

I would remark, however, that all American fishermen do not "sail in the same boat." Some are industrious, plodding, respectable men, while others are despicable tricksters, lawless, unprincipled men—half-fishermen, half-smugglers—and who for years have been the pests of the coasts of the Dominion. These men it is who, by their illegal acts in fishing, and by their bravado, have designedly sought to embroil the authorities in unpleasant controversies, and, unfortunately, they find many abettors in so-called American politicians to fan the flame.

You refer to the question of "bait" as being one that might be possibly conceded with gain to the Canadian fishermen. Well, let us hear what American statesmen say on this point. A report was submitted to the Senate in 1886, wherein they say:

"The committee believe it to be clear, beyond dispute, that the right to fish within three miles of the Dominion shores, is of no practical advantage whatever to American fishermen, and they have immense quantities of bait in their own waters, and the United States vessels would only be going out of their way to fish there."

Such were the absurd statements that the Senate and Congress were called upon to accept as the report of the combined wisdom of a special committee, after months of research in collecting evidence.

With a persistence worthy of a better cause it had also been affirmed that by means of their "immense purse seines" they could capture the schools of fish as they approached the shores, outside the three miles limit. Thus they expected by this most destructive mode of fishing to fill the coffers of that huge "combine," the "Boston Fish Bureau."

What cared they for the destruction of the myriads of small fry and fish that were taken only to be thrown away? What was it to them that they had aided to destroy their own fisheries? What cared they for others? They would cast their "immense purse seines," up to the three miles limit, and let Canadians take care of themselves.

Let us go a-fishing, and a-fishing they did go. The immense purse seines were well stored on board a fast-sailing steamer; telegraphic signals had been cabled ahead between the well filled boats and the steamer, and all things went on "swimmingly;" but, alas! the fish would not "bob up serenely," for after they had toiled all the season of 1886 they had to return to port and tell a most deplorable tale: that their fishing had been a comparative failure, and that there had been a loss of 222,000 barrels of mackerel, worth some \$2,200,000, on the season's catch compared with the previous year, and with a corresponding loss in codfish and herring. But what cared the "fish bureau?" Up went the price of mackerel to \$18, \$20, and \$22 per barrel, and the public were the sufferers.

The season of 1887 was equally disastrous. The reason assigned for the failure was that the weather was stormy, and that they were able to use their immense purse seines very rarely, and they were afraid of having them destroyed in the shoal waters surrounding the coast.

Let it not be forgotten that the Canadian Government has protected the fisheries from 1857 at a large cost, and that neither the authorities nor the people feel disposed to suffer them to be destroyed by such vile appliances as are used by American fishermen.

The lawlessness of the fishermen is well exemplified in their efforts to destroy the Maryland oyster beds, but what is more deplorable is the fact, that the State authorities are powerless to prevent it, owing to the connivance of the magistracy—at least such is affirmed.

SPECTATOR.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE DEPTH OF THE SEA.

THE survey ship *Egeria*, Captain P. Aldrich, R.N., has, during a recent sounding cruise and search for reported banks to the south of the Friendly Islands, obtained two very deep soundings of 4,295 fathoms and 4,430 fathoms, equal to about five English miles, the latter in latitude 24 deg. 37 min. S., longitude 175 deg. 8 min. W., the other about twelve miles to the southward. These depths are more than 1000 fathoms greater than any before obtained in the Southern hemisphere, and are only surpassed, as far as is yet known, in three spots in the world—one of 4,655 fathoms off the north-east coast of Japan, found by the United States steamship, *Tuscarora*; one of 4,475 fathoms south of the Ladrone Islands, by the *Challenger*; and one of 4,561 fathoms north of Porto Rico, by the United States ship *Blake*. Captain Aldrich's soundings were obtained with a Lucas sounding machine and galvanised wire. The deeper one occupied three hours, and was obtained in a considerably confused sea, a specimen of the bottom being brought up. Temperature of the bottom, 33.7 deg. Fahr. —*English Mechanic*.

REAL ESTATE IN NEW YORK.

VARIATIONS in the value of New York and vicinity real estate are a somewhat astonishing series of phenomena. In 1834, \$750 each for lots on Broadway and Fourteenth Street was scouted as a crazy demand. In the same year \$1,200 for a lot on Fifth Avenue and Fourteenth Street was a wildly speculative venture; but in 1835 such lots were sold at auction for \$13,000; in 1836, for \$28,000, and may now be worth \$100,000. In 1836, for Anthony J. Bleeker sold lots in Harlem for \$1,000 each. Ten years later the same lots sold for nine dollars each over and above incumbrances, and ten years later still sold for \$2,500 each. In 1836 he sold sixty-one lots in Paterson for \$42,000, and in 1842 resold them for \$3,000. Since then they have

commanded upward of \$150,000. In 1835 he sold lots on Forty-third and Forty-fourth Streets for \$400 each, resold them in 1836 for \$900 each, and after the financial crash of 1857 sold them once more for \$3,000 each. Just after Central Park had been laid out, he sold lots on Fifth Avenue, near Sixtieth Street, for \$700 apiece that are now held at \$35,000.—*Harper's Magazine*.

