

THE SATURDAY GAZETTE, ST. JOHN, N. B., AUG. 6, 1887.

THE SATURDAY GAZETTE.

Published every Saturday Morning, from the office No. 21 Canterbury street.
JOHN A. BOWEN, Editor and Manager.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1887.

The SATURDAY GAZETTE is the only Saturday paper in the Maritime provinces, devoted exclusively to family and general matters.

It will be sent to any address in Canada or the United States, on receipt of the subscription price, \$1.50 per annum; 75 cents for six months.

Contributions on all subjects, in which Canadians are interested, will always be welcome. Correspondents will oblige by making their articles as brief as the subject will allow, and are also particularly requested to write on one side of the paper only. The writer's name and address must accompany every communication. Rejected MSS will be returned to the writers.

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Advertisers desiring changes, to ensure insertion of their favors in THE GAZETTE of the current week will be obliged to have their copy at the office of publication by Thursday noon.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The strongest of us will be nothing but memory to our friends by and by; the better we live the sweeter that memory will be.

The man who killed his children last May to get into a desirable tenement is no better off to-day as far as comfort is concerned than he was before he moved.

People who moved on the first of May are now about getting things in their households into order. It takes time to do these things but comfort and order are sure to arise out of misery and chaos if one has only patience.

A man never knows anything about the events of matrimonial life until his garments are crowded out of the closets where his wife hangs up her dresses. He realizes then that man and wife are one and knows well who is the one. This is written only for married men.

Theologians who are expending such an extraordinary amount of concern over the mortal condition of the heathen might far better be giving their attention to their own condition at present. A quarrel over an unanswerable conundrum may be entertaining, but it certainly is not edifying.

In their efforts to outlive each other, the New York hotels are struggling to surpass in the beauty of their girl telegraph operators. Men and boys used to look after things in these offices, but girls took their places. When there are so many offices together, a young man is likely to go where there is the prettiest girl to take the message.

The melancholy intelligence from Asbury Park of the death of an infant from the effects of heat while the nurse had it out in its carriage on the beach, conveys a timely warning to parents whose children are in the care of servants. Not alone good intention but good judgment as well are needed to ensure the welfare of the little people in these exceptionally trying days.

People interested in breach of promise suits will find a point in the example of Mrs. Childs, an English widow of forty with nine children, who, when she accepted a candidate for the position of second husband, made an entry of the fact in her diary and had her lover sign it. Her thoughtfulness stood her in hand to the amount of £200 damages on trial of the suit she brought when the lover proved untrue.

This fair sex in New York are just now presenting quite a military appearance, owing to their liberal use of gold braid in the adornment of dresses, and of silver girdles—not those with chain accompaniment, but the girle pure and simple. A stately blonde maiden made quite a sensation on Union Square on a recent Saturday afternoon, by her dress of dark material slashed with yellow, and a ponderous silver girle that encircled her waist.

A GERMAN paper makes the statement that more than two million glass eyes are made every year in Germany and Switzerland, while one French house manufactures three hundred thousand of them annually. The pupil is made of colored glass, and sometimes red lines are painted on the inner surface, to simulate the veins. The largest number of these eyes are bought by laborers who are exposed to fire and are constantly liable to lose on eye. The expression of the eyes is almost solely due to the movements of the upper eyelids; and this is the reason that we may see a man with a glass eye a hundred times before we discover his infirmity.

A BIRMINGHAM paper says that a novel experiment was tried there recently with the telephone. A letter was received by Messrs. Rogers & Priestly, musical ca-

terers in that town, asking them to send an organ to suit a pianoforte to a room at Moseley, where a concert was to take place that night. The firm were totally at a loss to know the precise tone of the piano, and consequently despaired of being able to comply with the demand in time. However, much to their surprise, they found that they could communicate with the people at Moseley through the telephone. Forthwith the firm asked that one of the notes of the piano should be struck. When this was done the sound could be heard in Colmore Row, and by reducing the pitch-pipe, the tones of both instruments were made to correspond.

OUR EXTRA NUMBER.

The present issue of the GAZETTE consists of twelve pages. It was the intention to have made this edition sixteen pages, but this would have required more time than we had at our disposal. A large edition has been printed for circulation throughout the entire province. Many of our most enterprising city merchants have availed themselves of the opportunity of making the nature of their business known far and wide.

Much of our space in this issue is given up to descriptions of St. John and its business, but none of the usual features of the paper have been dispensed with. The GAZETTE is winning its way into popularity, because all questions are discussed in its columns entirely without political bias.

Our desire is to have the GAZETTE in every home in the Maritime Provinces. In order that this may be possible we have to-day reduced the price of the GAZETTE to TWO CENTS A SINGLE COPY and the annual subscription to ONE DOLLAR A YEAR. With this change we hope to even further popularize THE GAZETTE.

