

these may still be seen in the walls of the old artillery barracks on the river front, and their northern limit gave its name to the present Fortification lane. The *arx* or citadel of this semi-feudal fortress of New France was on the elevated ground where Notre Dame becomes St. Mary street, and in the low-roofed, stone-walled old Government House near by we have a relic of the *ancien regime*, the scene of many a splendid display of princely hospitality.

The old Bonsecours Church, with its steep roof, its graceful spire, and the hucksters' stalls clustering around it like mendicants about the feet of a priest, carries us back to one of the most picturesque periods of the city's history. The dingy old building, when seen by bright winter's moon-light, is transfigured and glorified, and shines like a saint in robes of snowy sheen, tiaraed by a crown of flashing light. Within, its cool and calm repose upon a hot and garish summer day, so near the din and bustle of the neighbouring wharves and market, comes like a soothing charm upon the mind; and there the sacred litanies and hymns are still chanted which have voiced the aspirations and thanksgivings of successive generations. In the destruction of the Recollet Church another ancient landmark has disappeared, and ere long only in the pages of history will live the records of the romantic founding and early growth of Ville Marie, consecrated by the pious labours and hallowed enthusiasm and martyr blood of the noble men and women whose names are interwoven forever like threads of gold in the fabric of its story.

PIE.

A medical man, with an evident fondness for statistics administered in heroic doses, has recently been examining into the composition of the daily food of the average modern dietist. He finds that heresy in diet is, if anything, more prevalent than heresy in religion. None of these offences, however, are to be compared, in his opinion, with the frightful frequency of 'ie in the household. He estimates that every person who is above the age of five years, is in the habit of consuming pie at least twice each day. A more appalling picture of reckless and wide-spread intemperance has never before been presented.

It is unnecessary to inform intelligent men of the deadly nature of pie. Its vital principle—that without which pie would lose its identity—is crust. In every pie there is a greater or less proportion of this essentially poisonous article. Of course there are some forms of pie which contain a comparatively small percentage of crust, just as there are intoxicating beverages which contain but little alcohol. There is, for example, the open-work pumpkin pie, which, being devoid of an upper crust, contains only half the poison that is found in the double-crust mince pie. The confirmed pie-eater, however, is not content to commit slow suicide upon the feeble pumpkin pie, but his vitiated system demands frequent sections, of ninety degrees each, of the coarser and more dangerous mince pie. Like the drunkard, who begins with beer, but ends with brandy, the person who acquires a taste for pumpkin pie, sinks surely and rapidly into the grave of the confirmed mince-pie debauchee. If the sight of the wasted features and sunken eyes of the latter are saddening to the philanthropist, with what horror must he shrink from the spectacle of mothers pressing to the lips of infancy the pie that tempts them to physical and moral dyspepsia, and brings down their youthful stomachs with colic to the grave.

It is true that there are those who actually defend the practice of pie-eating, and assert that a little crust, taken in moderation, exalts the spirits and strengthens the whole physical man. Let no one be deceived by the vain pretences of those who seek to defend their vicious courses, or by the interested clamour of the keepers of corner pie-shops. All physicians agree that pie-crust is an enemy to digestion; that it is not assimilated, and contributes in no way to the formation of tissue, but that, on the contrary, its habitual use is certain to undermine the health, and hence to deteriorate the morals of the user. The taste for this deadly article is wholly an artificial one. No baby ever yet cried for pie, and even the wretched statistics which the medical man above-mentioned has collected show that while the infant is under the age of five years, and is then in its primal state of innocence, it has no appetite for pie. That fatal appetite is acquired later in its childhood, and in most cases is fostered by its fearfully misguided parents. Of the evils which follow intemperance in pies, the recent census affords abundant evidence. Not to speak of the diseases which thin the population, the census shows that the number of males is less by many thousands than the number of females. Who can doubt that intemperance in pie, which, among women, is in some degree restrained by circumstances, but which is wholly unrestrained among men, is to a great degree responsible for the blight which has fallen upon men.

