

know they are making money out of the Canadians very fast, that it is their interest to keep up the prices, and that any rivalry which would benefit the *consumers* would somewhat diminish their profits. In a word, they mean to persevere in their method of placing the question on narrow and special grounds instead of on a broad and national basis. They are opposed to the letter and the spirit of sound legislation which seeks to do the greatest good to the greatest number, and desire to have the greatest good done to their own number. Of course they are quite at liberty to ask for this, to clamour for it, if they choose, but equity are all interests entitled to pursue the same course and to claim the same privileges. It is for the Government to estimate how much can safely be granted to each applicant and to decide on the fairest distribution of favors. Needless to repeat no treaty can possibly be framed, even by the cleverest diplomats, which shall fully satisfy every one, and that very sectional opposition which it is attempted to develop against the draft treaty is a proof that on the whole it is not so bad as its enemies would have us believe. The manufacturers think it is very good for the agriculturist, the agriculturist says it is excellent for the manufacturer. Perhaps both are right and both know it is good for themselves, only they will not say so.—*The Nova Scotian*.

Great enterprises are common enough now-a-days; cables are laid from continent to continent, railways constructed across lofty mountains, tunnels pierced through alps, and canals made to connect distant seas. To all this we are accustomed, and hear with but slight wonder of some new idea surpassing all its predecessors in greatness. The Dutch are setting about reclaiming a great part of the Zuyder Zee, once a flourishing country, now a deep gulf, and the French are seriously thinking of doing the opposite thing in Algeria, by turning miles of barren sand into a fertilizing sea. The plan is Lesseps', of Suez Canal celebrity, and is viewed with much favor by a large portion of the press, and with decided hostility by another. The proposed sea is to be about five hundred miles long by sixty broad, and the supporters of the scheme claim that it would be beneficial in the highest degree—the plains of water calling up clouds and fertilizing the uplands around the basin, giving the provinces of Constantine and Algiers a double seaboard, and opening up a great territory of Africa.

The ground intended to be submerged is a perfectly barren area extended from Cabes to the Aeni Mezab and El Erg, and divided from the Mediterranean by the Isthmus of Cabes, a sandy ridge formed by the sea and only eleven and a quarter miles broad. The soil is light and easily handled, and would not offer any great obstructions to the piercing of a channel; the whole cost being estimated at two million and a half of dollars. But no one can tell whether the Isthmus, built up by the sea once before, would be built up again and thus turn the inland sea into a mighty stagnant pool, worse than the present desert, or whether the Sahara is not barren enough and dry enough to soak up all the water after it has been turned on. These are arguments against the proposed sea used by a part of the press, while another part fears that the effect of an inland sea there would be to cool the climate of France to something like our own delicious winter temperature. At all events the project is being seriously considered by the authorities and is likely to be heard of again.—*Nova Scotian*.

Business in the printing and stationery trades is very fairly brisk. From Scotland complaints are heard, but generally, throughout England, there is no sign of slackness. Papermakers are quite full with orders, especially those engaged in the manufacture of hand-mades, between the masters and men engaged in the paper trade, we are glad to report, has been satisfactorily settled; for, at a conference just held, it was unanimously agreed that "all men employed in the hand made paper trade should have their wages advanced fourpence per day's work, on the condition that no further advance be given, and no difference be made in any other of the terms of employment for three years." The case of the journeymen employed on machine-made paper has been adjourned for a time, the Kent papermakers asserting that in no part of England were the men paid such high wages as in that county, and that if higher wages were given, and an advance in their paper followed, the trade would be driven away from them.

The export trade, both in heavy stationery and in the better class of leather and fancy goods, has been particularly brisk during the past month; and, although the general exports of the country do not appear in so favorable a light as might be desired, yet this cannot be said of the above interests; for at no time of late years has there been a more active demand than at present for supplies of first-class stationery for the Christmas trade in the Colonies.—*Shippers Monthly*.

A TRIUMPH OF ORATORY.—A writer in the "Literary World" recalls a scene which he witnessed at Edinburgh at a meeting of Dr. Guthrie's ragged schools. The Duke of Argyll was in the chair, and a brilliant audience was present. To understand the allusion, it must be remembered that a Covenanter in clergyman named Guthrie suffered as a martyr in 1661. At the close of the meeting Dr. Guthrie came to the front of the platform to move a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Surveying the audience for a minute or two without saying a word, until expectancy was awakened, the orator turned to the duke, and with great deliberation, said, "It is not the first time, your grace, that an Argyll and a Guthrie have met in the same place to further a good work, in this city of Edinburgh." The effect of the sentence was wonderful. It was like a shock of electricity through every one in that vast assembly. The Grassmarket and the two martyrs had risen on the view of every one there. The people, as one man, started to their feet; and the duke, rising from his chair, stepped forward, and gave his hand to Guthrie. There the two men stood, face to face, and hand in hand, while the audience burst again and again into joyous acclamations, the tears streaming down the faces of stalwart men. It was a scene not soon to be forgotten by those who were present; and it seemed to the writer as in all probability the greatest feat of oratory that Guthrie ever achieved.

