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JOHN BROWN DEFIES THE "THUNDERER."

The celebrated "John Brown" is again on the tapis. The Queen, who is at present staying in the Highlands, recently set out with the Prince Beatrice and others of the royal family to visit the well known historic Pass of Glencoe. Out of deference to the wishes of the Queen, the cloud of reporters kept well out of sight. The *Times* correspondent, however, who was also engaged to do a little sketching for an illustrated paper, had happened to wander along on the neighboring heights alone. Unwittingly he got upon a knoll which commanded a view of the royal party at a distance of 200 or 300 yards. It was a few minutes ere he became aware of his position, but the moment he did so he withdrew from the spot. As he was descending, he was met by the redoubtable John Brown, whose eagle eye had at once "speered" him. "Wull ye be ceavil enough, sir, to geet out o'that?" said this worthy. Nettled by this demand, and jealous for the honour of the paper that he represented, the blood of the *Times* correspondent rose at once. Trusting that the magic name at his command would strike terror into the heart of, or, at least, enforce civility even upon John Brown, the *Times* representative named his paper. The undaunted John replied, "I don't care that for the *Times*, or any other papers," snapping his fingers, contemptuously, "and I'll fight ye cef ye dinna gang!" Brown is upwards of six feet, and the breadth of his shoulders and length of his arms are indicative of great strength. The reporter of the *Times* is also a very muscular man; so a trial of battle appeared imminent, when fortunately a peacemaker came on the scene, restored harmony, and spared some scandal to the royal party.

HOW TO COOK BEEFSTEAK.—Some time since a complete encyclopedia of useful knowledge, in human form, became an inmate of a family. When this learned guest came among them he was consulted as an oracle in many cases, and was asked one morning, "would he not tell or show them a better way to cook the meat for breakfast?" He took the thin long-handled frying-pan from its nail, and putting it on the stove, heated it quite hot. In this he put the pieces of steak previously pounded, but to their surprise did not put a particle of butter in the frying-pan, and did not salt his steak. He allowed his steak to merely glaze over, and then turned it quickly to the other side, turning it several times in this manner until it was done. Four minutes were not employed in the operation; but a juicier piece of steak was never eaten. It was, well done, laid on the platter previously warmed, and was buttered and salted, and set a moment in the hot oven. Allowing the steak to heat but a moment on each side, helped it to retain all its sweet juices, and putting on the salt the last moment after it was on the platter, drew out its juices.

It has been supposed that the waiting-room of a railway station could be capable of nothing more exhilarating and entertaining than the awful beefsteak and the indiscribable pie. But, at last, Chicago has proved that something pleasanter is attainable. In one of the railway depots there a free reading-room has been established, to the great delectation of travellers. The room is large, and very neat and pleasant, and is ornamented by choice plants contributed by the city florists, and by pictures. It has plenty of magazines and papers, and is supported by voluntary contributions. In less than one month 709 travellers found rest and mental refreshment there. We heartily commend the plan to other cities and towns where people are obliged to wait for trains.

It seems that the medical virtues of oatmeal are now being thoroughly discussed and investigated. Experiments have been made, especially with regard to its effects on newly born infants, and its nutritious value highly demonstrated. An article in a French journal makes use of a jelly prepared by soaking a tablespoonful of the meal in a glass of water for twelve hours, then straining through a sieve, boiling till the whole assumes the consistency of jelly and adding sugar or salt to taste: "Four infants were fed with the preparation just described, and in every case with satisfactory results. In addition to its qualities as food it acts efficiently against colic and diarrhœa. It enters into the composition of the syrup of Luther, which is now very much used in Germany."

While a clergyman in Atlanta, Ga., was extolling the excellence of charity one Sunday evening, an unknown man suddenly arose from his seat and walked to the pulpit and laid a roll of greenbacks beside the Bible. After service he again went to the pulpit, shook hands with the clergyman, and departed without uttering a word.

Above all other features which adorn the female character, delicacy stands foremost within the province of good state

CARE OF MIRRORS.

The amalgam of tin foil which is spread on plate glass to form the mirrors is really crystallized by the rays of the sun. A mirror hung where the sun can shine on it is usally spoiled; it takes a granulated appearance familiar to house keepers, though they may not be acquainted with its cause. In such a state the article is nearly worthless; the continuity of its surface is nearly destroyed, and it will not reflect outlines with any approach to precision. Care should therefore be exercised in hanging. If any of our readers have mirrors which appear to be spoiling, it would be well to ascertain whether the direct sunlight strikes them. If thus exposed, they can probably be saved from further injury by simply changing their position The back, as well as the front must be protected. A small glass hung in a window, where the rays strike it behind, is peculiarly exposed. The back should always be covered where the rays are likely to touch it.

