

things about Mr. Justice Burbridge, who held a sitting of the Court of Exchequer in your City lately. Judge Burbridge is quite as highly esteemed here as he is in the province of his nativity down by the sea; and his public career but emphasises the well established fact that the sons of Nova Scotia always give a good account of themselves when entrusted with responsible positions, either within the limits of their own province or in the wider range of Dominion affairs. His tenure of the office of Deputy Minister of Justice was marked by excellent judgment, sound legal knowledge, and administrative ability of a high order. The experience gained in that capacity stands him in good stead in his present position as Judge of the Exchequer, and I quite endorse the opinion expressed in the paper above referred to, that "he bids fair to become an ornament to the Bench of the Dominion."

OTTAWA.

DIXIE.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

It has been reserved for Vermont, one of the old commonwealths of "Uncle Sam's Land of Liberty," to provide a law, which may be pleasing to the "Prohibitionists," but very distasteful to those who believe that such statutes are not only a violation of personal liberty, but in reality more despotic than any laws that may be found among Russian edicts.

The clause referred to reads as follows:—"It shall be the duty of the sheriff or his deputy or any constable to search *without warrant* any wagon, carriage, cart, sleigh, sled, trunk, box, hand-box, satchel, bundle or clothing conveyed or *worn* along any road or street for intoxicating liquor," if he (the officer) on information or suspicion thinks there is a chance of finding any by so doing." This law is now in full force, and must be looked upon as one of those Puritanical freaks that have occasionally seized our New England neighbors ever since the days of the "Salem Witchcraft" of Massachusetts, and the "blue laws" of Connecticut. We hope that a second "Whiskey Rebellion" may not be the consequence of such fanatical ideas; as this would seriously interfere with gracefully seating the President-elect in his chair, which rests with one leg on the "Whiskey plank" of the Republican platform.

The Colchester *Sun* and Halifax *Chronicle* are just now having a little tilt on the question of "unrestricted reciprocity" or "commercial union" between Canada and the United States. Really the political aspects of these two countries at present are so entirely different, and so much opposed to each other, that any argument, in my opinion, either pro or con, on this subject, is a useless waste of time and paper. Both the *Chronicle* and *Sun* are mistaken in some of their deductions as to the real "cause of the prosperity of the South since the Civil War." To make a short statement of the facts, I will remark that the great manufactories of the North have nearly all been removed to the South, where bread, meat and labor are cheaper and more easily obtained than in the North, and where the transportation of the raw material is much less than when it was taken from the South, either by rail or water, to the New England States before the war. The same may be said of the foundry and iron manufactories, etc., that have sprung up in various parts of the South since the war. As to the "Tariff in the United States," it affects the producer of cotton very differently from the manufacturer. The planter or farmer has to pay a duty, on an average, of 47 per cent. on almost every article that he needs for consumption in his family, or for use on his farm; whilst the capitalist has his money protected by the government beyond its value, in his great manufacturing establishments, and yet the operative who works for him cannot go to a store and buy a yard of cotton cloth any cheaper than the farmer who raises the "raw material." If Canada possessed the climate and soil to produce tobacco, cotton, rice, sugar and other semi-tropical products, she might compete with the South in these commodities, but the laws of nature have forbidden it, and, consequently, she must content herself with the goodly heritage that she has within her borders, and press forward in the competing race for wealth and prosperity with other countries.

It was not the "wealth" alone of the "Northern capitalist" that made the South "blossom as the rose," it was her magnificent heritage of millions of acres of rich arable, alluvial lands, her great forests of yellow pine, the different varieties of oak, chestnut, walnut, poplar, ash and hickory, together with her collective beds of iron, coal, lime, plaster, marble, zinc, tin, copper and gold, as well as her rice, cotton, tobacco and sugar plantations, etc., which are not surpassed by any other country, that have been the principal factors in the rapid development of the South since the days when slavery ceased to mar one of the fairest portions of God's heritage to man.

It is too late now for politicians to speculate on the subject of "commercial union" or "unrestricted reciprocity," as the golden moment for England and Canada passed away when England refused to recognize the Independence of the Southern Confederacy during the late Civil War in the United States. If this stroke of policy (as was advocated by the far-seeing statesmen of England and the Southern States,) had been consummated, Canada and the Southern States would have long since had a permanent reciprocal trade, and their interchange of products would have added untold wealth to each section. Besides this, the power that seriously threatens the peace of this country at no distant day, would have been more properly balanced on the map of North America, and then the "tail-twisters" of the British Lion would not have been so numerous as they seem to be in the present Congress.

I believe that "bank robbers" and "absconding debtors" make up the sum total of "Reciprocal Trade" just now between Canada and the United

States; and, I presume, if this business continues as brisk as it has in the last few years, that a portfolio will have to be created by our Government in order to decide as to the amount of duty to be collected from this source of wealth to our country. Really, I can see no more harm in placing a heavy duty on "bank robbers" and "absconding debtors" than on a "yankee casket" that comes "through the lines," containing the mortal remains of some loyal Canadian that is being sent thither for burial with his ancestors.

