## NEWS ITEMS.

Of 1,574 male convicts discharged in England last year, 929 were assisted by prisoners' aid societies.

Mr. Leighton has been elected President of the Royal Academy, in the room of the late Sir Francis Grant.

All the principle streets of London are paved with wood, which is said to have proved incontestably superior to all other kinds of roadway.

A firm in England is negotiating with a Toronto export firm for 2,000 of grade Durham cattle, and 50,000 Cotswold and Leicester sheep, to be delivered pefore next June.

Year by year public opinion is steadily turning against the Lord Mayor's show. Its utter absurdity and want of dignity is admitted on all hands, and it is considered a decided nuisance to boot.

Lord Dufferin, in passing down Pall Mall, on his way to the Colonial Office, on the day of his return to London, was loudly cheered by gentlemen at the club windows of the Carleton, Reform and Travellers' Clubs.

There has been the greatest fall of snow in England and Scotland known for many years. Business in various places has been quite suspended, travel being impossible. The Queen has taken her usual drives on sledges.

Two mounted constables were taking a thief to prison in Nevada. As they were going through some lonely woods the constables' horses fell to the ground, the cords of the hind legs having been cut by ambushed friends of the thief, and he escaped.

During the last three years about $3,100,000 have been collected for charitable purposes by the Mayors of London. In 1876 the sum realized was about $190,000; in 1877, the Indian famine fund helped to swell the total to nearly $2,475,000; this year the figures are about $425,000.

Miss Sallie Ward of Kentucky was an American belle of wide celebrity some thirty years ago, familiarly known as the "Great Western." She married Mr. J. Bigelow Lawrence of Boston, from whom she was divorced, and afterward Dr. Hunt and Mr. Armstrong, both of whom died. The Washington *Post* says that she is soon to marry Mayor Downs of Louisville.

It may interest Freemasons to learn that on the 4th inst., the Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold were advanced to the 33°, at the headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, 33 Golden square west, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, Grand Patron of the Order. The ceremony was performed by Lord Skelmersdale, the Sovereign Grand Commander, assisted by the other members of the Supreme Council.

The *Echo* says that the abominable scandals which flood the newspapers are enough to arouse the indignant and passionate wrath of every pure-minded man and woman. The tone of "Society" is more unhealthy than it has been since the days of Charles II., and makes the elders long for the return of the days when they had a Court which was a model of purity and a terror to evildoers.

A state of appaling distress and destitution exists among the mechanics and labourers of Sheffield in consequence of the business depression. Hundreds of persons are living in tenements, without clothing or furniture, which they have been forced to procure food. They are without fuel, and dependent upon the charity of their neighbours for subsistence. The Mayor has called a public meeting to devise measures of relief.

Commander Cameron, the African Traveller, who is on his way to survey the overland route to India, has been astonishing the natives of Larnaca, by walking about in the streets of that town in the following costume:—A white sun helmet, red pugganee, light tweed suit, coat cut short; leather belt, with pistols in cases on each hip, cartridge-pouches, and heavy hunting-knife; and heavy boots, half-way up the thigh, slouched at top.

The Shah of Persia refused, two years ago, the application of an English company to reconstruct the dams of Awaz, which would enable a great part of the province of Arabistan to be irrigated by the waters of the Karoon, and rendered fertile, as in former days. He has now ceded the right to a French company, together with a large area of territory. The work will begin in 1881. The company will also have the preference over others in irrigating other regions.

The Perth *Courier* finds that during the past two years there has been shipped from Kingston nearly 10,000 tons of phosphate. This enormous amount has all been brought into Kingston either by the Rideau Canal or by waggons from the adjoining townships. The average price paid for the material during 1877 was $10 per ton, and during 1878, $12 per ton. This was sold for shipment to England and elsewhere at from $13 to $13,50 per ton.

Anna Jameson wrote, in a letter printed in her recently published Memoirs, just after the coronation of the young Queen Victoria:—"As to the Queen, poor child, she went through her part beautifully; and when she returned, looking pale and tremulous, crowned, and holding her sceptre in a manner and attitude which said 'I have it and none shall wrest it from me,' even Carlyle, who was standing near me, uttered with emotion a blessing on her head, and he, you know, thinks Kings and Queens rather superfluous."

The Russian papers have lately contained reports about a band of robbers which have appeared lately in the district of Paulovsk, in southern Russia, and has spread terror through all the neighboring region. It is said to be over 200 strong. The Captain is reported to be a peasant women of singular beauty, who was previously connected with a gang of forgers of rouble-notes. The Russian Government is so desirous of procuring the arrest of this female chief that it has set a price of $11,250 upon her head.

It is stated in the society papers in England that the Princess Thyra of Denmark, who is now engaged to the Duke of Cumberland, jilted the Prince Imperial. There is no doubt that the couple were what the London cabmen call "wery nuts" on each other for a time. But the fair Thyra has a terrible reputation as a flirt and hardshell woman of the world; and when Lulu, as the Prince,s pet name goes, told his love, she referred him to papa and mamma, and the heir of the great Napolean was frozen out of Copenhagen.