The greatest danger to looking glasses, however, is in transporting them. Very expensive ones have been seriously injured by careless handling when merely carried across the street. The men who move furniture are seldom fully aware of these possibilities, and need to be cautioned and watched. Frequently a man or boy may be seen in the street carrying a mirror in such a way that the full glare of a noon day sun strikes and injures it. Owners of such articles would, as a rule, be able to keep and use them much longer if they would use more caution in this regard. To re-silver a pier glass often costs as much as one fifth of the original price of the article, while the common glass is seldom worth re-silvering.

It is also well to avoid hanging a mirror near a stove or fire place, where the heat radiated can reach it. If this precaution is neglected, granulation is likely to occur, even in a comparatively dark room, by the influence of warmth instead of light. A lamp or gas jet if placed too close while burning, though it may not crack the glass, will often bring about the same injurious crystalization, and will even sometimes cause the amalgam to melt and run off.

THE EXECUTION OF THE "VIRGINIUS" CAPTIVES.

Some of our contemporaries speak in strong denunciation of the slaughter of these men. Epithets are exhausted in describing its atrocity. They pledge themselves in future to support the cause of Cuba. It is well to see that the spilling of human blood even on a foreign shore is thus viewed with horror; that the national sentiment for sympathy for those struggling for the right is as warm as ever; and that there is a sensitive readiness to resent anything which may seem to disparage national honor or reflect upon American dignity. The preservation of the principles which underlie such manifestations is essential to the well-being and prosperous future of any people. It is a pity, however, that all of the utterances of indignation, and magnanimous pledges which have been made on the platform, and by the press, in this instance, are not based upon accurate kowledge. Law and common sense demand that before a man is called a murderer, the circumstances attending the slaying of his victim must be ascertained beyond a doubt. We have been prompt to recognize the Republican Governmen at Madrid as the *de facto* Government of Spain while European powers decline to do so. Of us, then, the Spanish Republic might most reasonably expect a suspension of judgement regarding these acts, until the whole case is before us. If Americans were to go to Mexico or Cuba and there organize an expedition for the overturn of our Government or the plundering of our people, and we by our troops not only frightened them away, but pursued and captured them, and then put them to death (like the Kickapoos), we would feel wronged if in absence of a full knowledge of the situation, other nations stigmatized us as truculent murderers. We must be equitable in our indignation.

At the time we now write no particulars are at hand of the actual standing of the "Virginius" at the time of her capture—whether she was *bona fide* sailing under the American flag, or had so behaved previous to or at the time of her capture as to forfeit the protection of that flag, in which case her armament was piratical. We know nothing of the proceedings of the court by which the men were tried, by the rules of law under which was inflicted the dread penalty of death upon so many of those on board. We do know, however, that, notwithstanding an American register was granted in 1870, showing that she was owned by a Mr. Paterson, of this city, that she landed at least two armed expeditions on the shores of Cuba; and that she was employed to all intents and purposes as a vessel exclusively at the service of the Cuban insurgents, to whom no belligerent rights have been granted by spain or any other strong power.

There is one view of this sad business which seems to be ignored. Had this military expedition landed and attacked the Spaniards and twice fifty-three men had been killed, there would have been no indignation. Yet the loss to humanity would have been double, and the American flag would have been prostituted to cause that loss.

The indignation of true Americans should be mainly directed against the improper use of our flag to cover an unlawful expedition against a nation with which we are at peace.

It is time, also, that those who go to carry fire and sword into a country should fully understand the responsibility they incur.—*N. Y. Witness.*

PLUCK.—Few virtues are more popular, more fascinating, and, unfortunately more rare than pluck. I do not refer to the blind, spasmodic, feverish, impulsive manifestations that are usually classed under that head. I mean that steady, cool, quiet, invariable and persistent quality, founded on neither ignorance nor miscalculation, spurred on neither by emulation nor conceit, following out, through clearly foreseen and well appreciated dangers and difficulties, some purpose, be it good or bad, which is the fortunate heritage of some individuals. Pluck is distinct from physical courage; rather, the latter is but an element of it. It is, perhaps, better described as moral courage in relation to physical matters. No eminent man has retained the hight he occupies without it, and no one who possesses it, but has in him the most valuable element of a great man. The world pays to it its most heartfelt if not its loudest homage. There are few who cannot sympathize with it, for it is peculiar to no class in life; and though always retaining the individuality, it accords just as well with the muscles of the prize-fighter as well as with the transcendant genius of Napoleon. Either may exist without it; but then the Napoleon is a vulgar schemer, and the prize-fighter a brute—and there are plenty of both. It is a virtue beneficent solely through the magnetism of its own intrinsic quality. In whatever cause displayed, it is always a noble and ennobling trait. If exercised for good, so much the better; if not, it still remains pluck, and commands admiration.

