

Courier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

MARKETS AND MARKETING.

What busy hives are to be witnessed at our markets on the regular market days, when our Canadian farmers and their wives cross the river to dispose of the varied produce stored up at quiet farms! Bonsecours and St. Ann's markets are thronged at these times. The motley group of buyers is only exceeded by the diversity of nationality, of style, and manners which characterise the vendors of the products of field and farm. A visit to our markets gives us glimpses of life which we little thought was to be found in this city.

From Jacques Cartier Square eastward lies a busy quarter which has little in common with the rest of the city. The streets round Bonsecours market, with their quaint buildings and odd arrangements, bedecked with sign-boards whose names remind you frequently of noble French families of the past; the loud and voluble flow of talk that beats upon your ears from every side, remind you of a Normandy town in *la belle France*. Farmers' wives and daughters, clinging closely to the fashions of the place from whence their ancestors came, perhaps several generations past, still wear the same dress of the French peasant—modified somewhat to suit our Canadian climate—and these form prominent figures in a purely French scene. While as regards the farmers, they are of somewhat stouter build than the ordinary French peasant—made harder and stronger by Canadian pure air and bracing climate—and as they chatter in their French patois over bargains with customers, or discuss home affairs with neighbors every gesture and utterance tells the tale as plainly as may be that the *habitant* is yet purely French in his thoughts and affections. It is rather remarkable, therefore, that more of us do not wander through these portions of our city where there is so much to interest and amuse. The scene at Bonsecours in the early morning of Tuesday, Friday or Saturday is one full of life, and an hour can be well spent among the French *habitants* who there assemble in full force. Saturday night at St. Ann's would also make a capital subject for a series of sketches, for here gather the thrifty wives of our artisans to make their weekly purchases of household requisites from the strange knot of stall keepers, most of whom have a wonderfully strong Irish brogue. If you want to see all phases of our city life I think you must become a frequent visitor at the markets. As some chubby-faced, bright-eyed lad passes you, carrying under his arm a fine turkey, for the Sunday family dinner, his face lighted up with a happy look of pride at the treat he is bearing homeward, a thrill of pleasure quickens your heart-strings, momentarily though it may be, making you glad that peace and plenty will be the lot of that family for one day at least. Our hearts become more mellow, the sharp edges of our matter-of-fact lives are somewhat rounded by the sight of the poor man's pleasure at securing some delicacy for ailing wife or darling child. Here is, then, one reason why we should more frequently visit our admirable markets.

There is another reason, however, which has more of a practical turn. A considerable pecuniary saving is yearly effected by visiting and purchasing at the markets, which by-the-by are within walking distance of almost all our homes. Friends tell me of the high prices now demanded for all articles of living in up-town markets, how the prices have advanced a hundred per cent on those charged in the "good old days!" But I feel that conscientiously I cannot complain at the rates ruling, —I believe the gentlemen call it so in their transactions, so why not term it so in ours—at Bonsecours and St. Ann's markets. There is much grumbling at the prices charged for provisions here, with I fear but little show of reason. We should be thankful for our own good fortune, rather than hanker after the low rates which prevailed in Canada many years ago. If my readers wish to derive consolation for prices paid in Montreal let them peruse the market lists given in the New York and Boston papers, where everything seems exorbitantly high when compared even with the highest ruling here. Or let them glance at the English papers, and see how meat in manufacturing towns is more than twice the price we pay even at up-town markets, much less at our principal ones. And while provisions are cheap compared with the prices charged in the States and in England—for which we should be duly thankful—a reduction not to so great an extent certainly, but still very considerable, will be found in the prices demanded at Bonsecours and St. Ann's compared with other markets and shops. This is especially the case with meat, poultry, vegetable and butter, the natural result of keener competition and more direct trade between producer and consumer. Those of us who wish to reduce our annual expenditure and make the

best use possible of limited incomes, will, therefore, act wisely by setting out on market morning to Bonsecours, to return invigorated in body and happy in mind at making a little money go a long way, having enjoyed the pleasant walk and the picturesque scene at Bonsecours market. I fear, however, marketing proper, I mean attending our large markets is not fashionable in our city. Why such should be the case I cannot imagine. In the great provincial cities of England the *elite* may be seen every morning, and more particularly on market days, driving round to market in their carriages, choosing and purchasing the necessities as well as the delicacies of the table; it is, in fact, the best time to see the latest fashions, for the markets are filled with a gay throng from nine to twelve o'clock. I hope the weekly trip to the markets will become equally fashionable in Montreal ere long, and that Bonsecours and St. Ann's will be visited by our "upper ten" as well as by the hard working thrifty wives of our artisan class.