Is it not time that this subject attracted attention of legislative and ecclesiastical bodies? Even the members of the Senate are currently reported to pass directly from the Senate Chamber to the gilded dens where pie is openly sold; while certain members of the Lower House habitually carry pie upon their persons, and partake of it with shameless effrontery in their very seats. It is time that something should be done to check this enormous evil. The Legislature should prohibit the infamous traffic in pie; the Congregational Association, that a day or two since denounced tobacco and secret societies, should set the seal of its condemnation upon pie, and societies of "Good Synagogues," pledged to total abstinence from pie in every form, should add their example and influence to the sacred cause of the overthrow of the pie demon before it is forever too late.

Miscellaneous.

The Dominion Telegraph Company have opened an office at Allanburg, Ont.

Count Munster succeeds Count Bernstorff as German Ambassador at the Court of St. James. The Countess Munster is English—the sister of the present Earl of Rosalyn.

Following in the steps of the Paris *Figaro*, the *Press*, of Thursday, makes the following announcement, which we commend to the earnest consideration of the historians of great families:—"Lord Selkirk arrived this morning in Paris. He is a descendant of the famous Selkirk, whose adventures suggested to De Foe his 'Robinson Crusoe.'"

Two women were executed in Naples by the axe a few days ago. The deed was done by a masked executioner, who covered

each head at a single blow. The crime of these women was "baby farming," and it was proved that they had starved and deliberately murdered by other methods a large number of infants entrusted to their care. The awful mode of punishment was chosen as a mark of the abhorrence which their crimes had excited.

A curious incident is reported concerning the lost "Atlantic," though the truth of its occurrence is not confirmed. When the steamer was in mid-ocean two or three of the steerage passengers declared that the ship and all on board would be lost. They packed their carpet-bags, went on deck, and watched for passing vessels, saying they were going to leave her. They were regarded as insane, and placed in confinement.

One of the ablest military writers in France, M. Wachtel, has resumed his pen in the *Gaulois* to tell some wholesome truths. He says:—"The French spend their time exchanging congratulations on their heroism, and decorating each other." He says:—"You did your duty neither before, during, nor after the war. Distrust the flatterers who give you compliments in exchange for your votes, and bear in mind that to pull yourselves up again, you need a great deal of hard work, perseverance, and, above all, a great deal of modesty."

TO NEWSPAPER REPORTERS.—Calcraft has announced his intention to shortly retire from an official life, and seek the repose of cultivating roses, dahlias, and tulips, for which he has a great taste. The last "touch of his art" was on the prisoner Cotton, at Durham, and before he left that city he acquainted the prison warders that she would be the last person he should "put a nightcap on," although he regretted retiring from his profession without "performing" on the newspaper reporters. What his objection is was not stated; perhaps he considers them rival "fluers."

A very good story is being told in Cambridge professional circles respecting a local examination held by that University. Among other things candidates were asked to give an account of the career of Oliver Cromwell. One of them wrote in vague, but undattering, terms of Mr. Carlyle's model ruler, and then, apparently thinking that he had not been sufficiently precise, this youthful student of history went on to say that Cromwell had died very unhappily, and on his death-bed exclaimed, "Had I but served my God as well as I have served my King He would not have forsaken me now that I am grey-headed."

The subject of female emigration to New Caledonia has attracted the attention of the French authorities, and we understand that the Minister of the Interior has sent a circular to the prefects, sub-prefects, mayors, &c., to say that in order to encourage the emigration of young females to the colony, the government has decided upon granting them an outfit at the start, free passage to Noumea, board and lodging there till they find employment at the Sisters of St. Cluny's House, and finally a settlement of six acres of good land on those girls who find a husband. The candidates, the Minister adds, must be looked out for chiefly in the orphan or other asylums.

CRAZY GERMANS.—The following curious petitions have been sent to the German Parliament during its present session:—Two addressed to the Emperor, the one praying him to fold German unity by buying up the German Austrian provinces, and another requesting him to establish a republic! 3. A Jewish Rabbi petitions the Reichstag to declare Bismarck to be the Messiah. 4. That the Kings of Bavaria and Saxony should be desired to pronounce themselves either "Old" or "New" Catholics. 5. A plan is offered for sale, by which 160 millions may be gained by a wholly new tax. And 6. A memorialist puts forth a means by which the light of truth may be brought to bear on all men. The crazed petitioners were gratified by having their memorials read, and ordered to be referred *ad acta*; to lie under the table, in fact.

