

Another never-failing attraction on a night train is a nodder. This time it's a woman. Getting on at a way station, she takes the first vacant seat, arranges her parcels, wraps a thick green veil around her head, and sits bolt upright like a stick, in the corner of the seat. In a few minutes the stiffness begins to go off, and she begins to nod. First she goes slowly over one side farther, and farther; till she brings up with a jerk that ought to crack her neck. It does bring her up stiff again, but in a minute she begins on the other side, and repeats the jerk. Fortifying herself against both sides she commences her nods forward. By this time all the passengers are watching her and at each jerk, a ripple of laughter runs over the car. But the end comes. A deeper nod than usual brings her head down with a crash on the seat in front of her. That wakes her, and hushes the laughter, while an old farmer across the aisle says pityingly.

"Find it rather hard work, don't you mother?" Now things begin to stagnate, and everybody is on his good behavior, and I actually grow sleepy, and begin to calculate the feasibility of getting a nap. But it's only a lull in the performances. The next actor—most unexpectedly—is the sleepy-head above mentioned.

He takes a disastrous notion to sit up. But he over estimates his abilities, for he can't keep off the "Sand Man" to save his life. It seemed as though the nodding woman had exhausted the variety of nods of which the human head is capable, but manages to get up an original movement. He nods over backwards, jerking open his mouth, and making so absurd a figure, that coming after the woman it is too much for the good breeding in that car. It fairly rings with laughter.

In the midst of it, a harder jerk than usual wakes him up, and the old farmer speaks again. "Sonny you'll lose your head if you don't look out!"

This finishes him. With a half-asleep smile, he subsides into the seat again, and is seen no more.

That is the last act. Now the cold gray light begins to steal in at the windows. Everybody sits up. Hair is brushed. Bonnets and hats are put on, and with them the usual dull good behavior.

My neighbors cease to be interesting, and I'm glad to go home and sleep half a day, in my bed, like a christian.

Family Reading.

SIMILES.

"U H, miss—missis!" I leaned out of the window, and, with a responsive smile, looked down on the black face shining up at me.

"Well, Dinah?" "Dat—dat pie, missis" (she stammered when excited); "it was—was just like you!"

My smile blossomed into a hearty laugh; at which Dinah grew serious, and, shaking her head slowly from side to side, to help her to express the strength with which she held the truth, she said, more earnestly, "Twas, missis, suah! I—I tink ob it de moment I see yer!"

The pie was an apple pie—a hummocky thing, flaky, of a tawny brown, and a little broken up, moreover, having suffered from an accident. I knew that they frowned on pastry at my neighbors'; but thinking Dinah might not be as dyspeptic as the other members of the household, I had told Nora to take the pie over to her. I had evidently gone to the right spot; and the joys of memory, mingling with some flickering joys of hope, had moved her to this expression of gratitude mixed with admiration.

"Thank you, Dinah!"

I dropped it into her waiting ears, speaking heartily, but laughing still as I closed the window and sat down to my sewing. The funny thought that my face was tawny, and knobby, and a little damaged by the years which had run over it, amused me and brought bubbles of laughter to the surface for some time. Yet, after all, I knew exactly what the compliment was with which Dinah intended to angle for another dessert. "Dat pie was good, and so is you, missis!" That is what she meant. Seizing the one idea of her perfect satisfaction with it in her "lively sense of favors to come," she could find nothing more pat to say than that the donor suited her just so.

I used to be grievously troubled by reading the similes which Solomon selected when praising the queen of his affections. I couldn't, for the life of me, make a beautiful face out of a pair of fish-pools, a tower, and a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. But Dinah explains it to me. The nose of the King's lady-love was not awry, nor retroussé, nor ill proportioned; it was straight and symmetrical, like a fine tower. Her eyes were not dull and muddy, nor bright with mere surface glitter; they were translucent, and full of a sweet, throbbing light, like the deep, clear, gravelly pools. Her teeth were not crooked, nor neglected, but even and white; and whenever her lips parted, they gave one the sense of purity.

Yes; Dinah helps me with the Orientals. Their parables, and proverbs, and poetry come out of the mist in the light of her simplicity. But the rough, coarse Occidentals—these border men who are enriching our rhetoric in spite of our protests—are beginning to trouble me more than the subtle children of the East.

