

mountains to sound the prayer bell. This Indian is a very respectable looking fellow, but his face is thin and emaciated; he is decently dressed in blue serge, and like the old man appears to be enjoying his morning smoke. Near him (also smoking) is his wife mixing bread on a canvas cloth. A naked youngster stands at her elbow, looking on, and another, a little older, with some clothing, is trying to quiet a small baby. The woman mixes the bread and puts it to rise in a camp kettle; then seizing the small child forces him into a pair of pants.

The sun is rising over the distant mountains, sending a flood of light and glory over the whole scene. The man throws aside his pipe, takes up a handbell and rings for matins. Soon the whole of the little encampment is astir, gathering at the call to prayers. The old savage gathers his blanket around him, and, giving his grand-child his pipe, walks slowly to the white tent; the two women leave their buckskin and follow, and here comes the exquisite and his family and about a dozen others, in all stages of civilization and all sorts of costumes. Now the deep guttural tones of the acting priest, giving the opening prayer, can be distinctly heard, and a loud hum of voices join in response; a lull and then sweet and clear rises a hymn of praise to the "Great Father of all." It may be that such music would not satisfy a fastidious ear, but to any one looking on and listening at a little distance it seems to rise through the clear air and bright blue dome above, right up to the throne of God. The music is in keeping with the scene. The grand old mountains, the clear shining river, the tall pine trees swaying in the light breeze, the green grass and the cloudless blue sky; they too, "though with no real voice or sonnet," seem to join in the Indian hymn of thanksgiving to the divine being that formed all and is all in all.

No one can accuse the Indians of hypocrisy, for while they are praying and singing they enter heartily into the spirit of it all; but when it is over they forget, and are as ready to lie and steal as ever.

When the old savagery in their nature breaks out, the fault nearly always lies with whiskey and unprincipled traders; if left alone to the priests and kept from temptations, which but few white men can resist, they would soon form a useful and orderly class of people.

SUSAN LOUISA ALLISON.

#### PARIS LETTER.

HOLLAND was always celebrated as a pamphlet-producing country. Like Switzerland, it has been the refuge for free and independent writing, till Napoleon crushed the refuges. At present, the Dutch are occupied with the complications of Europe; inevitable, though the hour be still unfixed. They may become French, as they once were, against their will; they may yet become German on the same principle of conquest. Either nation would perhaps only give them the choice, like the cook and the chickens, of the sauce with which they would like to be eaten. Naturally, they incline not to be devoured at all.

The latter desire is the substance of the latest Dutch pamphlet "Attention"—*Geest acht*—which has appeared by "Frison," but who in reality is Professor Bric, of the Utrecht University. Holland, according to the author, ought to follow the example of Switzerland and Belgium, that rely for their safety in an armed neutrality. The Dutch should be a people not only loving liberty, but knowing how to defend liberty. It does not require an observer to be a strategist, to perceive that the "bursts" either into France or into Germany can only take place at three points: through Switzerland, the Luxembourg, and Belgium. How far these minor powers would be able, even with entrenched camps, to withstand an ugly rush of a million or two of armed hosts, need not be discussed. The more important matter is, if once in, would they ever retire? Hinterlandism applied to Europe must involve the disappearance of minnows. It is a pity the professor did not examine another element in the problem—the league of neutrals led by Great Britain. In the sanguinary game of chess, on which may depend the destiny of the world, a pawn can gain the battle. It was Bernadotte and his 30,000 Sweedes, arriving fresh on that battle-field of nations—Leipzig—that broke the back of Napoleon.

The persistent severity of the weather is calamitous. Hitherto, it struck chiefly at the boardless and the bedless; at present, it attacks health. The Russian *grippe* of last year carried off the weak-throated; the Siberian cold now is making serious inroads on many constitutions. At the present moment of writing I can see from my windows people crossing the Seine on foot, and skaters arabesquing the way for them. Is not that unusual circumstance more eloquent than the readings of all the Centigrade, Réaumur and Fahrenheit thermometers? Out-door work is wholly suspended, save for the sewer-men, who are constantly employed with pick-axe and spade to keep the sewers free. In some parts of underground Paris, the main drains are so obstructed by the ice that dynamite has had to be employed to keep open the passages, as the consequences would be terrible if, when the thaw arrives, there was no way open for the melting of six weeks' accumulation of cake-sludge.

