

who were present did ample justice to the tempting and savoury refreshments set before them. The gallery which was thus transformed into a banquet hall, was built by George IV. for a picture gallery, and is principally noted for the splendid portraits which it contains. It has recently been decorated by Grace, and several important alterations and improvements have been made. Thus, the old and rather heavy chandeliers have been replaced by the more modern gas sun-lights. The walls have been decorated with light diaper patterns and armorial emblems, and the wainscoting has been cleaned and repaired. The roof has also been repainted. We may mention that the magnificent wedding cake described in the *News* last week, occupied a conspicuous place on the table during the *dejeuner*.

VICTORIA SQUARE, BRANTFORD, ONT.

The town of Brantford is prettily situated on the north bank of the Grand River, about 28 miles west of Hamilton. Its site is a high ridge of land giving the town a very attractive appearance, especially in approaching it from the East. Its streets are broad and airy, and it has besides the beautiful Victoria Square, an illustration of which we give in this issue. Its citizens, therefore, have facility for enjoying fresh air. The workshops of the Grand Trunk Railway at Brantford, (through which the Buffalo and Lake Huron RR. runs) have done much to revive the prosperity of Brantford, which at one time was threatened to be borne down by municipal burthens. It is now in a very flourishing condition, having many factories of various kinds, and being surrounded by a splendid agricultural country, occupied by farmers, many of whom are wealthy and nearly all energetic and enterprising.

THE WELSFORD AND PARKER MONUMENT, HALIFAX, N. S.

The "Welsford and Parker Monument," at Halifax, was erected by voluntary subscriptions, in honour of two brave Nova Scotians who fell in the Crimean war. It was publicly inaugurated with much ceremony, on the 17th of July, 1869. A most eloquent oration was delivered by the Rev. George W. Hill, from which the following brief account of those two faithful soldiers is taken:—Major Welsford was born in Halifax. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 101st Regiment; his mother was a Halifax lady. He was educated principally in his native Province, at King's College, Windsor; on leaving which he was gazetted Ensign to the 97th Regiment in 1832. He continued with the same regiment, serving in various parts of the world and rising by the usual gradations until 1859, when he attained his Majority. In 1854, in consequence of the sudden promotion of his Colonel, the command of the regiment (then serving in the Crimea) devolved upon Major Welsford; he not only was never absent one day from duty, but receives honourable mention in Lord Raglan's despatch of 23rd December, 1854, as having "with two hundred of his men aided in repulsing a Russian sortie." He was not only a brave soldier, but a sincere and humble Christian; and associating with others like-minded, held religious services in his tent. "At length dawned that day which brought grief into a thousand homes, and clad in sable ten thousand forms." At six o'clock a.m. the 97th paraded; 200 being detailed for the storming party, and 169 for the ladder party, which was under the command of Major Welsford. It was their trying duty to wait six hours in the trench, for the French signal, which no sooner flashed out than Major Welsford gave the "word," "Ladders to the front." Rushing forward they placed the ladders, scaling the parapets under a murderous fire, their commander cheering them on. He lost his life just entering the embrasure of the Redan in the hour which saw the consummation of that dearly won victory.

Captain Parker was born in Lawrencetown, some few miles from Halifax. His father was Captain Smyth Parker, of the 64th Regiment; his mother a Nova Scotian lady, a descendant of one of the earliest settlers in the Province. He was educated at Horton Academy, and on leaving it he received an Ensign's commission in his late father's regiment. In 1843 he was promoted and exchanged into the 78th Highlanders, with whom he served for twelve years in India. In 1855 he was promoted as Captain to the 77th Regiment, at that time in the Crimea; and distinguished himself in a skirmish with the Russians near the Redan by shooting two of them with his revolver, and carrying back to the camp the dead body of a brother officer; and so winning the thanks of the general commanding the Light Division and a recommendation for the Victoria Cross. He, too, only scaled the blood-stained Redan to die!