FROM POVERTY TO WEALTH.

In the country districts and the small towns there is very little of what the dwellers in large cities would call poverty, that is subject want without hope for the future—a state of society wherein children are born to a certain future of want, degradation and misery. Before the son or daughter of the very poor man in country town or rural section there are avenues which open to positions of comfort and respectability, if not of affluence and power, but for the child of the slums there is no hope within the borders of the city. Hereditary poverty is possible only where the people are permanently divorced from the soil. To this extent the doctrines of Henry George and his friends are correct.

It would not be difficult to show that the real cause of the overcrowding of cities and the consequent existence of perennial poverty is not due to the existing laws which permit the accumulation of real estate in the possession of an individual. Possibly unrestricted proprietorship may augment the evil, but the real cause is to be sought for in the habits of the people themselves, notably in the intemperate use of ardent spirits, which may properly be regarded as the prime cause for the destitution existing in the great cities. A generation or two of descent towards a lower scale, which is certain to be the result of intemperance not only unfits the descendants of the industrious workmen for any position requiring the continued exercise of either mental or physical power, but also renders them incapable of escaping from their misery to the only source whence restored power can be obtained, namely the cultivation of the soil. Hence when drafts are made upon the rural population to supply nerve, brain and muscle for the demands of the city, those whose places are thus supplied pass through the regular stages of partial employment, no employment at all and last of all crime. The criminal classes of our cities are the last result of the social custom which makes the drinking of intoxicating liquors a fashionable necessity.

But this article is not intended as a temperance lecture. Our original proposition was that hereditary poverty is the result of a long continued divorce of the people from the soil. In New Brunswick we know very little of what hereditary poverty is; yet there are degrees of it with which we are all familiar. Happily the remedy is more readily applicable with us than with those who live in the great cities. We have societies of various kinds for the relief of such poverty as exists amongst us, and it is worthy of their consideration if they could not advantageously turn their attention to the removal of some of the objects of their care from the city to the country. In all sections of the province there is a demand for active boys willing to learn a farm. The pay of such would be nominal at first, but they would be sure of abundant food and clothing, a comfortable home to live in and the opportunity of learning an honorable and useful calling. When a number of lads come

out from England they find good homes at once, and no good reason exists why scores of young boys in our own city, who here have a life of poverty and temptation before them, should not seek openings of the same kind. It is of course desirable that boys sent to the country should not have acquired idle, dissolute and filthy habits; but even for such, some preparatory or reformatory institution should be established. Laboring men of steady habits can in nine cases out of ten better themselves by going into the country, that is, if they are not handicapped at the outset with a large family; though, even in such cases, success may be achieved. To those who have never before observed it the progress which an industrious man will make upon a farm in a few years is a great surprise. A few years only are necessary to place him beyond the reach of actual want, and not many are requisite to render him comfortable. To be the producers of the necessities of your life is to get them at first cost, and this is a long step on the road from poverty to wealth. If the life of a single individual can be so altered, that instead of becoming a burden upon society and perhaps leaving behind him others of the same kind, he is able to place himself in a self-supporting, drawing from the soil all that he needs for himself and his family, the gain to the state would be manifest. In the former state he is a source of expense, weakness and possibly of danger. In the latter he is a strength to society. Such transformations might be far more frequently accomplished than they are. Amongst us are scores of persons who, with a little encouragement and perhaps a little assistance, could be induced to attempt to make the change. We commend the matter to the noble men and women in our midst who work and give freely for the benefit of the needy.

MIDSUMMER LOVE STORIES.

Sam Peters is a good-looking young negro, who has been hauling watermelons into Quinman, Ga., from his master's farm in Brooks County. On the way he always kept a sharp lookout for a pretty yellow girl who sometimes flirted with him from the roadside. Last Monday, as he was passing her house, she cried out, "Wish I had one of dem watermelons." Sam said he would give her the biggest one in the lot if she would ride into town with him, and she accepted. By the time they had reached town Sam had persuaded her to marry him; a preacher was hunted up and the knot was tied.

A romantic wedding took place at Edwinstown, Ill., the other day, when Prof. James O. Duncan, of Vandalla, a widower, was married to Mrs. Lillie Carroll, of Springfield, a widow. The marriage was the culmination of a series of coincidences in the lives of the wedded pair. The Rev. J. B. Thomson, who performed the ceremony, officiated in the same capacity at Prof. Duncan's first marriage and also at Mrs. Carroll's first marriage, and preached the funeral sermon at the death of Prof. Duncan's wife and at the death of Mrs. Carroll's husband. It was this strange fatality of circumstances which induced the couple to seek again the services of Mr. Thompson.