Duval the butcher has announced that when the time comes he will present an ox to be roasted on the frozen Seine, for the benefit of the poor. It would not be bad if other rich butchers contributed a few specimens of Smithfield fat-stock, to be converted into soup. The latter

has now to be made minus green vegetables. However, haricot beans, lentils, split peas and potatoes constitute not a bad succedaneum. Peans are sung over the discovery of a soup composed of a French, and so a patriotic-sausage, mangolds and rice. May the inventor receive the glory that Brillat-Savarin laid down, as awaiting the inventor of a new dish. One of the curiosities of the desolate appearance of the Seine is its absolute desertedness. Banks over banks of froth-ice and "hard-brake" snow along the river side, where annuitants, philosophers, and the constant readers of the *Petit Journal*, hitherto basked all day in the merry sunshine, bobbing for gudgeon. Stranger still, not a barge nor a river steamer is visible. They have as suddenly disappeared as swallows in autumn. Up to the present there has been no shrinkage in the supply of combustible.

If the weather continues to exhibit its rigours, as it promises, these mosaic plans of assisting the hungry will not suffice. A sinking of one degree in the thermometer means some fresh thousands demanding to be sheltered. Hence, preparations are being made for that eventuality, such as converting the ground-floor sides of the Palace of Industry into a vast shelter; if necessary a few of the wings of the Exhibition building will be similarly utilized, by ranging therein the booths which served for the late Boulevard fair in addition to heating the building by burning coke in cressets. Every objection must give away before the saving of life. The Night Shelters in Paris are few and far between, and totally incapable of coping with the reigning crisis. There are not more than ten of these Night Shelters in the city, all supported by private donations, save two by the municipality. They are all marked by the common relative absence of women and children. The average night attendance at each Shelter is about 180; the combined total would only represent a small sum of the suffering. In one of the best of these Shelters, during the year 1890, there were relieved 5,879 labourers; 1,060 cooks; 942 clerks; carpenters, masons and mechanics, over 745 per each category; while the respective totals of bakers, printers, locksmiths, coachmen and shoemakers were over 573. Of the grand total relieved 83 per cent. were between sixteen and fifty years of age.

Opinion appears to be at last awakening up to the vital importance of the revision of the Customs' tariff in course of preparation. It has been only just discovered, to the amazement of the grand majority, that uniformly denouncing commercial treaties involves the repudiation, of many side trading advantages that France could not dispense with, and that will involve intricate negotiations with only three weeks' time for their completion. The silk and wine interests are up in arms against the contemplated elevation of import dues. The Government will not listen to any impost being placed on any raw materials—as wool, hides, etc.—essential for the life of native industries.

France has every reason to be proud of the tribute paid to her financial soundness and national frugality. She wanted a loan of 870,000,000 frs. to wipe out floating debts, the monetary world offered her nearly twenty times that sum and applicants deposited over 2½ milliards frs. as earnest money for the scrip. The only countries in the world that could top this are England and the United States. The addition of the 870,000,000 frs. to the national debt will exact 2,750,000 frs. annual debt to pay interest.

The death of Baron Haussmann, so soon after his wife, and at a like age, 81, was sudden. He caught cold at the funeral of the Czar's nephew, the Duc de Leuchtenberg. Imperialist to the marrow, his career ended with the Second Empire. He improved away old Paris at a cost of 600,000,000 frs.; if he did not leave the city in marble he did in debt. He was a good administrator and a musician.

#### OH! WERE IT NOT.

Oh! were it not for one fair face,  
One angel voice, one loving smile  
This world would be a dreary place  
To me, and life not worth the while.

Methinks the sun shines but to show  
How wondrous fair the maiden is;  
Methinks the warm winds only blow  
That they may kiss her draperies.

I know the roses bloom that they  
May live an hour upon her breast;  
I know that I would willingly  
Share their short life to share their nest.

Montreal.

ARTHUR WEIR.

CARDINAL GIBBONS, in a letter to *The Jewish Exponent*, says: "Every friend of humanity must deplore the systematic persecution of the Jews in Russia. For my part, I cannot well conceive how Christians can entertain other than kind sentiments toward the Hebrew race when I consider how much we are indebted to them. We have from them the inspired volume of the Old Testament, which has been the consolation in all ages to devout souls. Christ, our Lord, the founder of our religion, His blessed mother, as well as the apostles, were all Jews according to the flesh. These facts attach me strongly to the Jewish race."

