

wise policy to make the most of these desolate solitudes, by preserving, to the best of our ability, such wild animals as find a charm therein. The forests of Nova Scotia, or at least such portions thereof as are far removed from the haunts of civilized men, are at present valueless, save as the homes of animals whose flesh, horns, or skins, may be turned to some account. When such animals may possibly prove dangerous to life, or limb, or property,—slaughter them, wholesale if practicable. A bear is an interesting animal to track, his skin is valuable, and his hams fair eating, but a bear may, at certain seasons, unprovokedly embrace a human being—therefore, by all means, let Bruin be hunted down, whether for sport or bear's grease. But it is not for our interest to exterminate Moose and Cariboo, inasmuch as they are perfectly harmless, good for food, and withal interesting as a class of animals now comparatively rare. We should very much like to see our forests cleared, and our Moose region transformed into a smiling pasturage for sheep and oxen; but, as matters now stand, we think the companionship of a Moose preferable to utter solitude, and we say amen to that wise regulation which forbids, under a legal penalty, any one individual slaughtering more than five moose per annum. It is, however, one thing to frame laws, and another thing to carry them out. However willing may be the spirit of the constitution under which we live, the carrying out of its edicts is oftentimes entrusted to fleshly men, weak of purpose, and, it may be, not totally impartial. Even magistrates may at times deliver judgments seemingly opposed to common sense,—as intelligent, upright, and enlightened juries, may at times pronounce verdicts seemingly at variance either with common sense, or a sense of justice. It is not long since the Game Protection Society obtained a writ against a certain Mr. STAYNER, (and party,) for having, contrary to the recognized laws of the Province, killed six Moose during one ramble in the woods. The case came off on Monday, April 17th, before Mr. SHELTON, and it was proved beyond all reasonable doubt, that the law relating to the slaughter of Moose had been violated. But, oddly enough, the evidence adduced failed to secure a conviction—the defence set up, being to the effect, that Mr. STAYNER went after Moose in one direction, while his friend went after Moose in an opposite direction. They killed, it was admitted, six Moose between them, but the mere fact of the two friends having been separated for an hour or two, of course entitled them to exemption under the words "or by a party." The Game Society cannot but prove highly beneficial to the interests of the Province, when thus ably supported by the majesty of a law whose administrators scorn even the semblance of a quibble.

### Local and other Items.

**THE CITY LIBRARY.**—We regret to learn that the management of the City Library fails to give complete satisfaction to those for whose benefit it was instituted. We have before us numerous complaints which, although perhaps exaggerated, must, we fancy contain a germ of truth. It would seem that the present Librarian, Mr. Craigen, comports himself in a manner not altogether relished by those who should profit most by the munificent grant of our worthy Chief Justice. The internal management of the City Library is, it is true, a matter somewhat without the pale of public criticism, inasmuch as the Library Committee is responsible for the shortcomings of an institution placed under its especial charge. But, on the other hand, if it can be clearly proved that the committee of a public institution fail to give public satisfaction, it is imperative that the press should call attention to the fact. The men most interested in the City Library are those who find it most difficult to make their voices heard. There is no man more exacting than one placed ever so little above the heads of his fellow-men, and no society is so difficult of management as a middle-class society, ruled by a middle-class autocrat. If the in-

formation vouchsafed us by a correspondent be correct, it would appear that the City Librarian somewhat abuses the power vested in his hands, and is occasionally apt to tyrannise over those who may have incurred his displeasure. But, let our correspondent (25th April) speak for himself:—"The present acting Librarian exercises a sway as arbitrary as did Mr. Squeers, of Dotheboys' Hall notoriety. \* \* I shall cite two instances—out of many—to shew how despotically he rules. A communication relative to the management of the Halifax City Library, appeared in a St. John paper. The Halifax Librarian attributed (without a shadow of proof) the said communication to a young man, some of whose relations were connected with the press of the sister capital. \* \* \* The Halifax Librarian extracted the obnoxious paragraph—pasted it up in the City Library,—and affixed thereto certain offensive remarks against the young man in question. \* \* Not satisfied with this—the Librarian, on his own authority, denied books to the said young man, thereby violating, in spirit, the published Library rules. \* \* On last Thursday night, the Librarian made his appearance after an absence of seven days, and attempted to impose a fine upon those who had not returned books, during his (the Librarian's) absence." We have quoted enough to prove that (assuming our correspondent correct in his facts,) the City Library is not managed as well as it might be, and we trust that the Library Committee will take the matter in hand at once. The City Library is an institution in which all are interested, and any reflection thereon is a public slight upon the citizens for whose benefit the institution exists.

The French Government has taken the unusual but certainly not ill-advised course of addressing to the English Government a despatch of condolence on the loss of Mr. Cobden,—a "representative in our eyes," says, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, "of those sentiments and those cosmopolitan principles before which national frontiers and rivalries disappear." Cobden, he adds, "was, if I may be permitted to say so, an international man. He loved and understood France," adds the Minister, somewhat strongly, "better than any other person [Englishman, we presume], and regarded as one of the greatest interest of the country and humanity the maintenance of peaceful relations between the two nations which, according to an expression recently used by a member of the English Cabinet [Mr. Milner Gibson?], march at the head of the world." This just recognition of Mr. Cobden's services, and especially this emphasis in applauding the views of his party, is of course not merely an expression of graceful and grateful sentiment. It is also a diplomatic move, intended to strengthen the alliance between the school in foreign policy which Mr. Cobden led, and the Imperial party in France.

There are few firms in England which can compete either in age or reputation with Messrs. Tattersall, four generations of the name having carried on the same business as auctioneers in the same place. The lease of "The Corner," which they took from Earl Grosvenor ninety-nine years ago, has now expired, and the Marquis of Westminster wanting the site for other purposes, they have removed to new and much more extensive premises near Albert Gate. Sporting men thought the occasion a good one for a dinner in honour of a family which for a century has acted as a sort of pivot for turf business, and it was given on Tuesday by 250 gentlemen, including some of the best names in England. The honour paid to the firm has by the testimony of all men been well deserved, the Tattersalls having proved for a hundred years that it is possible for men to be up to the lips in turf business and yet maintain their integrity.

A strong but quiet agitation for parliamentary reform is making itself at present felt in England. The Conservatives would take their own time and method of satisfying the popular demands. The large mass of liberals cry for once—"quieta non movere," the *quieta* being in this case the Premier and his grey locks. The Radicals wish for a comprehensive measure at once, and evoke the shade of Cobden to their assistance. Whether the shade of