It will interest students of Shakespeare to learn that the first volume of a very detailed treatise on those of his plays the scenes of which are laid in antiquity has been published in France. The author, M. Paul Stapfer, a professor of literature at Grenoble, has ransacked and examined all the possible sources of Shakespeare's information about antiquity. Though there is much in the book that will be familiar to English readers, the general treatment is novel, and the results of the researches of the English and German students of our great poet are summarized with all the neatness of a French critic.

"Great ceremonies are necessary," says the *Railway News*, "to get a train off in Germany. When all is ready a bell rings. Then another bell rings. Then the engine whistles, toot-toot-toots gently. Then the conductor tells the stationmaster that all is ready. Then the stationmaster looks placidly around and says, 'So?' Then the conductor shouts 'Fertig!' positively. Then the conductor blows a horn; the engine whistles; the bell rings; the other bell rings; the stationmaster says 'So?'—the passengers swear in various tongues—and the train starts. That is unless there is a belated fat man—in which case they do it all over again."

Hon. G. H. Pope's definition of the Immigration policy of the Government will find favor with the country. He says:—"To invite immigration from Europe just now would be a most unwise policy. Every immigrant we might bring in would be disappointed, and would, in consequence, become a missionary against us, and therefore he did not at present propose to exceed what would be politic and at the same time patriotic. He hoped and believed the time would come, ere long, when the condition of the labor market would warrant him in making such changes in the system, and putting forth such renewed efforts as would result in bringing the surplus population of Europe to our shores. There was ample room for all, and he believed the policy of the Government would hasten the day when we could offer substantial inducements to all who choose to come."

## A Man-Baby.

In the second story of one of the low, rickety wooden buildings on the east side of Chatham Street, in humble apartments, there lives one of the most curious of human monstrosities. It is a boy, or man, 21 years and 6 months old, having been born in 1857, that it is in all respects, physically and mentally, nothing more than an overgrown infant. Its parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Jenn, of No. 165 Chatham Street, industrious French people. The child was born on the 10th of June, 1857, and was christened Jule. Up to his eighth month he did not differ from other children; but at that age he was taken sick with measles, and for six months it was thought that he could not live, one childish decease following rapidly upon another. His last ailment, and the one to which his parents ascribe his deformity, was one that baffled the attending physician, and is described by the father as "the English disease." Both physical and mental growth seemed to be arrested by this disease. The boy is not quite three feet high, but meesures four feet around the waist, being inordinately corpulant. His head is well shaped, but looks too large for his body, being more than two feet in circumference. His hands and feet are exceedingly small, like those of a 1-year-old infant, and he weighs 160 pounds. Every effort has been made to educate him, but he is not capable of learning anything.

When he was ten years old he was scarcely two feet high, but weighed almost 100 pounds. The physician who attended at his birth predicted that he would not live to be 14 years old, but he is now in good health. The boy's skin is remarkably soft and white, like a baby's. All of his habits are childish, and he can speak only a few words, such as "papa," "mamma," "yes," and "no." His extreme corpulence prevents him from walking, but he is very active with his hands and feet. He amuses himself with childish toys, and is very shy when strangers are about. Ex-Police Surgeon Barker, who has watched the case closely for several years, says that it is the most wonderful case he ever heard of. The boy has been examined by a number of scientists, who have all come to the conclusion that he is a perfect baby in mind and body. His father has been approached by many showmen, who were anxious to add the boy to their list of attraction; but Mr. Jenn has declined every offer, not desiring to have his son exhibited to the public.—*N. Y. Times.*

King Alfonso is represented as having written to the Pope asking advice on the subject of contracting a second marriage. Personally, he says, the thought of other neptials is distasteful to him, but continued celibacy may be detrimental to the Spanish monarchy. The papers, too, are beginning to discuss the same subject. The King and his married sister, the Countess de Girgenti, are childless, their two younger sisters are unmarried, and the throne is at the mercy of an accident or a crime. Among the Bourbon princesses considered eligible are the late Queen's elder sister (who is possibly too old for Alfonso), the Princess Blanche of Orleans, the daughter of the Count of Trapani, and the daughter of the Duke of Seville. Of other princesses, a Protestant being out of the question, the second daughter of King Leopold of Belgium is regarded with the most favor, though she is rather young. The question, especially since Moncasi's attempt on the King's life, is regarded as a serious one, inasmuch as a contested succession or a weak Regency in Spain or Italy might lead to the proclamation of a republic, which would probably bring about in Europe another '48.

