

THE SATURDAY GAZETTE, ST. JOHN, N. B.

IN THE BY-WAYS AND HEDGES.

What the Lounger Hears Other People Talking About and His Views on Things in General.

If one believes in luck at all, he must believe that the Vancouver is a very unlucky ship. She had the misfortune to be commanded by Captain Porter on her trip out to this port, and as a result of this command the people of St. John were treated to the most revolting tales of cruelty ever heard in our police court. But the ship had no part in this, save to be the scene of the cruelties. She was in need of repairs when she arrived here, and when these repairs had been made and the vessel pronounced seaworthy, she was fitted out and got ready for sea once more. A new captain was put in command, and a new crew, officers and all shipped, and the vessel set her sails and turned her course across the Atlantic. Seven days out and she returned to port, her crew contending that the vessel was not seaworthy. At first public sympathy was with the crew, and persons were willing to believe anything, but when the vessel was examined by the proper authorities she was pronounced perfectly seaworthy. Then another report was issued, and two good men sent aboard to examine and report on the condition of the vessel independent of the portwardens. They not only substantiated the first report, but came even more strongly than ever in favor of the seaworthiness of the ship, and the magistrates sentenced the mutinous crew to three months in jail each. This is all very well so far as the sailors are concerned, but it is rough on the citizens to have to feed a lot of lazy, hulking fellows, too ugly or too cowardly to do their duty as men ought to do.

Time was when the men who went to sea were the bravest and best of our countrymen. There are some of them still scattered around among ships' crews, but too often happens in these days that the name sailor means a trachorous, grumbling rascal, who has no more sense of honor, decency, or truth than a sneak thief. It happens at times that in a whole ship's crew there is not a man who would not blackmail the officers or join in a conspiracy to ruin the characters of the men under whom they served to "get even" for some alleged slight or insult. There are brutes on the quarter-deck, but it seldom happens that there are angels in the forecastle. In the first case it is right and proper to deprive men who are unfit to command of the power to abuse their fellow creatures. As it is now if wholesale charges are made against the officers of a ship by the crew, the judges can't hear but one side of the case. And being by their oath bound to judge the case by the evidence, are obliged to decide the case on the hearing of one side. I believe this law should be considered, so as to give all sides a hearing. There may be some temptation for a man charged with a crime to commit perjury, but such attempts are generally seen through very easily, and in cases of conspiracy the temptation to lie is equally strong on the part of the accusers.

I have heard a good deal of comment recently on the statement that a man can live on \$300 and bring up a family. That a man and a family of three or four children can live on this sum of money has been demonstrated practically by numbers of people. But how do those who are forced by circumstances get along on this small sum of money? Clothing, house rent and fuel eat up two-thirds of the total sum, and it must require a large amount of economy to purchase food enough to supply this family of five for say \$2 a week. It is possible to do a great many things, but in my humble opinion, it is impossible to live comfortably on \$300 a year.

When a man adds to the statement that it is not only possible to live on \$300 a year, but that it is also possible to save money, I am of the opinion that the gentleman who makes the statement has never tried to do with so small an amount of money. It is a very simple thing to sit down and figure out theoretically how certain expenditures may be kept within certain bounds, but it is notorious that a man does not always enjoy good health, and that it sometimes occurs that the wife of prices at which one expects to buy certain things averages higher than was expected. Taking everything into consideration, including the unforeseen expenditures that necessarily arise, and the margin over the actual cost of food and clothing will be found very small. I am glad to say, however, that very few of our people are forced to live on so small a sum of money as \$300 a year, and I hope to see the time when working men and women will earn much larger pay than they do at the present time.

I have on numerous occasions called the attention of the Common Council to the condition of the old burial ground. It is the only place wherein a daughter of the city's money is spent in adornment and the sum is so small that it practically amounts to nothing. Within the enclosure bounded by the dilapidated fence are the ashes of the founders of a nation, men who had the courage to leave a country whose constitution was disliked by them and lay the foundation of a new state. Yet the descendants of these men

neglect to the last degree the resting place of the founders of the city. This is not justice, while it is foolish to neglect the living in honoring the dead, still we should not altogether forget the men who came to St. John and by their industry and toil founded what is the leading city in the Maritime Provinces, and what is destined to be the gate-way of the trade of the Dominion.

