

"God mend me" (his usual phrase), to a link-boy. The urchin replied that it would take less trouble to make a new man. "Catching a Tartar" perhaps a good example of development by association of ideas, has come to mean, encountering an opponent of unexpected strength. The following droll story is its origin: In a battle, an Irishman called out to his officer, "I have caught a Tartar" "Bring him here, then," was the reply. "He won't let me" rejoined Pat. And as the Turk carried off his captor, the saying passed into a proverb.

Who is not a little surprised on finding that by the "Curse of Scotland" is meant the *nine of diamonds*. Numerous reasons, says Moir, are assigned for this card being the woe of the North. One, because the nine of diamonds is the arms of a leading member who voted for the introduction of the malt tax into Scotland; a second, because the card is considered fortunate in the game of *comette*, which was introduced into Scotland by Mary of Lorraine, and caused heavy losses, if not absolute ruin, to many of the Scotch nobility; a third is, because the card resembles the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland—"Cross passing into 'curse.'" We sometimes speak of a new success or triumph as a "Feather in the cap." A feather from the earliest times has been used as an emblem of rank as well as ornament. It is stated as a custom among certain Indian tribes, for every warrior to place a feather in his cap for each victim slain by him. The caps so filled with feathers were always worn; and at dances and other public occasions, those having most feathers attract the attention of the fair.

The time worn expression "Pop goes the Weasel" goes back to an early date. "Pop" means to pawn; "weasel" is a corruption of *vuisselle*, plate, a word introduced simultaneously with the Lombard custom of pledging goods. "Gone to pot," applied to death, bankruptcy, etc. A tailor who lived near a burying-place, kept a note of mortality, by dropping a stone into a pot for every funeral that passed. On the tailor's death a wag said he had gone into the pot himself. In the sense of bankruptcy, it refers to melting metal in times of pressure.

In the case before Sir Matthew Hale, the two litigants unwittingly let out that, at a former period, they had in conjunction, leased a ferry to the injury of the proprietor, on which Sir Matthew made the following remark. "When rogues fall out, honest men get their own," since this has passed into common saying.

---

## LOCALS.

---

The class in English Literature is studying "Bacon's" essays.

We are pleased to see Mr. Cain again in our numbers.

Dr. Schurman has received an appointment as one of the examiners in *Metaphysics and Ethics* for Toronto University.

The Seniors are too hard on the ladies hats. One of them says those Come-into-the-back-shop-and-see-me hats "snatch the ban."

Our future politicians—the Sophomores—have written pamphlets for their monthly essays *in re* the Nova Scotia Local Syndicate.

A Freshman says that if the ladies sit in the gallery on Sundays, by the close of the term cross-eyes will be very fashionable for young men.

The Juniors, disgusted with the opposition of the rest of the College, have gathered in their upper lip crop.

Look here, cads! That 10.30 bell means *put out your lights*, not turn them down, and cry out "*in bed, Sir.*"

Wolfville witnessed its first carnival on Jan. 19th, in every way it was a success. A number of students appeared in costumes.

Did you hurt yourself? "No! but that stone did," said one of our seven feet boys after he had fallen down the old Sem. steps and rested peacefully at the bottom.