BLANCHE B.

THE FASHION PLATE.

Fig. 1. This waste paper basket is made of black polished, and covered with alternate rows of puffed black silk and embroidery. Fig. 2 shows the pattern in the size required for the embroidery. The height of the basket is about 17 inches.

Fig. 3. The materials used in making this needle-book are cardboard for the lids, covered with white flannel embroidered with blue, and blue ribbons at the side. Flannel leaves as usual to hold the needles.

Fig. 4. Card-case. This is made of fine gray linen with point-russe embroidery in two shades of red.

Fig. 5. Blue satin pincushion with gold thread embroidery, and satin ribbon ruching.

Fig. 6. The tea-caddy should be of lime-wood, ornamented with brown and red stained wood, and with legs and mounting of green compressed leather. The medallion in the centre of the cover is embroidered with fine chenille of different colours on a white silk ground.

Fig. 7. This bracelet or footstool consists of a cornered cushion four inches and seven-eighths high, which is furnished with a canvas cover embroidered in cross-stitch and loop-stitch with zephyr and tapestry worsted in green shades. A fringed border, also worked on canvas, trims the edge of the cushion.

Fig. 8. The upper part of the front hair is waved, and is first combed on the forehead and then upward. The side hair is all combed up. All of the remaining hair is arranged in puffs of different sizes over the ear.

Fig. 9. For this coiffure the front hair is partly arranged in short curls fastened by pearl combs, and partly combed over a cap. The pulled back hair covers the beginning of two braids, which are wound around the crown, and which complete the coiffure. The braid hair ends in curls of different lengths underneath the back braid.

PARISIAN FASHIONS.

Black bonnets are no longer *de rigueur* with black dresses: if the bonnet is only partially black, there is always a slight admixture of colour with it. For example, a black face Rabagas has a coronet of black velvet, with jet leaves applied on it; beneath the coronet a row of forget-me-nots. At the side there is a branch of jet wheat, which stands upright from a pale blue satin bow; a pale blue feather rises at the back of the wheat, and another feather falls over the crown.

Touques, composed of a mixture of black and white lace, are very fashionable. They are ornamented with white lilies of the valley arranged both as a wreath and as an aigrette.

There are really no very important changes in the fashions at this season of the year. No one apparently wishes to put aside the looped-up tunics which we have worn so long; some suppress them at the back, and replace them with a train; but the looped-up tunics are so very pretty and so generally becoming that it would be rash to put them aside.

Black ball dresses are in great favour just now. Tabliers made of narrow black lace à l'Espagnol are worn, and broad black lace is used profusely on trains. With mourning ball dresses bunches of white lilac are worn, also tufts of lilies of the valley, large daisies both in black and white velvet and camellias; and yet in my opinion these flowers do not look so brilliant and effective alone as when the dress is trimmed with jet embroidery and jet foliage is mixed with them. When the wearer is not in mourning, but still desires a black dress, such flowers as pompon geraniums and pink laurel are worn. Flower fringes are also in favour.

In the new piece by M. Alexandre Dumas the younger, *Mlle. Disclée*, the principal actress, wears some very pretty toilettes. A charming one is composed as follows: A sapphire-blue velvet skirt trimmed with flounces; a blue lace fullie tunic embroidered with shaded leaves and blue flowers, and trimmed with fringe and white lace. Light blue fullie bodice with *Lamballe* fleu of white lace.

Polonaises made of embroidered white China crepe shawls are gaining ground in public favour. I mentioned this in a preceding letter; but when they were first adapted to this use the trimming was not rightly understood. These shawls, when richly embroidered, sometimes terminate with a long but struggling fringe, when this is the case the fringe should be cut off and replaced either by a richer and thicker one or with lace, as nothing looks in worse taste than a poor trimming upon an exceedingly rich fabric.—*Paris Correspondence of the "Queen."*

After a somewhat prolonged courtship of fifty years, John Griswold Rogers, aged seventy-eight, and Eliza Denison Griswold aged seventy-nine, were recently married at Tunkapogue. So far as is known, there never was any misunderstanding between the couple, nor any assignable cause for the long delay. They have always been considered "engaged," and the gentleman has made his Sunday evening call on the lady every fortnight for the last fifty years!