Two hundred and fifty convicted thieves were invited to supper at the St. Giles's Christian Mission in London the other night and about fifty more came without invitations and were admitted, to be regaled with a plentiful meal of cold meat, bread and butter, plum cake, plum pudding, tea and coffee. Among the 300 people, varying in age from the child of ten to the decrepit sinner of three score and ten, were types of humanity in its most degraded and hopeless form; countenances so repulsively animal and vicious as to bar all hope of anything being done with them. Two of the worst of this type, after they had had their meal—*bien entendu*—got disorderly and had to be expelled and finally handed over to the police for resenting their extrusion by kicking at the chapel doors. Two or three well-dressed and intelligent young men acted as masters of ceremonies; they were reformed thieves, The mission furnishes breakfast to all the discharged prisoners and endeavors to relieve their wants and if possible place them in the way of earning their livelihood.

TEMPERANCE AND LEGISLATION.—Lord Aberdare, who was formerly Home Secretary, and has done a great deal in promoting licensing legislation, now admits that neither the measures he passed nor the one passed at the instignation of Mr. Cross two years later, nor yet the effects of many associations for the promotion of temperence, has had the effect of diminishing drunkenness. he is obliged to confess, indeed, that this vice is on the increase, and he is convinced that the permissive bill, even if it should ever pass, which is doubtful, would not have the beneficial effect its admirers claim for it. Speaking at a temperance conference, his Lordship said his hopes now lay not in legislation, but in the cultivation of music, the establishment of genuine workman's club's and above all of coffee taverns.

In charging the grand jury at Bristol Lord Coleridge expressed similar ideas. He said he did not believe in compulsory prohibition, and his greatest hope was education, though that would take a lone time to work out its effect.

The London correspondent of the Glasgow *Herald* writes:—"Another attempt is made to lessen the cost of cable telegrams across the Atlantic. M. Pouyer-Quertier, a wealthy French manufacturer, and who was Minister of Finance for a short time, has obtained a concession from the French Government for a new Atlantic cable. It is proposed to make it much lighter than the present ones, and thereby to lessen the outlay both in manufacturing and laying it. But what the projected company look forward to as their chief advantage is the adaption of a new system of telegraphing. An Italian has discovered a means of sending more words through a long cable in a given time than can be done by any existing method. He holds that by his plan it will be possible to use the Hughes printing apparatus, the result being to obviate many of the blunders made by the system in use. Indeed, the scheme promises well; but so did the Direct Cable Company, which, as is too well-known, has not cheapened Atlantic telegrams."

THE EXPENSIVENESS OF COLONIAL GOVERNOR-GENERALSHIPS.—We read in the *Echo*:—"It is usually said that the Duke of Burkingham will be the next Indian Viceroy. This is probably a mistake. He is a great favorite of the Queen, who, it is said, made him promise that he would not stay more than a certain number of years in India. The Duke who, to his honor, is a poor man, can have Victoria, the Cape of Jamaica—all of which are lucrative and pleasant posts compared with Madras—and, in due time, Canada, if he pleases. Lord Dufferin is already designated by general consent in Whitehall as Lord Lytton's successor. But the Popular ex-Satrap is in no way anxiout for anew lease of vice-regal power. He has found it expensive. If Lord Lorne is given the tenancy of the vice-regal Palace at Ottawa foa the purpose of giving him a chance to save money, the Duke of Argyll's son will return to England a sadder, a wiser and a poorer man."

FREE TRADE.—The London correspondent of the Leeds *Mercury* writes:—The continued depression of trade, of which at present there seems very little likelihood of change, has again raised a warm discussion on the old question of reciprocity. Nor is the discussion codfined to purely political limits. It has intensily added to it from the fact that merchants of various shades of opinion are taking part in the controversy. What is perhaps most striking it that staunch Liberals and Free Traders are beginning, under the pinch of trial, to agitate for some ratification of the existing law. This disposition on their part has, it need not be explained, been quickened by the action taken by the colonies, and the consequent disturbance of commerce thereby occasioned. You need not under the circumstances be surprisd should another deputation on the subject be sent to Government.

## Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

### The Wimbledon Rifle Team.

SIR,—In my letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* a few weeks since, pointing out the necessity of a change in the selecting of the Canadian twenty who annually proceed to Wimbledon, I omitted going into detail on *Team shooting and organization*, and would now ask the marksmen of the Dominion (who have not before read the National Rifle Association Report of Great Britain for 1877, to carefully peruse a few extracts taken from Lieut. Col. Peel's report published in same, compiled from information he obtained while accompanying the British Rifle Team, commanded by Sir Henry Halford to Creedmore, last season.

I may also add that I think it advisable, and I agree with "Members" letter in the *Telegraph* that officers of the Team should be only selected from those that have served as *active militiamen*:—

"The man selected as Captain should possess great tact and firmness, should be devoid of anything like 'fussiness,' and should have had so much experience that the Team generally would be ready to give cheerful obedience to all his directions.

In my opinion there should be but one 'Coach' for the whole Team, though it would of course be open to him to call in further advice.

The Captain would be, I think, as stated above, better employed in filling the office of Coach than in shooting.

The Coach should watch every current of air, every change of atmosphere; he should know every man's shooting and peculiarities, and should keep a register of every man's 'target' on all occasions.

