

calm and caressingly as before, handling me with his big paws, rubbing against the bars and licking my hand, while every gesture and moan and look told of his joy and his love. When I turned to leave him he shook the gallery with his heartrending roars; and it was not till I had gone back to him twenty times and tried to make him understand that I would come again that I succeeded in quitting the place. After that I came to see my friend daily, sometimes spending several hours with him in his cage. But after a while I noticed that he became sad and dispirited, and when the keeper alluded to his furious agitation and excitement every time I left him, and attributed his worn out and changed appearance to this cause, I took their advice and made my visits as seldom as possible. One day, some four months from the time of my first meeting with him in Paris, I entered the garden, and one of the keepers came forward, saluting, and said: "Don't come any more, sir. Hubert is dead."

AN ENQUIRY.

To the Editor of the Critic.

DEAR SIR,—May I enquire whether you can decide as to the truthfulness, or otherwise, of a statement I recently saw in a congratulatory address to an editor on entering upon his duties? It was this: "You now enter a FRATERNITY the most numerous, intelligent and powerful in the world." Are there not more preachers than editors on earth? and are they not generally as intelligent? Certainly they are as powerful in doing good. Are not teachers a fraternity? According to Webster's definition they surely are. They are more numerous than either editors or preachers, and, I hope, dispense more useful secular knowledge. Are there not more *Good Templars* and *Sons of Temperance* than editors? There certainly are more *monks*, whether they are more intelligent or powerful I say not. If the writer, who is generally correct in his compositions, had said one of the largest fraternities, the positive statement would not have been questioned even by a

COUNTRYMAN.

MONLY TO BE MADE.—It is said that dull times are not known by the agents for the great publishing house of George Stinson & Co., of Portland, Maine. The reason of this exceptional success is found in the fact that they always give the public that which is keenly appreciated and at prices that all can afford. At present, we understand, their agents are doing wonderfully well on several new lines. They need many more agents in all parts of the country. Those who need profitable work should apply at once. Women do as well as men. Experience is not necessary, for Messrs. Stinson & Co. undertake to show all who are willing to work, not hard but earnestly, the path to large success. It should be remembered that an agent can do a handsome business without being away from home over night. Another advantage—it costs nothing to give the business a trial, and an agent can devote all his time, or only his spare moments to it. Stinson & Co. guarantee grand success to all who engage and follow simple and plain directions that they give. We have not space to explain all here, but full particulars will be sent, free, to those who address the firm; their full address is given above.

THE NEWCOMBE PIANOS.—By Her Majesty's command Messrs. Newcombe, of Toronto, Canada, have sent one of their grand pianofortes to Windsor Castle, which has been placed in the Queen's audience chamber. This instrument was selected by Sir Arthur Sullivan at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and his judgment was confirmed by that of Dr. Stainer, of St. Paul's cathedral, and Mr. James Dace, the composer, who described the instrument as "the gem of the Exhibition—such an instrument as an artist would fall in love with at first hearing." W. H. Johnson, Halifax, is the agent for the Newcombe pianos.

BALDNESS, OR ALOPECIA

A bald head is becoming more and more common, and seems to be a feature of modern civilisation, one indication of the peculiar nervous activity that characterises the times. In those centres of population where commercial enterprise and high intellectual culture are associated, nearly one half of the men at forty are more or less bald, while a large proportion of women of like age, divested of artificial head-gear, would show scalps thinly supplied with that which the Scriptural writer terms their "glory." Some of our scientific observers predict that the time is not far distant when the English, German, and American people will be generally bald-headed.

Want of hair on the head is due to the failure of blood supply or nutrition in the hair follicles, and this failure may be due to several causes. It may appear suddenly, as in an attack of typhoid fever, which often leaves the papillæ of the scalp so weakened that rapid baldness ensues. The papillæ, however, do not lose their vitality, and as the system regains its strength they quickly recover their function and the hair grows again. Some skin diseases, like acne, eczema, erysipelas, &c., may cause the hair to fall out temporarily or permanently. Anything that reduces the constitutional tone is likely to thin the hair. Women who nurse their children often lose hair during the period of lactation, after which rest, good food, and agreeable surroundings minister to a renewed growth of their hair as it does to their general health. The baldness of age is not associated with any impairment of the vital powers. It is in most cases a hereditary peculiarity when it appears at the age of thirty-five or forty, but its development is usually gradual. The same cuticular reason is to be alleged for it as in other cases. The failure of nutrition becomes so complete that the hair-bulb wastes away entirely. Its capillaries have become obliterated, and even the follicle itself no longer constitutes a depression in the skin, and the scalp has the smooth and shining appearance so well known.