ACCIDENT.—We regret very much to learn that our old friend John Warren of Elizabethtown, met with a very dangerous accident on last Friday.—While working at the frame of a dwelling he was erecting, he cut his foot with an axe, completely severing an artery, and causing the most profuse loss of blood. He at once came into Brockville, after the foot had been first bandaged up as well as it could be done, and was promptly attended by Dr. Fraser, whose old Crimean surgical experience stood him in good stead, and enabled him to staunch the blood, and skilfully rejoin the severed parts of the foot. We are glad to learn that the wound is healing nicely up, and that the Doctor's patient is otherwise doing quite well.—*Monitor.*

What it is possible to do in stamping out a loathsome disease is well illustrated by the returns of the English Registrar General. In 1872 there was a great deal of small pox in England; the first quarter of the year it killed no fewer than 7,726 people. Now, it has all but disappeared. Never since the beginning of the present century has there been so light a return. In the eight counties comprised in the South Midland division there was actually only a single death from the disease between Midsummer and Michaelmas, and but fifteen deaths were registered among the 3,250,000 inhabitants of the metropolis. It is also worthy of remark that the precautions taken to ward off cholera seem to have paralyzed the attacks of that usually active scourge and the mortality nowhere has been large.

ONTARIO.—The settlers in the back townships in the County of Ottawa complain of losses of their sheep by bears this fall. One man named Last, residing at the Wakefield Lake, had eight sheep killed in a pen last week by Bruin. The animal climbed up the side of the shanty, tore off the scoops with his paw, and had an hour's enjoyment.—*Aylmer Times.*

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Brussels, Nov. 11.—A young man named John Jeckling came to his death very suddenly this morning, at his home at Morris. He was engaged driving hogs, when his foot slipped and his forehead came in contact with the sharp edge of a barrel, causing death almost instantaneously. He leaves a wife and a small family.

A Melbourne paper gives the following as a the latest bushranging gossip:—Recently a certain person was travelling along the road, when he heard a great noise and an outcry Thinking bushrangers were at work, he fired off a pistol to intimidate them; and presently the noise ceased and a scampering was heard. On coming to an open, the traveller discovered a man tied to a tree. "Oh! sir cried the victim. "I am so glad you are come. I've been attacked by ruffians, and they were robbing me when they heard your pistol." And couldn't you get loose, my friend?" asked the traveller. "No, they tied me so very tightly." "And did they rob you of everything?" "No; only my watch. They had not time to search for my money, which I placed in my left boot." "How fortunate," observed the traveller. "Was the sum considerable?" Over a thousand, thank Heaven," said the poor man. "Are you sure they are gone?" asked he "Oh! certain. The new comer looked round and round, and, seeing the coast clear, said, cooly. "Well, as they're gone, I think I'll finish the job myself." And he proceeded to rob the unfortunate victim.

OUR TIMBER FORESTS.