MAX O'RELL ON AMERICANS.

MAX O'RELL gave on Wednesday week for the first time his new lecture on "America and the Americans," at the Birkbeck Institution. With considerable vivacity and good humour the genial Frenchman reviewed the prominent points of our cousins across the water, taking occasion *par parenthèse* to denounce in no measured terms the politicians of the country. No man with any self-respect has anything to do with affairs of State, and when a Senator gains by some mischance an invitation to a select party, says Max O'Rell with characteristic exaggeration, the master of the house, on hearing his name announced, first enjoins on his servants to keep an eye on the silver, and then sees that the hats and coats in the hall are counted. With all their openness and cordiality there exist in some American cities certain circles more reserved and select than any in Mayfair or the Faubourg St. Germain. On the journey out from Liverpool a party of American men played poker incessantly with an entirely fresh oath for every card they threw down. On the Sunday morning a young lady was playing sacred airs on the piano, and the poker party coming into the saloon stood around, and for two hours sang hymns and psalms with the greatest cheerfulness and energy. Max O'Rell has, he is sorry to say, met men in other countries who swore; he has also met, he is glad to say, men who sang hymns, but he believes America to be the only place which produces men who do both with equal facility. The American girl possesses many charming qualities, but she overdresses; and the word simplicity is not found in the vocabulary of the New York dressmaker.

THE LAST SUPPER.

RUDOLPH STANG, of Düsseldorf, has lately completed, after more than ten years' work, a copper-plate engraving of Leonardo da Vinci's great fresco, "The Last Supper." It is believed that this is the first time the famous picture has been directly studied by the engraver. Raphael Morghen's splendid engraving was made from a drawing of a copy of the original painting, and all other plates issued since its publication in 1800 have been more or less imitations of it. The history of Morghen's work is instructive. The monks at Castelazzo, hearing of the fame of the fresco in the refectory of the monks of Santa Maria delle Grazie at Milan, commissioned Marco d'Oggiono, a pupil of Leonardo, to paint them a copy for their refectory. But being himself a distinguished artist, he could hardly be expected to abstain from introducing some variations of his own. A drawing of Oggiono's copy, which was in far better preservation than the original, was made for Morghen by Matteini, himself an excellent artist, who was more intent on the artistic perfection of his work than on its fidelity to the original. Then came the engraver, who is credited with having produced a work of consummate technical excellence, but which cannot claim to be an exact reproduction of Leonardo's picture. Stang betook himself to the spot, studied the fresco in its present state, and made use of all available sketches, and original sketches made by the painter for his work, some of which were to be found in England. The result is what he believes to be a reproduction in copper of the work as it came from Leonardo's pencil, executed as perfectly as modern art can effect. The engraving has been much praised by German art critics.—*Court Journal*.

ANTS AND BUTTERFLIES.

IN a recent number of the *Journal* of the Bombay Natural History Society, Mr. Lionel de Nicéville describes the manner in which the larvæ of a species of butterfly (*Tarucus theophrastus*, Fabricius) are cultivated and protected by the large common black ants of Indian gardens and houses. As a rule ants are the most deadly and inveterate enemies of butterflies, and ruthlessly destroy and eat them whenever they get the chance; but in the present case the larvæ exude a sweet liquid of some sort, of which the ants are inordinately fond, and which they obtain by stroking the larvæ gently with their antennæ. Hence the great care which is taken of them. The larvæ feed on a small thorny bush of the jungle, the *Zizyphus Jujuba*, and at the foot of this the ants construct a temporary nest. About the middle of June, just before the rains set in, great activity is observable on the tree. The ants are busy all day running along the branches and leaves in search of the larvæ, and guiding and driving them down the stem of the tree towards the nest. Each prisoner is guarded until he is got safely into his place, when he falls off into a doze and undergoes his transformation into a pupa. If the loose earth at the foot of the tree is scraped away hundreds of larvæ and pupæ in all stages of development, arranged in a broad, even band all round the trunk, will be seen. The ants object to uncovering them, and immediately set to work to put the earth back again; if this is taken away again, they will remove all the chrysalids and bury them lower down. When the butterfly is ready to emerge in about a week, it is tenderly assisted to disengage itself from its shell, and, should it be strong and healthy, is left undisturbed to spread its wings and fly away. For some time after they have gained strength they

