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SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

NOT an accident has happened on the Holland railways since women were appointed switch-tenders, it is stated. Women seem to take naturally to the switch.

A READER OF THE HOME JOURNAL wants to know whether Grover Cleveland hired a substitute to go to the war in his place. He did. Grover bared his breast to the foes of his country by proxy.

WHEN the Grand Old Lady gets a peep at the Grand Old Man's cabinet material it is likely to give her a severe case of chills and fever. Mr. Gladstone is talking of peppering the dose up with an Irishman or two.

FOR the information of the *Colonist* we remark that if there are canals in Mars there must be mules to draw the canal boats; if there are canal boats there must be people to run them. Hence, Mars is inhabited. Q. E. D.

PEOPLE who think that the young doctor charges enormous fees forget the awful weight of responsibility that every young doctor palpably carries around with him for a couple of years after he gets out of the medical school.

FAT men are in demand in London as advertising mediums. They wear clothing on which spaces are arranged for various advertisements; and thus arrayed they parade the streets. On their caps they bear this inscription: "Spaces to be let on sixty men."

EXCURSIONS to Alaska are becoming more popular every year. To American tourists, who enjoy traveling by land rather than by sea, Alaska offers unique attractions at this season of the year. Besides, it gives them a chance to appreciate the vastness of their own country.

THE lacrosse match to-day between Victoria and Vancouver clubs, promises to be one of the greatest exhibitions of Canada's national game ever seen in this Province. Both clubs are determined to win, and have been practising with that end in view. Every one should turn out to see the match.

AN African explorer, while still on his travels in the Dark Continent, received the news of the death of his father. Some time afterwards he arrived in Paris, accompanied by a black bride. "What on earth," asked a candid friend, "induced you to marry a negress?" To which the explorer made answer, in cavernous tones, "I was in mourning."

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THE high sense of honor and pride which prompted a dozen or so of the citizens of Vancouver to charter a steamer specially to convey the Mayor and a couple other citizens of little note to this city to answer a charge of contempt has received a serious set-back now that they refuse to pay for their generosity. The Mayor will now fully realize the truth of the old saying, "Talk is cheap."

JUST because one woman has happened to lame herself permanently by closing a bureau drawer with her knee, newspaper Solons are rising up to say that the use of the knee for the purpose is universal among women, and that they are all likely to be lame if they do not reform. Woman is watched so closely in these progressive days that she has no chance to indulge even in small vices without being caught at it.

A WOMAN'S PAPER is endeavoring to advertise itself by asking all its fair—or plain—readers to send in replies to the poignant question: "Would you rather marry a man whom you entirely love, but whose love for you you are not sure of, or a man who entirely loves you, but whose love you do not feel entirely able to reciprocate?" The question has a curiously sentimental flavor for one asked such a set of readers as are likely to be attached to a strong-minded journal; but doubtless there will be reams of twaddle written about it.

THE *Western World*, this month, which is about double its usual size, is specially devoted to the City of Winnipeg as a souvenir number. The letter press contains some interesting glimpses of the early history of the Red River Settlement and probably the most complete and accurate description of Winnipeg ever published. The issue is profusely illustrated. Of special interest are the early views, such as Fort Douglass in 1817, the first windmill on the Red River, Fort Garry as it appeared in 1860, the first steamer to reach Fort Garry, and a number of others showing the rise of the city.

SPEAKING of the Victoria municipal board, the *Commercial Journal* says:

"Experience has shown them to have been the very worst class of men that the city could have had to control its destinies at a crisis like the present. We want, as the *Commercial Journal* has many a time urged, business men at the head of our concerns, who have sufficient 'savvy' and common sense not only to watch the progress of events, but to look ahead—men, for instance, of the class of Mr. T. B. Hall, who are so well thought of by business men as to be deemed worthy of occupying as mercantile men the highest positions that are within their gift as a class. The fact is, as Alderman Hunter pertinently put it, 'the city is not being attended to,' and if the streets and water-works are neglected, it must fall behind."

THERE is something utterly demoralizing and disgusting in the spreading before the public of all the details of the training

of Sullivan and Corbett for their coming brutal encounter. If one could hope that the contest would result in the permanent disabling of both brutes, so that they would be forever retired from the attention of the public, it would be better possible to bear with some patience the importance which is now given to them; but when one reflects how the victor will be lionized, and how debasing the whole thing is, it is impossible to understand how respectable papers can consent to assist in advertising the fight or the fighters.

AUTOCRATIC law is not confined to the militia in the United States. The Boston board of aldermen apparently are impressed by their own importance as much as the amateur warrior who strung a private up by the thumbs at Homestead the other day. They have decided to cancel the license of every theatre manager who refuses to promise them that no jokes about aldermen will be allowed in his theatre. A habit has developed in Boston of poking fun at the aldermen, and the evil got in the theatres. The actors, however, are handicapped. This should be accepted as a timely warning by the manager of the Victoria theatre.

AMONG the worst "kickers" about the heat in summer are those people who protested only a few weeks ago because there was no summer in sight. There is no valid reason for the wall of the disgruntled at hot weather. What season is more beautiful than the full summertime? The gates of life are wide open. Streams of illimitable air laden with ozone flow in to bathe and strengthen tired lungs. At night Luna comes forth, trailing clouds of glory. Sea shore and forest paths invite weary feet, and the warm greensward is nature's own couch. Fly, ant, worm, and the necessity of daily toil are "sent" that the human animal may keep moving and not allow the delicious hours to pass in one long dream of luxury. Man was made to hustle. We are not "here for our health." So what little pleasures, like not weather, that we can get on the side, as it were, let us accept with thankful hearts and not kick. Summer is a snap.

CRISP AND CASUAL.

Milan is to have an electrical exhibition in 1894.

Churches built in America in 1891 numbered 8,508.

Arizona is the only State that has a herd of camels.

One pound of Indian tea will make 170 cups of strong tea.

San Francisco has an animal that is part goat and part deer.

The total colored population of the United States is 7,608,360.

A child just born has less chance of living a year than an octogenarian.

The New Testament was first printed in Irish in 1602.

The coffee palaces of Melbourne are the finest in the world.

Every square mile of the sea contains 120,000,000 fish of various kinds.

Five thousand women are engaged in the retail liquor business in Chicago.