

railway and commercial subjects. In his prize essay he foreshadowed that political differences might divert the trade of the North-West from the Mississippi to the St. Lawrence. He opposed agricultural protection as unnecessary, and general protection as unwise, but advocated incidental protection to certain manufactures suited to the country, and asserted that reciprocity would be granted. He predicted that the St. Lawrence by its adaptation for steam power would yet distance its rivals, and was the first to call attention to the importance of the route through the Straits of Belle Isle as saving several hundred miles in the European voyage. He showed that with steamers, lights, buoys and beacons, the Gulf of St. Lawrence would be safer than the Gulf of Mexico, the English or Irish Channels. He advocated the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and showed the relief it would afford to the lake craft in winter and in seasons of depression, which view has been since proved correct by the fact that twenty thousand tons of lake shipping went out on the ocean in 1858 and 1859. He also pointed out that New England would for the future be a better market for Canadian breadstuffs than old England. Since this essay was published other prize essays have been written on Canada, and extensively distributed in connection with the Paris Exhibition of 1859, and many valuable publications have likewise drawn attention to this Province, in late years, all of which had the "Canals of Canada" of Mr. Keefer before their writers, while he wrote under every disadvantage, except that of trading new ground. His essay has, however, been described by the leading press of Canada, as a masterly one, exhausting the subjects on which it treats. The Government policy with reference to the St. Lawrence in the last ten years has been in accordance with the principles laid down in it, and his views with respect to a manufacturing policy have been adopted.

In 1859 he was again called into the Government service by Hon. W. H. Merritt, who was then Chief Commissioner of Public Works, and was sent for to survey the rapids of the St. Lawrence with a view to their improvement, and also to explore the country between the head waters of the river St. John in New Brunswick and the St. Lawrence, opposite the Saguenay, for the purpose of opening up the International communication by canal or railway.

In 1851 he finally resumed office under Government, and was appointed Chief Engineer of the Toronto and Kingston section of the Grand Trunk Railway. In the same year he was appointed to survey the line of the Grand Trunk from Kingston to Montreal, and also of the bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal, thus having the whole line and bridge in his hands. In 1852 the English contractors assumed the position of the Canadian Companies appointing their own Engineer. Mr. Keefer then went into general practice. In connection with the Grand Trunk it may be mentioned that he advocated the gauge of New York and New England for the Canadian line, so that cars laden in Canada could go without transhipment, in bond or otherwise, to New York and Boston, the only produce markets in the United States within our reach, and return in like manner with imports, to their place of destination. Portland had however foreseen that, without a peculiar gauge, traffic would branch off at Connecticut River and other points to Boston, and had bound the Sherbrooke road to her conditions. These in turn were imposed upon the whole Province, as the provincial gauge, by the Sherbrooke road. Mr. Keefer has, since its commencement in 1853, disapproved of the policy of the Grand Trunk Railway, in the location, construction and management of the railway, although, as one of the early promoters, he has always been favourable to the enterprise itself.

In addition to his professional engagements during the busy period which marked the commencement of the railway era in Canada, he was on the part of Canada prominently concerned, from 1849 until its passage in 1854, with the Reciprocity Treaty, and spent some time in Boston and New York with the United States Consul-General, the Canadian Department of whose report bears evidence of Mr. Keefer's labours, which contributed much towards the successful issue of this important measure.

During the period which has elapsed since 1852, Mr. Keefer has filled the positions of Chief Engineer of the Montreal Water Works, cost £200,000 sterling.

From 1857 to 1860 Stanstead, Bedford and Chambly Railway; Hamilton Water Works, cost £160,000; Hamilton & Port Dover Railway.

1861 to 1871, Consulting Engineer, Arbitrator and Referee in Chancery in Water Power Cases.

1872-76, Chief Engineer Ottawa Water Works, cost £200,000 sterling; Consulting Engineer Toronto Works, cost £400,000 sterling; Consulting Engineer of the London, Ont., Water Works, and St. Catharines, Ont., Water Works.

1878, Canadian Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition; besides having been as Consulting Engineer, or Arbitrator, connected at some time with most of the railways and public works of the country. Nor has his practice been confined to Canada. Twice he has been called into the adjoining Province of New Brunswick; and he has declined an offer from Major-General Fremont to go out to California, with a munificent salary, on a professional engagement in connection with the Mariposa mines. Besides his professional reports, some of his lectures have been published in one of which (that upon "the Ottawa") the only detailed descrip-

tion yet given of the mode of conducting the lumber trade is to be found.