I hope therefore this year that the council will so increase the grant for beautifying the old burial ground, as to make it such a place that every stranger will visit it. It is a national cemetery, and to every student of history possesses interest, and it is therefore fitting and proper that the people at large should contribute towards beautifying it, that a wretched fence should be replaced by a new one, and if there are no funds for that purpose this year, then the fence should be repaired and made to present a decent appearance. As it is now, the fence is in such a condition that the place is infested with dogs and cats who do much damage, and render it almost impossible to make the place presentable.

The discussion of the public school system by practical school teachers in the Sun ought to do good. The great trouble has been that teachers have not taken enough interest in their work and as a consequence the suggestions have often come from those who know least of the requirements of a school system. I would like to see the question of compulsory education for cities considered by teachers, educationalists and others, who know the working of the present system. There is no question whatever, that education lessens crime, and this is to some extent the reason for the existence of a system of public schools. The question of industrial education, which would include also agricultural training, should be considered by those who have in view the benefit and improvement of the race.

THE LOCKER.

Fashion Notes.

Stringless bonnets are used only for traveling and visiting. Nearly every young woman has one of red tulle in her collection of head gear.

The open pencil skirt is becoming over one of different fabric is daily gaining in favor. About a fifth of the dresses one sees on the street, just now have underskirts of copper-colored cloth.

All the shades of Gobelins blue seem to be the favorite wear just at present. It is used in costume for young girls, and is usually combined with either velvet or plush of the same shade, and has touches of gold or silver braid.

Belt is becoming fashionable again. They are used with a great many evening dresses, made of broad, heavy satin ribbon of the same shade as the gown and held in place with an old paste buckle, if procurable.

A perfect fitting long coat of broadcloth is now the most fashionable street wear for matrons. Jackets are held to be in better taste for young girls. These coats are of dark blue, Gobelins blue, blue gray, gray, brown, or terra-cotta, and for those in mourning, black. They are usually ornamented with appliques of silk, pascamenterie lace and fluff and have deep collar of fur, the wide open sleeves being also bordered with either black marton, or the long-haired fur known sometimes as "monkey," and women who can afford it use Russian or Alaska sable.

A pretty theatre costume worn at De La's the other night by a blonde was of black mervellux draped with black point d'esprit. This was sewed in bands of two inches wide alternating with bands of black satin ribbon, giving it the effect of a striped material. The draperies were drawn high on one hip, showing the mervellux petticoat and a broad satin sash was combined with the black draperies. The lace sleeves were slightly puffed on the shoulders, the inner sleeves being plain, and the lace was gathered in to the throat where it was held by a wide band of gold braiding encircling the collar, the finishing of the sleeves being similar. The hat worn with this costume was of white felt encircled with two bands of white moire ribbon with up-right loops on one side, where were set an aigrette of heron's plumes and two tiny white birds.

Some of the new polonaises have pointed yokes of Lyons velvet, with a deep pointed grille of the same at the waist. These are pretty only upon slender figures. The military collar and close sleeves are also of velvet, this rich garniture being enhanced in effect by an applique work of silk and metal cords in Persian designs. Other polonaises are open all the way down the front, over a galoon trimmed plastron, and still others are slashed up the sides and at the back over skirts of watered silk or velvet.

The three sorts of gowns in highest favor for mild Lenten festivities is first black lace. This is largely combined with gold braid. Next comes gowns of white woollen fabrics, such as cashmere, ladies' cloth, or serge, and these have generally vests of white China crepe, and are braided profusely with gold, silver or copper. Third on the list comes poppy-red China crepe, which drapes exquisitely, is easy to fit and is becoming to almost everyone. This is combined with tulle of the same shape for garniture, and in some charming frocks this tulle, which is used for vest and trimming of sleeves and at the throat, is embroidered in gold.