It is claimed that so long as the scalp contains a fair amount of fatty tissue baldness will not occur, and this is one reason that women do not lose their hair so early as men. On the sides and lower part of the head, where the muscular attachments are, there is more fat than on the crown, and there the hair is usually thick when the top of the head is entirely bare. If, then, it is loss of skin tissue that contributes to baldness, any treatment that will preserve the normal consistency of the scalp will tend to preserve the hair. One of the earliest symptoms of scalp trouble, that may lead to thinning of the hair, is scalliness of the epidermis or the rapid formation of a bran-like substance that is commonly known as dandruff. And if proper measures be taken early in its development the disease, a form of pityriasis, may be cured and the hair growth invigorated.—*Phenological Journal*.

The steam yacht *Chick*, owned by Messrs. Alley & Maclellan, engineers, Glasgow, which has arrived at Port Glasgow for an overhaul, is being fitted up with an apparatus and machinery for the trial of a patent for lighting by electricity under water. The apparatus is of a most costly description, but if successful, which it is fully expected to be, results will be something marvellous, as it can be used not only in the examination and lifting of wrecks, but also in fishing and the recovery of articles lost under water.—*Electrical Review*.

COMMERCIAL.

In the first week of the New Year, trade has been, as was to be expected, rather sluggish. Travellers have not resumed their routes as yet. Still annual settlements have been on the whole quite satisfactory, and the situation continues promising.

The past year saw a decline in the volume of registered shipping in this Province of 59 vessels of 13,818 tons; 134 new vessels having been added and 193 struck off, which were wrecked, sold or condemned. As matters have stood for some years sailing bottoms have not been very profitable property to hold, and this tends to discourage the construction of many new vessels. Still the tendency is to build larger vessels than formerly, as is evinced by the fact that the new vessels registered in Nova Scotia in 1886 averaged 187 tons each. These larger vessels are relatively cheaper to build and to run, and they more readily command freights than do smaller ones. In this connection we note that the tendency of late, both on the great lakes and in the Eastern States, has been to build immense four-masted and even five-masted schooners. It is claimed that with the modern appliances for setting, reefing and taking in sail these vessels are far easier to handle than "square-riggers" are. Some of our shipbuilders should try the experiment on an extensive scale.

In the year just closed Halifax imported 9,866 hhds., 286 tcs., 1,985 bbls., 225,748 baskets and 21,871 mats of sugar, of which 124,474 bags and 2,675 baskets were re-exported to New Brunswick and Montreal refineries. During the same period Halifax imported 10,130 hhds., 595 tcs. and 1,209 bbls. of molasses. Our fish exports in 1886 to Brazil, Demerara, and the British and Spanish West Indies were 260,486 qtls. of dry and 41,990 bbls. of pickled.

This statistical summary of the foreign trade of this port in the above staple articles is here inserted because it will, doubtless, be useful to our readers for future reference.

The construction of the Short Line railway, which is to bring both this city and St. John into closer connection with Montreal and the Great West, is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. When finished it will, very naturally, help to swell the volume of our imports and exports, and will divert to us a considerable portion of the trade that naturally belongs to us but that now seeks Portland or Boston; that is, if it is amply provided with rolling stock. The great fault of the I.C.R. has always been that it was never properly equipped in this respect. Large quantities of freight are constantly delayed because there are not enough cars to carry nor engines to draw them. The idea has always been—a mistaken one we believe—to make the road pay for itself, regardless of the demands of trade. A large business is growing up and is capable of indefinite expansion if the managers of these iron highways will look past the immediate moment and to the future.

It is usual to expect to see in the advertising columns of the daily press on the 1st of January in each year numerous announcements of changes in business firms, but this year there was only one such—the admission of Mr. Albert Cook to the firm of Theakston & Angwin, one of our iron and hardware firms. This is gratifying, because it indicates that our merchants are satisfied with their present business arrangements, and have no desire to change their mutual relations.

Work on and about steamers at the elevator and the railway wharf continues brisk, and as many men find employment as room can be found for to labor without getting in each other's way.

Our West India merchants are very busy in loading and sending off their "fish-boxes" as fast as they return to port, and, although they come back in ballast, it is asserted the profit on the onward freight pays the expenses of the round voyage and leaves something "to the good" besides.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—The market is very firm, and in pig and most other lines has advanced. Advices from Glasgow indicate a very strong and even excited tone in pig iron. Since last season the advance has been fully equal to \$4 per ton. A difficulty is, however, reported in closing contracts for immediate or for future delivery, as the views of holders are beyond the reach of buyers, and the latter will have to advance their limits considerably before any large amount of business can be done. We note that "owing to the general appreciation of the price of iron, the makers of boiler tubes throughout Great Britain have agreed to advance 10 per cent. from prices