The best testimony to Mr. Keefer's position is that of contemporary Engineers. The following is an extract from "brief history" of the Victoria Bridge, by F. N. Boxer, Esq., C. E., (pp. 27-28.)

"To Mr. Keefer was Mr. Stevenson indebted for all the valuable data collected and mentioned in Mr. Keefer's report, and this Engineer is justly entitled to the full credit of having designed the first plan of a bridge over the St. Lawrence which could have been successfully carried into effect, as has been subsequently proved by the construction of the Victoria Bridge on nearly the same site."

The Boston *Railway Times* says:—"The original design of this bridge is due to a Canadian Engineer, Thomas C. Keefer, Esq., whose published report in 1852 fixes the site and determines the general arrangement of the structure, which has been but little modified in execution. Also, he in a long and elaborate argument, demonstrates as far as such a thing could be done on paper, that a bridge could be built to resist the ice, and that its effect would be to diminish instead of increasing the winter floods."

THE FREE LANCE.

The champion shooter of the Dominion is Big Johnny Canadian.

In the United States, the East is being over- come by the Island-ism of the West.

"There's billions in it" is what the *Herald* and *Star* men say when they compare the French method of computation with the English.

There are two forces running parallel just now in Canada.

The Rine movement.

The Rye-ne movement.

While everywhere else in Canada, even in Manitoba, the weather was unprecedently open, in Nova Scotia there was plenty of snow. No wonder. It is the land of Blue Noses.

Brown, the weather prophet, capitulated like Bazaine, after the first failure, and without waiting to be asked.

Vennor has also failed, but he is a terror, and will not surrender till after a terrible fight, as did Osman Pasha.

A friend sends me the following fragrant story.

A few weeks since a gentleman who has made the study of odour a speciality, and who was desirous of trying experiments with the odour of a skunk, asked a French trapper whom he met in the street with a bundle of skunk skins, to bring him a couple of the secretory sacs, for which he was to receive a sum larger than the skin was worth. The circumstance was forgotten till one morning, as the gentleman came to town, he perceived the mephitic odour pervading the city. On arriving at his office he found two trappers, who, though they had none of the liquid about them, yet were saturated with the odour. They had brought seventy-two sacs, which were carefully packed up at the market. They said that they thought as one brought a good price, and as one was good so were a great many, and ever since they had been offered 25 cents for a sac they had been killing skunks. A policeman was detailed to watch the trappers lest their odorous package should be left anywhere in town or deposited in the river. Never were men more kindly or politely treated lest they should use these terrible weapons either upon individuals or the town. I am assured that there was sufficient odour in this small package to pervade the air from here to Toronto by being placed at intervals of five miles on the railway, or from here to New York or Boston.

A friend of mine has six children, ranging from the age of one to eight. These children are lucky. The mother treats them to toys and other presents on Christmas Day. The father loads them with toys and other presents on New Year's Day. It was New Year's Day and the father's turn to treat.

No. 1, aged 1½, female, got a Japanese rattle.

No. 2, aged 3, male, got a stable with six horses.

No. 3, aged 4, male, got an English drum.

No. 4, aged 6, female, got a French doll.

No. 5, aged 7, female, got a China set.

No. 6, aged 8, male, got a velocipede.

All were very happy and thankful. They would be very good the whole year. Never pest their ma. Never vex their pa. The day passed away deliciously, as they will in united families with bright, healthy children. When evening came, the children were tired and retired early to rest. The rattle was hushed and set under the pillow; the horses were stabled under the crib; the drum ceased to throb, and hung at the head of the cot; the French doll fell asleep in her little mother's arms; the china set was confided to mamma's care, and the velocipede was wheeled into the corner. When the father went the rounds to give the little ones the parting kiss, No. 6, aged 8, took him by the neck and looked up at him with eager eyes.

"What is it, Bud?"

The little fellow laughed.

"Is there anything else you would like Santa Claus to bring you?"

"Yes, papa," timidly.

"Well, tell me and I'll get it."

The boy closed his eyes gently, and an ineffable smile fluttered on his lips, as he murmured:

"A new prophecy by Vennor."

"A new poem by Paul Ford."

