

GETTING ALONG SWIMMINGLY.

The Annual Meeting of the Montreal Swimming Club was held on 30th ult., so we were informed by the *Star*. We wish the Club all success, their object is a most laudable one in these times when many people find it so difficult to keep their heads above water. Nevertheless we hope none of the members will, in their aquatic pursuits, ever find themselves in the hot phase of their peculiar element. If the Club can boast of annual meetings of share holders, which we hope it may, before any profit can be realized the stocks should watered—provided their financial report is not too "wishy-washy," nor any desire manifested to liquidate the concern. Knowing that several military men are among them it would be only fair to offer those gentlemen some responsible office, as for instance, Knight Commanders of the Bath. But as every one cannot expect to achieve so distinguished a position, disappointed candidates will have to wait until the turn of the tide before again seeking office. In any case, however, members should avoid getting beyond their depth. Each member of the club on joining will receive a copy of that well known poem "Shall we gather at the River?"—and will be expected to gather there promptly if they mean business.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

Oysters in summer, like Virtue, "should be above suspicion."

The capiasing business in Montreal is legal chess-playing within the boundry line.

Freezing water gives out 140° of heat. *Ex.* This is enough to raise the "bile" in a kettle.

THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT has sent the Chambly branch of the M. P. and B. Railway Company into chancery.

THE HON. MR. JONES will make a good Coroner to enquire into the death of the Government—when it takes place.

THE MONTREAL CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION is the salaries' reduction resolution which has been vetoed by the city attorney.

Heat must be absorbed in vapor. *Ex.* That has been the experience of many of our politicians during the last Session.

QUEEN.—That "a collection will be taken up" should be the principal item of interest in Temperance society advertisements.

A French newspaper points out how the passion for gambling is shown in England, so that in wedding notices it is necessary to state that there were "no cards."

TRAMPS BEWARE—A contemporary says there exists in the District of Bedford a modern institution called "The Society for the Detection and Arrest of Horse-Thieves."

The poor Oka Indians are pleased to hear that there will shortly be one lawyer less at Lake of Two Mountains by Mr. Prevost being elevated to a Sorel Judgeship.

"So there's another rupture on Mount Vociferous," said Mrs. Partington, as she put down the paper and put up her specs; "the papers tell about the bursting father running down the mountains, but it don't tell how it got a fire."

LO, THE POOR INDIAN.—Caughnawaga is to be declared a "Proscribed district" under the Blake Act; but the Minister of the Interior cannot find either compositors or type of the Iroquois dialect sufficient to print the necessary proclamations.

CHARLES—I am a subscriber to the National History Society but I cannot get a satisfactory answer and I therefore want your candid opinion of the Sea Serpent—do you think him a myth? *Ans.* We know nothing to the contrary, but historians are divided on the point.

AROUND TOWN.

—"JOSEPH HICKSON" has gone into the steam fire engine business of the G. T. R. at Sarnia.

The sweet strains of the hurdy-gurdy have ceased to be appreciated even in the land of Judah.

THE LOCAL Justices of the Peace are considering the propriety of calling out the military to preserve order and decency at the next City Council meeting.

BECOMING VENERABLE.—Since the 24th May last the Court House documents read "in the forty second year of our reign"—the building is much older than it looks.

GOLDWIN SMITH will be pleased to learn that his ancient "deodorizing" sentiments have attained considerable notoriety in the GOFF-BAKER scandal investigation.

DISAPPOINTING.—It is said that the militia authorities have notified the City Council that until they put a roof on the Drill Shed they cannot have the use of the Champ-de-Mars for aldermanic duels or corporation fights.

ENDED IN SMOKE.—It is reported in town that if the Hon. Mr. Joly does not stop smoking in the government offices at Quebec that the *Witness* will go into Opposition. The latter is to be presented with a complimentary address by the Anti-Tobacco Society of Montreal.

