This is also in powder form, highly concentrated, and more particularly suited to our Canadian climate than the liquid, which is liable to freeze. The acid black will, it is claimed, supersede logwood to a large degree. All these dyes are sold at very moderate prices, and samples and full information will be cheerfully given on application. Recently Mr. J. S. N. Dougill, of Messrs. McArthur, Corneille & Co., in company with Mr. Muller, an expert direct from the St. Dennis establishment, made an extended Canadian tour specially for the purpose of discussing the merits of these new dyes with Canadian textile manufacturers, and met with such success as to induce the firm to take hold of and push the goods.—*Canadian Manufacturer.*

CITY CHIMES.

Bachelor chambers are to be the newest idea started in Halifax. Who can say that we are not keeping up with the times? Incandescent light now glows in our hotels and many of the shops, and is even, we believe, finding its way into private homes. Sets of chambers will, no doubt, be a great boon to the many young bachelors in the city, who would be enabled to enjoy the comforts of a home, without the restraint of a boarding house that is apt to fall upon young blood. At least so one would believe.

The shops are all gay for Christmas, and the shoppers of both sexes may be seen making their selections from among the many beautiful goods and holiday articles displayed. The shops themselves this year have many of them changed to a new and handsomer garb than they have worn hitherto. Noticeable are the establishments of M. S. Brown & Co., and A. Stephen & Sons, both of which establishments now present an appearance of which Halifax may be proud.

The death of Mrs. Rose, (wife of Armourer Sergeant Rose, who was killed lately by the explosion of a gun,) following so closely on that of her husband, has filled all hearts with sympathy. Mrs. Rose never rallied from the shock of her husband's death, and went to join him in the unknown country, leaving behind her, to the mercy of the world, four helpless little children. The Halifax public have kind hearts, as they have often shown, and I am sure should anyone come forward to start a fund for the benefit of the orphans, many would be ready and willing to respond.

Of winter amusements there are not many yet, for the simple reason the winter is uncertain in its movements, and not to be depended upon. One day he descends upon us, freezes our water pipes, runs up the plumber's bill, and sends us all in our warmest garments off to skating and thinking of snow. Then the next day the mild, almost summer air makes us suffer tortures, and wish we had never even heard of flannel. Possibly at some future date there may be snow. At present its place is most efficiently taken by the clouds of dust that swirl through the streets, and give everyone at once the "peck" we mortals are doomed to consume before we die.

The names of the Committee of the Halifax Amateur Dramatic Club are as follows:—Major Firebrace, Chairman; Mr. Stubbing, Manager; Mr. Cotter, Treasurer; Hon. W. J. Longley, Secretary; Major Bagot, Mr. Marshal, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. A. E. Jones, and Mrs. Tobin. The performances during the winter are to take place on the 31st January, 28th February, and after Easter. "War to the Knife," a comedy by Henry Byron, has been