What is "your level best?" Why level? Is it taken from the bound, stretching himself out into a straight line when he runs at his uttermost? Is it high tide? Is it the full measure, swept by the evening-stick? We drop off that last suggestion,

however. The "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over," has the nine points of possession, and is so much better.

We have puzzled our heads, too, in a feebly intricate way, over the meaning of a "square meal." Why square? If you have patience let me describe to you a fearful process by which we have struggled toward it. Any one who is reading a solid article like this will, of course, know that the Utilitarians (so shamefully and ignorantly stigmatized, you will remember, by Lecky, as advocates of "the selfish theory"), the Utilitarians affirm that "right" is a complex word, capable of analysis, and that it always means fitted to effect an end—adapted to produce some purposed result.

Now, even your "right-angle"—I hope no one is going to turn back here. Hold on to your skirts, and we will surely pull you out—even your right-angle, that puzzle-test with which the intuitionists try the souls of their analyzing opponents, is called so because of the common use of it all over the world—in building, and in other ways manifold—where the perpendicular meets the horizontal. Any variation, any slant of either line, gives the pain of insecurity and incorrectness. It is not the right angle to satisfy us.

There! We are in sight of Dinah again. Now we are all right. For, you see, the square is the very completeness of right-angledness. And a "square meal" is one which thoroughly satisfies.

We can get at the meaning of these men who tuck their pantaloons into their boots, and wear slouched felts, a great deal quicker when they assure us that such a man's head is "level." We only need to watch the masons and carpenters, fussing anxiously over their walls and timbers till the air-bubble in the spirit-level stands still in the center, and then see how their faces—clear up, and they cheerily turn to something else.

But why call the man who pleases you a "brick?"

Dinah does not help me much here. And even the right-angles take me only half-way. I have pondered on this until it seemed as if the brick was in my hat, and my head anything but level; but I cannot make it out. A brick will absorb a good deal of moisture, and possibly the smile may have started in saloons, where the power of absorption is the most praiseworthy quality. A brick, also, will generally stay where you put it; but when you say that a man is a "brick," is hardly equivalent to saying, "you know where to find him." Reluctantly, we give this up. If the author of the figure could by any possibility be discovered and brought forward to explain, it would be a great comfort.

We restrain ourselves from going any further in this direction. The key of interpretation is in the hands of our appreciative readers; and that is all we got from Dinah. But what a power there is in a pat similitude! Let there be a spice of humor in it, or a flash of wit, or a practical suggestion, or an appeal to what we thoroughly know, or a glance at what most interests us—how it enriches discourse, and bars incisive thoughts, and makes even unwelcome truths penetrative in spite of all defences.

We once heard a witty talker describe theological students as "young men who go about hunting for similes." Well, still-hunting is the best for that game, I judge; but we pity theologian or lawyer who has not bagged a few of them when he has a cause that he wants to carry.

They are, indeed, an excellent thing to have about you, ready for use whenever you need them. Have you never begun to introduce the intimate friend whom you have always called Ned, or Charlie, and been disconcerted because the name by which he must be presented to strangers would not come to you? It is much more awkward to begin the introduction to a simile, and find, when you look around for it, that the simile is not in the room; that while you are saying "It is like—" your expected friend has not come in. I think that the distress of the awkward pause which follows this generally results from your having no friend to introduce. "It is as plain," cried an eloquent preacher when warmly clearing up the doctrine of election, "It is as plain as—" His friend was not there. He prided himself on his originality, and couldn't bring himself to introduce "the sun at noon-day;" and perhaps a thought of regions where the sun only shines at midnight, or of cloudy days, when the noons are sunless, deterred him. He kept his audience in suspense for a painful moment, while he looked about him wildly; but at last his eye rested on something plain, and he relieved those who were "hanging on his lips," by crying, "As—as that crack!" We are confident the poor man groaned on his pillow more than once that night. If he had only had the game in his bag. But he invited his friends to dinner, and when the cover was removed the dish was empty.

It is not a false and artificial way of thinking to store up the similes that occur to you. If your mind is trained to notice the subtle analogies, the interdependencies, or correspondences, or what you will, which lie all about us, and you form the habit of putting them into neat, compact forms of expression, it is surprising with what alacrity memory will step forward and hand you the one you want. The moment Dinah saw me she knew just what to say.

Z.

ALL THE DIFFERENCE.—Alphonse (who has had an attack of mother-in-law): "Perbleu, madame, it is not so troubles at your daughter is my wife! Non! It is because she is not an orphan when she is married to me!"