All that is known of his death is contained in a short paragraph from a letter written to the *United Service Gazette*:—"After the rush became general, one officer of the 77th and I stood alone on the ground which we held so long and paid for so dearly. He turned round and asked me my name. I told him. He said he would recommend me to my Colonel. Poor fellow, he had scarcely spoken when a shower of rifle bullets flew past us, and he fell into the ditch!"

The monument was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. George Lang, the Lion being entirely the production of that gentleman's artistic chisel.

THE GREAT FIRE IN ST. JOHN, N. B.

Another of those disastrous fires to which the cities of Quebec and St. John, N. B., periodically fall victims, broke out in the latter city on the morning of the 1st instant. Soon after it became known on the streets that a large fire was raging, our special artist made for the spot and sketched the scene—at that time indescribably grand—which we reproduce on another page.

The fire appears to have originated in Walker's ship chandlery store, on Ward street, which contained a large quantity of inflammable material, and thence spread to Water street, consuming in its course some thirty buildings, representing fifty thousand dollars' worth of property. At the first outbreak of the fire there was a deficiency in the supply of water, and consequently some delay before the engines got to work. About seven o'clock the steam ferry-boat was brought up alongside the wharf, and for a time did good service, the fire being at last got under at about one in the afternoon. The following is a list of losses:—Walker's ship chandlery store, totally destroyed, insured; Smith's blacksmith's shop, totally destroyed, not insured; a number of wooden buildings, owned by Mr. George Bedoll, uninsured, total loss; Lawrence's brick building, total loss, uninsured; two wooden buildings, no in-

urance; large brick building, lately erected by Allan Bros. on Water street, insured for ten thousand dollars; a wooden building, owned and occupied by James Harris as a foundry store, insured; five or six other buildings in addition to the above, particulars not ascertained. Of the \$50,000 estimated loss only \$30,000 was covered by insurance.

LABRADOR VIEWS—SHOOTING THE RUYDER DUCK.

The ruyder duck, called by the natives of Labrador by the euphonic name of "Uilnikotco," is migratory in its habits, visiting the coast usually in the month of April, but only seen by the natives while on the wing. Flying in large flocks they therefore not only furnish admirable and exciting sport, but are really worth bagging, as they generally weigh about eight or nine pounds. According to our informant their colours are "capriciously" variegated, and their general route towards the Labrador coast is by the river St. Augustine and its neighbourhood. At the several points of settlement the inhabitants watch for them with eagerness at the proper season, and make it a point to bring down as many as possible. Their passage towards the coast generally lasts but three or four days, during which, beginning at dawn, they are seen for several hours in large flocks winging their way to the seaside.

THE HAUNT OF THE MINK.

The Canadian mink (*Mustela Vison*), called by the Canadians the Vison, belongs to the family of the Mustelidæ, or weasel tribe, of the order Carnivoræ. This little animal, whose fur is held in high esteem by fur-merchants and connoisseurs, is too well-known to our readers to require any description from us—the fur, which resembles that of the sable in colour, though it is shorter and more glossy, being far more common in this country than anywhere else perhaps on the face of the earth. The fineness, durability, and beauty of this fur has made it a universal favourite, and large numbers of skins are exported every year to Great Britain, whence they are again exported to the Continent, especially to Russia, where they meet with a large sale among the richer classes.

Our illustration of the haunt of the mink (or minx, as it used to be called)—low, swampy marshland and underwood, where the frog, their natural prey, most do congregate—is from a sketch after nature by a German artist, who, as far as the fidelity of his drawing will go, might have studied his subject in the forests of Canada, instead of the woodlands of Germany.

TRIAL OF A BALLOON PROPELLER.