METALLIC PENS.

Iron and gold have almost entirely displaced the "gray goose quill" as an instrument for writing. In Birmingham the number of steel pens made weekly is about 90,000 gross, or 14,120,000 separate pens. Thirty years ago pens were sold at wholesale for five shillings a gross; now, pens as good, or better, may be had for three halfpence per gross. When it is remembered that each gross requires 144 pieces of steel to go through at least twelve processes in the course of manufacture, the fact that 144 complete pens may be sold for three half-pence, after providing for material, paying wages to work-people and leaving a profit to maker, is convincing proof of the results attainable by the exercise of mechanical ingenuity and division of labor. Gold pens are tipped with iridium making what are commonly called "diamond points." The iridium for this purpose is found in small grains in platinum ore, slightly alloyed with the latter metal. In this form it is exceedingly hard, and well adapted to the purpose of the gold-pen maker. The gold for pens is alloyed with silver to about sixteen carats fineness, rolled into thin strips, from which the blanks are struck. The under side of the point is notched by a small circular saw to receive the iridium point, which is selected by the aid of a microscope. A flux of borax and a blow-pipe flame secure to its place, and the point was then ground on a copper wheel with emery.—*Technology*.

This is old but good: Two young princes of Austria entered into a violent quarrel, when one of them said to the other, "You are the greatest ass in Vienna." Just then the Emperor, their father, entered, and said indignantly, "Come, come, gentlemen, you forget that I am present."

The Saturday Review was sarcastic the other day when, in speaking of railway guarantees, it remarked: "It is always more or less uncertain whether a railway produce a large return to the undertakers." Funeral furnishes smiled as they read the words applying to themselves.

"Who asked if yer wanted anything?" said a Lowell peddler to a lady who said she did not as soon as she opened the door. "Mind yer peccness, and don't refuse to buy till you are asked."

It is a startling mystery how the presence of an old maid and a bald-headed man will cast a gloom over a picnic party which even pickled clams can only partially dispel.

TWENTY IMPOLITE THINGS.

1. Loud and boisterous laughter.
2. Reading when others are talking.
3. Reading aloud in company without being asked.
4. Talking when others are reading.
5. Spitting about the house, smoking or chewing.
6. Cutting your finger-nails in company.
7. Leaving church before worship is closed.
8. Whistling or laughing in the house of God.
9. Gazing rudely at strangers.
10. Leaving a stranger without a seat.
11. A want of respect and reverence for seniors.
12. Correcting older persons than yourself, especially parents.
13. Receiving presents without an expression of gratitude.
14. Making yourself hero of your own story.
15. Laughing at the mistakes of others.
16. Joking others in company.
17. Commencing talking before others are finished speaking.
18. Answering questions that have been put to others.
19. Commencing to eat as soon as you get to the table; and
20. Not listening to what is saying in company.

CIRCULAR

OF THE HOUSE OF

ROBERT WILKES,

TORONTO AND MONTREAL.

To the Merchants of the Dominion:

In a market such as the Dominion of Canada where general dealers keep a larger assortment of Goods than in any other part of the world, it becomes of the utmost importance to the trade to secure the services of a reliable House that can supply all that infinite variety outside of mere staples, known as *Sundries*. It includes important departments of the Shelf Hardware trade, considerable lines in the Drug trade, Fancy Goods of every variety, and Watches, Clocks and Jewellery of all descriptions, as well as a number of articles usually sold by Dry Goods dealers. To supply such a large variety *right*, any house must do a large trade, and must virtually control the manufacture of the principle articles. It must also be satisfied with a moderate profit, so as to have no danger from competition attempted. Above all, to create and extend such a trade, a reputation for integrity and fair dealing must be deserved, and the quality of guaranteed goods must be reliable. No house can ever establish a good reputation by vending inferior goods, no matter how cheaply sold. By observance of these rules and principles we have endeavoured to meet the requirements of the trade, and to establish a House that would command the support of merchants in all sections of the Dominion. The development and success of our trade since its establishment many years ago, and its position in the two leading cities—Montreal and Toronto—must be the answer to those who enquire if we have succeeded in our endeavours.

For the present season we are prepared to execute the orders of our friends, in all departments, in the most satisfactory manner. To secure prompt delivery for the Fall trade, we respectfully request that orders shall be placed as early as possible. In *PLATE, CUTLERY, NICKELITE*, and many other staples the demand is generally in advance of our utmost producing power; orders have, therefore, to be supplied according to date of receipt—with good houses we have less regard for mere time than that orders should be delivered in good season. Soliciting the increased patronage of reliable merchants in all parts of the Dominion, we assure them of no pains being spared to give satisfaction.—*Advt.*