

to two inches, and vary occasionally three to four inches. Hand labour, which we are obliged to employ in Italy, owing to the difficult nature of the ground, has been largely superseded in Canada by the use of steam derricks, drills worked by compressed air, and other appliances. When a block of asbestos-bearing rock has been displaced by the usual methods employed in blasting, the pieces are broken up, barren rock removed to dumps or waste heaps, and the remainder passed through the process of cobbing, whereby the remaining rock is removed and the asbestos exported ready for the manufacturer."

GEORGE STEWART.

### SONNET - QUEBEC (1759, ETC.)

Conflict of centuries in bitter pain  
For this fair Province ended, not elsewhere,  
Till Waterloo through blood the feud laid bare  
And brought a lasting peace. Grim War, the  
bane  
Of those two mighty neighbours, sowing grain  
Of deadly hatred. Not so preached the Heir  
Of Time—True peace with God and man His  
care!

Here sailed Jacques Cartier, bold and great  
Champlain,  
Here vigorous Frontenac with iron ruled;  
Here fell two heroes; one in victory  
Scarce realized; his rival in defeat  
Scarce known. Peace from their glorious  
graves has schooled  
The ancient discord, till our minstrelsy  
Sings growth united in war's vacant seat!

ALFRED THOROLD.

### GLIMPSES AT THINGS.

When one dwells upon the heartless wholesale murder often attempted and sometimes effected by train-wreckers and dynamiters, one is inclined to share the dread of those who fear that civilization may be destroyed by its offspring. Pessimists, however, should not overlook the fact that the species of wholesale murder which was easiest of accomplishment in past generations, the wrecking of ships by false lights, has become extremely rare. In some districts, once notorious for it, and where public opinion sometimes condoned the profitable crime, or at least shielded its perpetrators, wrecking is at present obsolete.

Cruelties and wrongs that are sickening to think of are widely practised in Morocco, as Lord Meath relates in "A Land of Incredible Barbarity," in the July *Nineteenth Century*. Although these enormities are known to the Governments of all Christian countries they will not combine to heal this plague spot, nor will their mutual jealousies permit any single Government to act the good Samaritan to a tormented nation that has fallen into the hands of thieves. And yet love is the cardinal Christian virtue, and the Saracens whose conquests provoked the Crusades were just and gentle and chivalrous compared to the modern Sultans and Kaid of Morocco. Why should not Britain and the United States go hand in hand on this mission of mercy, and let diplomats protest, "the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing."

In a late *Cosmopolitan* Francisque Sarcey describes how the Paris Bodinière (formerly a theatre, now a lecture hall) has succeeded in drawing immense audiences in the afternoons. Its manager has relieved the monotony of the lectures by engaging

the most celebrated *chanteuses* of the *café-concerts*, Judic, Yvette Guilbert, and others. Fashionable ladies have been flocking to hear songs suspected of flippancy or naughtiness in an unexceptionable environment and under the soothing guise of encouraging science. Sarcey himself declined to play second fiddle to a concert hall celebrity, but other eminent lectures accepted the alluring terms of La Bodinière.

"Stooping to Conquer" is a play that perpetually holds the boards of the world's stage. There are authors who renounce those graces of style that are too subtle, who sacrifice apt allusions that are too recondite, and who conceal ideas that are too exalted for the average reader. They aim low at the head of that multitudinous and fame-giving nonentity. There are artists as well as writers who intrude upon the privacy of celebrities with specimens of their work, in the hope of eliciting some kindly commendation, which, being published, may command the notice of an apathetic public. Some clergymen espouse fads of their congregations, to increase their influence or their stipends. Others have become ministers of creeds which they did not believe in, that they might utter their calls to a higher life with the prestige of a sacred office. Like the merchant who sandwiches his advertisements between flaring pictures, General Booth makes his votaries give mountebank shows that staring crowds may be forced incidentally to hear some solemn truths; and his journals print their flip-pant vulgarities with the same holy object. The main art of diplomacy would seem to be stooping to conquer—wheedling, flattering, bribing, bamboozling or bluffing, in order to score a success. The practical politician uses most of the diplomat's methods, though, usually, with less finesse. "Unto him who hath shall be given" being the rule, several doctors have managed to secure a good practice by putting on the appearance of having one already—by having themselves hurriedly called out of churches or theatres, and by habitually driving at a furious pace. Even preachers have stooped to improper advertising, like the Rev. Charles Smythe, erstwhile of New York, who denounced the spectacular drama of "The Black Crook," in a series of sermons with the very drawing title of "The Naked Truth."