BE CHARITABLE.—The Montreal Stock Exchange was closed last Ascension day but the Corn Exchange Association kept open as usual;—the latter belong to the hard shell-corn backs and they believe in foreign markets, from fair to middling with an upward tendency.

ON THEIR DIGNITY.—The inhabitants of St. Ann's Ward since they have got a new M. P. P. at Quebec are becoming very fastidious. They refuse to accept the corporation street scrapings for laying the new macadam in Griffintown; they want new sand for *their* avenues.

WHETHER ARE WE DRIFTING?—According to a writer in "Our musical column" of last Saturday's *Gazette*, city Church Services should mainly consist of musical rehearsals by trained Choirs and professional organists—the clergyman, by way of keeping up appearances, to play second fiddle.

THE FUSION OF RACES.—We noticed recently that "the Council of the Board of Real Estate Agents unanimously resolved that members of the press be elected honorary members of the Board." If the Board will further extend their kindness by free-gifts of nice quiet Villas to each of the members of the "fourth estate," the interests of the Real Estate Council will be properly written up.

FINANCING ON CURLING STONES.—We notice by a recent city advertisement that "the Thistle Curling Club are hereby notified that a "dividend of four per cent has been declared," &c. The Scotch are admittedly economical, but to make a four per cent profit out of curling stones on ice, is a financial achievement we have not hitherto given them credit for. The City Council and Road Committee should take lessons in the "roarin' game."

COMPLAINT COLUMN.

AN AUTHOR.—How can I achieve fame in the world of letters? I feel I have the soul of a poet, but I want fame. *Ans.*—Write doggerel verse, dedicate it to the Governor General, publish it anonymously and send copies to the Press for review. If you don't succeed then no one else will.

ANXIOUS PARENT.—Since the Sham Fight my twelve year old boy is continually running away from school, and associating with young rowdies and street arabs; all my reasoning with him seems to have no deterrent effect,—what am I to do with him? *Ans.*—If the moral principle cannot be reached through the boy's heart, there is another part a trifle lower down through which an effectual impression can be made.

AMATEUR.—I went to the Philharmonic Society's Concert but I could scarcely hear a word that was sung because a gentleman in front of me, *would* criticise the singing so loudly that hearing everyone except himself was an impossibility. Can I sue the Committee and have my money returned? *Ans.*—No, you cannot sue the Committee, but you will have gained a valuable lesson in adding to the list of your experiences the fact that those who talk the loudest, generally know the least.

DOMESTIC SERVANT.—I was engaged to make myself "generally useful" in a small family, and the washin' was to be giv' out. I works from six in the morning until ten at night, and then Missus wants me to do plain sewing. Have I any remedy? *Ans.*—Yes, smash a few dishes, ask your young man to tea on Sundays; take all the cold joints you can find to your relations; wear your mistress' best dress when she is in the country; appropriate her scent, and in that way you will continue to make yourself generally useful to your friends, and yourself in particular.

ANXIOUS ENQUIRER.—I should like to give the Joly Cabinet a fair trial but as there is some difficulty about choosing a Speaker will you kindly enlighten me upon what you consider the best method of appointing one? *Ans.*—We have several good speakers in Montreal, and so far as we know, the difficulty lies in the way of selecting the best among those young lawyers who figured so prominently in the Eastern Townships. We believe that Mr. N. W. T—E has superior claims and will in all probability be elected—some day. His speaks at about 220 words a minute and has never been beaten.

RATE PAYER.—I leave an ash barrel containing vegetable refuse in front of my house to be removed by the city scavengers. It remains there three days. On the fourth day I am notified by the Board of Health, under threat of summons to take it away. Still the scavenger does not come, and I am in fear of being summoned by the Board. What shall I do? *Ans.*—This is one of the cases in which advice is difficult. If we were you, to get rid of the difficulty, just take your barrel at dead of night, when no one is looking and empty its contents in front of the Health Office. You will have then discharged your ash barrel and your duty—so far as *you* are concerned.