The Russian correspondent of the *Daily News* sends the following account of the rumours of a projected matrimonial alliance in which we feel interested:—"It is said that the only daughter of the Emperor is to marry the Duke of Edinburgh, and that they are to live, half the year at least, in Russia, and have one of the new houses on the quay, in front of the Admiralty, at St. Petersburg. My informant was very precise about this part of the plan. The bride's fortune is to be a million of roubles. One of the chief causes of delay in the arrangement of the match has been the wish on each side to stipulate for living the greater part of the year in England or Russia respectively. Hence the compromise of dividing the time equally between the two. A question of precedence in England is said to have contributed to this delay. I mention, without of course vouching for, these reports."

Sinners, even in this earthly life, do not always escape the vengeance of retributive justice, as the following example, which we read with a glow of satisfaction in the current number of the Journal of the Financial Reform Association, may serve to show:—"William May, a substantial Devonshire farmer, was summoned for refusing to support his aged mother, who had brought him up, and is now in the parish workhouse. He pleaded, and proved, partly by her own evidence! that he was born before her marriage with his father, and being illegitimate was not bound to maintain her. Mr. May thus escaped the liability, but the Inland Revenue Commissioners have been down upon him for the difference between three per cent, which he paid on succeeding to her brother's property some seventeen years ago, and the ten per cent, which he ought to have paid as a 'stranger,' with interest on the same."

Music and the Drama.

Mr. Toole, the comedian, is arranging for a visit to New York in 1874.

M. Offenbach proposes to mount for this winter at the Théâtre de la Gaîté Verdi's new opera.

Miss Charlotte Leclercq plays her farewell engagement in America at the Boston Globe Theatre.

The number of theatres in Russia is 142, mostly wood. This gives only one for every twenty towns. Some of the seats of Government are without theatres.

Mr. H. L. Bateman will soon arrive in New York to arrange for the bringing out of "Charles I.," the new historical play, which has had a very successful run in London.

A new and original comedy-drama, in three acts and a prologue, written by Mr. Henry J. Byron, and entitled "Fine Feathers," is to be produced at the Globe Theatre, London, this month.

Signor Verdi has entered the lists as a composer of classical chamber composition, by writing a string quartet, which has been executed in private, at Naples. The quartet, it is to be hoped, will be heard here.

Mr. Max Strakosch sailed for Europe aboard the "Cuba" lately. He will return at an earlier date than usual, the preparations for the Fall season of Italian opera requiring his presence in New York. Mr. Strakosch may be awaited about August 15th, and a week or two later Mme. Nilsson will be at hand.

Sims Reeves, the celebrated English tenor, has become notorious for disappointing his audiences by his non-appearance. An announcement that he would sing on a recent occasion, called forth the following letter to the London *Times*:—"In the *Times* of to-day Mr. Sims Reeves is advertised to sing a new song, entitled 'Nothing.' There surely must be some mistake in calling it new, as within the last nine months I have gone three times to hear this celebrated singer, and on each occasion he sang—nothing."

Bach's celebrated "St. Matthew Passion" was performed, for the first time by the English Sacred Harmonic Society, under the direction of Sir Michael Costa, on the 25th ult. Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame Patey, Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Patey, Mr. C. Henry, and Mr. Bantley were entrusted with the principal vocal parts, and an interesting feature in the performance was the obligato accompaniment to the song, "Come, blessed Cross," being played on the viol da gamba, the instrument for which Bach designed it, instead of, as ordinarily, on the violoncello. The viol da gamba has probably not been played in public in England since the death of C. F. Abel, nearly ninety years ago.

The members of the Sheffield Sacred Dramatic Society gave a performance lately at Grantham of what in the bill was called their unequalled representation in character of the sublime and thrilling Scriptural narrative of "Joseph," with appropriate music. In the scene where the brethren return from Egypt with corn, says a local authority, "asses are introduced, which perform their duties well. Altogether the performance was a great success." We confess we do not, however, envy those who can derive either instruction or "amusement" from such a profane exhibition as this. The Ober Ammergau affair was a little too much, even for the Continentals, and will not be given again. We hardly expected to see it transplanted to our ungenial shores. At Madrid the experiment has been a great success, and it was selecting the right place.