Just before the meeting of the National Board of trade at Chicago, Mr. James Little, of Montreal, addressed a letter to Mr John Walker, one of the Canadian delegates in that body, in which he considered at some length the question of reciprocity, so far as it relates to the article of lumber. Mr. Little does not exactly request Mr. Walker to oppose the principle of reciprocity, all tend to show that it would be unwise for Canada to sacrifice her forests, which will become more valuable when the rash folly of American lumbermen has stripped the United States We do not know the source from which Mr. Little gets his statistics, and we certainly cannot vouch for their accuracy. If they are correct, the situation is sufficiently startling. Mr. Little states that the total annual consumption of lumber in the United States is ten thousand million feet. He says that the amount cut annually in Maine is seven hundred millions, a rate at which he thinks will exhaust the supply in ten years, while five years will be sufficient to use up all that it is worth bringing to market. Pennsylvania cuts five hundred million feet, and has a supply for not more than ten years. Northern New York, now producing three hundred million feet a year, Mr. Little supposes is to be taken for a national park, cutting off that supply! Michigan produces two thousand to three thousand million feet a year, and, allowing for increase, will be stripped in about twelve years. Minnesota and Wisconsin have a large extent of forest, but their distance and the sharp demand for their products in the West will cut off the East from the benefit of them. The writer sums up his conclusion with this statement: "But they may, in some measure, be able to understand their position when the fact is presented that notwithstanding the vast extent of their forests, ten to twelve years, at the outside, will leave them with a stick of pine, spruce, hemlock and oak, between the head-waters of the Mississippi and the eastern sea board." Although we can present no exact figures in contradiction to those above given, there are some facts that make it certain that the case is overstated, and there is not so much occasion for alarm. In the first place, while he has proceeded upon the assumption that the tier of States bordering on Canada, as far west as Minnesota, is called upon to supply it. This is by no means the case. Still it is true that they are the chief sources of supply for the Northern States, and if the forest area and the rate of consumption in them were as Mr. Little supposes his conclusion as to the time necessary to strip them would be correct. The last report of the agricultural department of the United States enters into this question of forest area somewhat in detail. The statistician puts down the total wooded area in the States at three hundred and eighty million acres, out of the total area of one hundred and seventy five million acres, or rather more than one fourth. But as we are chiefly concerned with the northern States, we may restrict ourselves to the eastern, middle and western States north of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. In them there are still nearly ninety four million acres of woodland out of a total acreage of three hundred and fifty millions—still more than one fourth. Estimating that only one third of this is accessible, and that it yields only twenty five hundred feet to the acre, one-half the average assigned by Mr. Little, it would still suffice for nearly eight years' consumption of the whole United States. Taking the woodland area of Maine at ten and a half millions of acres, the estimate of the agricultural departments, and supposing that it yields but one thousand feet to the acre on an average, there is still enough at Mr. Little's estimate of the amount cut to last 15 years. The supply of Michigan at Mr. Little's own average is enough for thirty years at the present rate of consumption. But put the best face possible on the matter, it is evident we are wasting our forests, and that the time when we must look upon an almost treeless expanse in all our Northern States is hardly more than a generation distant at the furthest. We have no faith in free trade in lumber as a preventive. The result would probably be an increased consumption and a quicker clearing of the Canadian forests as well as our own. The remedy is in a policy of preservation of our forests by economy and of systematic planting of new forests. The first is a work exclusively for the owners of woodland; the other may require some encouragement from the State. Our water supply has already been unfavourably affected by the extensive timber cutting and forest burning of New England. It is plain that lumber must be more expensive a few years hence, and those who preserve their forests now will find great profit in so doing in the end.—*Boston Advertiser.*

THE MEMPHIS YELLOW FEVER NURSES.—The Memphis *Appeal* has the following:—"The grandest sight seen for many long weeks was the procession of the Odd Fellows yesterday, accompanied by the Knights of Pythias, down Main street, from their hall to the Mississippi & Tennessee railroad depot, whither they escorted their nurses *en route* home. Near the depot the Knights of Pythias halted, opened ranks, and presented arms as the balance of the procession passed; the lady nurses were escorted to the reception room in the depot building, and after much handshaking and some kissing, on the part of a few of the most prominent Odd Fellows Major Butler Anderson, of the *Register*, was introduced by Mr. Newsome, and made very appropriate remarks with much feeling. A venerable lady thanked him for the honour done them, and hoped our city would never undergo another epidemic like the one just passed through. Each of the nurses, three of whom were colored, wore a gold badge, presented by the order as a mark of meritorious conduct and gratitude for faithful service rendered their sick. The badge was in the shape of a shield, and had each nurses name at the top, then followed, 'Reward of Merit I. O. O. F. Relief Committee, Epidemic 1873, Memphis, Tenn.' The street was lined with people, and their smiling faces was the most agreeable sight it has been our fortune to witness since the fearful scourge first made its appearance among us."

OTTAWA, November 20.—Political affairs are flat; not even life enough in politicians to get up a rumor.

Lumbermen speak discouragingly of the prospects of the timber trade. One of them in a two-column communication to the *Citizen* to-night, urges his fellow-lumbermen, to organize an arrangement by which the quantity of lumber taken out yearly would be governed. "It is very true," he says, "that if less is done in Canada it will stimulate the manufactures in Michigan and the Western States to increase their manufactures, but this ultimately would be a benefit to the Canadians, as in a very short time Michigan men will get through with all they have to cut and the trade will be left in the hands of the Canadians alone."