Twenty years ago the mingling of yellow and green would have been looked upon with horror, but the aesthetic revival has taught the modistes many new possibilities of combinations in color. One of the prettiest of the dinner gowns made for a young lady who left last week for Florida was pale apricot China silk figured in gold fleur de l'ys. The plain petticoat has a broad band of light olive velvet around it, and the long full draperies had a narrow edging of the same. The bodice was cut V-shaped back and front, the opening being edged with velvet and folds of green and yellow tulle were next the bare neck. The half-long sleeves were finished in the same manner. There were gilt buttons and pale tan gloves, and the wearer used as ornaments a string of gold beads and a carved gold comb.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A COLUMN OF GOSSIP AND HINTS FOR OLD AND YOUNG GIRLS.

What Women All Over the World are Talking and Thinking About.

The demand for artistic dresses is creating a new field of remunerative work for young women artists. An association is being formed to supply the demand, and the artist's training and powers will find wide scope in color, form and arrangement of costumes. Mrs. Cleveland's pany dress, and the one of poppy design worn at the French ball recently, will be outshone. The first work of the association, it is rumored, will be robes for a fashionable Easter luncheon. Although there will not be a chance for the rich coloring, harmonious beautiful-delineate tints and exquisite drapery and embroidery forming sufficient material for artistic work. These are all to be fewer gowns. The Easter lily robe will be of white satin and gold thread embroidery; the yellow daffodil, of pale yellow crepe and delicate green silk; the crocus, violet satin with veenings of darker silk, and so through the required number of spring flowers.

The family of a wealthy young lady of fashionable New York has recently come into possession of a Vermont farm, and the adventuresome daimsel is organizing a party of her friends to accompany her to a sugar-off in a Vermont maple grove. A merry time is anticipated, and as the party propose to do the sugaring themselves, their friends may expect cakes of the original sweet. The novelty of the idea alone is sure to make it a success, for fashionable people are always on the alert for some old form of entertainment. Last year a sugaring-off party was given by another society girl here in her city home. The plate of hot syrup was poured. Pickles, old-fashioned doughnuts, real country cider, and nuts constituted the rest of the regulation fare, and the affair was a jolly one that the guests are hoping for a repetition this season.

On a parlor car coming from Canada to New York the other day two ladies who were fellow passengers entered into conversation. One was Mrs. Robinson, wife of the recent Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and a literary woman of note. She was en route for England, and she spoke to her American acquaintance with considerable feeling of the Queen's method of the world. Her husband had received imperative orders to return home at once, and she had only two hours to pack her trunks and arrange the affairs of the household and prepare for the journey across the ocean. Mrs. Robinson in her younger days was a famous singer, and her marriage to the Lieutenant-Governor had accumulated a considerable property. When, however, by her marriage she found herself no longer in need of her property or of her abilities to make her living as a singer, she gave up her career and devoted herself to the hospital for incurables. This institution, built and entirely maintained by her, she had earned as a singer, has become one of the most important public charities of Ontario.

A great friend of Worth and a very remarkable figure in Paris is his corsetiere. He refuses to fit any dress until the "fitter" is clothed in one of his madame's admirable concoctions of bone and steel. She charges outrageous prices, \$45 for a corset of simple cut with a bit of lace around the edge, and when it is of satin or silk and elaborately got up she asks anywhere from \$75 to \$150. She makes no pretense that such a sum represents the value of the material in the corset, but thinks that not too much to ask for the inimitable figures she creates with her wonderful knowledge of the necessities of the female form. No matter how thin or how stout the customer, she manages to give her what she calls "lines," and it is for this she expects to be paid. She has made a fortune out of her corsets and has one of the most beautiful homes in Paris. Almost every hour in the late afternoon if one drops in there he will find the beautiful drawing-rooms filled with duchesses, princesses, women of the noblest name and the largest fortune. They sit about drinking tea and gossiping with Madame, who moves from group to group with some bit of news which she imparts with an air of confidence to each one. She is elegantly perfect in her own costume and has the manners and beauty of a *grace de dame*. Yet she does not make the smallest effort to assume any air of equality with the frequenters of her salon, preserving in a very remarkable combination her same self-respect and a patent realization all the while that these women are her customers and not her guests. They find this so soothing and satisfactory that they rarely fail to drop in for tea and Madame's budget of the latest gossip. She used to remain in the fitting-rooms of the female form. 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