

public than on former occasions. It is not long since Canadian elevens were for the most part composed of Old Country players; and the fact that many cities can now play a fair local eleven speaks well for the increasing popularity of the game. It can never supersede baseball or lacrosse on this continent: those faster games will commend themselves to players with limited leisure. With the class which has an abundance of spare time cricket requires only to be known to be appreciated.

THERE were nineteen failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against fifteen in the preceding week, and twenty-five, thirty-six and ten in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were one hundred and ninety-two failures during the week as compared with one hundred and eighty-four in the preceding week, and with two hundred and forty-one, one hundred and sixty-six and ninety-five, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-one per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

LAST week we indicated that there was evidence to the effect that the *Pall Mall Gazette* disclosures were a vulgar Salvation Army dodge. Later English papers confirm this. There appears to be little doubt that Mr. Stead was the tool of the astute General Booth, who is in sad want of money. Let any person who doubts the object of the instigator of the disgusting "enquiry" read an appeal for funds which appeared in the *Gazette* of July 20th. These funds are to be entrusted to "one of the secret commission." Let us quote the gentleman's own words: "Any sums sent me will be acknowledged in the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, but after that no explanation, accounts, or audit, or any reference whatever will be made to the sums entrusted to me. The disposal of the subscriptions is to be left *unreservedly to my sole discretion*." "Here is a man who inundates the country with the foulest stories he can gather from brothels, and then asks that he, and he alone, shall be entrusted with a vast sum of money to do as he likes with, and of which he will render no account." In the words of a London journalist: "Surely General Booth has played pranks enough in the name of religion! Now that morality has also fallen into his hands, heaven only knows how low down he will play it."

It will be remembered that Mr. Andrew Carnegie, an American capitalist and a Democrat of the Democrats, some time ago, with a great flourish of trumpets announced his intention of converting England to the true faith. The monarchy was to be abolished out of hand, the House of Lords was to be immediately relegated to the limbo of useless antiquities, the land was to be given to the people, and the millennium would assuredly supervene. The campaign was entered upon with a light heart; the revolution was to have been accomplished by purchasing a number of journals to preach the crusade; a number of metropolitan and provincial journals was indeed purchased. But beyond this the ambitious iron-founder does not seem to have got. That ultra-Radical London "evening" *The Echo*, supported by a syndicate of provincial journals of an extreme type, became the property of the Reformer, and struggled bravely to save the country; but not only did the *bourgeoisie* prove invulnerable, even the *proletariat* refused to accept salvation, and Mr. Carnegie has in sorrow abandoned the country to its delusions. At any rate he has re-sold *The Echo* to its former proprietor, and has concluded to dissolve the combination which was intended to educate benighted Englishmen in American notions.

SIR JAMES FITZJAMES STEPHEN'S treatise on "The Story of Nuncomar and the Impeachment of Sir Elijah Impey" will no doubt find a place in all law libraries as a masterly examination of the evidence in a very complicated case as well as on account of its historical importance and its interest as the rehabilitation of a much calumniated member of the British Judiciary.

THE London *Spectator*, in a passing comment on Lord Tennyson's poem on the Princess Beatrice's marriage, which it pronounces to be one "of considerable beauty," denounces the use of "the vile word 'spousal'." Even if the *Spectator* does not like the word, it is scarcely justified in such needless roughness of censure. We have no other canon of taste in language but the usage of the best authors, and "spousal" has in its favour about the highest authority in the English language which can be quoted. The *Spectator* must either dispute Milton's taste and scholarship, or else it must have forgotten one of the choicest gems of the "Paradise Lost":

—till the amorous bird of night
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star
On his hill top to light the bridal lamp.

COLLECTORS of autograph letters are displaying much interest in the dispersion of the rich and varied collections made by the late Mr. F. Naylor. An interesting letter by Queen Elizabeth to Henry IV. of France, referring to recent attempts on his life and her own, the other day in England realized the high price of £55. Another, in Italian, to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, sold for £7. A letter to Garrick, by Samuel Foote, dramatist and comedian, containing the passage, "You and I are a couple of buckets; whilst you are raising the reputation of Shakespeare, I am endeavouring to sink it, and for this purpose I shall give next Monday the tragedy of 'Hamlet,' the prince by—"; but, even in this situation, we shall want your assistance to pull our poet above ground," went for £2. 4s. A discoloured and worn letter by Oliver Cromwell to