#### A REMARKABLE DIFFERENCE.

THE recent repeal of the Scott Act in the capital of Prince Edward Island is not important, nor significant of any general movement for repeal in the Maritime Provinces. Nevertheless it is noteworthy. With two exceptions, the Charlottetown vote is the only instance of a successful attempt in these provinces to reverse the decision so generally given there in favour of prohibition of the liquor traffic. It may truly be said to be the only one, for the county of Colchester, N.S., repealed the Act merely to substitute for it a newly adopted license law almost as prohibitive in its enactments, and, regarded, as it was then untried, as more capable of enforcement; while the repeal in Portland was due to that city having become a part of St. John, which had refused to adopt the Scott Act.

The history of that measure in the provinces down by the sea is so unlike its history in Ontario—so remarkable for the tenacity with which the people have clung to prohibition, that it may well receive the attention both of supporters and opponents of prohibitory laws against the liquor traffic. In these provinces there have been forty-one Scott Act elections. In thirty-six the Act has been victorious; usually by an overwhelming majority; in several instances by a vote exceeding the proportion of ten to one, the "antis" generally abstaining from voting. Beside the three repeals referred to, two of which were so peculiar that they cannot be regarded as condemnatory of prohibition, there have been only two other contests in which the Act has been defeated. These were both in the city of St. John, and in both the adverse majority was very small—two on the first occasion and seventy-seven on the second. Prohibition may, therefore, be said to have been beaten in but two constituencies, St. John and Charlottetown, both of them cities.

It is not through lack of experience of prohibition that the people have refused to repeal it. The Scott Act was passed in 1878. In that year Fredericton, York County, N.B., and Prince's County, P.E.I., adopted it: in 1879, Charlottetown and six counties. Three counties followed in 1880, and seven in 1881, while in all but two years since, the number of "dry" counties has been increased. The evidence from these counties and cities indicates that prohibition has been no better enforced in the Gulf Provinces than it was in Ontario during its dominance here. In Fredericton and Charlottetown especially, its ineffectiveness has been notorious; the sale of liquor, excepting during brief spurts of stricter enforcement, being carried on openly, as well as extensively; quite as much so as it was in any large Ontario towns during their subjection to the Act. The law, in fact, has been a dead letter, so far as concerns diminution of the number of houses selling liquor. Highly reputable and trustworthy testimony is that the number of drinking places was increased.

Rev. P. A. McElmeel's statement from the altar of St. Dunstan's Cathedral on the first Sunday of the present year, respecting the operation of the law in Charlottetown, is substantially the same as that made publicly time and again regarding the Act in Fredericton also. Mr. McElmeel said: "All know that it has done no good, but on the contrary has been the cause of much evil. It is a well-known fact that since the Act became law the number of places where intoxicants can be obtained has greatly increased. Besides, young men organize clubs and hire rooms where drunken carousals are indulged in from morning until night—on Sundays as well as other days—and the prevalence of the crime of perjury in Scott Act cases is deplorable. The clergy, whose duty calls them to every family in their congregation, have excellent opportunities for ascertaining the extent to which vice and immorality have increased in this city since the Scott Act became law, and as a result of this knowledge, and after mature consideration, I have arrived at the conclusion that in the interest of temperance and morality the Act should be repealed and a better and more workable law take its place."

The Act has been as ineffective for good in the Maritime Provinces as it was in Ontario. If failure to accomplish its purpose would induce its abandonment the Act should have fared in these provinces as it has fared in Ontario; the "reaction" should have been as marked, the verdict against it as decisive. Yet while the Lake Province after adopting the Act in thirty-four counties or cities by the enormous aggregate majority of 29,200, after a three years' trial of it, condemned it everywhere by an aggregate majority (28,700) equally pronounced, the Gulf Provinces after twelve years of like experience of its usefulness have just seen its first clear rejection by repeal, and even this condemnation of it has been very weak, the majority for repeal being only fifteen.

The "reaction" in the east has scarcely been perceptible. Excepting in the peculiar case of Colchester, York County, N.B., has been the only county to vote on repeal. The result was discouraging to hopes of repeal in any other counties; the Scott Act vote was reduced but 51. Fredericton which adopted the Act in 1878 voted on repeal thrice—in 1882, in 1885 and in 1889. Each time the "antis" were confident of success, but the private opinions expressed by the electors so far failed to tally with the figures at the polls, that the measure each time was sustained. The Scott Act majority in 1882 was 41; in 1885 the paltry reduction to 11 was effected; but in 1889, when the "antis," encouraged by the complete overthrow of the measure in Ontario, again demanded a vote, the majority