To him alone it should be given to advise, and if necessary to order a change of sighting or elevation.

He must not only be willing to act contrary to his own opinion at times, but he must be capable of knowing when a bad shot is the result of a 'bad let off,' or other accidental circumstances, and be prepared to say so honestly.

Many shooting men think it impossible that they themselves can make a mistake, and imagine that a miss or bad shot *must* result from some cause over which they have no control.

Such men are unfitted for a Team, however brilliant their individual shooting may be.

He should be able to devote six weeks to practice, at least, be willing to submit to discipline, and to a certain extent be prepared to 'go into training;' enough of the latter to keep him in good general health.

Whatever rifles may be used, the first thing to be done, after picking the ten men to compose your Team, is to *bring all the rifles together in the matter of sighting*, so that they shall all have a common zero for elevation and wind, and that the minutes or degrees shall be precisely similar.

In a word, *every rifle should be so exactly the counterpart of the rest that each might be supposed to be shooting, practically, with the same gun.* This is the foundation of the system of Team-shooting.

The Captain should, either on his own judgment, or after consultation, decide, before commencing at each distance, with what elevation and wind allowance the experimental shot is to be fired.

This done, the steadiest man in the Team, who should always lead one of the squads, should fire the first shot. Should this produce a good bull's-eye, the proper sighting has been found, but should it not be a good shot an alteration must be made by the Captain in the sighting before the second man fires, and so on till a good bull's-eye is made.

It is evident that, theoretically, one man having made a good bull's-eye, and every man being a steady puller, and the rifles precisely similar, as long as the wind and other external influences remain unchanged, every man should get a bull's-eye at each shot.

Therefore the elevation and wind once correctly obtained, the quicker the shooting and the more shots that can be got on to the Target before a change comes the better.

All this simply means 'discipline'; and if I wrote for another hour I could say no more than that word conveys."

A WIMBLEDON MAN.

Fredericton, December 7, 1878.


# The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., DECEMBER 7, 1878.


### United States.

The Congress of the United States met in Washington, on Monday last, when the annual Presidential Message was read. The message deals with a number of topics, and devotes much attention to affairs in the South. A history of the terrible epidemic which ravaged the valley of the Mississipi is given, and the President recommends the enforcement of strict quarantine laws against tropical and semitropical countries. He appears to believe that the yellow fever is entirely imported, and is not generated in the cities and districts of the South, in exceptionally hot seasons, by improper dietetic habits and neglect of sanitary arrangements. The President believes that the political condition of the South is improving. The Executive have the power by the original constitution of the country to protect citizens in their rights to vote, to hold public meetings and to have their ballots counted and proper returns made, and they will enforce the laws to prevent intimadation, violence, coercion and fraud. The history of, and late diplomatic correspondence regarding the Fisheries Award are given; and the country is congratulated at having escaped trouble with their Mexican neighbours. The President announces that the government will be ready on the 1st of January, 1879 to redeem its notes in specie. The message also deals with the Indian question or problem, the government of the Columbia district, &c. On the whole, the message is not a document of startling interest. it contains no utterances that are likely to stir up political passion or to excite anxious comment abroad, and will be, as it discloses a hopeful state of affairs, satisfactory to the people of the United States.

Within a fortnight after the British invading force commenced to move important advantages have been guided. It is impossible to devine the designs of Sheri Ali, but from the reports that have been received of the evacuation of Jellalalabad, and the apparently not very determined defense of the formidable frontier passes, it seems as if he was going to concentrate his resistance before Cabul. The terrific Kyber Pass has been threaded with little loss, and one division is encamped at its head at Dakha. The division under Gen. Robarts, moving from Thull crossed the Khorum river, and found fort Kapiou deserted. Reports came that the Afghans were entrenching themselves on a strong position on the Peiwar Pass. On Sunday the Afghan position was turned by a flank movement over Spengwai Pass. Gen. Robarts telegraphing from Peiwar Khotal Dec. 3rd, says:—"We surprised the enemy at daybreak on the 2nd, when the 72nd, Highlanders, and the 5th, Ghoorkas gallantry drove the Afghans from several positions. They afterwards endeavoured to reach Piewar Khotal, but the assault could not be delivered on that side. We then threatened the enemy in the rear, and attacked and carried Peiwar Khotal about four in the afternoon." The Afghans who had received large reinforcementf on Sunday evening, fought desperately and lost heavily in men and material. The British loss is computed at 80 killed and wounded.