A pretty Nebraska widow, who had ensnared the affections of many respectable farmers living near Wyman, was recently ordered to leave the country by a band of "regulators," under penalty of a coat of tar and feathers. Nothing daunted by the threat the widow sought a double-barrel shotgun and awaited developments. When the regulators approached the house to carry out their threat, the sight of a loaded gun pointed from one of the windows deterred them, and one of the number, in admiration of the woman's pluck, advanced under a flag of truce, proposed marriage, and was accepted on the spot. Then a person was called in, the marriage was celebrated, and the night wound up with a round of festivities.

Henry Wynn, a bachelor from the West, who was recently visiting his brother at Owen Sound, Ont., expressed the desire to get married before his return. The day of his departure had already been set, and to expedite matters he offered his brother's wife a deed to fifty acres of land if she would get him a wife by the Saturday following the date of the offer. After exploring the town without success for several days, on Friday Mrs. Wynn met a Miss Melrose, who was willing to accept the offer. She was introduced to her prospective husband on Saturday evening, just before the boat was leaving. A consultation was held, the pair were married on the spot, Mrs. Wynn was handed over the deed for the fifty acres of land and the bride and groom steamed away for their prairie home.

Kind But Not Consoling.

Wife—I want a new hat.
Husband—What's the matter with the one you have?
W.—It is a perfect fright.
H.—Who bought it?
W.—I did.
H.—And you think it is a perfect fright after selecting it yourself? It is clear your taste is not to be relied upon. I will keep my eye open as I am going about the city and select one for you myself, and you shall have a good one if it takes me a year to find it.

AROUND AND ABOUT.

"We are becoming more Americanized every year" said a well known citizen to me last Saturday. "Look," he continued, "at the dress of our people. See the number of white dresses worn by girls and young ladies during the summer season and compare the present time with ten or twenty years ago when white dresses were a comparative novelty in St. John." I looked and discovered that fully one half the ladies on King street wore white dresses—and the sidewalks were thronged with pedestrians. The spectacle was such as one would witness at some of the great seaside resorts on the Atlantic coast where, at times, it seems as if the entire female population had robed themselves in white. These white costumes are most appropriate for summer more particularly when they are properly set off with bows of silk and other stuff which add materially to the attractiveness of the costume.

But it is not only in the matter of costume that we are becoming Americanized. We do business on the same plan as the majority of American cities. In some points we are behind the larger cities. The credit system is still the greatest evil our merchants have to contend with. Two-thirds of the business of the city is done on credit. A system that is fraught with evil. It tends to make the purchaser more extravagant than he would be if he had to pay for the articles when he bought them. Besides the cash customer has to pay more than the value of the goods—not more than the merchant can afford to sell them for under the present system, but more than they could be bought for if there was no credit. There always will be commercial failures, but the number would be greatly reduced if there was no credit at all—that is in selling goods by retail. There has been a marked improvement in business methods in the past fifteen years as the majority of large establishments now send out their accounts every three months instead of every six months as formerly. Now there is a movement on foot to make the credit thirty days which would be a still greater improvement.

In common with a large number of citizens I attended the public meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on Friday evening of last week. We went there to hear arguments for and against the harbor commission, but I think very few people received any enlightenment at all on the subject. Three hundred, the Halifax figure, and numerous other questions, none of which were pertinent to the issue. All but two of the speakers owned up that they did not understand the question at all, which was painfully shown by the manner in which they discussed this great and important subject. Only one of those who understood it talked at all to the point, the others referring to almost everything else save the results of the harbor commission. There are men who understand the question; but I regret to say they were not present possibly because they knew it was useless to attempt to settle this question in a meeting at which not more than one-tenth of the rate payers would be represented. The meeting was called to kill the commission. That was the avowed object of the supporters of the motion in the common council. The mayor decided in favor of a resolution having this end in view, but the promoters of the meeting must have been surprised to find that fully one-half of those present were in favor of a commission. It is only right and proper that the complete plan of the government in forming the commission should be before the citizens before they vote on the question. The Commission Act, for instance, does not fix the salaries of the harbor officials—it makes no provision for the commissioners receiving any salary whatever. That there are men in this community who have sufficient interest in this city to serve on the commission without pay there can be no doubt, but whether such men would be appointed by the government is a question that cannot be decided until the names of the appointees are made known. Therefore it is extremely desirable that the question of remuneration of commissioners be fixed before the commission becomes an assured fact. The strongest advocates of the harbor commission do not want it if our trade is to be burdened by high salaries to a lot of useless people. They advocate the commission because they believe that it is in the best interests of the city to transfer the change of the harbor to an independent body, and if we are to make changes and improvements to make them at the expense of the trade benefited thereby overburdened merchants to bear the additional cost. The city of St. John pays \$30,000 a year for its harbor debt; the commission would only be required to pay \$20,000 for the same debt. Besides this, the commissioners have \$250,000 at their command to expend in harbor improvements. If wise and cautious men are appointed on the commission the whole of this amount will not be expended at once but as the trade of the city demands it. There is no earthly reason why the management of the harbor should cost more than \$5000 a year, commission, officials and all. Were this the case the commission could purchase the revenue producing properties in the harbor at once and make the improvements

