## PROGRESS, HOLIDAY EDITION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14.

## **BYGONE DAYS RECALLED**

IDAY FDITIO

OLD TIMER'S REMINISCENCES OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS.

e Fortune Hunting Craze that Struck t. John Years Ago-The Finding of Pearls ad Discovery of Coal Mines-Excited tigging Gangs. v.

A generation or two ago there was a craze for getting suddenly rich by the discovery of a mine of some kind. Everyknew that we had an abur dance of rock, granite, lime stone, albertite, manganese, if not aureated deposits such as they had over the way. The prospectors were busy in all directions. Even pearls were not uncommon finds in one or two of the streams in Kings county, a county so rich in brilliants, flashing their meteor lights through the pages of journalism, and sometimes focussed in our legis-lative halls, whether in Ottawa or Fredericton, to say nothing of extinct stars which have exhausted themselves in the floods of light they poured forth while in a state of haunted by a vision of a pair of eyes, coruscation moving in their respective perhaps of velvety brown, or clear truthful orbits

Yes, there were pearls discovered in not matter which, so long as they are hers. those days, so a good many persons be-"Whether her hair be raven, or golden, lieved; but somehow or other I never saw but one, and that one was trotted out and did duty about once a year, by being exhibited in a certain St. John jewelry store, and served as a capital advertisement for said establishment. The announcement ran something like this: "A beautiful pearl, pure as crystal, was found in the Mill stream, K. C., by a lumber operator, and may be seen at the store of -Prince William street. It is believed that pearls abound in large numbers in King's county, and a good business will yet be done in this line." But it was the same old pearl every time. Then the finest Turkish stone for 'sharpening tools was discovered upon the Miramichi, equal to the best the world could produce. Like the pearl fisheries, this mine of wealth also came to naught. Then we had black lead better than any other country could produce. After undermining the projecting rock and soil from whence starts the Cantilever bridge at the falls, we gave that enterprise up as a bad job; if anybody will take the trouble of walking upon the shore just be-low the east end of said bridge, he will see what fearful inroads have been made at the base of the hill, by the black lead miners.

As mining was all the rage at the time to which reference is now being made, it was discovered by no less a person than one of the newspaper reporters that a most valuable coal deposit existed near Flem-ming & Humbert's foundry, near where now stands our railway freight houses, and the coal was of the best quality. The announcement set everyone agog. Persons flocked over in hundreds to see what a coal mine looked like, while many predicted that St. John, "the Liverpool of America," would yet have a fleet of coal barges supplying the world, equal to the port of Sydney or New Glasgow. Sure enough, there were the men digging for all they were worth, or rather for what they got, turning out the coal in shovels-full; by this time they had got down some five feet, so that the tops of their heads could only be seen, like those of the soldiers in the trenches just before the tall of the Malakoff and Redan. The crowds, unawed by the Russians, hung about the pit's mouth. But it soon got noised abroad that the Mine had exploded. and no loss of life. It turned out that this deposit of coal had been made by Messrs. Flemming & Humbert in the fall previous, nearly in front of their premises, and by this time (last of February) the ice and snow had completely banked it up, and the top of the coal was some feet below the rface-so that when the Reporter was passing along he took in the whole situation, and being in want of a paragraph, the happy thought struck him that he would nething worth while even though it might border on the apocryphal. But it might border on the apocryphal. But this hoax contained fact enough to give it a the first one they could. No! It was the reasonable foundation-for the men were in a deep pit working downwards. How-

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT 24th Describes What n one has got Th I don't think there is anything in th whole plan of nature that is such a puzzle to me as this falling in love! There is an awful mystery about it, well calculated to cause the boldest heart to quake, because

FALLING IN LOVE

you never know what is going to happen to you. "Let him that thinketh he stand eth take heed lest he fall"-in love ! surely that text expresses the daily and hourly danger to which we are exposed, better

than the wisdom of centuries. We go forth in the morning cheerfully, bravely. We belong to ourselves, and we don't love anyone else as well, but we little know what my happen to us ere we clamber once more into our little white bed, perchance to toss restlessly where we erstwhile snopzed in peace till the brazen tongue of the second breakfast bell drew us like a magnet from our couch. It is a solemn thing to lie awake a whole night blue, or inscrutable exquisite grey, it does

"Whether her hair be raven, or golden, Whether her eyes be hazel or blue I know that my heart will cherish that color, Some day as the loveliest hue."

You go to church some morning arrayed in respectability as in a garment, and also in a high shirt collar and a tall and shiny hat, little dreaming that it is the last Sunday you will sally forth in manly meditation fancy free. You carefully select your seat, choosing

one which commands a good view of the choir, and leaning forward inhale the imaginary perfume emanating from the lining of your hat for a few decorous

Having thus cleansed your conscience and shriven your soul, you settle yourself and begin to take notice

And just one seat in front she sits, you know it is she from a certain indefinable feeling in the left centre of your waistcoat. She is a stranger in town, a visitor. And you leave that church carrying in your mind only one distinct impression; and that is a picture of a head of soft brown hair surmounted by a navy blue bonnetnavy blue goes so well with brown haira-shell like ear undisfigured by the barbaric ear-ring, and a delicious vision of creamy cheeks, halt hidden by the detestable mor strosity which has gained an undeserved popularity this winter, the fur ruff, and which makes the fairest of Eve's daughters resemble—pardon the thought—an old fashioned "Jack in the box." Or perhaps your fate overtakes you in the ball-room

