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Twenty Thousand Dollars.
BY
JAMES J. MCKAY.

The Saturday Gazette.

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For the opening chapters of
LIFE IN ST. JOHN.

VOL. I.—No. 43.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1888.

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EUROPEAN ECHOES.

A FEW OF MANY EVENTS OVER THE WATER.

Things the European Correspondents Think Worth Cribbing.

A discovery of much interest has been made in Canterbury Cathedral, by the finding of a stone coffin about five inches from the surface of the ground in the chapel of Thomas a Becket, which contains a human skull and bones, supposed to be the remains of the martyred archbishop. The greatest secrecy is maintained by the cathedral authorities, but it is stated that the bones are being examined by an anatomist to see if they can be put together. The remains are said to be those of a man of large stature, and the theory is put forward that at the time of the burning of the bones of Thomas a Becket in the reign of Henry VIII, three centuries after the murder of the archbishop, a portion of them may have been secured and buried.

Leo XIII. is as grave, reflecting, and severe as Pius IX. was gay, witty, and sportive. The latter was full of humor and was often in high spirits, and when he had laid aside the cares of his sacred office enjoyed a joke and would indulge with his friends in puns, sarcastic hits and amiable little speeches. His successor, the present Pope, keeps his thoughts more to himself and is more contemplative. When not working he prefers to discuss serious topics, history, philosophy, and literature. He knows Horace and Virgil by heart, and—so competent judges declare—the Latin poems which he has written will bear comparison with the best selections from the ancient classics.

Inquiry is being made at Woolwich relative to the burning of an Armstrong breech-loading gun, which happened at the Royal Arsenal recently. Though the gun is not of Government manufacture, but made at Elswick, and purchased by contract from Sir William Armstrong & Co., the officials are very reticent on the subject, and represent the occurrence as merely one out of a small percentage of failures which are always expected in the course of the proof trials, but the great size of the weapon, which was a 10-inch gun, of about four tons weight, gives prominence to the affair, and the fact of having fired several rounds before the burst took place, points to some cause beyond a mere flaw in the material, which the first test ought to have revealed. The cause or barrel of the gun, was blown clean out of the chamber-end, and fell in one piece to the ground. No other injury resulted, as precautions are always taken at the proof-butts in view of such possibilities, the gun being fired by electricity, and the gunners protected in splinter-proof huts.

The Central News learns from an official source that in view of the promised Government legislation on titles it has been ascertained that the total net charge payable to clerical appropriators and their lessees in England and Wales now amounts to £2680,039; payable to parochial incumbents, £242,103; to lay appropriators, £706,205; to schools and colleges, £196,066.

A Berlin cable says Hamburg has a social scandal. Pastor Wismak, the head of a refuge for fallen women in that city, has been arrested for converting the refuge into a harem and allowing the inmates to indulge in secret debauches. Other directors of the refuge are implicated.

There is again talk of a European conference for the purpose of finally settling the Nile and Sudanese fate, but the probabilities point to an attempt at a speedier and ruder solution of the Bulgarian difficulty, which will not require to be prefaced by diplomatic solemnities.

In England there is increasing belief that Lord Salisbury has succumbed to Bismarck's wiles, and has involved the country in responsibilities which Englishmen, in these degenerate days, are curiously shy of assuming. Under Secretary Ferguson has been closely questioned in the House of Commons, but has replied so ambiguously that an amendment to the address is to be moved, calling upon the Government to keep clear of foreign entanglements. Should the Liberals return to power or have their own way now, England will, in the event of a European war, play the safe, if not particularly dignified, part of looking on until the chief combatants are exhausted and stepping in and making a cent penny by the deal.

Key's financial difficulties are being worse every week. The Sultan urged to cut down diplomatic expenses, but as they have not been paid

POOR SAILOR JACK.

MORE HARD KNOCKS THAN ROMANCE.

How He is Treated at Sea and Bobbed.

I have often wondered how men in possession of their faculties could ever adopt the calling of a sailor. This calling is possibly no more perilous than are many other callings that are pursued on land, but it has connected with it many hardships which language is incapable of expressing. For myself I have but little sympathy with the man who ships a second time before the mast. Disappointment in other pursuits, crosses in love, domestic difficulties, escapades outside the pale of sympathy. Though this is the case, in the hearts of all good men and women there is a tender spot for the sailor, and I doubt if there is another class of men in the whole world for whom so many prayers go up to God as for the class to which he belongs. And, if prayers avail anything, I would that those prayers might be prolonged and redoubled, for if there is a man on earth who has a special need of God's care it is the sailor, whether afloat or ashore. At sea he roasts in the torrid and freezes in the Arctic zones; he has experiences with cyclones, hurricanes, icebergs, collisions, wrecks, hunger, thirst and strange diseases; at best he is ill fed, in a majority of cases he is ill used by the ship's officers, but nevertheless, he sees no object in remaining on shore, when he reaches it, any longer than is necessary to relieve himself of his earnings, which he is generally assisted to do with remarkable celerity.

