GEMS AND GEMS.

Social pressure—Shaking hands.

A piece of ice—The compressed Mr. How was Jones' wife bewitched? Whisked.

A balloon shed—The top-gallant sail.

The best kind of weeds to remove are widow weeds.

It is no cold day in Montana that whisky is sold by the plug.

The Irish are a hopeful people; they try to make the devil.

A recent verdict returned in Utah was, "Guilty of assault with intent to kiss."

Familiarity to a man is like training to a pugilist. It reduces him to his fighting weight.

If you have any money you will find that everybody's cash, like the season, is Lent.

A contemporary boasts that he "can stand on his intellectual capital." We suppose he means that he can stand on an ounce.

The old lady who believes every calamity that happens to herself a trial, and every one that happens to her friends a judgment, is not yet dead.

What sort of grammar is it which compels a man to say, "I saw four deer in one drove," but won't let him say, "there are ten hog in the garden?"

A cobbler brought before a Californian justice for drunkenness, after having the usual fine imposed upon him, asked the judge if he kept "an shtate."

A domestic, newly-engaged, presented to his master, one morning, a pair of boots. "How comes it, you rascal, that these boots are not the same length?" "I really don't know, sir; but what I brothers me the most is that the pair 'down-stairs are in the same fix."

"You must admit, doctor," said a witty lady to a celebrated doctor of divinity, with whom she was arguing the question of the "equality of the sexes"—"you must admit that woman was created before man?" "Well, really, madam," said the astonished divine, "I must ask you to prove your case." "That can be easily done, Sir. Wasn't Eve the first maid?"

A party of men animatedly engaged in discussing politics before a country store attracted the attention of an aged agriculturist. "There's somethin' the matter here," he observed to his wife, and, drawing in his team, he lightly shouted to a conservative individual on the outskirts: "What's afoot?" "Twelve inches," was the sardonic reply. The aged agriculturist swore some and drove on.

A farmer having buried his wife waited upon the grave-digger, who had performed the necessary duties, to pay him his fees. Being of a niggardly disposition, he endeavored to get the knight of the spade to abate his charges. The patience of the latter becoming exhausted, he grasped his shovel impulsively, and, with an angry look, exclaimed, "Doon wi' another shillin', or—up she comes!" The threat had the desired effect.

An old-fashioned clergyman named More was riding on horseback one stormy day, enveloped in a loose cloak of large proportions and having a broad scarlet collar. By the action of the wind the cloak was tossing about in all directions, when a gentleman rode up on a spirited horse, which shied and almost threw the rider. "That cloak of yours would frighten the devil," said the gentleman, "You don't say so!" replied Mr. More; "why, that's just my trade."

A lady once consulted Dr. Johnson on the degree of turpitude to be attached to her son's robbing an orchard. "Madam," said Johnson, "it all depends upon the weight of the boy. I remember my school-fellow, David Garrick, who was always a little fellow, robbing a dozen of orchards with impunity; but the very first time I climbed up an apple-tree—for I was always a heavy boy—the bough broke with me, and it was called judgment. I suppose that is why justice is represented with a pair of scales!"

A negro man, while fishing in Green River last summer, caught a large catfish. Wishing to go further up the river he put a string through the gills of the fish, tied it to a root in the water and went on. In a short while another negro came along who had caught a small cat-fish. Seeing the large fish he exchanged, leaving his and taking the other. Towards evening the first fisherman returning, stopped to get his fish. Taking it out of the water, and seeing a very small one instead of the large one he had left, he said: "Dis ain't my fish; yet it must be, for it's on my string; but for's a mare, how he swunk."

Squire Wallace was a captain in the militia, and, one day, after training, made a prisoner of Pat Sweeney, who was a powerful drinker. "Pat," says he, "I seize you in the King's name." "Me?" says Pat, scratching his head, and looking abroad, bewildered-like. "I'm not a smuggler! Touch me if you dare!" "I seize you," says he, for a violation of the excise law; for carrying about you more than a gallon of rum without a permit, and tomorrow I shall sell you by auction to the highest bidder. You are a forfeited article, and I could knock you on the head and let it out, if I like; so no nouseuse, man!" And he sent him off to jail, screaming and screeching like mad, he was so frightened. The next day, Pat was put up for auction, and knocked down to his wife, who bid him in for forty shillings.

