

# THE STAR.

depth of 1800 feet, Lake Superior of 900 feet, and Lake Ontario of 500 feet; Lake Erie only 120 feet which is said to be constantly decreasing. The bottom of the Lake is quite level, and composed of soft clay. This clay is constantly accumulating, from sediment carried down by tributary streams. The south shore is composed of easily disintegrating blue-grey, and olive shales, and grey sandstone. The western and northern coasts are made up of limestone of the Helderberg group, which quickly yields to the action of the waves. Consequently both shores constantly are contributing to fill up the bed of the lake. The work is not rapid, but it is said to be as sure as fate.

## The 'Peckham Ghost' Redivivus.

The notorious "Peckham ghost," which was supposed to have been effectually laid, has, after an eight months' inactivity, just cropped up again in rather an unexpected manner. But at last a "ghost"—a real flesh-and-blood one, too—has been captured, as the following particulars will show:—About three weeks ago window-smashing, in a most mysterious and unaccountable manner, commenced in Charles Street, Peckham, the depredations being confined to the houses, Nos. 24 and 25. The cry went forth, "The ghost has risen again!" and a good deal of excitement was created. Policemen were set on to watch the premises; but for a whole fortnight their endeavours to capture the "ghost" were completely baffled. At last, however, two neighbours saw a girl named Nolls, whose age is about thirteen, come out of the kitchen of one of the houses in question, pick up two stones, and deliberately hurl them at a window. The first stone struck the brickwork and did no damage, the other went crashing through a pane of glass. The mischievous girl soon found herself in the clutches of the police; and she was brought up at Lambeth Police Court, the specific charge being that she had maliciously broken 19 squares of glass at the houses, 24 and 25, Charles Street, Peckham. One of the principle sufferers in that street, who had had a number of large panes of plate-glass smashed, stated positively that on the occasion of every breakage at his shop, he had observed defendant standing about the front. At that time the girl lived in a house a few doors from witness's shop. The smashing begun in September and ended in October, when defendant left the neighbourhood. After hearing the evidence for the defence, the magistrate said there could be but little doubt about the case; but he was unable to convict defendant for the two breakages, of which there was direct evidence. In consideration for her parents, he should only fine her in the penalty of 2s 6d, and 7s 6d damages and costs, or, in default, she must go to prison for seven days. The affair has created a good deal of gossip in the neighbourhood; but the general opinion is, that though the girl may have had something to do with the late disgraceful breakages, she was not the sole depredator. She could not have sent them flying over houses in all directions, and it is absurd to suppose that with the police on the watch she should have been able to send as many as 19 stones against the windows of a grocer's shop in East Surrey Grove in three days. Besides, there was the bullet which passed through a pane of plate-glass in a paint shop in the St. George's Road. Our opinion is that the real "Peckham ghost" is still uncaptured, and that as regards this foolish young girl her case is similar in every respect to that of the boy in the Gloucester Road who had caught the contagion for window-smashing, and was disturbed in his destructive amusement by a vigilant police-officer.—*South London Press.*

## American Ideas in China.

The Chinese government, influenced by the counsels of Yung Wing, an intelligent and enterprising native who enjoyed the advantages of a thorough college education in this country, has now determined to send over to us quite a number of young men for educational and professional training.

The plan, as it is now being carried out, is understood to be as follows:

1. The Chinese government to select thirty boys each year for five consecutive years, 150 in all, without distinction of rank and by competitive examinations. They are not to exceed fourteen years of age when they enter the preparatory school at Shanghai or other schools that may hereafter be organized. Their education in Chinese is to be made as thorough as possible before they are sent to the United States.

2. The entire expense for their support and education in the preparatory schools and also while in the United States will be borne by the Chinese government.

3. An educated native of rank to be appointed as instructor to each yearly instalment, who is to accompany them to the United States, and remain with them. He is charged with the instruction of the youths in the Chinese language and literature while in the United States, and is required to devote a portion of each week to that object.

4. The students are required to prosecute their studies for twelve years, and during that time each is expected to acquire one of the professions. They will not be allowed to remain in the United States beyond that period, nor to enter upon any private occupation.

5. Each student is regarded from the first as in the service of the Chinese government. A

definite rank is assigned to him on the completion of his education, and he goes immediately into service on his return. In case the parents of any student are in narrow circumstances as certain indemnity is to be paid them by the government.