The Salteaux tribe of Ojibbeway Indians, whose hunting grounds border on Manitoba, have surrendered their right and title to their lands on terms which indicate that the Canadian Government means to deal fairly with them. Large tracts are reserved for farming by the Indians, who still retain the right to hunt and fish over the ceded territory. Schools for their instruction will be maintained, $12 a year will be given to each man, woman and child, besides an annuity of $25 to each chief, 15 to each subordinate chief, and $5 to each other Indian. Each person also will receive a suit of clothes once every three years, and $1,500 is to be expended yearly in the purchase of ammunition, farming implements, stock, and seed. In their dealings with the red men among them the Canadians have always been just and straightforward. The result is that some of the tribes are increasing in numbers, and civilized Indians and half breeds may be met in all the walks of life throughout the Dominion.

DARING ROBBERY.—A most daring robbery was committed on Saturday evening last, about half past five o'clock, when the railway depot was broken into and the drawer containing small change, amounting in all to about $18, carried off. At that hour, the agent had gone to tea, all the doors of the building having been securely fastened and the lamps left burning. The hour, the place, and the fact that the room was well lit up, render this robbery the most daring and audacious yet perpetrated in Almonte. Search having been made, the drawer was found among the lumber piles near the station broken open and rifled of its contents, with the exception of some loose change in silver, which the thief in his hurry had overlooked. We trust the thief will be found out and sent to keep Monaghan company in the Provincial Penitentiary.—*Almonte Gazette.*

While Western farmers almost complaining of overflowing barns, Chihuahua, in northwestern Mexico, is threatened with famine. An order, has been issued prohibiting the exportation of corn, wheat, or beans, and all agricultural products are to be received by an agent of the Government and paid for by him at current rates, to be afterward doled out in small quantities at the same price as paid.

One day when Mrs. Partington heard the minister say there would be a name in the new church, she observed that 'she knew who the party was."

THE THREATED FAMINE IN INDIA.

The London *Daily News*, of Nov. 3rd, in reference to the above impending calamity, says:—

"The rivers of India may be divided into three classes: those having Alpine origins, and flowing through hilly districts, such as the rivers having their source in the Himalayas; hill rivers destitute of Alpine sources, such as those in the south of the Peninsula; and the rivers of the plains. The former class are generally well supplied with water, the melting of the snow and ice making up for the loss during the dry seasons. The two latter are dependent upon the monsoons for their chief supply of water; and the last named class of rivers are the most important of all.—Irrigation channels extend in every direction carrying the overflow of water through their ramifications over vast fields of rice; and it can readily be understood that when the required level is not reached, the paddy fields are left without the continuous supply of water which is necessary for them.—Hence the danger is greater in India than in other less thickly populated countries. India contains one fifth of the whole population of the globe; and when the staple food of that mass of people is suddenly removed, and they have no stored supplies to meet the deficiency the consequences are frightful. Another but secondary, result may ensue from the want of rain. The rivers of India teem with edible fish, for whose existence it is an absolute necessity that they should be enabled to ascend the rivers at certain periods of the year; and this can only be done during the south west monsoon. Even in ordinary times, great obstacles to their ascent are caused the weirs placed across the rivers for the purpose of supplying the irrigation channels, and in low water it is often impossible for the fish to surmount these obstructions. The result is a destruction of fish, and loss of spawn, which seriously affect the supply of fish in the rivers. Among some of the natives of India 'fish' may be said to be the sole form of 'flesh' which they eat. If this supply of food fails, and rice is unprocurable, it requires little imagination to picture the distress in which the poor people will be thrown. The details of the late disastrous famine of Orissa are fresh in our memory, but a famine in Bengal—The richest of the Indian provinces—means a great deal more. If the most productive province is famine stricken, how can the others supply food? The increased facilities for communication in railways and improved roads and in steamships, will enable relief to be provided more readily than could otheiwise be the case; but the deaths of the hundreds and thousands of those first to succumb cannot be prevented."