I wonder what has become of Captain Porter of the Vancouver? I wonder if he dares to walk the streets of Yarmouth? I wonder if he is still ill fed, in a majority of cases he is ill used by the ship's officers, but nevertheless, he sees no object in remaining on shore, when he reaches it, any longer than is necessary to relieve himself of his earnings, which he is generally assisted to do with remarkable celerity.

A plain and direct answer to a plain question has at last been extracted from Mr. Gladstone. To a Dover custom-house official the honor of this triumph is due. On Mr. Gladstone's arrival at Dover after his return from Italy, a custom-house official had the audacity to inquire of the old man the stereotyped question, whether he had any contraband articles in his baggage, and for the first time on record the great statesman answered, quickly and categorically: "I have not a single article liable to duty; not even a bottle of Eau de Cologne."

It is stated, on high authority, that private reasons, and neither disagreement with the government, nor any fallacy of health are the cause of Lord Dufferin's retiring from India at the close of four years of office.

There is nothing like bearing misfortunes with equanimity, and in this respect the passengers of a train in France, which came to a standstill for three hours in the open country, at a distance of several miles from any town, have just set their fellow-mortals a worthy example. Instead of wailing their enforced leisure in lamentations over their ill-luck, they got up an impromptu concert, and soon the frosty air was re-echoing with songs and choruses in which the train officials joined with vigor. When the train was at last started the whole company were in the highest good humor.

All Drinks the Same to the Drink.

A novel bet was lately decided in a restaurant in this city. A gentleman asserted that the majority of men did not know what they were drinking, and offered to bet that he could confound any one so that he could not tell water from whiskey. One of the party accepted the wager and the preparation began. The man was first blindfolded and then a number of glasses containing water, wine, whiskey, sherry, claret, Rhine wine, and gin were set out on the bar. They were handed to the blindfold man one at a time and he was told to name the liquor after tasting it. He got through the list bravely until he came to the gin, which he called port wine. Then the man started him back, but it was soon very evident that his palate had been knocked silly. He called milk water, and finally was forced to admit that all the liquors tasted alike and that he had lost the bet. [Philadelphia Times.]

PORTLAND'S BEAR GARDEN.

A SAMPLE DISCUSSION IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

The Opinion one Alderman has of Another—He Would take the Mayor With Him.

The Portland City Council Chamber has always been something of a bear garden. Several scenes disgraceful to any legislative body have been enacted in this chamber by the aldermen of Portland. Perhaps the least excusable and most disgraceful ever recorded of any deliberative assembly took place in the ill-ventilated council chamber on Tuesday night last. The question of Union St. John and Portland was up for discussion. To mention union to some of the Portland aldermen is like flourishing a red flag before an angry bull. But Tuesday night's exhibition was the worst ever given by the Portland circus men. Here are a few samples of the language hurled at one member by another during the debate on union:

Ald. Price—Who are you anyhow? Ald. Chesley—I am neither a local preacher nor a lawyer. Ald. Forrest—No, but you are a d-d idiot.

The Mayor—Order, order, gentlemen. I will not allow such remarks across the board. Ald. Chesley will please speak to the subject under discussion.

Ald. Buxby—Your Worship I rise to a point of order. Ald. Chesley has spoken more than ten minutes and under the by-laws he is only allowed to speak ten minutes.

The Mayor—The point is well taken. Ald. Chesley will have to take his seat unless the beard gives him permission to proceed.

Ald. Price—I move Ald. Chesley be allowed to finish his speech. Carried.

Order was then restored and Ald. Chesley concluded his speech.

Ald. Forrest followed—He was a local preacher as Ald. Chesley had remarked and was not ashamed. He took a deep degree as to render them unprofitable.

"Such being the case," answered the reporter, "what are the subjects that most earnestly demand the attention of our statesmen?"

"The first question to be dealt with," was the answer, "is the educational system of the Dominion with relation to its trade, commerce and manufacturing industries. The problems of life, death, is everything relating to man's welfare and development in the world will be worked out by intellectual rather than by muscular forces. There are other battles to be fought beside military and naval battles, and the world is fast learning that a nation not scientifically prepared for war has but little chance in a battle with one that is, and the same is the case in a commercial, manufacturing or trading contest. Our agricultural interests may be made the backbone of our resources by the establishment of schools of instruction in scientific farming."

