

TIT-BITS.

A poet sent to an editor a contribution entitled "Why do I live?" and the editor answered, "Because you sent your contributions by mail instead of bringing them in person."

A naturalist has discovered that crows hold a solemn court at which offenders are tried—a sort of crow bar. It is said that no bird is now tried without caws, and that a true bill is indispensable in every case.

A good story is told of a strong prohibitionist, who is not now a resident of Rockville, who was expatiating on the horrors of intemperance, and getting worked up on the subject, he exclaimed: "Why, we farmers should cut down all of our apple trees. Cider is just as bad as liquor, and as long as we have apple trees we will have cider." Upon being asked what they should do for "pie timber," he replied, "Why, use dried apples, to be sure."

HER VIEWS ON THE CHINESE QUESTION.—He (solemnly)—You had a very narrow escape last night, Miss Julia.

She—Merey, what do you mean?

He—Well, you see, I had a dream about you. I thought I was just about to kiss you, when the Chinaman rapped at the door, and I woke up.

She (after a pause)—The Chinese must go.

[Only the intimate friends of the families invited].

THE POSTOFFICE OF THE SEA.—Find on the map of South America the Strait of Magellan; look at the mountain hanging over; imagine the point of rock that leans the farthest out, and think of a barrel hung by a heavy chain swinging there. That is a postoffice. No postmaster stays there to deliver the mail, and no postman unlocks; in fact, it has no key. Yet it is a grand postoffice. Ships coming along that way stop, and their captains take out packages of letters that have been dropped therein, see if they can find any that wants to travel their way, leave a package which is to go in another direction. And the barrel swings, doing its duty day by day, without being watched, sending joy to many hearts.—*Buenos Ayres Herald*, after *Victor Hugo*.

An English correspondent of the *Philadelphia Press* states:—To twenty-eight families of Dukes, numbering 519 relatives who have held 1,013 offices during the last thirty-five years, the large sum of \$48,000,000 has been paid. Marquises, representing thirty-three families and having 265 relatives monopolizing 1,252 offices, have drawn something over \$41,000,000 during the same period. Earls are a most greedy set and a numerous one. Two hundred Earls have exerted their patronage in favor of 3,391 relatives, who have enjoyed the sweets of nearly 6,000 comfortable posts, which have entailed an expense to the country of more than \$210,000,000. Viscounts, to the total of sixty, with 963 relatives installed in 1,500 offices or so, have swept into their pockets the nice little sum of \$56,000,000, and 211 Barons, last in order of precedence, but not numerically, have secured for 2,492 "connections" more than 4,000 preferments, of the aggregate value of \$155,000,000. In other words, 532 aristocratic families, with 7,991 relative, have got hold of 13,888 offices, which are kept up at an annual charge upon the British taxpayers of about £16,000,000.

1709. From observations compiled by Mr. Beddoe, it appears that the tallest men in Great Britain are to be found in Galloway, where the records taken gave an average height of 5ft. 10½in., without shoes. In England, the border counties have an equivocal superiority over the rest of the country. Thus the average for the whole of England being stated at 5ft. 6½in., the observations for Northumberland gave an average height of 5ft. 8½in.; for Cumberland and Westmoreland, 5ft. 8½in., Westmoreland being fractionally ahead of Cumberland; Yorkshire also is high in the list, and so are Lincoln and Cornwall. But if Yorkshire, as a county, is not at the top, it would seem that the average stature of the men in the neighbourhood of Richmond and Gilling, in the North Riding, and near Benthall in the West Riding, surpasses any other, being 10ft. 10½in., the next highest local average coming from the neighbourhood of Flegg, in Lincolnshire, which gave nearly 5ft. 9in. From the many observations taken, Mr. Beddoe concluded (a) that townsmen are smaller than countryfolk; (b) that climate appears not to have any influence on stature; (c) that tall men are as a general rule fairer than short men; (d) that the tallest Englishmen are descendants of Norsemen and Frisians.

BOOKS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—How the books accumulate there! The museum is one of the five libraries in the Kingdom to each of which is secured by law a copy of every publication the copyright of which is registered at Stationers' Hall, the other libraries being the Bodleian at Oxford, the public library at Cambridge, the faculty of advocates at Edinburgh, and Trinity College, Dublin. Authors and publishers often feel it a hardship to be compelled to present copies of their books to some or all of the other libraries, but rarely do they grudge the copy which goes to the great national library. For the year 1883 the number of accessions to the library obtained in this way was 10,612 volumes, besides many parts of volumes, pamphlets, music, maps, &c. But this represents but a small proportion of the yearly additions to the library. For the same year there were presented 2,692 volumes, and purchased 2,350 volumes, these latter being principally publications in foreign countries. The gross total of additions of all sorts for the year was 94,300. Some idea of the extent of the library may be gained from the size of the general catalogue, consisting of over 2,000 volumes, most of which are still in manuscript, although a beginning was made in 1881 with the labour of printing it. The amalgamation of the several catalogues from which it is compiled has taken years to complete. About a fifth of the task was finished when the present reading room was built, and now, nearly thirty years after, the work is on the eve of being completed.—*Chamber's Journal*.

