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TORCH.

JOSEPH S. KNOWLES,..... Editor.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 19, 1878.

JOSH MUFF LETTERS.—In our next we will commence a series of letters written by a native of Otisago, named Josh Muff, to his wife Huldy. As this is his first visit away from home, and he sees the different sights in St. John and Boston in a particularly fresh and breezy aspect, we think our readers will find them very interesting. His wife evidently thought so or she would not have sent them to the Torch for publication.

PRESENTATION.—On Thursday, Capt. Chisholm was presented with a magnificent gold watch and chain by the Queen Insurance Company, in recognition of his valuable services in assisting in rescuing so many lives on the 20th June. The presentation was made in the Common Council Chamber by Mr. John Boyd in a neat and appropriate speech, to which Capt. Chisholm made a suitable reply. The watch is an elegant work of art; and we congratulate the gallant Captain on receiving such a meritorious recognition of his bravery and kindness. We are sorry that our limited space prevents us giving a full report of the proceedings.

The Pennsylvanians want to reform their system of Civic Government. One of the suggestions of the Commission appointed by the Governor of the State to inquire into the matter is that all tax-payers, without distinction of sex, should vote at municipal elections. The adoption of such a Reform would be plain justice—for they who pay the taxes should have their say as to the levying of them. But think how the canvassing system would be developed by such a course. When, for instance,

would the well favored Councillor for Sydney cease looking up votes, if all the handsome ladies who own property in his ward were added to the Electoral list.

A SAINT JOHN BOY ABROAD.—JAMES P. DEMATTOS—who for some time studied law in this city, and subsequently was engaged in one of the public offices in Washington—is at present acting as Stipendiary Magistrate at Georgetown, Colorado. We congratulate "Squire" DEMATTOS.

STEPPED OUT.—One of Portland's faithful guardians has levanted, leaving several tender little reminiscences, in the shape of bills, to keep his memory green. Our artist has a sketch of him, for which we shall try and find room in our next.

Bengough, Grip's famous cartoonist, will deliver one of his peculiar lectures in the Institute on Wednesday evening next. As he is an artist of acknowledged ability we expect he will draw a crowded house.

HARE SOUP.—Messrs. John Melick and G. J. Chubb purchased a lot of rabbits in the Market yesterday, and sent them by express as a present to Mr. J. W. Lanergan, in Boston. These will be a rare bit for "Jeems," as these birds are very scarce and expensive in the "Hub."

The *Sackville Post* this week has a local item headed "Death of one of Miss Rye's Children." We have never heard of Miss Rye having shuffled of the coil of single blessedness, and if not, isn't it libellous for Milner to insinuate that she has any young responsibilities? That's worse than accusing a man of plagiarism.

TORCHISMS.

***What kind of a cane gives the quickest blow? A hurry-cane.

***What is the difference between summer and winter? There's snow difference.

***When an Irish woman applied for relief, the interviewer asked:

"How many children have you?"

"Six, yer honor."

"How old is the youngest?"

"Me youngest is dead, yer honor; but I've had another since."

***Are the knots made by a ship when she is sailing tied? If not, what has the tide got to do with them? This is a knotty point for nautical men to untie.

Mrs. J.—"The men of the present day are fast."

Mr. J.—"They have to be, my dear, to catch the women."

***Why are not crows considered to be grace birds? Because they are inclined to carry on (Carri-on).

***A pane-ful duty—to collect the duty on glass.

***Does it require much cur-rage to face a mad dog?

***What is the best guage by which to measure a man's character? His lan-guage.

***The winning-post of the race of life is a slab of white or grey stone standing out from that turf where there is no more jockeying.

***A VERY FELINE QUESTION FROM THE CATHEDRAL.—If two cats, tied together by their tails and hung across a clothes line, should fight until they died, what particular form of disease would express the cause of their death? A malignant case of *Tie-puss*.

***Why is the letter N like a newly married woman? Because its the end of maiden.

***A well bred man is never a loaf-er.

***Knight of the Bath—Saturday night.

***A presentation which is never very acceptable: *Presenting a loaded pistol*.

***SENSIBLE ADVICE.—Whatever you give away always be sure and *keep your temper*.

***Overhead and Ears in Debt—wearing an unpaid for hat.

***A book, whatever its merits, is bound to be read.

***What religion is most fashionable among the Turks? They worship a *la mode* (*Allah mode*).

***What word is there, which, if you take away the first letter, will leave the name of a well-known novel? Handy—for by taking away the H it makes Handy Andy.

FUNNY FLASHES.

BY FELIX FLASHER

What is the first historical mention of hippoplagists banquet? When Caesar's ghost said to Brutus, "We shall meet again at *filly pie*."

MOCK TURTLE.—Calling your husband "my dear" in public, and "you brute" in private.

A pedant remarked to a farmer, "I cannot bear a fool." "Your mother could," was the reply.

A KNOTTY QUESTION.—Asking the Captain of a ship how fast she's sailing.

What word is there which if you take away the first letter will represent an urn with the tea drawn off?

Turn, for by removing the T. you will have the urn left.

Does Scotch whiskey have a *smokey* taste when it comes in *pipies*?

BOARDING HOUSE SCENE.

Time: Breakfast.

Mr. Tomkins.—Pardon me Mrs. Podgers, but would you please inform me if that hash is made of bear's meat.

Mrs. P.—"Why lor' sakes no Mr. Tomkins, whatever makes you ask such a Question?"
Mr. Tomkins.—"Oh! nothing—only from the number of pieces of gristle in it I thought it might have been made from a *Gristly Bear*."

ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE.

VAGRANT.—"Plaze sir, wud ye give a poor lone lorn widdy a few hapens for God sake."
MR. B.—"Why don't you go to the Poor House?"

VAGRANT.—I wanted tel git in the Poor House so I went to Doctor Bayard and axed wud he give me a line. So he sint me till Squire—well, well, say his name was Brown. So over I goes til him an' tould path the dochter said, and he ups and says, "Go back and tell the docter till go to h—." "Bad cess to you," says I, "wull ye put that mussage in 'ritin' I'll take it till him, if ye promise till stand porter at the gates an' let him in." Put that in yer pipe and shmoke it, bad scran till ye.

PERSONAL.—Lord Roseberry and Hannah, only daughter of Baron Rothschild, are engaged to be married. It was berry jew-dicious on the part of Roseberry to capture Hannah.