### The Plague of Addresses, &c.

The Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise have now taken up their abode in Rideau Hall. They have been delighted with their reception, and are now, no doubt, equally delighted that it is over. Surely never was potentate or prince, governor or any other man, so addressed before. He must be more than mortal, if he has not more than once, in the course of his progress, muttered to himself, "a plague upon your addresses." The custom of presenting addresses seems to be growing; if Shakespeare's line is true of any custom, it is true of that particular one, it is "more-honored in the breach than the observance." In the case of the arrival of a distinguished personage like a governor general, one address from the whole body of the people might very well be presented. Weeks previous to the arrival, a committee might be formed in the capital, and meetings held all over the country, and the resolutions of welcome passed, be forwarded to the committee who might then draw up an address embodying the general sentiments of those resolutions. The presentation of the address might be committed to the hands of some dignatary of the land. What a blessed relief it would be to the distinguished personage to think that the business was over once for all. Why should the members of every corporation, society, the heads of institutions in every city, town and village in which the distinguished personage stops, come forward with an address of mingled welcome, compliment and flattery? This presentation of addresses is a dreary business, wearisome to the presentee and not elevating to the presenters, and ought, like all nuisances to be much abated.

If the presentation of addresses has grown to be a nuisance, daily newspaper reports of the movements of great people, or of any public event, are coming to be an infliction. They are an infliction, however, which need not afflict any one, as no one is compelled to read them. Your modern reporter leaves nothing to the imagination of his readers, he jots down the most obvious and trivial facts with complacency, and thinks that the more lengthy his report is made, the more graphic it is. He is happy if he can procure a list of names that will fill quarter of a column, though very few, save the individules named, can feel the slightest interest in it. He is great at describing ladies' costumes, and if he can only lengthen his report by a line or two, will describe the cut and colour of a man's coat. He is particularly fond of drawing distinguished personages' protraits in pen and ink, and always egregiously fails to convey any correct idea; they are only less offensive than rough wood cuts from photographs which sometimes adorn the daily papers. He never draws a line between what is impertinent to notice and what is proper to mention. His spirit of curiosity grows till he looses all judgement as what is right for him to say or leave unsaid, and he helps to create a very unhealthy taste in the public whom he serves.

### Rosamond's Secret.

Miss Armour, in "Rosamond's Secret; a Romance of Fredericton," though she only goes back fifty years, introduces her readers to personages and usages of society so different from those they see around them, and to which they are accustomed, that they find themselves in a strange world. They are many living who remember very distinctly, Fredericton in the days of Sir Howard Douglas, and recalling the tone of society, the glories and "costly splendor" of Government House, under the sway of that fine old English gentleman, scholar, soldier, "statesman," friend of Wellington and Walter Scott, and of his amiable and accomplished lady and his lovely daughters, the grand jollitications in the mess room of the officer's barracks, the sports on the old race course, they will think (if they see with the same eyes,) with Miss Armour, that the days of romance and history have vanished, and that chivalry has entered on the days of prose and hard pan." The grand days fled after the introduction of Responsible Government. Reform and progress have crushed out customs and usages that make life very pleasant and beautiful—to a favored few. A lady of Miss Armour's naturally conservative and romantic turn of mind reverts with delight to "ye olden time," which she sees glorified through a golden haze, and turns with distate from the dull and democratic present.

Miss Armour has a very appreciative eye for beauty and splendor and color. She is never tired of depicting the charms of her heroines—Mary Douglas and Lady Rosamond—of describing their costly robes and dresses, their diamonds and their jewelry—she revels in descriptions of the stately English castle, and noble hall, the residences of the noble and great, but she does not introduce her readers into the houses of sober citizens or the huts of hardy settlers, probably because most of them, while familiar with modest homes have no knowledge of aristocratic abodes.

Lady Rosamond Seymour, the heroine is a visitor at Government House and friend and confidant of Mary Douglas, the lovely daughter of Sir Howard. She mingles in all the splendid gaieties of the celestial city. Thrown in the society of Guy Treveleyan of 52nd Regt., she—but that is her "secret." Treveleyan falls in love with Rosamund, but does not declare his passion, and, gives no sign of the secret fire that is consuming him, except that his countenance assumes "a puzzled expression," which is a source of speculation and anxiety to his friend Mr. Howe, Private Secretary to the Governor. Rosamond's father arranges a marriage for his daughter with her cousin Gerald Bereford—who in every way is a desirable match. Oobedient to the will of her fond parent, and of her diplomatic aunt, Lady Bereford, Rosamond goes to the altar to be sacrificed, keeping her "secret,"—"that was more than life—a soul within—a burning, smouldering fire around which clings the shuddering form of outraged hope." She makes a devoted wife, and really seems to enjoy the splendor and excitement of her position. The "puzzled expression" comes often into the countenance of poor Guy, but he manages to sustain existence, amongst the gaieties of Fredericton, with fortitude, entering with particular zest into the sport of skating.

Rosamond's husband enters the British Parliament, and is one of the most active supporters of the first Reform Bill. His excessive labors undermined his health and he dies abroad, ignorant to the last that Rosamond had a "secret," and confident that he possessed her love. Rosamond is rewarded for her noble "self sacritice." Guy declares his love, and the romance ends with marriage.

Miss Armour, Tory in politics, must have had a sly pleasure in killing off the reformer. Gerald Bereford and marrying her peerless Rosamond to such a fine representative of aristocracy, chivalry and romance, as Guy.