remain hovering over their old home. In one case a butterfly fell to the ground before its opening wings had dried, and a soldier-ant tried to rescue it. He carried it back to the tree with the utmost care, and made several attempts to assist the butterfly to hold on again, but finding his efforts unavailing he left the cripple to recover himself. On his return, seeing no improvement, he appeared to lose all patience, and, rushing in, bit off both wings and carried the body into the nest. But high-handed proceedings of this kind are very unusual. It is said to be a curious sight to watch the fragile and delicate butterflies wandering about, all feeble and helpless, among the busy crowd of coarse black ants, and rubbing shoulders in perfect safety with the ordinary fierce, big-headed soldiers. A larva of another species thrown down among them as an experiment was immediately set upon and torn to pieces by the ants.

ACROSS GREENLAND ON SNOW SHOES.

DR. FRITHJOF NANSEN's daring attempt to cross Greenland from east to west on snow shoes has, it appears from the telegrams reaching this country on Saturday, proved successful, and the Scandinavian Professor may well be congratulated on having accomplished one of the most remarkable exploits in its way ever chronicled in the annals of geographical discovery. Not alone is the region of the frozen peninsula he has traversed quite unknown to us, but the means he has adopted for making his way over the ice fields and seas that stretch from shore to shore are entirely novel as applied to the purpose of inland exploration in the far north. All who have ever travelled during the winter season in either Sweden or Norway must know something of the capability of the "skydder," as the six and seven and even nine feet long "runners" of the country folk are familiarly called in those lands. By the aid of this foot gear the peasant can journey from village to village at a speed that is almost incredible to those who have never witnessed a Scandinavian snow-shoe race. On "skydders" the Norwegian sportsman pursues the "schneppe" and small game over the snow-fields and mounds of the Dovrefeld region, literally running down his quarry, crossing cracks, crevices, and fissures that would otherwise be impassable with ease and the most perfect safety, sliding up and down precipitous hill sides and slopes in a fashion that is unpleasantly suggestive to those unaccustomed to this means of locomotion of a broken neck and bruised limbs. But the idea of turning the "skydder" to account for the purposes of traversing the unexplored regions of the Arctic Circle in the interests of geographical science has never before been seriously mooted. Dr. Nansen, who is a scientist of some standing and the curator of one of the great antiquarian museums of Scandinavia, happens to be also the champion snow-shoe skater of the North, and he was of opinion that an attempt to cross Greenland on these "runners" was not alone feasible but more likely to prove successful than if tried in any other way. And the event has justified the Professor's opinion. Nansen started from Christiania towards the end of last spring, the expenses of the expedition being defrayed by a wealthy compatriot, Mr. Gamel. He reached the eastern coast of Greenland towards the end of June, and began his journey across the mainland in July. On Friday last, Mr. Gamel received a telegram from Captain Olsen, of the Danish steamer *Fox*, which arrived at Farsund in Norway from Ivigut in Greenland, stating that on October 4th, Nansen's expedition had arrived at the colony of Godthaab, on the west coast of Greenland, after having traversed the inland ice from the eastern shores. All the party were well, but as the last vessel from Greenland this season had left before they arrived, the explorer would not be able to reach Europe until navigation commences again late in the spring of next year.—*Morning Post*.

MUSIC.

MME. ASHER LUCAS.

ON Saturday afternoon this lady, who had achieved quite a reputation as a child pianist, made her *début* in Toronto at the College of Music, where her husband is one of the faculty. Her selection of subjects was a wide one, covering Bach, Saint Saens, Chopin, Schumann, Raff, Grieg and Liszt. In presenting such a variety of styles, it is hardly to be wondered at if Mme. Lucas did not succeed in impressing on the audience any strong individuality of her own, unless it might be a certain impatience or tendency to hurry her piece without taking time to phrase in either time or tone colour. The colour of her performance is rather level, contrasts of light and shade being infrequent; but her points of attraction are many. She is a player of absolute certainty of touch; her *technique* is excellent; her execution is easy and flowing, and she is graceful in her pose and play. Her good qualities are those which come from proper and consistent training, and her faults are those which might be caused by nervousness or an indifferent instrument.

THE SPANISH STUDENTS.

ON Monday evening another pleasing attraction was offered by Messrs. Nichols & Howland in the shape of a quintette of Spanish students, who will play at the Permanent Exhibition the remainder of the week. Their music is agreeable and characteristic, their costumes are the national ones of Spain, and Mr. L. L. Ryerson, who is with the party, is amusing, so, though the musical value of the programme may not be great, its entertaining powers are plentiful. B NATURAL.