The next day the father came home with a *Witness* and a *Gazette* containing the wishes of his son.

LACED.

WHY AND BECAUSE.

Why are actors called Thespians?

Because one of the earliest was named Thespis, who, in a waggon at Athens, first acted Tragedy, 535 years before Christ. In his time Tragedy was carried on by a set of Musicians and Dancers, who introduced an Actor between every two songs. The Actor's discourse was called the Episode, and, being successful, Eschylus introduced two Actors, and Sophocles added a third, which brought Tragedy into its full perfection.

The first Comedy was also acted at Athens, on a scaffold, by Sallarian and Dolon, 562 years before Christ. Thus, Comedy being of earlier origin than Tragedy, it would be better, when speaking of them, to say Comedy and Tragedy. Shakspeare tried his "prentice hand" with Comedy, or, at all events, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Taming of the Shrew* belong to his early period.

In mythology, Comedy is represented leaning on a column, holding a mask in her right hand, by which she is distinguished from her sisters, as also by a shepherd's crook. Melpomene, the presiding muse of Tragedy, is generally represented as a young woman with a serious countenance. Her garments are splendid; she wears a buskin, and holds a dagger in one hand, and in the other a sceptre and crown. Perhaps the most beautiful modern idea of Tragedy is conveyed in the wonderful portrait of Mrs. Siddons, as the Tragic Muse, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. To parody Milton's phrase: She was the fairest of her predecessors; and if Time could rebuild his ruins, and re-act the lost scenes of his existence, he would present no female to match her on the Tragic stage.

From the answer to this question we learn the antiquity of the Drama—2,440 years old. It comes down so commended by time that it will be difficult for the Puritans to substitute for it any other kind of indoor pastime. By turning to the life of Mrs. Siddons, written by the poet Campbell, we find recorded in Volume I., page 127, in a foot note: "For many years, indeed as long as she lived, she gave an annuity of £50 a year to the poet Savage, that he might pursue his poetry and his studies undistressed." Fifty pounds sterling a year from an actress to a poet! It would tax the benevolence of the whole Montreal public to offer such a reward to our local poets who have to submit to the hard, very hard, drudgery of the Press, and that for a miserable pittance. Heavysege, when alive, was a credit to the Dominion! How did he die? Unhonoured! His mortal remains were followed to the grave only by a few of his conferees, who decked his coffin with flowers. And we have another poet, yet alive, who for richness of thought and beauty of imagery ought to be made poet-laureate of the Dominion, instead of drudging over the weekly edition of a paper.

Who are chess and cards supposed to be from the same source?

Because in the early cards, we have the King, Knight and Knave, and the numerical cards, or common soldiers. The oriental game of chess has also a King, Vizier, horseman, and its pawns are common soldiers. There were only thirty-six cards in the original Eastern pack. It is supposed that the English derived their first knowledge of cards from the crusaders. Cards, like chess, are a species of combat. Four warlike monarchs were chosen for kings; the Knight was changed into the Queen by the gallantry of the French, yet they will not have a Queen for a sovereign—*Why? Because* they uphold the Salique law, despite the eighth verse of the twenty-seventh chapter of the Book of Numbers. For a good argument upon this subject read Shakspeare's King Henry V., act I., scene 2. "No woman shall succeed in Salique land." The term *Knave* did not mean rogue in the days when cards were invented. It meant valet, and was symbolical of the vassals of feudal times. Knave formerly signified servant, as appears from Wickliff's New Testament kept in the Westminster Library—see one of the Pauline epistles.

The moral teaching of this chapter on Why and Because is: That from an actress we have learnt a lesson of charity which it would be well if some would imitate in order to relieve the necessities of poor poets and authors who, though they are not made in the mould of trade and commerce, yet contribute to the mental enjoyment of their fellow men as much as the Tailor, the Shoemaker, the Linen Draper, and the importer of wines, spirits, cigars, teas, and other luxuries do to the bodily comforts of theirs. Let not the innocent amusement of the drama be despised, neither let the friendly rubber of whist nor the cheery game of cribbage be despised because of the cards, as they gave rise to the whole art of printing, and *Why? Because*, when card-playing became a general pastime, the increasing demand for cards suggested the idea of cutting the outlines of the different saints, and stamping them upon the cards, the intermediate spaces between the outlines being filled up with various colours laid on by the hand. Thus printing blocks are traced back to the year 1423, and, probably, according to Strutt, were produced at a much earlier time.