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

### PARIS LETTER.

The new law against anarchy keeps politicians and journalists as busy as nailers, but the public remains in its attitude of stolid indifference. The impartial looker-on is interested in the first attempt of the minority in the Chamber to play at obstruction; that game is marked by great ingenuity and subtlety. Often they entrap the Government, that is, the majority, into accepting an amendment which destroys all the signification of the limbs of clauses already voted. Opponents cavil on the ninth part of a hair. There was a smart discussion over a printer's error, where a comma was misplaced. The minority has a number of very able speakers, who remain as cool as ice while uttering the most severe language, and they keep their counsel to themselves, till the moment for action arrives. Just now, the Government intends to apply the guillotine plan, after the fashion of Mr. Gladstone, to the columns

of amendments blocking the way. But French deputies have not the sang froid of British M.P.'s. The majority remains silent as trappists, so do Ministers, and allow the minority to declaim. Be assured some orator will set the "silents" on fire, by introducing the subject of Panamaism, and then there will be a blaze. Even after the bill is closed, there are endless ways for prolonging the debate, after the debate is closed. And any moment may spring a new incident. The bill will be pulled through some way, but the Senate has to vote it, and it is expected will sabre several of its clauses, so that the bill will be sent back to the Chamber, and the opposition will recommence. The delay has already had for consequence, the postponement of Caserio's trial for the murder of M. Carnot, as by the new law, no report of the trial, etc., will be allowed. Foreigners must look to the papers of their own country for an account of the court's proceedings that will come off at Lyons.

The lamentable increase in the vice of money, etc., gambling, has put the prefect of police on his mettle. Now all the evil is due to the unhappy conduct of the Government, which sanctions betting on the race courses, and strikes a percentage on the stakes to maintain the state breeding studs and to add to the poor's fund. The French are too sharp-witted a people to find any difference between legally gambling on a race course and finding a game of hazard to be illicit off a race course. Boys now play largely at the "cork" game for and with coppers; every public house has one or two billiard tables, and, on stated evening of the week, "poule au gibier" is announced. This game consists in the players putting each a certain sum into the pool, and he who makes the highest score with the balls, pockets the pool. At fairs, fetes, and in railway carriages, thimbling, dice and cards flourish like a bay tree. The gamblers seem not to fear detection. But in the fairs where all chance games are allowed, provided the stakes be not in cash, the law is easily turned. The prize is an old hen, a duck, goose, rabbit or guinea pig. As the lucky individual cannot well carry such a prize about with him, the owner of the play stall buys in the animal. The prefect, in order to correct the demoralization of gambling, and which is making ravages among boys in their teens, and women entering upon the thirties, neither of the categories will be allowed to stake money at the official "totalizers," except the male gambler be 21 years of age; and all persons acting for them will be sentenced to fine and imprisonment. The "professors" of billiards, whose table is an "Academy" in a café, attracts clients; the latter bet, and from 10 to 20 per cent. is levied by the proprietor on the stakes, or some 250 francs in a night, who shares with the professor; the latter is, of course, his creature; the proprietor has individuals among the crowd of spectators, who bet for him and who have a special telegraphy of the face with the professors to win or lose according to the money put down; then the proceeds of the swindle are divided. The *gogas* are caught; there are decoys who make their livelihood by the swindles. All that will be suppressed.

The French are in a brown study respecting the relations between England and the the Italians in East Africa. They no more expect the Italians to evacuate Kassala, than the English Egypt, or themselves Tunisia or Chautaboun. As to France