immediately needed and still be in a position to lower the charges of the port to the former level—that is one-half the present rate of wharfage charged. It would be silly in the extreme for the commission to go to work at once and spend \$250,000 in harbor improvements some of which were not revenue producing properties. What we want is the means at hand to make these improvements as the necessity arises without placing additional burdens on the taxpayers. This can only be done by placing the harbor in commission, and by a harbor commission is meant five gentlemen who are well informed on all matters appertaining to ships and trade—not mere theorists but practical men of sound common sense—men who are above committing an act for mere selfish purposes but who will at all times act only in the interests of the trade of the city. Give us a commission composed of such men as this and the harbor commission will be the greatest God send St. John has ever had.

I was somewhat amused at Sheriff Harding's eloquent remarks in reference to the great competence of the common council and the excellent manner in which that body had at all times handled the finances of the city. Sheriff Harding is an old man now. He has lived in St. John all his life and since he reached manhood has for the greater part of his time occupied positions of trust. Surely he has not forgotten that the common council is alone responsible for the huge and to some extent unnecessary debt of the city of St. John. In years past—not a very great many either, the city was reduced to bankruptcy by the mismanagement of the common council. Surely Sheriff Harding has not forgotten that lengthy analysis of the city debt he prepared in 1878 in which he showed very clearly that of the \$400,000 of old city debt fully one quarter of that sum represented the accumulation of unpaid interest. Does the Sheriff think this was a good way to do business? Instead of being well managed the affairs of the city of St. John have been grossly mismanaged by common councils of the past. Talk about good management when within a half century the property of the city has been trusted and the council has been unable to meet its indebtedness, or pay the salaries of its officials. But within forty years both these things have happened. Of course the citizens have not always been represented by blunders or plunderers, but we have had both classes in our common council, even with a quarter of a century. The city made a wise investment in 1870 when it purchased the Pettengill property and some years previous when they built the Pettengill wharf. These properties have paid for themselves, but the first mentioned has been an annual charge on the taxpayers of nearly \$4,000 a year. So that after all the citizens are not so much in pocket. The total cost of the property was \$123,000 and before the city has paid off the bonds for which they are assessed they will have paid over \$113,000 in taxes. So after all the investment has not been so profitable as some people would have us think. It is useless to talk of good civic management when we have before us such jobs as the widening of Dorchester street, the Prince William street pavement, the cutting down of Canterbury and Union streets, before us. It is a matter of congratulation that we have a better civic management at the present time than in the past.

Mexican Mining Kings.

[A Letter from Zacatecas.]

The bonanza kings of Zacatecas are the Escobedos, and the king bee of the family is the Hon. Jesus Escobedo. His income, in the language of a Zacatecas American, is three times what John W. Mackay's is. When he was a boy Jesus Escobedo peddled charcoal. Associated with Jesus in his mining enterprises are Jose Maria and Cayetano Escobedo. Besides the three brothers there are other branches of the family also engaged in mining. Jesus Escobedo is one of the largest owners in the Vesta Grande, from the discovery of which the existence of Zacatecas, as a mining camp, dates. He has been a Deputy in the lower branch of the Mexican Congress, and a Senator as well. Jesus Escobedo confines his attention almost exclusively to mines. His brother, Jose Maria, is one of the largest real estate owners in the city. In one locality he has 2,000 tenants of the poorer class, and his rent-roll amounts to \$150 a day. A branch of the family owns a hacienda eighteen miles long and five miles wide below the city. When the Escobedos think corn is getting too cheap they run a little corner and tie up 3,000,000 bushels in their granaries until the market stiffens. Zacatecas is not a city of millionaires. Unfortunately the wealth is very unequally divided, and the citizens who go to the depot every day to make the acquaintance of American tourists at train time are not calculated to impress hasty travellers favorably. Mexico has a large assortment of mendicants, but none surpass those of Zacatecas in their woe-begone make-up. The only bonanza with which they have any acquaintance is the occasional copper tossed from a car window.

Look out for next week's Saturday Gazette.

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Yours truly,
C. E. BOARDMAN,
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