6. The students will not be permitted to divest themselves of their Chinese nationality or become naturalized citizens of the United States.

## Amazing American Witch Story.

In America (says a correspondent)—the land which has favored us with the delusion of spirit-rapping—belief in witchcraft survives in a more vigorous form than among ourselves and the following case will show what kind of nonsense finds its way into the newspapers as part of that wildest and strangest of all forms of intelligence, with-news. A woman was married to some rough fellow, who deserted her. A lady took an interest in the poor woman, and from her heard this extraordinary story:—The man worked as gardener to an infirmary some two miles away, and when his wife wished to compel a visit from him, it was her custom to pin a large living toad to the ground by means of an iron skewer, repeating over it a rhymed incantation to the effect that the cruelly tortured reptile, as the price of its own deliverance, must give the recussant husband "neither rest nor sleep" until he should "come and speak" to the utterer of the spell. The horrified lady's discovery of the poor impaled toad, wriggling under an inverted flower pot, was what particularly induced the young wife's explanation. "It's four weeks since he came last, and I have to do this to bring him again at all," said the girl. "The toad has been here two days and nights now, and tonight Tom will have to come in spite of himself. If you don't believe it, keep me with you in your own house until he does come, and then listen in the garden to what he says to me." Her hearer was curious enough to accept the proposition, and tells the results as follow:—A few minutes after ten o'clock in the night a neighbour's dog began barking violently, whereas the younger woman said quietly, "There he is," and went out of the house and across the lawn to her father's gate. The narrator, listening, heard her say: "I've brought you, Tom, because I must have some money to keep the child. If you'd pay it, as you ought, I'd never trouble you." The man, whose voice indicated both rage and fear, cursed her for bewitching him. "What is it you do, you she fiend?" he exclaimed. "I haven't been able to sleep a wink for two nights for your infernal witchcraft, and had to climb over the infirmary walls to come here to-night. Something seemed to drag me, and I know you've been practising some of your cursed witcheries on me. Pay it he did, though with many bitter oaths; and upon his departure, the woman liberated the tortured reptile.

# THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, JULY 30, 1872.

## LOSS OF THE 'FRANK LOVETT.'

YESTERDAY morning the British schooner "Sunbeam," from Cadiz, arrived here, having on board the shipwrecked crew of the "Frank Lovett." That vessel, which was loaded with a cargo of pig iron and bound from Antwerp to Philadelphia, sprung a leak and sunk in lat. 46.30, long. 41.32, on the 21st inst. Captain, wife and children, with the remainder of the crew, were out in an open boat of small size for a considerable time. We learn that the Captain of the "Sunbeam" showed them every kindness.

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

ON Friday evening last, while the boat "Roxana," Nathaniel Barrett, Master, was proceeding to Bishops Cove, with fishery supplies from the stores of Messrs. Ridley & Sons, a fatal accident took place. Whilst passing the bar, a young man named George Smith, stunned himself by an abdominal fall, occasioned by leaping from the large boat to the small one in tow; and was subsequently drowned. Some suppose that he was instantaneously killed by the accident. We hope that every assistance will be rendered to the "Roxana" in finding the body.

## CRICKET.

THE return match between the Elevens of Harbor Grace and Carbonear, is to be played on Thursday next—not Wednesday, as previously reported.

IN reference to a previous notice of the fire which occurred at the residence of Capt. Jas. Keefe, we are glad to ascertain, after careful investigation, that the fire did not arise from a defective state of the chimney. We have it positively from interested parties that it was a spark from the stove pipe which caused the ignition. Rumour had it the reverse, consequently our impressions were with it.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

DEAR SIRS,—  
In almost every issue of the *Star*, your readers have been treated to something or other from one who writes under the cognomen of "Auld Reekie." Now I have not the slightest doubt that "Auld Reekie" is certain that he is highly amusing; nay, even instructive to all your readers, and thereby conduces to a great extent to the welfare and popularity of your paper which, apart from "Auld Reekie," is very interesting and exceedingly well got up. Perfect candour, however, compels me to say he is miserably mistaken; and I would not really like to mention the feeling that your many readers experience when on opening the paper they observe "Auld Reekie" still at it. I speak sincerely and in your interest simply when I say that the *Star* would lose nothing by those very peculiar emanations being omitted for the future. On the contrary, it would gain much; aye, even were "Auld Reekie's" space devoted to Radway's Ready Relief or Holloway's Pills advertisements inserted gratis.

