

the three holes were so close that they might be easily covered at once with three fingers. The old Boer thinks little of the exploit, but still grieves over his horse, whose bones he pointed out to us, bleaching in the spot where the catastrophe occurred, with the characteristic observation, "Daar leg dertig ponden"—(There lie £30 !)

EDITOR'S DOTTINGS.

There are people in this world who are so intensely interested in themselves and their own affairs, so continually occupied in admiring that most important of all personalities and interests, *Ego et meum*, that they are absolutely incapable of speaking well of anything or anybody. They are of those who "give liking unto nothing, but what is framed by themselves, and hammered on their anvil." The usual practice of such persons, if they can find even a shadow to point at, is to decry, abuse, and throw the mud of slander and vilification in every direction. They remind us of a certain kind of flies, so fond of all nastiness, that they carry defilement wherever they go and taint everything they touch.

Our attention was drawn to this subject by an incident which occurred in our office a short time ago.

The *Scientific American* was lying on our table, and a professional engineer, who had called in on business, took up the number and began to examine and criticise it. Now we had formed our own estimate of both—the man and the publication—previously we had listened for one just charge, for one serious defect, but nothing specific had been stated. So we tried to draw him out as follows :

"Are the drawings defective?"

"Oh no!"

"Is the Journal too dear?"

"No."

"What is your particular objection?"

"I can't say I have any, but it is not the thing, you know; it does not come up to my notion of what a scientific journal should be. But you see it's hard to explain."

"Well, certainly, your fault-finding is very indefinite. You cannot point out what is wrong, nor tell where it is to be improved, and yet you say it does not reach your standard. In other words, Sir, you are not prepared to contradict, by proof, the statement, that—'The *Scientific American* is incomparably the best and cheapest journal of its kind which we can get.'"

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Among the illustrated papers which are laid upon our table none is welcomed more than the *Canadian Illustrated News*. It is a noble