A memorial to Mr. Disraeli is in circulation for signature by women only, thanking him for the services he has rendered for some years in favour of giving votes to women who have a property qualification. It adds—"Your memorialists pray that you will further aid the cause of just representation by giving to the bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women the weight of your advocacy when next it shall be brought before the House of Commons, and your support as leader of the Conservative party influencing votes in its favour. They respectfully suggest that by taking such a course you would assist in completing, in a truly constitutional manner, that great and beneficent measure of reform based on household suffrage, with which your name must ever be associated in the annals of the country." A memorial is also to be presented to Mr. Gladstone, praying that he will, on behalf of the Government, give his support to the bill.

A CLASSIC HINT TO MODERN SOCIETY.—In old times it was considered unpatriotic for a citizen to remain a bachelor all his days. By the Spartan laws those citizens who remained bachelors after middle age were excluded from all offices, civil or military. At certain feasts they were exposed to public derision and led around the market place. Although, generally speaking, age was usually respected in Sparta, yet the feeling was not manifested toward old bachelors. "Why should I make way for you," said a Spartan youth to a grey-headed old bachelor, "who will never have a son to do me the same honour when I am old?" The Roman law pursued the same policy toward old bachelors. They had to pay extra and special taxes. Under Augustus, a law was enacted by which old bachelors were made incapable of acquiring legacies and devices of real estate by will, except from their near relatives. In canon law old bachelors are enjoined to marry, or to profess chastity, or in earnest to become monks.

"Howard Glyndon," in the *Christian Union*, recommends that the study of art be more generally utilized by women, so that they may engage in pursuits congenial to their nature, and work be a delight rather than a hardship. She says:

"It is sad indeed—when one thinks of the thousand graceful pursuits, which are fairly remunerative and which require an adept hand, a ready eye, and loving attention rather than great mental effort, which women might make their own—to see them so firmly tied down to the idea that teaching, sewing, writing, lecturing, and doctoring are the only things they can do! I fully approve of women as teachers; but there are many who have not the stamina which it requires. Sewing for a living is slow death, as a rule. As for lecturing, the less said the better. Every body likes to hear himself talk, but it is an open question as to how much good is gained by either side when a woman of only average talents lectures. Every profession requiring a woman to be out at all hours, in all weathers, and on all days is open to unanswerable objections, and that covers the ground of doctoring. There are many artistic pursuits in which a woman may choose her own hours and days for work and relaxation; and every calling that favors this plan is specially adapted for women."

The following letter has been sent to a daily contemporary in allusion to a notice of the marriage of Miss Keene, or King, with a Mahometan in Morocco. As we published the report in common with other journals, we cannot do less than print the rectification, only endeavouring to hope that the writer's anticipations will be realized. "The report which has appeared in the papers concerning the above being very inaccurate, and your comments on the same likely to prove very injurious to the lady concerned, as well as a source of annoyance to her friends, I trust you will in justice allow me to state the real facts of the case. In the first place, the Sheriff is a widower, and has no other wife. A declaration to that effect was signed by him in the presence of two notaries public before Sir John Hay performed the marriage ceremony, and in the certificate signed by him he is also described as a widower. In the second place, a contract was duly drawn up to the effect that the lady should retain her own religion, dress, and all privileges the same as if she had married a Christian. In conclusion, who knows but that an English Christian lady occupying such a position may not, by her influence, be able in many ways to benefit the people of a country so far behind Europe in enlightenment as Morocco is?" In case the Mahometan "widower" uses the liberty allowed him by his religion and the laws of his country, what remedy will be within reach of this "English Christian lady" who is now married to him?

Jacobs' Rheumatic Liquid cures lameness.

James H. Johnston, Esq., Montreal, wrote in August, 1871, as follows:—It affords me great pleasure to bear testimony to the benefit received from using Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. I found it a nervous tonic of great power and efficacy, curing me in a short time from GENERAL DEBILITY and NERVOUSNESS, and I became robust and vigorous under its influence, and gained considerably in weight withal.