RETURN OF WRECKS.—The *North British Mail* says: The Wreck Register for the British Islands, annually published by the Board of Trade, derives new interest of late from the noble efforts of Mr. Plimsoll to probe certain of the preventible causes which send so many ships to the bottom. The list for 1872 presents the untoward feature of an excess by 383 over the shipwrecks in the previous year. No less than 2,381 vessels, of which 1,878 were British, were lost, partially wrecked, or damaged, accompanied by loss of life in about one of every sixteen casualties. The gales of November and December were, as usual, those most fatal to shipping. Whilst, however, the general number of wrecks has increased in the three years, the total losses in 1872 show a diminution from the general average of the past seventeen years; but, on the other hand, the cases of partial damage exceed the average by 362. Of the total losses, 56 arose from defects in the ship or in her equipments—another fact of the Royal Commission; and summing up the statistics of eleven years, the report for 1872 states the total number of ships which appear to have foundered or to have been otherwise totally lost on and near our coasts from unseaworthiness and unsound gear at 580. Similarly, the casualties resulting in partial damage, from the same cause during the past eleven years was 812; last year alone producing 157 cases of what the report justly disignates "this disrepatable class.' With the increase of shipping there must be a comparative increase in casualties so long as the accidents of the sea exist, but preventable causes of disaster may be materially reduced, including those caused by collisions, of which there was an ominous increase during the year. Fortunately the loss of life in 1872—580 souls—though lamentably large, is less than the loss of the previous year by 36, and smaller than the number lost in any year since 1846. As the greater number of lives lost—unless in some exceptional disaster—are from vessels stranded or cast ashore, this steady reduction is due, in no small degree, to the exertions of the 235 life boats which public and private liberality has stationed all around our coasts, the Mercantile Marine Fund also furnishing numerous sets of rocket and mortar apparatus, while volunteers life brigades and companies have been formed on various parts of the coast. The fact that these agencies saved 4,634 lives during the past year, forms their noblest claim to continued support from the nation.

Grip's last cartoon is entitled "The Political Mother Hubbard and John A's Dying Iniquity." Mackenzie is cleverly depicted as Mother Hubbard looking into the cupboard to find a bone for a large dog with George Brown's head, and horror stricken to find that all that is left is a memorandum signed "John A.—You'll remember me." Crawford as a little cur is trotting off with the big bone of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Ontario, while John A. is leering round the corner holding up a "*Canada Gazette*—100 appointments made."

The London *Advertiser* says that a bill in Chancery has been fyled in England against the Hon. John Carling and Messrs. Walsh, Walker and others, in connection with the Western of Canada Oil and Lands Company. A day or two ago the bulky document was duly served. It seeks to make the parties liable in the sum of $250,000 sterling for fraud and misrepresentation in connection with the organization of the Company. The bill has been fyled at the instance of certain heavy English bond-holders of the concern.

It is believed, from information received, that the Spanish Government is in earnest in its protestations of friendship for the United States. Spanish naval officers in the West Indies have been warned to be very careful in their conduct towards vessels carrying the U. S. flag.

Lord Caryafort, the owner of large estates in Ireland, has given $25,000 for the improvement of Arklow Harbour.

DROWNED.—On Wednesday week a boy about eleven years old, son of Mr. Jackson, painter, Glentay, was accidentally drowned in the river, near that place. It seems that the little fellow anxious to take advantage of the first ice, left home in the evening with his skates, and proceeded to the river.—When bed time came the family retired to rest thinking he would be in shortly and it was not until they awoke in the morning, that it was known he had not been at home all night. Search was made and his lifeless body recovered from the river where it must have lain all night. This is another warning to parents not to allow their children to go upon the ice until the hard frost has made it perfectly safe.—*Expositor.*

The tailors of Boston, borrowing an idea from the grocers of Chicago—who, however, wisely abandoned it—are proposing to publish in two of the daily papers the names of customers who do not pay promptly.

Switzerland supplies a large portion of the asphalt used in the construction of roads in Europe and also exports it to America. About one hundred thousand tons have been extracted from the mines within the past thirty years, and during that period the price has increased from 54 cents to $4.60 per ton.

A lot of minstrels went to a town not far away and advertised to give a performance for "the benefit of the poor, tickets reduced to ten cents." The hall was crammed full. The next morning a committee for the poor called upon the concern for the amount said benefit had netted. The treasurer expressed astonishment at the demand. "I thought," said the chairman of the committee, "you advertised this concert for the benefit of the poor" Replied the treasurer: "Didn't we put the tickets down to ten cents, so that the poor could all come?" The committee vanished.

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The labours of the Geological Survey of Canada have demonstrated to the world the important fact that we have in our Dominion all the mineral resources of the most favoured countries. Thanks to enlightened policy the older portion of the country has been carefully explored. A succession of grants, though small in amount, has yet been productive of much good, and the result of the exercise of skill and learning set in motion by them has been seen in the publication of so much information as to leave only regret that a larger supply of means has not been at the disposal of our geologists. Gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, salt, marble, coals and oils are amongst the most plentiful of our deposits, and the condition of the labour market of European countries has gradually assimilated to that of our own, so that places where profitable production has mainly depended upon cheap labour now fall behind through the additional expenses incurred, as mines have to be sunk deeper. Labour saving machines have simultaneously made such progress among ourselves that to-day we are better enabled to produce the material of metals than some of the older countries. Amongst the most valuable, in fact the most valuable of economic resources, we place iron; but from the causes last mentioned it has attracted the least attention of our industrial and monied classes. Yet its present greatly enhanced value in Europe and the United States added to the cost of importation, leaves an apparent margin of profit which, if realizable, is not excelled in other branches of industry.