You array yourself for conquest in general way. Of course you expect to make an impression, you would not be human and a man if you didn't, but nothing is farther from your intention than being im-pressed yourself. If the dear girls will insist on loving you how can you help it? irresistable, and you have scarcely been in the room five minutes before your hostess introduces you to her niece from Montreal Montreal girls are proverbially fetching, and this one has that rarest and sweetest combination of charms, -hazel eyes and fair hair

Need I say more? Of course not. You are not more than usually susceptible, but before that evening is over you are quite certain that if all the angels have not got hazel eyes and golden hair, they ought to have, that's all. Now, of course, I know that numbers of people walk into love and crawl into love. Perhaps the great ma jority do, but I am only speaking now of those happy few, who have illustrated in their own persons the good old phrase, "Falling in love," who fell suddenly and swiftly, and stayed there. Who met their fate, and knew by a sudden electric flash that she was their fate. It was not that they were afraid there would not be enough

dear old love-at-first sight that our grandcertainly digging out coal and they were fathers and grandmothers believed in, and enced but wh so often atraid is very much out of fashion now. However, whether he come slow or fast, Love rules the world still, and he is likely to wield his sceptre for many a century to come, and to find his way into any heart he

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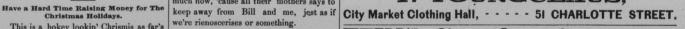
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er, they soon touched the bottom. The Reporter's wages were raised that week. AN OLD TIMER.

A SUBJECT FOR PITY

The Valuable Lesson in Geography Which Astonished a Southern Gentleman.

Not long ago, a friend of mine, who was a native of Nova Scotia, was taking a trip up the Hudson, on one of the river steamers During the voyage, he made the acquaintance of a South Carolinian, who proved to be a most entertaining companion. In the course of the conversation the Southerner remarked : "You are an Englishman, are you not?'

"No," answered my friend, "I am from Nova Scotia."

"Nova Scotia!" gasped the warm blooded on of the South; "where is the place, any-

way <sup>pri</sup> Now Nova Scotians are proverbially patriotic, and this one was no exception to the general rule. So he answered with dimits

"It's up beside Nova Zembla." "It's up beside Nova Zembla." "For heaven sake," said the Southerner, "how do you live there?" "tob we live in the bears' dens in winter

"Oh, we live in the bears' dens in winter and the Indians dig us out in the Spring,"

and the Indians dig us out in the Spring," was the reply. The Southerner gazed pityingly at his new triend for a moment, and at last his sympathy found a vent in words. "God help you," he cried; "come and have a glass of mulled claret!"

Where the midge dares not venture Lest herself fast she lay. If Love come, he will enter, And find out the way.

GEOFFREY CUTHBERT STRANGE.

#### LINES

Written after looking at some views in the suburb of St. John, N. B., in the Dominion Illustrated.

I know how fair the sunny mornings rise O'er those dear distant hills— I know how deeply blue the arching skies, What peace the landscape fills.

When evening's beauteous lights their tints unveil, And softly shines afar, In tender radiency, o'er hill and dale The lovers' twilight star!

I know how fresh and free the strong air blow Up from th' encircling sea! Ah me! ah me! the years that come and go, They bring no more to me.

The dreams that nestlod round my heart the while I walked those pleasant ways, And looked, while wrapped in youth's gay morning smile, Through her transporting haze!

These all have flown—but does it look the same To other eyes than mine? Do others mark the well known glories flame At morn and versper time?

Do feet that bound t - the heart's music still Frequent each lovely spot? Then, then-my star, abine on o'er dale and hill, Shine on, and miss me not! Marian J. Wills.

friends with everybody, 'cause its dooced hard gettin' any money for Christmis, but when we try to get good friends everybody says there's somethin' in the wind. I don't think the maiden ladies across the street will have us to go any more errinds, 'cause when we went fer their bakin' sugar we bought it from a honest grocery man and put the sand in ourselves, so we didn't haveter buy so much as they told us to, and when we went fer the woman-down stairs's vinegar she said its the weakest vinegar she ever saw, so I guess she won't have us any more either. A young fellar's got a scratch across his fourhead and a girl got a long one on her rist, and pas says there's sold. 'cause the cait din't break loose afore we got all the caits didn't break loose afore we got all the tickets sold, 'cause we didn't lose actors, 'cause they said what me and Bill kep all the gait receets last time, and what we put stuff in the blackin' what wouldn't let it come of they're faces again. Any-

it got, 'cause a feller wouldn't know what it was comin' so soon only somebody tore the slips of the calendar. Just as soon's a feller gits his sled irons bright all the snow goes off and then they gits rusty again. Pa says he thinks he'll move over to the North End and then he'll buy me a bote go's kin sail along the streets till the snow comes. I don't think I'd like ter be a northender much. Me and Bill's been trying to be good friend's with everybody, 'cause its dooced hard gettin' any money for Christmis, but when we try to get good friends everybody

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