the Committee of Carmarthen brought as much as £25 10s.; and the sign manual of his son Richard, on document, £5 10s. A rare letter by Danton, the French revolutionist, realized £2 6s.; ten interesting letters by Michael Faraday, the famous chemist, only 8s.; Dryden the poet's signature to an Exchequer document, £2 11s.; one of the originals of Lord Chesterfield's "Letters to his Son," £1. 6s.; a letter by Charles Dickens, £1 2s.; and a letter jointly signed by Ferdinand and Isabella, the patrons of Columbus, £7. A letter, in French, by the Earl of Essex, once so high in favour with Queen Elizabeth, produced £11 5s.; three signatures by Congreve, the dramatist, £1 10s.; and an autograph draft of a letter by John Evelyn, £5 5s. Twenty-six shillings secured a letter by Coleridge inquiring about an edition of Cervantes, in Spanish, embodying all his works.

WE are indebted to a French newspaper for a refinement in advertising which, it has to be confessed, is sadly needed. The style of advertisements is for the most part rather broad, and there is generally lacking that lightness of touch which commends itself to literary connoisseurs. The French advertiser above referred to makes his appeal to a more select body of patrons, whose requirements bespeak a certain refinement of taste, which he seeks to meet not only in the supply of a superior article, but of a superior advertising style. He seems to be a perfumer, and the name of the article which he has invented, "*L'Eau de Noblesse*." "It maintains," so says the inventor "the hair in an honourable direction (*une direction honorable*), and gives to those who use it a grand air of modest distinction." This judicious blending of epithets, not always deemed consistent with each other, but skilfully tempering each other's significance, betrays the accomplished artist in words, and it is scarcely possible that an article compounded by such a person should fail to satisfy an exacting public. To advertisers, who are apt to deal in too great a multitude of superlatives and to be too diffuse in describing the merits of their own inventions, we commend this choice little specimen as an example of brevity and skilful reserve.

TOUJOURS PERDRIX. "With Prohibition in Iowa," says the *Philadelphia Progress*, "it is the same old story. The Democratic newspaper of Davenport has made inquiry of the officials of every city and town of importance in the State with the result that it is informed that in the small communities the amendment is pretty well obeyed, but all attempts to enforce it in the cities are worse than failures: In many places the number of saloons has actually increased under Prohibition. The German-American population is distinctly against the law, as are also most all other liberal-minded people, and there is no strong public sentiment in its support. Another effect which operates seriously against the amendment is that in many of the large towns and cities the loss of the license fees has compelled their authorities to increase the tax-rate. And yet, with all the experience the country has had, there are still communities willing to experiment with the Prohibition idea."

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp to that purpose.

CRIMINAL TRIALS IN CANADA.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—The important State trial, Regina vs. Riel, lately concluded, has since its termination been the source of heated discussion and bitter recrimination throughout the land. There is one point, however, which, in the excitement incident to the stirring up of race antipathy and religious prejudice, seems likely to be over-looked, i.e., the defective system of trial for murder in vogue in Canada. Is it not, sir, somewhat remarkable that in the nineteenth century, with all the experience of the past, gathered from millions of criminal trials, with an impartial and upright judge, a careful, painstaking and honest jury, and a brilliant array of counsel, the only outcome of a lengthened trial should be a verdict which every public man in the country, every newspaper editor and leader writer, is now trying to elucidate and explain. What is the use of a trial at all, with its heavy expense, if the verdict of the jury is to be of such a nature that, according as the Ottawa authorities interpret it, the result will be in the one case the pardon of the prisoner and in the other the extreme penalty of the law.

Canadians are as a rule not slow in adopting improvements suggested by the methods of other countries, and in this instance would do well to copy the system in vogue among our neighbours to the south. Were our juries instructed to bring in simply verdicts of guilty of murder in the first, second or third degree, according to the nature of the crime as shown by the evidence at the trial, uncertainty as to their meaning would be impossible. How much longer will an intelligent people submit to a system which makes a trial for murder an uncertain, ghastly farce?

CARLOS.

MARRIAGEABLE GIRLS.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—In THE WEEK of July 20th you published an article on "Marriageable Girls" which will surely surprise all Canadian ladies by the depth of ignorance displayed. "The goal of woman is marriage," says the writer. No one will deny that the love of a true, honourable man is priceless to a woman; but to say that because such happiness is denied her she must necessarily drag out "a life of spinsterhood unenlivened by any other excitement than that unhealthy and quickly waning one of social gaiety; or, if an intellectual or religious vent has been given to her mind, to pass her days in mild and innocent acts of charity, or in equally trivial and resultless educational amusements," is absurd. Let us look for a moment at the case of a young lady who has made marriage the sole