I do not refer specially to any one of "Auld Reekie's" writings. I put them altogether. They are all alike; and I do not even criticize them, simply because they are not worth it, either all or any one of them.

Sincerely yours,  
A WELL-WISHER.

Harbor Grace, 30th July, 1872.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

DEAR SIRS,—  
Carbonear's bravery and ultimate success, as regards the game of cricket, had been matter of fulgent remark. It has, however, a tendency to poignancy, in as much as "Fair Play" is concerned. Better would it be for Carbonear to accept all challenges than hedge from any fair offer of Prog. Perhaps I have not finished the word; may be it should be *progress*. As it is, I would not like (perhaps I might) to truncate any one who can say that the "Terra Nova" Cricket Club of Harbor Grace did not twice challenge the "Union" of Carbonear; the last named being perhaps a part of the gymnocracy.

I do not infer that constraint can be used, but I definitely assert that the "Union C. C." of Carbonear has not acted up to the *care-me-not* principle of those who have so recently carried off the laurels from this materiality.

Yours, &c.,  
B.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

St. John's, 27th July, 1872.

SIRS,—  
Time pressed so hard upon me that I could not spare time to send the promised lines from Trinity, where the many natural beauties that attract the eye are only equalled by the attention and kindness of the residents. Observing that the news from the north regarding the fishery has already been made public, I refrain at this late date from any further reference thereto. The fact is *Wilson's Theatre* brought me up the night after landing from the *Tiger*, otherwise I should have extended my notes, giving your readers my wandering thoughts in proper time. Finding oneself in this busy metropolis seems to knock one's individuality out of a fellow. Each person one meets—and they are generally in crowds—appears to be charged with highly important business. It may be that the affair in hand is merely an errand to the druggist with a doctor's prescription for nervous toothache; or a call at the dressmakers to protest against the last fit; or a beat up of juvenile or adult elevens for cricket practice; or a solitary romantic walk; or a jostle with an opponent to secure the sale of the cargo of sweets entering the narrows—or even on a mission to the church; to say nothing of hastening to picnics, weddings, *Wilson's* and *the promenade*, where philosophy and *Belles Lettres* are discussed; in every case there is an air of business about the people—a matter of fact way of walking, talking, looking, and doubtless of thinking, that makes one hesitate doing or saying anything other than joining or following the crowd. I did venture to ask a young person dressed in black if there had been much thunder as heavy as that rumbling so angrily over our heads. "Thundering!" answered the fair one, "well, I declare! I really did not remark it; I was thinking what Amelia would do if that girl did not bring us the strawberries to-morrow." "Well, says I—of course to myself—"you are a cherry berry;" and so she was. I thought she might have heard the thunder; but as she hadn't, I apologised and said it was all a mistake on my part—that it must have been the rumbling of carriage wheels! To see how she took this in would frighten "rheumatics" as only a metropolitan girl could. The result was that I felt I had made a mistake; that it had not thundered at all, and that the newspaper's statement was all guesswork. People talk pretty loud here. I don't mean "tall talk," altho' it is not a foreign language; passing a group, one would suppose half of them must be afflicted with deafness, for the other half ring out their utterances strong and clear. I have not time to say anything about the horses. Indeed it would not be polite to do so. I may say they have increased amazingly, and that they appear remarkably well kept; special attention being given to the mano

and tail. All that is required is more attention to livery, for altho' the general *get up* is attractive, there are isolated cases somewhat peculiar. The welcome to strangers is remarkable in its heartiness. "When did you come? When do you leave?" The first query sets every vein throbbing at the intensity of feeling evidenced in all that affects our interest; the second startles and upsets all previous calculations. Can it be that there are secrets here dangerous to be revealed? Is it that there is nothing to be seen, or a conspiracy to be set afoot; or are they anxious to get rid of us? At any rate there it is—"When did you come? When do you leave?" *Wilson's Theatre* seems to be the centre of attraction. The performances are very creditable—several of the artists rendering their parts naturally, gracefully and with good effect. A pretty face or two in the group does not detract from the effect. I hope Harbor Grace may be favoured by the Company with a week's performance. Government officials are anxiously inquired for. It seems that the veteran—Mr. Glen—with one or two of the Executive, are left alone in their glory. The report is that the gallant late Major was away planting oyster beds, being fond of shellfish, tho' refusing to shell out. Can't say whether true; but hope he is not reduced to *pork and cabbage* as a venemous sheet has it. One thing is certain—nobody sees him. Remembering that he used to keep his spanking grey and *liercied pad*, and was for a while the most prominent citizen of the place, one misses his portly figure and commanding appearance. Mr. G. survives! Well he is a host in himself. He has recently taken to *croquet*, which we all know means something more than pool. A lively old bird is the Receiver General. Time is up till another occasion.  
P. R.