"The more thoroughly we study the comprehensiveness of the laws of nature," said the reporter, "the more fully we realize that a nation not scientifically adapted to all of man's wants."

"Yes," was the reply, "they are as clearly defined in their relations to supply and demand as they are in the blessed system of spring-tides and harvest. If it were not for this the enormously increased and increasing powers of production caused by the application of steam and electricity, combined with scientific appliances would have caused an over-production altogether beyond man's ordinary wants; but the natural laws referred to stepped in, as a result of man's higher intellectual cultivation; his tastes became more refined and diversified, his love of the beautiful higher and more extended, and the products of the skilled artisan became, as it were, the necessities of his every day existence. Thus, instead of general education lessening the field of man's labor, it is ever opening new worlds to conquer. If Canadian statesmen would give up their pot-house politics of personal abuse and selfishness, and use their God given intellects in fostering the true politics of the country, that is to raise the standard of our people higher, morally, financially and physically, instead of being looked upon as they have been, in some cases too justly, as parasites upon the community, they would do honor to themselves and become a blessing to the country. If that grand evil called socialism, that has assumed such proportions in Europe and whose hydra head has been shown in America, is to be stamped out or extirpated, it can only be done by the moral and intellectual development of the whole people."

EDUCATION, PRODUCTION AND POLITICS.

Some Ideas from a Level Headed Business Man.

"Protection," remarked one of our best known and most successful business men to a Gazette representative a day or two since, "has given all the impetus it can give to our industries, and in some instances has stimulated them to such a degree as to render them unprofitable."

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THE AMERICAN RUBBER STORE.

Messrs. Frank and Walter Mullin, formerly in the employ of the American Rubber Co., of New York, Boston and Chicago, and thoroughly conversant with the business, have opened a very attractive store at 65 Charlotte St., where they occupy three flats for the sale of American rubber goods, controlling the sale of the products of their former employers in the Maritime provinces and Maine. They have a beautiful stock of rubber goods for the wear of ladies, gentlemen and children, and a variety of small wares, in which all novelties are shown as soon as they make their appearance in the American market. They have ladies rubbers in 23 styles, and gentlemen's in 15; among the former are some very fine goods with waterproof casings, more tops and fur trimmings. They have ladies cloaks in 27 styles; some double fly front gentlemen's coats which are new and nice, and boys and girls rubber clothing for every age. They make a specialty of firemen's coats, and notwithstanding the duty, all the goods are sold at about the same price as Canada manufacture. Among the small wares are brushes, combs, tobacco (a novelty that is sold for 25 cents) springs, pen holders, ink stands, atomizer pens, rattles, dolls, corkcrucives, funnels, hairpins, hot water bottles, cuspidors, sponge bags, rubber sheeting and a thousand articles which must be unenumerated. The following is from Capt. Frink, of the Salvage Corps and Fire Police.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Black satin corsets are being discussed. In Paul Bourget's last novel, 'Les Merveilles,' he dressed his heroine in a black corset, and thereupon received numerous notes, some corrected saying that it was not fashionable. Bourget is now going about among the Parisian dressmakers to get data to establish his theory.

The applications for membership to the Marlborough Cricket Club are so numerous that a candidate proposed now would not come up under the existing regulations before 1890.

The export of African diamonds for 1887 was 3,690,000 carats, of the value of £4,251,837.

There is trouble over the special trains which Queen Victoria used last year on the Continent. The Queen won't pay and neither will the Treasury. Probably the railroad companies will get left.

The first time the 100-ton gun was fired at Gibraltar is knocked out its carriage.

The semi-annual earnings at the London Albion, where the ballet is the chief attraction, were £13,000.

The early closing bill is now in Parliament, and it may surprise some to learn that Mr. Charles Bradlaugh is its leading opponent.

The Russian Government has discovered an old law forbidding Jews from acting in certain provinces, and in consequence several actors have been compelled to cancel their engagements.

The sole export of the Selly Islands is booming. During the month of January ten tons of narcissus were exported, against one ton in the corresponding month of last year. In 1887 about 15,000,000 stems were exported.

When General Boulanger entered the Chatelet Theatre, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, on Feb. 7, the audience stood up, raised their hats, and shouted: 'Vive Boulanger.' Another demonstration was made when his carriage drove away.

Southern Russia has taken to cultivating tobacco, for which the climate and soil are admirably adapted.

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