JOHNNY'S OPINION OF GRAND-MOTHERS.

Grandmothers are very nice folks; They beat all the aunts in creation, They let a chap do as he likes, And don't worry about education.

Grandmothers speak softly to "mas" To let a boy have a good time; Some times they will whisper, 'tis true, 'T'other way, when a boy wants to climb.

Grandmothers have muffins for tea, And pies, a whole row in the cellar, And they're apt (if they know it in time) To make chicken pie for a feller.

And if he is bad now and then, And makes a great racketing noise, They only look over their spees, And say, "Ah, those boys will be boys."

Quite often, as twilight comes on, Grandmothers sing hymns very low, To themselves, as they rock by the fire, About heaven, and when they shall go.

And then, a boy stopping to think, Will find a hot tear in his eye, To know what will come at the last, For grandmothers all have to die.

I wish they could stay here and pray; For a boy needs their prayers every night; Some boys more than others, I s'pose; Such as I need a wonderful sight.

—X. Y. School Journal.

ANXIETY ABOUT CHILDREN.

The trouble which the proverbially anxious parent gives himself in regard to the safety of his children is frequently misplaced, and not seldom in its excess, hurtful. There is it is said a providence which watches over the drunkard, and protects him against the dangers to which his wilful and self-assumed imbecility exposes him. It requires, however, no supposed interposition of any external agency to explain the frequent escapes of the tipsy in their vagaries of motion. The instinct of self preservation is, in fact, so strong that amidst the utmost bewilderment of thought and disorder of volition it seldom loses its protecting power. It is so to a very great extent with even the most immature and heedless of children. Fear, with its cautious apprehension of danger and pain, is among the earliest as well as most abiding of the emotions.

The human offspring is certainly in infancy the most helpless of creatures, yet it is far from being so dependent as is generally supposed. The youngest Tahitian is said, when plunged into the water, to strike out with the agility of the tadpole, and float himself instinctively into safety.

If children were not naturally very cautious there would be in every nursery, in spite of the vigilance of mothers and nurses, a daily slaughter of the innocents. It is not necessary that they should avail themselves of the convenience of a fourth story widow for a deadly dive into the street, or the accommodating proximity of an open medicine chest for a mortal draught, as they could summarily execute themselves with the poker on the hearth-stone, or offer their tender little bodies as burnt offerings upon the domestic fire. Children show no disposition voluntarily to knock their heads against stone walls, to split themselves upon iron rails, or leap into the abysses of the area. They become almost immediately conscious of hardness, sharpness, and all dangerousness and unpleasantness. Of the new, the vague and obscure they are singularly fearful, and every child shrieks back from an unfamiliar face on unmeasured height or depth, and darkness of all kinds.

Parents, whose prudent care for the ir children we would not diminish for the world may intermit much, however, of the solicitude with which they are apt unnecessarily to worry themselves. This gratuitous anxiety often, moreover, defeats its own object. It renders the child, by constantly reminding it of the risks to safety, unnaturally timid, and prevents that calmness of mind and development of animal courage essential for the prudent avoidance of and bold resistance to danger. The overwatched children are notoriously those who are the most constantly exposing their health and lives to hazard. They are so accustomed to move at the will of another that their own volition loses its power to a great extent and becomes hesitating and uncertain. Their muscles, accordingly, act with little precision, and render the step faltering and the hold insecure. The child who is left free to run, climb, and jump, though he may apparently expose himself to a thousand risks, generally escapes danger by his habitual readiness of expedient and practiced precision of movement.

The freer children have, moreover, the advantage of protecting themselves by various means of security denied to those kept under a closer supervision. Swimming, riding, running, leaping using fire-arms—not to speak of wrestling and fighting—all which may in their turn become important means of safety, are the ordinary acquisitions of the emancipated boy, but seldom of him who is subjected to an unceasing parental control. It is obvious, too, that the greater freedom of the one is more favourable to health than the constraint of the other.

It is equally advantageous to the moral as to the physical health and development that the parent should not allow his anxiety about his

children to become too apparent, or to interfere too much with their freedom of conduct. The self-reliance and independence of character which are essential elements of all human excellence are to be acquired only by learning early to act from a voluntary motive. If the parent fixes himself as a finger-post at every turn, the child will hardly ever find the road of his own accord, and must necessarily lose his way when deprived of his habitual guide. Harper's Bazaar.