## Phrenology.

BY "AULD REEKIE."

When a man appears transparent, the law justifies you in making him opaque, so that popular explanation can be given outside of the police railway office (station).

I "used to was" a Mahomedan and Jew, but am now civilised, having gone to prayers the other day when the church was shut. It is to be regretted that I am unable to find, or even feel the bump of reverence.

When a man is seen with a black and a rolling eye, be certain it once was blue, and that his disposition is querulous, probably aided by insipid *shampain*.

When the Bosses came back they left the shadow; the substance had gone. The former took the size and weight of foreign straw. This goes to explain the brevity of their epulary cruise, and reveals that wire is one of the best subdivisions for the bump of inclusiveness.

When Dr. Gall classified the principal facts of phrenology into *brains*, it was a magnificent epitome of Woodford's *Cæsar* with a "model head."

When *somnambulisticalistic* people go out on house tops, wake them up, so as to apply a mustard plaster to productionize hair, so that the barber may have a fair chance.

It is worthy of remark, in conclusion, to observe that "Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta"—I will stop there—the latter letter being the shape of triangular brains of a classical order, and addicted to wearing caps with leather snouts. They are always harmless, except when asked to have "une verre du vin."

## LOCAL ITEMS.

"REGATTA."—We perceive that the usual annual Regatta on Quidi-Vidi Lake will take place on Tuesday, the 30th inst., when, as will be seen by the programme, *ten* races will be contested. In connection with this subject, we have much pleasure in informing our numerous readers that the spirited and enterprising Manager of "Wilson's Theatre" (G. E. Wilson, Esq.) has, with a munificence and liberality, highly creditable to him, placed in the hands of the American Consul (T. N. Molloy, Esq.) for the purpose of competition at the forthcoming Regatta, some highly valuable prizes. The first being to use Mr. Wilson's own words, "a *trifling present* of a Silver Set, costing £12, to the Champion of the day; and also some valuable presents to the 2nd and 3rd winners of races. We hope that some of our leading citizens may follow the example of Mr. Wilson, and by contributions of a similar character, make the Regatta what it should be, a source of really attractive amusement for our community. It is to be hoped, that on this as on last season, no exertion will be spared on the part of the authorities, for the maintenance of peace and good order, and that nothing unpleasant may occur, in any way calculated to mar the harmony of the proceedings.—*Courier*, July 27.

The programme for the Regatta to be held on Tuesday next has been issued, and comprises quite a number of races, some of which will be very interesting, and no doubt keenly contested. It is to be regretted that the Harbor Grace firemen are unable to come over, as was anticipated. We have seen their rowing once, and know that they are not tyros at handling an oar. Another year and we hope they will have an opportunity of trying their mettle on the Quidi Vidi ground.—*Chronicle*, July 25.

We are glad to past two days here been better than season. It is true over—indeed some abandoned that voyage—but there good catch with of a new school of ed and of a better would warrant our ter voyage than th have expected.  
We shall hope information from th July 27.

The Newfoundland any annual Pic-nic Press, took place evening of Monday proached for the were freely engaged learn, was, nature and highly respected joy themselves, M who was present, and ripe for another The forthcoming centre of attractions are being July 24.

The King of S ed 9th March last sky to be his Vic foundland; and by Royal Exequament.  
Secretary's Offi Gazette.

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July 27.—Atal lumber—H. V. 29.—Poederis visions—Riddle Devil, Fallock, Munn. Sunbeam, Pop Munn. Release, Clunn, Munn.  
July 26.—Weste ballast—Riddle 27.—Ravenwood ton & Munn.  
PORT  
July 22.—Salvad C. F. Ansell. Three Sisters, Co Lottery, Wotton Sylph, Bursell, F