But Rosamond's secret makes only one part of the story. There is a realistic side to the book as well as a romantic side. The authoress has a profound veneration for old Sir Howard, who was truly a paternal Governor, and does full justice to his endeavors to advance the agricultural and educational interests of New Brunswick. The fire in Fredericton, the destruction of old Government House, the great fire in Miramichi, affords her opportunities of graphic description. Sir Howard ruled the Province during the last undisturbed years of the old system of Government, and a faithful and graphic picture of the capital and the province at that time would be interesting. Miss Armour's "Rosamond's Secret" is an endeavor that way—but let our readers secure her book and judge for themselves.

### Oddfellows' Meeting.

Last Monday evening, Grand Master, Gilbert Murdoch, head of the I. O. O. F. in the Maritime Provinces, and several of the Grand officers, made an official and social visit to Fredericton. After business was transacted, on the invitation of the members of the Victoria Lodge, they adjourned to the Barker House where a number of brethren and a few favored guests were congregated to meet them, and sat down about 10, p. m., to "the festive board", laid out in "mine host's" best style. The head of the table was taken by Mr. G. F. Coy., N. G., supported on his right and left by G. M. Murdoch and Hon. W. Wedderburn, Mr. R. Atherton, was seated at the foot, and at the right sat Dr. Ellis, with P. Master Barnes of St. John, on his left. The city, the bar, the clergy the schools, medicine and the press were represented.

After the company had done full justice to the tempting comestibles, "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" which received no impetus from the reeking bowl, commenced. The loyal toasts were given, and responded to *con amore*. The toast, "His Excellency the Governor General and Princess Louise," drew forth from Hon. Mr. Wedderburn very eloquent and appropriate remarks, the speech of the night, in fact. He dilated on the arrival of the Marquis and Princess, on the spontaneous outburst of enthusiastic welcome with which they had been greeted, on the many claims to esteem the Governor General possessed from his family rank, his own abilities and culture, and his parliamentary record, and dwelt with feeling, on the position of his Excellency's amiable and accomplished consort, Princess Louise, entrusted by her loyal mother, to the care and loving protection of the people of Canada. In the course of the evening, Mr. Wedderburn, in the unavoidable absence of the Attorney General and Mr. F. P. Thompson, M. P. P., responded to the tosts of "His Honor the Lieutenant Governor" and the Local Legislature." He had much to say and said it well, for the character and career, the legal abilities and legislative experience of His Honor, but did not waste much time or eloquence in praising or criticising our Legislators.

Grand Master Murdoch, in answer to the toast, "the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., detailed a number of interesting facts, regarding the position and the progress of the society in the lower provinces. He spoke of the terrible conflagration that swept over, and devastated St. John in 1877, and of the noble manner in which the Oddfellows all over the continent had ministered to the necessities of those of their brethren who suffered by the fire, so that they were placed above the need of applying to the relief committee. He gracefully alluded to the handsome contribution made by Victoria Lodge of Fredericton, and spoke of the present prosperous condition of the St. John Lodge, who were enabled this year, to pay back part of the debt of gratitude, by subscribing to the relief of the victims of the yellow fever in the South. He gave the members of Victoria Lodge an invitation to visit their brethren in St. John, who now, by the way, are erecting one of the handsomest buildings in the city. P. M. Barnes of St. John and Ellis, modestly pleaded the lateness of the hour, as an excuse for not speaking at length to this toast. Mr. P. Moore, Treasurer of Portland, spoke for the officers of the Grand Lodge, while he admired the portly and imposing personal appearance, and admitted the capacity of some of them, he appeared to doubt if they represented the best ability or character of the order.

The other toasts on the lists of the Chairman and the vice, "the bench and bar," "the press," "the ladies," "the city corporation," "our guests," "our brethren wherever disposed throughout the world." Victoria Lodge, No. 13, I. O. O. F. were well responded to by brethren and guests. The toast of the Host and Hostess was given, and received with great applause, and brought forth a short and telling response from the Host. The company broke up about half-past one in the morning, after a most pleasant and successful sederunt.

### City Council.

There was a full Board at the regular monthly meeting of the City Council last Tuesday night. Reports of the payments of accounts for Roads and Streets, Fire Department, City Hall, Administration of Justice, Wharf, &c., total $712.95 were submitted; cheques were issued, $6 to Dennis Hanlan for services as special policeman during Exhibition week; $8.40 to City Treasurer to reimburse him for money paid on freight and cartage of coal from St. John, $10 to Thos. Smith, $12 to Albert Schleyer, $12 to Fred Todd, for taking care of hose; $33, a month's pay to each of the three Policeman; $9.80 to City Treasurer, for additional insurance on Steam Fire Engine House; $400 to Alms House Commissioners.

The Auditor's report of the School Account was read and approved. The total Dr. account including Permanent account $282.87, and annual expenditure $12,127.25 cash in People's Bank amounted to $14,403.45.

The School Reports were ordered to be published. Several appeals from assessment were referred to the committee, and a report was read from the said committee, recommending that certain parties named be relieved from taxation.