The correspondent of the *Court Journal* at Cairo gives a glowing account of the benefit given to Madame Parepa-Rosa at the Viceregal theatre on the 25th of February. There is a large colony of Greeks in that city, and Madame Parepa's father being a Greek, they united with the Americans and English in doing honour to the cantatrice. A subscription was got up to decorate and illuminate the theatre for the occasion, and it presented, it is said, quite a fairy-like aspect. The subscribers presented Madame Parepa-Rosa with a magnificent Egyptian necklace and a pair of ear-rings. The house was crowded to its utmost capacity of accommodation, every seat having been disposed of several days previous at an exorbitant price. The performance was a continuous ovation for the fair *beneficiaria*, the stage being literally covered with bouquets every time she appeared. Besides the gifts already mentioned, she received presents to the amount of between eighty and ninety thousand francs from the Viceroy, the Crown Prince, the Princess Said, the wife of the late Viceroy, the Princess Tussam Pachia, and other ladies of the court. The articles given consisted of a large diamond bracelet, a black enamelled locket with an immense diamond in the centre, a turquoise and diamond ring, a turquoise and diamond locket, a gold Arabic bracelet, a watch chain of scarabees, very old and valuable, a watch with monogram set in diamonds, &c.

Art and Literature.

Gustave Doré is about to illustrate "Shakespeare."

Oliver Wendell Holmes has declined to lecture next season.

The Russian Government will shortly publish a grand work on Peter the Great.

John Stuart Mill has left behind him a work on Avignon and the surrounding district.

Mr. Murray promises a new work, from the pen of Mr. Charles Darwin, "The Evil Effects of Inter-breeding in the Vegetable Kingdom."

It is reported that Lord Lytton has left behind not only a novel, but a play. The drama is in five acts, and is entitled "The Captive."

Winkle Collins' last novel, "The New Magdalen," is being dramatized by several writers, among whom not the least is the author himself.

A marble statue of a boy, by Raphael, has just been discovered in Italy. The authenticity of the work is undoubted, and it is said to be a triumph of art.

The Marquis of Salisbury has contributed to the April number of the *Philosophical Magazine* an original paper "On Spectral Lines of Low Temperature."

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge will purchase the copyright of the revised version of the Scriptures, and will conjointly bear the expenses of printing and publishing.

A son of G. P. R. James, the English novelist, is local editor of the *Eau Claire Free Press*. In his items he seldom mentions the legendary and lonesome steed so much affected by his parent.

The last rumour from abroad in reference to Mr. James Gordon Bennett appears in the London *Telegraph*, and is to the effect that he has purchased all existing rights of excavation in the plain of Troy.

In the picture-gallery of Baron Stackelberg at the Château of Tacha in Bohemia, a painting of Holbein's has been found, with an inscription on the back, positively fixing the date of the painter's birth as 1497.

The last English cartoon represents Mr. Pimlott, M.P., as a Crusader; armed with a Royal Commission, he is attacking a "Board," the name of which is concealed behind the Bumble, who stand up in its defence.

Although the Russian authorities have declined to permit English newspaper correspondents to accompany the army into Khiva, we understand that *The Graphic* has made arrangements to obtain sketches of the events likely to occur there.

A fine painting by Albert Durer is now on view at Antwerp. It comes from the monastery of Tanagerloo, is painted on wood, and represents the Virgin suckling the infant Christ, surrounded by the members of her family. The monogram of Durer has been discovered on the drapery upon which the child Jesus reposes.

Longfellow and Bryant were recently admitted to honorary membership in the Academy at St. Petersburg. The occasion was one of much pomp and ceremony, nearly all of the eighty regular members of the Academy being present, and the royal family being represented by a Prince of the house of Romanoff, the Grand Duke of Constantine.

Amadeus, the ex-King of Spain, is preparing a work, to be entitled "The History of King Amadeus," written by himself, and to be published at Rome within a short period. Many eminent personages connected with the various political parties in Spain have assisted the Royal author. The work in question will be divided into four parts—"Isabella," "Prin," "Hohen-zollern," and "Amadeus." It will contain many priceless precepts to princes already dethroned.