The *Presbyterian Witness* informs us that a Catholic Bishop of Cuba has forbidden the members of his church to bury their dead in the Baptist Cemetery in Havana. I presume this might be called a "retaliatory Bull," as the Baptists do not permit Catholics nor even good old orthodox Presbyterians to participate with them at the Communion Table. I think this Bishop ought to take a more charitable view of the subject, as a "dead Catholic," who might by chance be buried in a "Baptist Cemetery," cannot possibly injure the Catholic Church any more than a "living Baptist" can by excluding Catholics or any other religious denomination from participating with them in the Communion Service.

VETERAN.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Planing mill and building material factory of Messrs E. Gibson and Sons is situated at 83 Pleasant St. in this City, close to the water's edge. Since the death of the late proprietor, Mr. Errington Gibson, the business has been taken hold of by his two sons, Mr. Fulton Gibson and Mr. Edwin Gibson, who will continue to run it under the old style of the firm of which they were members. The building was partially burnt down in June of '87, but was speedily rebuilt. Entirely new machinery has replaced that destroyed by the fire, comprising a Woodworth planer, a Resawing machine, the only one of its kind in the Lower Provinces, Planer and Matcher, Circular Saw, large Moulding Machine, (one of the best in the city) Morticing, Tenoning, and other wood-working machines. These are run by a 40 horse-power engine with a boiler of double that capacity, and give employment to from 12 to 15 hands. The main building is 80x30 feet, exclusive of the Engine house, which is a brick enclosure adjoining the factory. The materials used and worked up into the various forms required by the builder and carpenter, are pine, spruce, birch, white-wood, &c., and a speciality is made of pins and brackets for electric lighting apparatus, in which this firm has a large business. All their machinery is of Canadian make and manufacture, and being found entirely satisfactory, adds another proof to that already established fact, that in point of manufactures in this line, if not in all, Canada can hold her own. The place resounds with the hum of industry, and doors, window frames, sashes, moulding and general building material, are turned out in large quantities. Business is reported very good, and as the Messrs Gibson are both young men well trained to their particular line of trade, they will doubtless meet with the success which their exertions merit.

The history of Soap-making may be traced back to very ancient times. The invention of soap is ascribed by Pliny to the Gauls, and he gives the Germans credit for manufacturing both hard and soft soaps. From them the Romans learned the art, but soap was for a long time principally used by them as a wash for the hair. Since that time, however, its use has become so universal, that at the present day we could almost as easily exist without bread as without soap. A visit to a modern soap factory cannot therefore be without interest. An invitation having been extended to us by Mr. C. F. Mott, manufacturer of the celebrated "Justice" soap, we gladly availed ourselves of the opportunity of visiting his factory situated on Argyle St. Briefly described, soap is a compound formed of alkalies and oils or fats. Amongst the materials used by Mr. Mott may be mentioned tallow, cocoa oil, rosin, (a small per centage only) alkalies, borax, paraffine or vaseline, and perfumes, all of the finest and purest qualities. What is technically known as a "Starting kettle," holding some 22,000 lbs., first receives the crude material. Of these enormous cauldrons there are two in the establishment, they thoroughly wash and heat the entire mass, which ready, is conducted by pumping to the next receptacle of like capacity. This is done by means of a pipe that can be lowered to the bottom of the kettle, enabling the operator to pump from one kettle to the other. This process strains out in its passage every particle of dirt or residuum. In the last kettle it is boiled "on the finish." It is then pumped up to the top story into a tank called the "re-melter," covered with felting, where the temperature can be regulated during the process. Having remained here for a certain length of time the still incomplete soap passes to a "crutcher" or mixer, where the various materials are thoroughly communicated, and the borax, vaseline and perfumes added. It is now ready to be passed to the frames and to the cutting slabs, 5 feet long by 15 inches wide, where it is cut up into the required size. Each slab will cut up into 63 pieces weighing in the green state 16½ ozs., which will scale when dry 16½ ozs. full; hence the name "Justice" soap. After being cut it goes to the drying room and is placed on racks, where it remains for a limited time until ready for packing. The bars of soap are now received by the pressing machines, both manual and steam power, the latter the invention and manufacture of Messrs W. & A. Moir, Engineers and Machinists of this city, which has been found to give unqualified satisfaction, and of which Mr. Mott speaks in the highest terms, as also of the other work done by this firm. Amongst the latest improvements pointed out by Mr. Mott were the adoption of iron frames which are now superseding the old fashioned and obsolete wooden ones, enabling the manufacturer to cool and turn out the soap in much shorter time. A 20 horse power engine with a 50 horse power boiler supply the motive power and heating. Candles of the best quality are also manufactured for the use of