A retail in lieu of a wholesale license was granted to C. S Brannen. Permission was given to Wm. Aiken to transfer a license. Mr. S. D. Macpherson was appointed a School Trustee in room of Mr. C. H. B. Fisher, whose term is up. A report in reference to the town clock, from Mr. Fenety was read.

A lease for 21 years will be granted to A. G. Edgecombe, of a lot on the lower part of York Street, near the railway station, on conditions that a right of way to the rear be reserved to the city; that $10 be paid by lease; that the city be not called upon to make allowance for improvements; that the lease be not granted until all arrears of rent are paid.

A committee was appointed to consider an application from the Blind Institute of Halifax for $38.18, due for the board and clothing of Charles Cole, formerly an inmate of the Alms House.

Authority was given to put $3000, at 2 per cent., insurance on the Exhibition Building.

A memorandum of amounts of rents due from ground and butcher stalls was ordered to be placed in hands of the City Clerk for collection.

The petition of A. S. Crawford, praying for a lease of the lower ferry for ten years, on his procuring an assigment of the lease at present held by Mr. Gill, was granted on condition that he will provide a first class boat to commence running at the opening of next season.

Council adjourned.


☞ You can buy the best and cheapest Sewing Machines in Fredericton from Miller Brothers, opposite City Hall. They have all kinds. Call and see them. Sold on easy terms by monthly payments.


On Monday evening about half-past eight three men, Godsoe, Blizzard and Etchings returning to their homes near Morrison's Mill, got into an altercation, a little below Rose Hall. It appears that they had two or three glasses when in town, sufficient to put them in a quarrel-some mood, and quarrel they did, over the question who had stood most drinks? The language they used, interlarded with many an oath, was not choice, they did not stop to pick out terms, and Etchings in reply to something Blizzard let fall called him "a liar." "You should not" said Blizzard laying his hand on Etchings shoulder "call any man a liar"; a reproof that came very well from him as he is the other's uncle,—whereat Etchings in after disregard of his reprover's age and relationship struck at, and stripped him and brutally kicked him in the face when down, cutting his eye and drawing a great deal of blood, leaving him senseless. It appears that Godsoe after the assault ran off along with Etchings, but returned to look after Blizzard; as he was assisting him to get up, Etchings came up again, not urged by compunctious visitings of conscience for the damage he had done to his relative for instead of assisting him on his feet, he snatched his watch and chain from him. He might have done this on a freak, (the watch and chain were found next morning on the spot, and is now in the hands of the police Magistrate.) A couple of young men Nichols by name passing seeing Blizzard, who was then standing with his face all covered with blood inquired of the other two, "what they were murdering the man for?" Explanations, and then a lively row ensured. Etchings managed to get hold of a big stick and struck one of the Nichols aad then bolted, jumped the fence into Judge Fisher's yard, Nichols' after him, some men coming up from the mills and hearing a disturbance and learning the cause, rushed into the yard, but left it without catching the offender. In the meantime the Police Magistrate had been notified of the row, and he sent off the police force to the scene. As Godsoe and one of the Nichols was taking Blizzard a big club was flung at them which knocked Nichols' down, and Etchings was seen to jump the fence, and run down the road. He was captured at last by the Police near the railway crossing, and along with Blizzard and Godsoe was marched into town, followed by a large and excited volunteer escort.

It is possible that the Police Magistrate after a full hearing of the case will send Etchings up for trial at the county court.

PHONOGRAPHY.—Last Monday afternoon, by permission of the authorities, Dr. Armstrong, of Queen's Co., explained to the student teachers of the Normal School, assembled in the hall, his new system of phonography. He first spoke of the great advantages of short hand writing, then gave an account of Pitman's system contrasting it with the one invented and perfected by himself, illustrating the differences between them by drawings on the blackboard. He exhibited his own method by several diagrams. As far as we can judge Dr. A.'s system appears to be preferable to that of Pitman which is now in general use—in as much as it is simpler—requires fewer movements of the hand in forming words, and looks more flowing and easy. An arrangement was made by which Dr. A. engaged for an exceedingly moderate fee from the whole school to impart, in six lessons, his art to the student teachers, who will thus be put in possession of an instrument, which, when by practice they are able to use familiarly, will be a valuable aid to them in their studies and in other ways. Sufficient attention has not been given in schools generally to instruction in short-hand writing.

It appears that there are some suspicious characters lurking about the city. The prowler who robbed Mr. Guiou's store, and occupied Mr. Edgecombe's barn, is thought to be the very identical thief, who picked a pocket last Wednesday night in the house of Mr. J. W. Barker. He is in Goal. A mysterious occurrence took place one night lately. A young fellow who keeps an eating house, and who sleeps in a tavern in town, on going of to rest found his bedroom door locked, not wishing to disturb the house he slipped into another room which was occupied, and laid himself down in a vacant bed, placing his unwhisperables in the pockets of which there were papers and cash to the amount of $10 under his pillow. At sunrise he rose went to his own room the door of which he found unlocked. Its occupant had flown, on searching his pockets he found his cash gone, nobody in the tavern knew who the stranger was, how he got into the bedroom, or how he slipped out, but they have a strong suspicion that he left it richer than when he entered it.

