

ono, an "ugly moulder, a posturer, and bold grimacer." These are certainly hard words to apply to one who has been petted so long as the Queen of the Stage. But then these clever people are so apt to be jealous of one another. And their feelings are apt to be so strong that one may be pardoned for not accepting all their *dicta* on men and things as so much gospel. Bernhardt may have given Tourgenieff some special reason to speak ill of her, and when he came to jot down his impressions he "got even" with her as far as he could by a little ill-natured description. Sarah Bernhardt may be an overrated woman, but in all fairness it cannot be said that she wants genius, and to call her names is simply to display an amount of venom which leads one to suspect that personal spite is its moving cause.

It would be sympathy wasted to lament the fate of the anarchists condemned for the attempted murder of the Emperor William. We may pity them as the deluded victims of a mad frenzy that leads them to attempt the commission of diabolical outrages, but sympathy there can be none. Their trial was a perfectly fair one. As far as appears there was no prejudging the case, and no attempt to strain evidence to accomplish their conviction. The sentences though severe cannot be said to be excessively so. Three of them were condemned to death, and two to ten years' penal servitude. The others were discharged. This shows the great advantage that has been made in the more perfect understandings of the laws of liberty. It cannot be doubted that less than a hundred years ago men charged with the commission of such a crime would not have had the same chance for their lives, or been treated with such moderation.

An Episcopalian clergyman has turned up in one of the Southern States, who is said to bear a wonderful resemblance to Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln. People are found credulous enough to believe that he really is Booth. Who the man was who was shot in mistake for him they do not say, nor how all these years have been allowed to pass without elucidation of the mystery.

The approaching marriage of Manza Mackay's daughter to the Prince of Calati, is to be celebrated with great simplicity, so it is said.

Rumor speaks of the marriage next spring of the youngest daughter of a once prominent clergyman in this city to the second of two retired partners, the first of whom recently married another daughter of the same reverend gentleman.

Hard as times are there seemed to be no lack of the usual festivities of the Christmas season. There were the usual number of good things devoured. Presents were given as in other years, and altogether people seemed to enjoy themselves quite as well as they usually do.

That was a big blaze of oil they had in New York State the other day. It didn't take long for a million dollars' worth of property to disappear.

The natives, poor fellows, can only stand in awe-struck silence and gaze at the daring voyagers who urge their frail boats among the breakers. Shooting the rapids is something quite new to the Egyptian mind. Such a thing had probably never been thought of within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and a long way further back.

Now is the time for church bazaars, and sales of five cent pin cushions at fifty cents each, and aprons worth a quarter dollar a

dozen at seventy cents a piece. When the innocent young man moreover handeth a five dollar bill to pay for one of the aforesaid aprons and is sweetly told that "they don't give change."

It must have been a very bitter experience for Bismarck when the Reichstag refused to nire a secretary for him. The old man thinks he has too much to do. The Reichstag virtually said they thought so too, and that if he could not do the work he had better resign. It is to be feared the vice-chancellor has fallen on evil days, and that an evil generation has arisen that knows him not.

He has got plenty of friends yet, however. It is said that when the Reichstag had expressed itself on the secretary question, officers came to Bismarck from all parts of the empire, of enough to give him what he wanted.

There can be no doubt that when he and his master pass away, an event that cannot long be delayed now, in any case, a change will come over the aspect of affairs in Germany. They are the representatives of the old order of things. The new era is eager to have its hand on the helm of government.

What the outcome of this colonizing spirit which Germany has developed so suddenly who shall say? Will it lead to European complications? Much more unlikely things have happened. This annexation of part of New Guinea especially, is not suited to establish very harmonious relations between Germany and Great Britain. The general impression is that the British Government has allowed itself to be enchained in that connection. The Australian colonies were very anxious to annex the whole of New Guinea, but no! the Home Government discouraged the enterprise, and the result is that a foreign power has secured a foothold in a country that would form a base of supply for operations against Australia in case of war with England. Germany, however, would need to have a much more efficacious navy before she could do much with such a base of operations.

The American papers are paying a good deal of attention to Sir John Macdonald's Confederation scheme. Comparatively few of them, however, seem to attach very much importance to it. They regard it as the brilliant dream of aspiring politicians. We are by no means certain that they are right in this estimate. We incline rather strongly to the opinion that there is more in it than many Canadians even are willing to admit, and that the scheme of confederation will prove to be the plank on which the Conservative party hopes to keep itself afloat at the next general elections.

It is much to be desired that some more economical way could be devised of keeping water pipes from freezing than by letting the taps run. During the last cold snap, Toronto is said to have wasted 10,000,000 gallons in this way. Nor is it a very effectual remedy either. On very cold nights people should keep their kitchen fire going. That will prevent a necessity for calling in the plumber the next morning.

Various unpleasant discoveries have been made by New York chemists as to the nature of some of the substances used to give candies their bright tempting appearances. Not a few of them are rank poisons, and are used in quantities sufficiently large to make candy colored by them anything but safe. It is just as safe for every one and especially children to eschew these brilliant morsels. If they must eat candy, let it be the plain unvarnished sort.