REX.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

HUSBANDS are now said to write "W.D." in the corner of their letters, which means "Wife permitting."

Mrs. Snoddy lately puckered up her mouth genteelly, and told a gentleman friend that one of her lovely daughters was a "bluuet" and the other a "bronze."

"All the world's a stage," he ruminated, "and all the men and women merely players, and most of the plays are from Shakspeare, too! Before we were married, Julia and I played 'Romeo and Juliet,' and now it's mostly 'Tempest.'"

"Adolphus dear, what shall I do? Bridget has struck, and there she stands at the kitchen door with a poker in one hand, and a saucepan in the other, threatening to break the head of the new cook if she dares to lay her hand to a dish-rag. It's just awful, so it is, too."

On being asked why age improves a man's good looks and impairs those of a woman, an Eastern philosopher replied, "That arises from the fact that man was made of earth, which improves the longer it lies fallow; whereas woman was made of flesh, which is liable to decay and corruption."

"Madam, don't you know that your baby will catch its death of cold?" said a testy old bachelor lately. "No, sir," promptly responded the mother. "Well, it's such carelessness as that which fills our cemeteries with little graves," he continued. "While all the meddling old fools continue to live," she immediately added.

"I had to stand up all the way home in the street cars," said a Chicago wife to her husband, as she came into the house the other day. "You did?" said he. "Well that's a shame." "Oh, I didn't care—I enjoyed it!" declared she, as she pulled off a glove. "Ever since you gave me those handsome bracelets, I like to stand up and hang to a strap, the gold filigree work shows off so beautifully."

They were sitting together, and he was anxiously thinking what to say, when finally he burst out in this manner—"In this land of noble achievements and undying glory, why is it that women do not come more to the front, and climb the ladder of fame?" "I suppose," said she, biting her apron strings, "it's on account of their pull-backs."

VARIETIES.

A NEW MORALITY. Mr. Ruskin announces a great discovery in his paper, Fork. He has found out that music and "precise dancing" are among the most potent safeguards of morality. All the young hopefuls trained under the auspices of the St. George's Society are in consequence to be drilled from early infancy in these accomplishments, and Mr. Ruskin has no doubt about results.

UN MOT DE BISMARCK.—"There is no great or mistake," he said, the other day, to a visitor. "than to suppose that I hate France. *Pour moi, la France est le pays de toutes les seductions. L'Allemagne est une vieille femme qui a toutes les vertus, mais qui, avec cela, est couverte d'un dégoût; tandis que la France, c'est une jeune coquette, remplie de charmes. Elle conduit avec le pouvoir, et capote l'idée morale.*"

THE QUEEN'S AND THE EARL MARSHAL. Queen Victoria, it is said, has taken no notice of the marriage of the Duke of Norfolk and Lady Flora Hastings, and the traditional present for the bride of an Indian shawl, has not been forthcoming. The duke is at the head of the Roman Catholic peerage, and Lady Flora is a convert. Now, her Majesty has no actual dislike to Roman Catholics who have been brought up in that faith; but she dislikes converts exceedingly, and hence the real reason why she resolved to ignore the wedding of which every one has been talking for the last month.

THE TWO SONGS.

BY G. L. CLEVELAND.

Two birds conversing in a tree
Beside a road where people travelled,
Each to the other grew quite free,
And his projected skin unravelled—
That is, each did, with some stress, mention
His future song and its intention.

"I'll be a quaint, aerial sprite—
Quoth one, "and melt to my wild visions
That flash above this common light.
In radiance brighter than elysian's!
Man here below is but a sordid;
I'll sing '66 souls without a body!"

The other said: "For me no food
Of that eluding kind, I pray you—
Unless 'tis now and then a mood—
Of work-life's hopes and fears I'll play you
Such natural strains that all may know it—
I mean to be the people's poet!"

And straight they both began to sing.
One from his heart, one from his visions,
And people stayed a step to fling
At the two songs their quick decisions.
"That rattle's skull is cracked, we fear us,"
"Why, here's a fellow that ows cheer us!"

LITERARY.

WHITTIER says: "It is not true, as has been said, that I dash off my writing rapidly, and send it to the printer without any correction. I don't believe any body does that, or has a right to do it."