An English physician recently removed a section of a patient's liver, placed it on a plate, scraped it carefully, and returned it to its place, fully restored to its normal action. This promises to working a revolution in the treatment of the disease, and in a few years we will have an addition to domestic literature something like this: "Husband, I wish you would take John's right lung down to the doctor this morning, and have the middle valve fixed," or, "Will you step into the doctor's when you come home this noon and see if he has Mary's liver mended, as she wants to go out to tea this evening." The practice will become so common in time, we are sure, that none of the neighbors will be in any way startled to see a wife with a veil tied around her head leaning out of a bedroom window and shouting to a receding husband: "Jeremiah! Tell Dr. Scrapen to send up Willie's right kidney at one, whether it is done or not. He's had it there mor'n a week, and the child might as well be without any kidney and be done with it."—*Danbury News.*

Red used on a railroad signifies danger, and says stop. It is the same thing displayed on a man's nose.

A youngster, while warming his hands over the kitchen fire, was remonstrated with by his father, who said, "Go away from the stove, the weather is not cold." The little fellow, looking up at his stern parent demurely, replied, "I ain't heating the weather; I'm warming my hands.

Scene—The parish clerk's. Miss has come to give instructions about putting up the banns. Clerk—"What is he, do you say—a shovel engineer on the railway? You mean a civil engineer, I suppose?"—"Oh, I dessay you're right, sir. It's him that shovels the coals into the engine."

The Austin Powder Co's mills, five miles south of Cleveland, blew up on the 16th, with a series of terrific explosions. The works, which consisted of ten or twelve buildings, were completely demolished, large fragments of timber and heavy machinery being blown a considerable distance. Eight or ten men were employed at work in and about the mills, three of whom were killed. The loss of the Company is not known, but the damage in the vicinity is estimated at $30,000.

Daring the thunder storm of the 15th, a driving barn belonging to Mr. John Shults, three miles east from Elora, on the back line, was completely destroyed by lightning, with all it contents. A valuable horse was instantly killed.

PARLIAMENTARY.

Ottawa, March 15.

Hon. Mr. Burpee, Messrs. Appleby, Painted and Burpee (Sunbury), made positive denial of the statement made in the Opposition organ, the Mail, that they had any interest in a reported land speculation at Fredericton, N.B. It was further shown that no sale of the land referred to, had been effected by the Government.

Mr. Casey brought up the question of a committee to consider the advisability of adopting the competitive system of examinations for public servants.

After recess, Mr. D. W. Ross, West Middlesex, moved a series of resolutions bearing on the subject of prohibition, concluding with the following substantive motion: That after a very careful examination of these laws in those countries where they were enforced, it was clearly shown that crime and pauperism were reduced, and the moral and material interests of society very beneficially effected, but that the success of these laws was largely dependent upon the favor with which they were received by those for whose benefit they were enacted; that in view of these facts it is the opinion of this House that a prohibitory liquor law, fully carried out, is the only effectual remedy for the evils inflicted upon society by intemperance, and that Parliament is prepared, as soon as public opinion will effectually sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation as will prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors so far as the sale is within the competency of this House.

Dr. Schultz moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. White (Hastings), that this House do not now go into Committee, but that a prohibitory liquor is the only effectual remedy for dealing with the questions, and that the Government should introduce such a measure as early as practicable.

On motion of the Premier the debate was adjourned, and the House at 1 a.m. rose.

Ottawa March 16.

The resolutions respecting the formation of a Supreme Court, were amended so as to make the salaries of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judges $8,000 and $7,000 per annum respectively.

The second reading of the Bill was then moved, and a debate ensued. The second reading was adopted and the House resolved to go into Committee on the resolutions to increase the salaries of the Civil Service of Canada as provided in the Act respecting the Civil Service of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Holton thought some of the increases were too high, especially those of the deputy-heads, who were now receiving one and a half times as much as county judges.

Hon. Mr. Cartwright said that every one was aware that within the past twelve or fifteen years the cost of living had increased in a very large degree, and this was a matter which should be taken into account. He thought deputy-heads of Departments should be placed on an equality, in point of income at least, with professional men.

Mr. Wood said he quite agreed with the Finance Minister that good salaries should be paid to first-class men.