Wingate, the defaulting cashier, who left Toronto and made his way to New Orleans, has been let off after disgorging some \$8,000. His victims were very fortunate in getting so much out of him. They treated him generously enough in letting him down so easily.

Strange to think of the national treasury of such a wealthy state as California being nearly exhausted. And yet this is said to be actually the case.

Many people in the States have the idea that Canada is a country of snow and ice compared with which their own is a perfect paradise of endless summer. Such a notion is not borne out by facts. They have quite as much frost and snow, and just as cold weather as we have. It may not last quite as long perhaps, but even in that respect there is very little difference.

Burglars have a fine field for their operations at the New Orleans Exposition. There is a silver brick there weighing a couple of tons and valued at \$200,000.

Though electricity may eventually take the place of gas for lighting purposes, yet that time at the earliest is probably a good way off, and in the meantime some contrivance is urgently needed, that shall make such distressing accidents as happened in the American hotel here some days ago, an impossibility. Such gas stop-cocks as that in the room where the poor girls met their death, had no business there at all. And yet it is to be feared there are only too many like it in the city. The fact of the matter is there are hundreds of people who habitually use gas, who are either ignorant that it is a highly dangerous substance, and needs to be dealt with very cautiously, or constant familiarity has made them careless. That is one thing in favor of electric lighting—its freedom from danger.

The Canadian voyagers on the Nile are finding the work much harder than they expected. The first few rapids were mere child's play, but subsequent ones they were forced to confess gave them all they could do.

They are upholding the credit of Canadian raftsmen, however, and are winning golden opinions from all sorts of people.

A notable instance of human gratitude was afforded the other day in Pennsylvania. An express train from Chicago with about 250 persons on board, was saved from destruction by the self devoted heroism of a humble signal man. The brave fellow might have deserted his post and saved his life; but the train would have been wrecked, and many lives destroyed. He saved these lives at the expense of his own. The grateful passengers there and then collected \$75 for the benefit of his widow and children. About 30 cents apiece that is. This reminds us of the story that has been told of the poet Burns. A man had fallen from a pier into the water, and was in imminent danger of perishing. He was rescued, however, and magnanimously presented his saviour with a shilling. The bystanders, enraged at his meanness, were about to throw him in again, when Burns interposed, saying, "O, let him alone; he knows best what his life's worth."

The Newmarket folks talk hopefully of the prospect of getting a beet root sugar manufactory established in that town. It is proposed to form a joint stock company with a capital of \$200,000, to be organized under the Limited Liability Act, the shares to be \$100 each, and to be paid in calls of

10 per cent., as required. We wish the scheme all success.

Cleveland they say is a plain, honest fellow, a Democrat every inch of him, hating sham and pretension of every kind. It is thought unlikely that he will affect the magnificent tantrum turn-out, in which some former Presidents and quite noticeably President Arthur, have shown such a brilliant example. Wiseheads are prophesying a reign of almost Spartan simplicity in the White House.

The law clerks in the city have been making another of their periodical lamentations over the way they are treated. They seem to have some reason to complain. Not twenty-five per cent. of them, we venture to say, perhaps not ten per cent., get the same attention from those to whom they are attached, as the average indentured apprentice gets from his master. The signing of the articles is, we fear, a mere formality, at least on one side. It is a kind of machine that cuts but one way. The average lawyer seems to think it enough to give the young aspirant a chance to breathe a legal atmosphere in such matters as copying deeds, serving writs, and making collections. Not a square deal by a long way.

There is some talk yet that Sir David Macpherson is to be made Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. The *Mail* says it is mere talk, and anyway, if the rumour were true, a better Lieutenant-Governor than Macpherson would not be found. This in answer to a very indignant article of the *Globe's* in which it was plainly stated that if Sir David did become Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Mowat might expect to hear from him in a very disagreeable manner. Let that be as it may, if David is appointed, and it is certainly not improbable, we shall just need to make the best of him. And as the office is a purely ornamental one, to make the best of him one would think ought not to prove the most difficult of undertakings.

A Montreal interviewer recently button-holed an American officer on the subject of the Canadian Militia. The great want he thought of our militia is trained officers. He had noticed "a great want of ability" in this respect, he said. Right he is. Except in one or two crack regiments, the officers of our militia are lamentably deficient in nearly everything they ought to know. They must brush up.

Let every parent try to realize the importance of instructing his children in these minor moralities of life: the rules and regulations which govern the conduct of men and women in their social intercourse with one another. It is the poorest kind of wisdom that ignores these things, or professes to regard them as of little or no importance. They are of very great importance. It is not so necessary, of course, for man's everlasting welfare that he should refrain from eating with his knife, or making a loud noise during the process, or going about with finger nails looking as if they had been used as garden tools, or scratching his head or picking his nose, or doing a great many other things in public which badly trained people so frequently do. It is not so important, we repeat, for his soul's everlasting well being that he should know when to do or not do certain things of that nature, but there can be no doubt that they may have a very great influence over his happiness in this life. Yes, and for aught we know to the contrary they may have a greater influence over the happiness of even the life to come than anyone is able to suppose.