

ness; we, like all other papers, desire all the advertisements we can procure, but we are not going to be deterred by petty threats like that indulged in by our correspondent, from the plainest possible speaking that we may consider is justified by the facts. But anyone desiring to answer Mr. Smith shall have ample space allowed him in our columns.

ANOTHER CRANK.

The lunatic who called the other day at the house of Mr. Vanderbilt in New York to ask for Mr. Vanderbilt's brains may have struck a valuable idea, though one rather difficult of execution. He said:—"I want to have Mr. Vanderbilt's brains analyzed. I wish to take his brains to a chemical laboratory and have them examined. I want to see what difference there is between the brains of the man in this house and my own. By this means I may be able to learn why I am so poor. Mr. Vanderbilt has been able to accumulate a large amount of money, while I have failed to make a cent, and as it is all owing to the difference in our brains, I must ascertain just wherein the difference lies." When the doctors are able to take out brains and replace them after an examination, as they now do teeth and eyeballs and intestines, then this crank's idea may become practical.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

The question whether the grip is epidemic or not is one on which medical authorities disagree. There is no doubt, however, that an epidemic of railway accidents prevails at the present time in the United States, and to an unprecedentedly alarming extent. Nearly every day of the present month has witnessed one or more. It is time for the railway companies and all their employees to redouble their vigilance. Every man ought to be made to feel an increased measure of responsibility. Most of the recent smash-ups have been without excuse. Preventable accidents should be prevented. Next year, we trust, will make a better showing on this head than the past one.

A LONDON FOG.

The recent fog in London is described as one of the worst ever known. Harold Frederic cables the *New York Times*:—"Heaven alone knows how many deaths were indirectly due to its malignant agency. One woman went into an office, asked the price of coal and fell dead when they told her." It is hard to see on what ground Mr. Frederick attributes this death to the fog. Everything indicates that it was caused by the startlingly high price of coal.

OUR NEXT MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

BY FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

PART IV.

On Monday evening we shall know whether our new Mayor will be an able and upright administrator like Mr. Osler, used to great and difficult undertakings; or ex-alderman Fleming a gentleman who, in the matter of insanitary houses, is an admitted lawbreaker, and who as such was recently denounced in the city council, and which charge has not been disproved.

He now poses as a severe critic of the faults of his fellow-aldermen during the last six years but why did he not do this when he himself was an alderman? Now, he may gain \$4,000 by doing so, but then there was "no money in it." He claims that he objected to two comparatively small outlays, but during the same period he looked quietly on and condoned vastly larger disbursements—for our greatest financial trouble has arisen from the real estate speculators influencing and controlling the City Council,—he himself is a dealer in real estate. Surely this was straining at gnats and swallowing camels. Common sense tells us the reason of his silence—how could he blame others while he himself refused to obey the directions to make his own property fit for human habitation? Their prompt answer would have been—if you expose us we will expose you. Practically, he was muzzled.

Outside of his tenderness for typhoid and diphtheria, I believe him to be a highly respectable man for such an onerous position.

Our new mayor should have executiveness, honesty, moral courage, far-seeing and large views; and not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. By executive ability, I mean the ability to wisely and foreseeingly plan, and to skilfully execute. Mr. Osler's career shows that he has all these qualities. On the other hand, dodging the health-officer and evading the law, is not the sort of executive ability that we need. That description of executive ability often leads to interviewing Col. Denison.

Mr. Fleming's promise to dismiss officials wholesale shows penny-wisdom and pound-foolishness. All that can be done wisely is judicious pruning and the weeding out of unnecessary officials—mostly appointed while he was alderman. Why did he not object then? People should reflect how much has been lost in England during the last forty years by occasional fits of penny-wisdom. Necessary outlays have been curtailed, with the result that ultimately the government has had to pay twice as much as would have been necessary if the proper sum had been spent at the right time.

Voters should ask themselves this question—"Is a man who promises us the moon at all likely to fulfil his promises?"

Wife (in an injured tone)—Some day you will find me at death's door, and then what will you do?

Husband—My dear, have you ever known me to be so ungallant as to allow a lady to open a door in my presence—never!

THE COUNTESS CLANCARTY.

A telegram from London to *THE OBSERVER* says that people over there are much amused at the receipt of the news that the Countess of Clancarty, formerly the well-known music hall singer, Belle Billon, and still later known as Lady Dunlo, gave birth on Monday to twins, both boys, one of whom becomes Lord Dunlo. The difference in the ages of the two young swells is said to be only twenty minutes. The younger of the two probably will be sorry for the rest of his life he was late less than half an hour. The Countess of Clancarty telegraphed to a friend from Upper Hare Park two hours after the interesting double event was over:—

"Nothing succeeds like success. Double bill to-night. Pantomimes not in it."

The Countess took a leading part in the Drury Lane pantomime just a year ago.

As soon as the first child was born a piece of white ribbon was tied around his wrist, so that there could be no mistake afterwards, as, unless some accident should happen, he will be the next Earl.

These births amply provide for the direct succession to the Earldom of Clancarty. It is believed that the occurrence will lead to a complete reunion of the family and to the social recognition of the Countess. The story of the marriage of Lord Dunlo has been often told. The marriage scandalized the aristocratic world, and the present Earl's father hurried the newly-married Viscount off on a foreign tour. Immediately upon the return of the Viscount proceedings for a divorce were instituted, on the usual statutory grounds. The jury decided, however, that the charges were not sustained by the evidence. The Earl cut off his son's allowance, and refused to have anything to do with him after the latter made up his troubles with his wife upon the failure of his divorce suit. The result was that for a considerable period the Viscount was compelled to depend for his support upon his wife's earnings as a singer.

TWO WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS DEAD.

Mr. John Dissette died yesterday at the residence of his son, T. E. Dissette, 710 Dundas street. For the past three years Mr. Dissette had suffered from feeble health, and his death was not unexpected. Deceased was born at Mount Pleasant House, Limerick, in 1811, and came to Canada in 1832. He was first employed as purser on a boat running between Montreal and Brighton. Subsequently he moved to Bradford and then to Orillia, where he farmed till 1881. He leaves seven sons and two daughters. He was interred in St. Michael's cemetery, and the funeral went from 710 Dundas street on Tuesday morning last.

Mr. Dennis O'Connor, the well-known hatter at the corner of Richmond and Yonge, died suddenly on Tuesday evening, just before midnight, of heart disease, at his residence, 64 Hazelton avenue. The deceased was much respected, and leaves a large family to mourn his sudden and untimely loss.

The difference between realism and idealism is just the difference between a girl's opinion of her lover and the young man himself.—*Somerville Journal*.