After further discussion the resolutions were reported.

Ottawa, March 17.

Several petitions were presented for amendments to the proposed insolvency law, that the Government do not name the official assignees, and in favour of prohibition.

Hon. Mr. Cartwright, replying to a question said there had been a number of petitions against placing a discriminating tax of 15 per cent. on tea coming from the United States, but he could not see his way to impose it. The duty could not be imposed without a heavy tax on consumers, a large portion of which found its way into the pockets of importers.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said that an engineer would visit Bayfield Harbor, sometime this season, to inspect its condition and report thereon. He also said that Indians who fought in 1812 would receive consideration in the pension award.

The second reading of the Bill granting divorce from his wife to Mr. Peterson, of Guelph, was moved. An amendment for a three month's hoist was lost by a vote of 72 to 81, and the motion was carried by a vote of 82 to 72.

The House adjourned at 6 p. m., according to custom, in respect to St. Patrick's Day.

ASHFIELD.

COUNCIL MEETING.—A special meeting of Council, called by the Reeve, for the purpose of receiving application for licenses, and passing a by-law in accordance with Sec. 9, 37 Vic. cap. 32, was held at D. R. Wilson's hotel, Port Albert, on February 24, 1875.

Present, Jas. Mullin, Deputy Reeve, John Boyd and Andrew Dreany, Councillors. Mr. Mullin in the chair.

Applications from D. R. Wilson, Geo. Black, Alex. McRae, Alex. Young, Mary Milroy, John Moore and Anthony Black for tavern licenses, and from McPherson and Kennedy, Wm. McIntosh and R. Stephens for shop licenses, were received and filed.

Moved by A. Dreany, seconded by J. Boyd, that by-laws number 4 and 5 for regulating taverns and shops as now read the third time be passed.—Carried.

The Council met on the 8th of March, all the members present. The minutes of last meeting and special meeting were read and signed. Letter from J. R. Miller, Esq., proposing to hold competitive examinations in the schools, and asking for a grant, was read and laid over until next meeting.

Moved by J. Mullin, seconded by R. Hamilton, that the appointment of Arthur McGreory as assessor, Patrick O'Connor as inspector of licenses, and Denis Ford as collector, for the township of Ashfield for the present year, be and the same are and each one of them is hereby cancelled.—Carried.

Moved by J. Boyd, seconded by R. Hamilton, that A. McGreory be appointed assessor at a salary of $69, and that D. Ford be collector at a salary of $75, and that P. O'Connor be inspector of licenses at a salary of $1 for each tavern, for the year 1875, and that the Clerk frame a by-law to this effect—Carried.

Moved by J. Boyd, seconded by A. Dreany, that Jeremiah Lucy be granted the sum of $6 as charity he being in destitute circumstances.—Carried.

Moved by J. Mullin, seconded by R. Hamilton, that the following accounts be paid; *Star* office $12.75; Hart & Rawlinson for Municipal Manuals $25.94—Carried.

Moved by J. Boyd, seconded by A. Dreany, that J. Alton, be paid the sum of $25 being for fine and costs connected with his licenses, and Wm Snell be paid $20 for same cause, provided they give up all claims that they may have now against the Corporation, and that the treasurer take a receipt in full for the same—Carried.

Moved by R. Hamilton, seconded by J. Boyd, that Margaret McDonald, an indigent person, be granted $4—Carried.

Moved by J. Mullin, seconded by R. Hamilton, that the prayer of the petition of J. Mullin and others for the purpose of dividing the Township into four wards be granted in all points, and that the Clerk draft a by-law to be passed at next meeting of Council On a division, Messrs. Boyd and Dreany voted nay; Messrs. Mullin and Hamilton, yea. The motion was negatived.

The Pathmasters, Fence viewers and Pound keepers for the year were appointed.

Moved by J. Mullin, seconded by R. Hamilton, that smoking be not allowed in the room when the Council is sitting. On a division the motion was negatived. Messrs. Boyd and Dreany voting against it.

Moved by A. Dreany, seconded by R. Hamilton, that this Council recommend that forty feet be added to the south pier, Port Albert harbor, and A. C. Hawkins be appointed inspector over said work and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Wm. Kingsford, Esq., the engineer in charge Carried.

By-laws No. 6 and 7, 1875, were read the third time and passed.

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