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF PARTIES IN CUBA.—At this time the relative strength of the Spanish and native forces in Cuba is of considerable interest: The Spanish number about seventy thousand regulars, nearly one third of whom are Havanah. Then come the volunteers, who equal them in numbers; and though though they do not fight, yet instigate all the butchery done by the Spaniards on the island. They rule the Captain General, who has to submit to their sanguinary policy. The volunteers are made up of shop keepers, officials, etc., who hate the Cubans because their success would deprive them of any chance of remaining on the island, from which they have drawn a comfortable revenue. The Cuban army hardly number over 15 thousand men, exclusive of the reserve of ten thousand, who, for the want of arms and munition, do only picket and scout duty. The Cuban forces are badly off for munitions of war, and are poorly supplied with food.

The tone of our United States exchanges, especially the majority of the New York journals, on the subject of the *Virginius* executions, has a very war-like ring. Yet there is something almost absurd in the idea of the United States and Spain going to war at the present time. The former is passing through a period of great financial and industrial disquietude; the latter is in the throes of a two-fold civil war. The burdens of one and the other are heavy enough already without being increased by mutual conflict, and such a termination of the present complication is, we think, improbable. But the tragic faith of the *Virginius* crew, the total annihilation of the fillibustering expedition is a thing almost unprecedented, and may lead to a resolve on the part of the United States to deal directly with the Spanish volunteers in Cuba who have had the boldness to perpetrate such atrocity.

The action of the Grand Jury at Fort Garry in finding true bills against Riel, Lepine and O'Donohue as principals, and Father Ritchot, Delorme and another as accessories, in the Scott murder, may be expected to add fresh fuel to the excitement in Manitoba and to lend urgency to the demands upon the Dominion Government for amnesty, and at the same time to make it all more difficult to deal with. The *Globe*, however, denies that the question as to what is to be done as regards Riel is one that can cause any embarrassment to the Government now in power at Ottawa. Their duty in the matter that is very simple, and depends on the answer to the question. "Has any pledge been given to Riel, or those acting for him which entitles him to expect the pardon or forgiveness of the Crown, in which is vested the authority of administering the law?" This question the late Government, who alone are still able to answer it, have always evaded. Nay, its leaders have spoken in a sense that led the people of Canada to believe no such pledge had been given. In another column we copy an article from the *Globe* on this subject.

Ottawa, Nov. 18, 1873.—The Ottawa lumber trade for coming winter has been a subject of much discussion and difference of opinion for some months past among those interested; within the last few days a careful computation has been made of the probable amount of white pine to be taken out this season on the Ottawa and its tributaries, which gives seven and a half million feet, against twelve and a half million last year. There will be two and a quarter millions feet of red pine taken out. These figures are from a reliable source, and will tend to correct the erroneous impression that lumbering operations would be as extensive this year as last. There has been a great reduction in wages also, some of the large firms are engaging men for the winter at from five to seven dollars a month less than last year. One mill owner has however, been made a very liberal offer for four million feet of sawn lumber for the South American trade, to be shipped next spring, fully one dollar and fifty per *M*. better than any sales that have been made this fall.

HOME INFLUENCE.—If the father chiefly talks "money, money," at home, he generally rears a family in the worship of the almighty dollar. If he talks mainly horses, games and races, he breeds a batch of sportsmen, If fashion is the family altar, then the children are offered up as victims upon that altar. If a man makes his own fireside attractive, he may reasonably hope to anchor his own children around it. My neighbor Q—makes himself the constant evening companion of his boys. The result is that his boys are never found in bad places. But if the father hears the clock strike eleven in a club house or the play-house he need not be surprised if his boys hear it strike twelve in the gaming room or the drinking saloon. If he puts the bottle on his own table, he need not wonder if a drunken son staggers in by and by at his front door. When the best friend that childhood and youth ought to have becomes their foe, the home becomes the "starting post" for moral ruin.