The *Canadian Monthly* for December, the contents of which we noticed last week is a fine number. The most striking, if not the most pleasing article is that by Goldwin Smith. The world is out of joint with the quandam Oxford Professor. His Berlin and Afghanistan is a very bitter criticism of the "jungo" policy of the Beaconsfield government all through the eastern troubles. He is a more pronounced Russophel than even Mr. Gladstone in his sympathy with the Cazar and the Russian soldiery, and in his detescation of the "unspakable Turk. He says little about the causes that have led to the war in Afghanistan, but he sides with Sheere Ali; the fiercely assailing the British rule of Inaia, and declares that the present condition of the nativcs is more miserable, depressed and hopeless than it was before the conquest of the country, a hundred years ago. We do not think that the tone of his article will please the majority of the readers of the *Cruadian Monthly*.

Last Saturday, St. Andrew's Day, there was a meeting of the Fredericton St. Andrew's Society, in the Waverley Hotel. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

W. B. JACK, D. C. L., *President.*
JOHN MCINNIS, 1st. *Vice-President.*
J. R. HOWIE, 2nd. *Vice-President.*
J. J. FRASER, *Treasurer.*
REV. DR. BROOKE, D. D., *Chaplain.*
H. M. MATHERSON, *Secretary.*
ROBT. THORBURN, *Marshal.*
DANIEL HUSSUACK, *Piper.*

The day was patriotically remembered, and the hope was expressed that the Society, which was never sounder financially, will strengthen its manifestations of natural spirit in the future.

WARNING TO CONSTABLES &C.—We have been requested to notice the following case. Eben Doyen, constable of Douglas, for neglecting to hand over certain monies collected by him from delinquent taxpayers, under executions placed in his hands by Michael Yerxa, Esq., J. P., was on the complaint of that gentleman summoned before J. L. Marsh Esq., who imposed on him a fine of $50. We hear that it is the intention of those having authority, to strictly enforce the law in like cases, and that proceedings have been taken not only against some other constables but against a Justice of the Peace for the Parish of Canterbury for a neglect similar to that which brought Doyen up before the Police Magistrate.

Dover Bros. have advertised in this issue a great sale of Dry Goods at remarkably low prices. Read their advertisements in another column.

The British Parliament met on Thursday 6th. In the speech Her Majesty regrets that "the action of the Ameer of Afghanistan has compelled her to send an expedition into his territory, and she has taken the earliest opportunity of calling Parliament together and making to it the communication required by law." The opposition will not move an amendment to the address. Though they condemn the Government for not summoning Parliament before the commencement of war, they will, now that the country is commited to it. After the supplies are passed, Parliament will rise, and will probably, meet again, after a short recess, and turn their attention to measures of internal refor m.

Like his predecessor, the Marquis of Lorne, is a poet and an author. His elevation to the Governor Generalship, and his arrival in Canada, have drawn attention to his works. The Toronto *Mail*, last Monday, reviews a poem by the Marquis, entitled "Guido and Lita,' a Tale of the Reviera, and says it reveals a noble and generous spirit in its author, with a passion for whatever is high and true, and it is bold to prophesy that "he will, even, as his predecessor, live within a nations heart," on this continent. A splendid edition of the poem has been published by Willing & Williamson, Toronto.

SOCIAL.—The sixth and last of the series of dances held under the auspices of the Fredericton Social Club, came off last Tuesday evening in the Temperance Hall. Though not so well attended as some of the former meetings, it was a very enjoyable affair. The Club intend to hold another series, commencing on Wednesday, January 1st, New Year's night, and continuing for the five successive Wednesday evenings, and they hope that all the friends who have encouraged them in the past will join in making the new series of Socials a success.

MYSTERIOUS.—Policeman Burden, from information received, discovered two trunks in the sewer above Government House yesterday forenoon. He brought to the Police Office where they ware examined, and it was found that one of them belonged to a young man named William Hanson, who at last accounts worked in this city with William Babbitt, Painter, but at the present time his whereabouts is not known. It certainly seems strange that the owner would hide them away in such a place when having friends in the city.

TEMPERANCE MEETINGS.—We have received the following note, which we are requested to publish. In Prince William there is great interest shown in the Permissive Bill, and the canvas for it is strong. Three Temperance Meetings have been held in the Parish, which were so well attended and so successful, that the friends of the Act, feel assured that their many efforts to overthrow intemperance will be successful.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Stuart Rogers the celebrated reader and actor on the platform appeared in the City Hall before a small audience. He has a strong and pleasing voice, and he has great power of facial transformation. He read parts from Shakespheare and several comic pieces, and his assumption of various characters was most amusing. He deserved a bumper.

We have received a cop