Inventors who are giving their attention to the great balloon problem, which the siege of Paris raised anew for solution, will not be disheartened by the failure of M. Richard in "Le Duquesne." This balloon had attached to it machinery by which M. Richard hoped to control its direction. The machinery consisted of two screws, easily worked, and rotating only at a rate of twenty-five rotations per minute. The diameter being four yards, the motion of the screws in feet per second was about sixteen, or five or six times more than the rapidity intended to be given to the balloon—three miles an hour. M. de Fonville, who reports the experiment, pleads that the conditions were unfavourable. Night was chosen instead of day, and the reigning current was a strong southwest wind, which was against the aerial voyagers escaping the Prussian lines. Considerable interest was manifested in the experiment, and many French savans collected at the Orleans station to see the balloon off. It was evident from the commencement that the directing machinery failed. M. Richard and his three sailor companions had no more control over their balloon than aeronauts whose balloons have no directing machinery. In other ways they were unlucky. As the balloon descended, one of the projecting screw axes caught the ground, the car was upset, and its four inmates dragged under it for several hundreds of yards in a perilous position. The three sailors were only injured slightly, but M. Richard was believed to be dead when he was picked up. Notwithstanding the failure of this attempt to navigate Le Duquesne, M. de Fonville promises to make another experiment, the scene of which is to be the Crystal Palace, London, provided he can obtain the consent of the authorities there.

Many curious facts of interest are coming to light, as to matters in Paris during the recent siege. For example: No one was allowed to borrow more than 50 francs on any article, no matter what its value might be. In spite of this, the pressure for money was so great that the store rooms of the Mont de Piété became encumbered with articles, which 150,000 persons of all classes had pledged. There were no fewer than 100,000 watches, and 25,000 clocks, diamond necklaces, and bracelets of fabulous values. There were also evidences of the distress to which persons of rank had been reduced—one piece of lace after the other, the last cashmere shawl, or a pocket-handkerchief embroidered with a coronet, of such fine material that it was still possible to raise three francs, the lowest figure allowed, upon it; gentlemen's gold-headed canes, even ordinary riding whips, no fewer than 2,000 opera glasses. No fewer than 2,300 poor wretches had pawned their mattresses, and starving seamstresses had pawned 1,500 pairs of scissors.

Terrible times in Warrenton, Va., are thus depicted: A few weeks ago, a dentist came to town, and advertised that he would "remove all of a person's teeth for \$2, and insert a new set for \$10, besides giving six months' credit." The Warrenton people are very fond of bargains, so there was a rush for the dentist's office. He was busy for two weeks pulling teeth, and at the end of that time half the people had empty gums, and a bone dust factory in the neighbourhood doubled its number of workmen so as to grind up the teeth. While the people were waiting for the dentist to fit them with their new sets, the abandoned scoundrel eloped with the hotel-keeper's wife; and now there are two or three thousand people in the town who cannot eat anything tougher than soup or farina. All the butchers have failed, and not a cracker has been sold for six weeks. One man, it is said, whittled out a set of wooden teeth for himself; but the first drink of whiskey he took—Warrenton whiskey—set them in a blaze, and his funeral came off the next day. The dentist will hear of something greatly to his disadvantage if he comes back.

VARIETIES.

Shillings were first coined, in England, in the year 1507.

A letter was lately dropped into the post-office at Niagara Falls, directed to "Schichagough, Illinois."

It is said the Princess Royal of England (the Crown Princess of Prussia) will shortly go to England on a visit to her Royal mother.

Two reasons why some persons don't mind their own business; One is, they haven't any business, and the other, they haven't any mind.

Should Mr. Spurgeon be spared, he will, in August next, preach his thousandth sermon. He will then make a special effort to raise £1,000 for new schools.

The Emperor of Germany has established a "cross of merit" for those women who have distinguished themselves during the war by their devotion to the German sick and wounded.

A league (of Churchmen) is about to be formed, and the mover (a High Church layman) has offered the sum of £100 as a nucleus for bringing about the disestablishment of the English Church.

The Boneville *Trumpet* bears the following motto under its title:—

"Independent—like it or lump it,
We'll tell the truth in the Boneville *Trumpet*."