WELLAND CANAL ENLARGEMENT. NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Welland Canal," will be received at this office until noon of FRIDAY, THE 13th DAY OF JANUARY NEXT, 1873, for the construction of NINE (9) LOCKS AND NINE (9) WEIRS—the excavation of the Lock and Weirs Pits—connected with them—the Inventing Reaches, Run-Ways, &c., on the new portion of the WELLAND CANAL, between Thorold and Port Dalhousie.

The work will be let in sections; four of which numbered respectively, 1, 10 and 11, are situated between St. Catharines Cemetery and the Great Western Railway, and Sections Nos. 15 and 16 are situated between Brown's Cement Kilns, and what is known as Marlett's Pond. Tenders will be received for certain portions of the enlargement and deepening of the prism of the Canal above Port Robinson, and for the removal of part of the West bank of the "Deep Cut," &c., &c.

Plans and Specifications of the works, can be seen at the Office, on and after FRIDAY, THE 13th DAY OF DECEMBER next, where printed forms of Tender will be furnished. A like class of information relative to the works north of Marlett's Pond, may be obtained at the resident Engineer's Office, Thorold; and for works south of Allanburg, Plans, &c., may be seen at the resident Engineer's Office, Welland.

All Tenders must be made on the printed forms, and each must be attached the actual signatures of two responsible and solvent persons, residents of the Dominion, willing to become sureties for the due fulfilment of the contract.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 22nd Nov., 1872. 77 6 ins



TO CONTRACTORS. INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

The Commissioners appointed for the Construction of the Intercolonial Railway, hereby give Public Notice that they are prepared to receive Tenders for Track-laying and Ballasting on the following Distances, viz:

No. 1, on Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

No. 2, on Sections 16, 17, 18, and 19—a distance of about 46 miles.

No. 3, on Sections 21, 22, and 23—from the Miramichi River to Moncton, a distance of about 72 miles.

All the above sections are in the Province of New Brunswick. Specifications and forms of Tender can be obtained at the office of the Chief Engineer, at Ottawa, and at the offices of the Engineers, at Rimouski, Dalhousie, New Castle, and Moncton.

Sealed Tenders marked "Tenders," and addressed to the Commissioners, will be received at their office, in Ottawa, up to 12 o'clock noon on FRIDAY, the 31st of January, 1873.

By Order, ED. B. CHANDLER, C. J. BRYDGES, A. W. McLELLAN, Commissioners. Intercolonial Railway, Ottawa, Nov. 29th, 1872. 77 4 ins



TO CONTRACTORS. INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

The Commissioners appointed for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, give Public Notice, that they are prepared to receive Tenders for the erection of Passenger and Refreshment Buildings, Freight Building, and Engine House, at Campbellton, N. B., and for Passenger and Refreshment Buildings, at New Castle, N. B.

Plans, Specifications, and forms of Tender may be seen at the office of the Chief Engineer, Ottawa, and the Engineers' offices at Rimouski, Dalhousie, New Castle, and Moncton. Tenders may be for the whole, or any less number of these buildings, and will be received marked "Tenders for Buildings," at the Commissioners' office, Ottawa, up to 12 o'clock noon, on FRIDAY, the 31st of January, 1873.

By Order, ED. B. CHANDLER, C. J. BRYDGES, A. W. McLELLAN, Commissioners. Commissioners Office, Ottawa, Dec. 14th, 1872. 77 4 ins



WELLAND CANAL ENLARGEMENT. NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Contractors are hereby informed, that the Plans, Specifications, &c., of the Locks, Weirs, and other works, on the new portion of the Welland Canal, between Thorold and Port Dalhousie, will not be ready for inspection before Friday, the 26th instant.

By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 7th Dec., 1872. 77

F. BAILEY'S BELFAST Book and Stationery Store

No. 36 QUEEN STREET, TORONTO, ONT. Nearly opposite Bay Street.

PARLIAMENTARY

NOTICE is hereby given that a Bill for the incorporation of the present proprietors of the Toronto Street Railway, (by way of amendment of the former "Toronto Street Railway Company") and to empower the said proprietors when so empowered to stock the said Road, and for other purposes connected therewith, will be introduced into the House of Commons at the next Session thereof for an Act to incorporate the said Toronto Street Railway, (by way of amendment of the former "Toronto Street Railway Company") and to empower