News of the Week.

THE cabinet of Berlin were on strike.

Marshal Serrano is appointed Dictator of Spain.

THE Liverpool Peace Society have held a meeting.

THE Carlists were said to be active and the army dissatisfied.

THE European Powers will protect Portugal from Spanish aggression.

Mr. Stephen Tobin, one of the members for Halifax, will move the Address.

MR. PICHE, Q. C., is appointed Assistant Clerk of the House of Commons.

It is expected that 60,000 miners will resume work immediately in South Wales.

Two hundred men are at work on the Montreal and Ottawa Junction Railroad.

THE King of Portugal gave a farewell dinner to Amadæus, who leaves Lisbon for Italy.

THE Spanish Government will honor the financial engagements of the late monarchy.

BARON Falkenberg, Consul-General for Norway and Sweden, died at Quebec on Friday.

THE United States sent a cargo of raw and manufactured products to the Vienna Exhibition.

THE forgeries perpetrated on the Bank of England will, it is said, amount to a million of dollars.

FAMILIES were still leaving Madrid and other cities to escape the threatened disturbances.

AN unusual phenomenon at Montmorency Falls this winter is the formation of three cones of ice.

THE London Telegraph says Russia will propose a Joint Commission to settle the boundary of Afghanistan.

A MADRID despatch says that one of the first acts of the constituent Cortes will be to proclaim emancipation in Cuba.

YUCATAN Indians had attacked Belize, which has led to a correspondence between the English authorities and Mexico.

THE Conservatives in England are organizing a strong opposition to the Government Educational Amendment Bill.

THE Brazilian Government has issued a decree permitting the free navigation of the Madeira, a tributary of the Amazon.

SOME reports represent the Carlist movement as increasing in power, while other accounts mention the defeat of insurgent bands.

IT is expected that in the National Assembly both parties will call upon M. Taïers to declare distinctly the policy of his Government.

THE European powers maintain semi-official communication with Spain, but Russia does not favor a recognition of the present government.

THE Prussian authorities had ordered the cabinet of Berlin to put an end to the strike, under penalty of a withdrawal of their licenses.

THE frauds perpetrated on the Bank of England will amount to two million dollars, and startling revelations are looked for in the case.

COMMISSIONERS are now at work investigating the claims of citizens of the United States, for damages sustained through the civil war in Cuba.

A REQUISITION has been presented to Mr. Thibaudeau asking him to come forward as a candidate for Quebec County. Mr. Thibaudeau has not yet replied.

SWITZERLAND has recognized the Spanish Republic. Austria, with Germany and Russia, doubts if the government is sufficiently secure to entitle it to a full recognition.

SOME of the South American States have closed their ports against vessels coming from Brazil, in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever on the coast of that country.

A REPUBLICITY treaty between the Sandwich Islands and the United States is spoken of; as also, the cession by the insular government of a portion of its territory lying adjacent to Pearl Bay.

PRESIDENT Grant calls the attention of Congress to that portion of the Washington Treaty which deals with the fisheries and other Canadian interests, and asks for legislation on the subject.

THE Ottawa snow-shoe race will take place on Saturday next, under the patronage of Lord Dufferin, who will offer prizes, as will also the honourable the Privy Council, the Corporation, and others.

A REVOLT had broken out in the Russian provinces of Volhynia and Podolia, on the confines of Poland, and the insurgents, who had defeated a body of troops sent to oppose them, were committing fearful excesses.

THE Carlists were within three miles at Pampluna on 3rd Inst., the fortified capital of Navarre. The garrison was small and threatened by internal enemies, and the re-inforcement which had been sent to them had deserted on the way.

SOME rioting occurred at the election in Quebec on 3rd Inst., during which a polling booth was demolished, and the books destroyed; but the fighting does not appear to have been serious, the mob being overawed as it would appear by the display of military force.

A NEW bureau will be formed at Ottawa, under the direction of a Minister of the Interior, to have charge of Indian, Crown and Ordnance lands; and the two Secretarial departments, the Secretary of State's and the Secretary for the Provinces, will be merged into one.