PORTOBELLO HOTEL
TO LET.

A new Hotel is being completed, and will be ready for occupation on or about the first of October. This will be a grand chance for a man with a knowledge of Hotel business, as Portobello is one of the most popular places in the vicinity of Halifax or Dartmouth. Apply to
E. W. WRIGHT,
No. 1, Bell's Lane.

GROVE & WELLS,
Portrait Artists,
STUDIO, SICHEL'S BUILDING,
85 Hollis Street.

Portraits in Oil, Water, Crayon, and India Ink.

Instructions given in Portrait, Landscape, and Flower Painting

In Oil and Water Colors!

BRAS D'OR HOTEL,
BADUECK, C. E.,

ALEX ANDERSON, Proprietor.

Commodious Sample Rooms. Good Stabling on the Premises, with First-Class Teams can be procured at reasonable rates.

Passengers driven to any part of the Island. Baggage conveyed to and from boats free.

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ALLISON COLLEGE,
SACKVILLE, N. B.

JAMES R. INCH, L. L. D., President.
The Fall Term of 1883-4 begins Thursday, Sept. 3rd. Matriculation Examinations will be held on the following day. Cash Prizes will be awarded the two Matriculants having the highest marks. Students not looking forward to a degree will be admitted to classes for which they are prepared without the full Matriculation Examination. Expenses moderate.
Ladies admitted to all the privileges and Degrees of the College, on the same conditions as Student of the other sex.
For full particulars send for a Calendar.

ACADIA STEAM
Biscuit and Confectionery Works,
Water & Barrington Sts
Plain and Fancy Biscuits,
80 Varieties to Select from.CONFECTIONERY,
All Qualities and Prices

N. B.—Special Prices for large orders.

WM. BANNISTER
144 GRANVILLE ST.,
HALIFAX, N. S.,
Importer and Dealer in Watches, Clocks,
Jewelry and Optical Goods.

A fine assortment of the latest Parisian and New York Patterns of
Silver Knives and Forks, Napkin Rings, Card Receivers, etc., etc.

AN OFFER! AN OFFER!!
The best designs of the famous WALTHAM WATCHES, direct from the Manufactory, at Prices that defy competition.
Remember the Number—144 Granville Street.

NEW ACADIAN HOTEL.

GRANVILLE ST., HALIFAX, N. S.,
W. E. POPPLETON, Proprietor

Rate per Day, \$1.50.

PERMANENT BOARDERS ACCOMMODATED.

First-Class Sample Room in connection

N. B.—ELECTRIC BELLS on every Floor.

James Dempster & Co.,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Doors, Sashes, Frames, Inside and
Outside Venetian Shutters,
Stair Rails, etc.
SOUTH HOLLIS STREET

Near Gas Works,
HALIFAX, N. S.
NEW FRUIT STORE

R. M. BROWNE,
52 SACKVILLE STREET,
General Commission Merchant and Agent for

FOREIGN & DOMESTIC FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Every description of W. I. Produce always on hand at Lowest Wholesale and Retail Prices. Courteous terms and Orders solicited. Goods shipped with despatch.

R. G. SMITH,
BOOK & JOB PRINTER
125 Hollis Street.

Every description of
LETTER PRESS PRINTING

At Moderate Rates. No specialty made in any particular department, but excellence of workmanship and promptness of execution.

ICE CHESTS FOR SALE.

APPLY TO
JAMES FRASER,
32 HOLLIS STREET.

Tea! Tea! Tea!

GRAND OPENING!

The Hong Kong Tea Co'y
Will open a BRANCH STORE at
139 — Argyle Street — 139
HALIFAX, N. S.

On Saturday, 1st November, 1884, with the largest and choicest selection of NEW SEASON TEAS, ever offered in Canada.

PRICE LIST—25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, best 50c. p. lb. COFFEES—Fresh Roasted and Ground every day.

Price List—20c, 25c, best 30c. per lb. ELEGANT PRESENTS given to purchasers of Tea.

SUGARS of all grades Retail at Refiners' Prices. All GOODS warranted to give satisfaction or the money will be refunded.

HONG KONG TEA COMPANY,
139 Argyle Street.

T. N. Baker's Express
—FOR—

MONTAGUE GOLD MINES,
A Two-Horse Express Team

Will leave every day, Sunday excepted, between

Montague Gold District and
Dartmouth,

making Two Trips each way daily. The hours of Departure will be—

From Dartmouth, 10.30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
" Montague 7.30 a.m. & 3.30 p.m.

Passage Fare—40 Cents for single, and 60 Cents for return passage.

TOBACCO & CIGARS

150 boxes Tobacco
300 caddies do
110 Thousand Cigars
For sale low by
A. McDougall & SON.