Educating girls for household duties ought to be considered as necessary as instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and quite as universal. We are in out houses more than half of our existence, and it is the household surroundings which affect most largely the happiness or misery of domestic life. If the wife knows how to "keep house," if she has learned how things ought to be cooked, how beds should be made, how carpets should be swept, how furniture should be dusted, how the clothes should be repaired and turned, and altered, and renovated; if she knows how purchases can be made to the best advantage, and understands the laying in of provisions; how to make them go the farthest and last longest; if she appreciates the importance of system, order and tidiness, and the quiet management of children and servants, then she knows how to make a heaven of home; how to win her children from the street; how to keep her husband from the club-house, the gambling table, and wine cup. Such a family will be trained to social respectability, to business success, and to efficiency and usefulness in whatever position may be allotted to them.

It may be safe to say, that one girl in ten, in large towns and cities, enters into married life who has learned to bake a loaf of bread, to purchase a roast, to dust a painting, to sweep a carpet, or to cut and fit and make her own dress.—How much the perfect knowledge of these things bears upon the thrift, the comfort and the health of families may be conjectured, but not calculated by figures. It would be an immensurable advantage to make a beginning by attaching a kitchen to every girls' school in the nation, and have lessons given daily in the preparation of all the ordinary articles of food and drink for the table, and how to purchase them in the market to the best advantage, with the result of a large saving of money, an increase of comfort, and higher health in every family in the land.

LET US HELP ONE ANOTHER.—This little sentence should be written on every heart and stamped on every memory. It should be the golden rule practiced not only in every household, but througout the world. By helping one another we not only remove thorns from the pathway and anxiety from the mind, but we feel a sense of pleasure in our own hearts, knowing we are doing a duty to a fellow creature. A helping hand or an encouraging word is no loss to us; yet it is a benefit to others. Who has not felt the power of this little sentence? Who has not needed the encouragement and aid of a kind friend? How soothing, when perplexed with some task that is mysterious an burdensome, to feel a gentle hand on the shoulder and to hear a kind voice whispering, "Do not be discouraged; I see your trouble; let me help you." What strength is inspired! what hope created! what sweet gratitude is felt! and the great difficulty is dissolved as dew beneath the sunshine Yes, let us help one another by endeavoring to strengthen and encourage the weak and lift the burden of care from the weary and oppressed, that life may glide smoothly on, and the fount of bitterness yield sweet waters; and he whose willing hand is ever ready to aid us, will reward our humble endeavors, and every good deed will be "bread cast upon the waters to return after many days," if not to us, to those we love.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Bishop McIntyre of Prince Edward Island, with one of his clergy, had an interview with the Government, within a few days past, on the subject of the school question in that Island. The Act of Confederation admitting them to the Union does not, as is the case in the British North America Act, affect the educational question. The Islanders are desirous to avoid the difficulty into which New Brunswick has fallen in the settlement of this question, and it is with that object that the Bishop came to Ottawa. The Bishop expressed himself much pleased with the result of his conference.

The *Free Press* says,—We learn on the best of authority that no changes in the department of the Civil Service, will be made by the present Government, other than those that the exigencies of the moment may require. It is not the policy of the Administration to cripple and retard the working of public affairs, by dismissing old servants and replacing them by the importation of green hands. Honest and well tried servants, may rely upon being justly dealt with by the present Government.

A gentleman who tells us that he has had frequent occasion to communicate with the Government, and has rarely obtained a prompt reply, says he was exceedingly surprised since the new Ministry came into office at having an acknowledgment of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, within about forty-eight hours of the time of posting it. He asks us whether we suppose this arises from the new broom rule.

THE NATHAN MURDER.—Thus far, nothing important has come from the revelations of Irving, the man who succeeded in having his passage paid to New York, in consideration of his information about the Nathan murder. His promises of further revelations are not to be received with much confidence. although it is barely possible that he may have something important to communicate.

CLEANLINESS.—A neat, clean, fresh-aired, sweet, cheerful, well-arranged house exerts a moral influence over its inmates, and makes the members of a family peaceable, and considerate of each other's feelings and happiness. The connection is obvious between the state of mind thus produced and respect for others, and for those higher duties and obligations which no laws can enforce. On the contrary, a filthy, squalid noxious dwelling, in which none of the decencies of life are observed, contributes to make its inhabitants selfish, sensual and regardless of the feelings of others; and the constant indulgence of such passions renders them reckless and brutal.

The Boston *Transcript* says Mr. Bradlaugh is one of the most eloquent men ever heard in the lecture room, and Charles Sumner says he is one of the very few great orators of our age. But only two hundred people in Brooklyn thought it worth their while to hear him. So wisdom cries aloud in the Streets of the City of Churches, and eloquence goes a begging.

Large numbers of French Canadians, who had emigrated to the United States, are returning to the old Province of Quebec, comprising both peasants and workmen of various trades.