A Roman correspondent, who holds an official position under the Holy Father, informs an English Roman Catholic nobleman that Archbishop Manning's elevation to the Cardinalate will be formally announced in a few weeks.

The *Charivari* has a caricature representing Britannia, with a hag-like grin, looking down upon France, lying out-stretched before her, and exclaiming: "Oh, no, Prussia has not quite killed her! It is not yet time to assist her."

A well-known English lord is said to have given the following instructions to his steward:—"We are coming down, a large party, in a day or two, to eat strawberries and cream. We shall want plenty of the latter, so don't let any of the cows be milked meanwhile."

A gentleman named Rose, having a daughter, named her "Wild," as in his opinion "Wild Rose" was a pretty conceit for a name. But when she grew up, and married a man named Bull, the combination of her Christian and surnames took the conceit out of the old man.

The Turkish Ambassador was at a public dinner recently, in company with some of the magnates of the land: the president gave as a toast, in compliment to His Excellency, "The Sublime Porte and the Turkish Ambassador." The waiter echoed it down the table, "A supply of port for the Turkish Ambassador."

French Gentleman, taking leave of English Lady.—"Well, Madame, adieu! As to the conduct of England towards us, I fear we shall retain—pardon me—the belief we have long had, that you are a nation of Shop-keepers." *English Lady.*—"Very well. Mistakes will always be made. We long had a belief that you were a nation of Soldiers."—*Punch*.

Mr. Henry Roe, a well-known distiller, of Dublin, has offered to defray the entire cost of the restoration of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in accordance with a design prepared by Mr. G. E. Street, the architect. Mr. Street prepared a report on the subject two years ago, in which he declared that the cathedral, when restored, would be second to no church of its size in Europe.

The Germans have quite an unsuspected genius—a veritable "call" in the art of requisitioning. They have requisitioned the tombstones! *Yolla!* In some of the village cemeteries around Paris, the Germans, on burying their dead, appropriated the tombstones of the French; and "between the lines" of the German inscription—generally officers—may be read that in French, "to my mother," "my aunt," "brother," regrets; "expect me, my Adèle," &c.

Several curious computations have been made concerning the sum of five milliards. One gentleman has discovered that if the amount had to be paid in sous it would take many thousand years for a single person to count out the coppers—that, in fact, if Adam had commenced the operation when at the age of sixty-five, and had lived into our time, he would only just have terminated the labour of handing over the war indemnity to Count Bismarck.

An orator at Montmartre summed up his idea of a republic by saying it was that form of Government under which every citizen, whether he worked or not, should receive from the public purse thirty sous a day for himself, fifteen sous for his wife, and five sous for each child. This he considered his right; and for that he would die; and the sooner he did it the better. So profound a political economist must see that thereby he would save his country thirty sous a day.

Two gentlemen being out early one Sunday in the suburbs of London, one of them remarked, "How plainly one can hear the London church bells this morning; did you notice it?" "Yes; I have noticed of late that the sound of the bells could be heard more distinctly since the opening of the new road. You see that it shortens the distance to town." "That's so; I did not think of that till you spoke," was the reply; and they both walked on, mutually pleased with having solved the difficult question.

A man out in Iowa asked the price of postage stamps, and was told "three cents," whereupon he asked if he couldn't have them cheaper if he took four or five. To this the accommodating postmaster responded: "We cannot sell them at that rate now. We could have done so until lately, but now the Government punches holes around each stamp for the convenience of the people, which so increases the cost that we cannot afford to make any discount." The satisfied customer cheerfully paid three cents.

Not long ago a respectable lady handed in at the head office in M— a telegram for transmission to her absent partner. The message was found to contain twenty-two words. The clerk observed that by omitting two words the charge would be reduced ninepence, and respectfully suggested that "Dear Husband," with which the telegram was prefaced, might be struck out. After some considerable hesitation the lady acquiesced, remarking, "Strike your pen through them then; he will see at once that I have had the words written down."