

POETRY.

A GEM FOR EVERY MONTH.

JANUARY - By her who in this month is born No gem save Garnets should be worn; They will insure her constancy, True friendship, and fidelity.

FEBRUARY - The February-bird will find Sincerely and peace of mind, Freedom from passion and care, If they the Amethyst will wear.

MARCH - Who on this world of ours their eyes In March first open, shall be wise, In days of peril firm and brave, And wear a Bloodstone to their grave.

APRIL - She who from April dates her years Diamonds should wear, lest bitter tears For vain repentence flow; in this tone Emblem of innocence, is known.

MAY - Who first beholds the light of day In spring's sweet flowery month of May And wears an Emerald all her life, Shall be a loved and happy wife.

JUNE - Who comes with summer to this earth, And owes to June her day of birth, With ring of Agate on her hand, Can health, wealth and long life command.

JULY - The glowing Ruby should adorn Those who in warm July are born; Then will they be exempt and free, From love's doubts and anxiety.

AUGUST - Wear a Saphyre, or for thee No conjugal fidelity, The August-born without this stone, 'Tis said must live unloved and lone.

SEPTEMBER - A maiden born when autumn leaves Are rustling in September's breeze A Sapphire on her brow should bind - 'Twill cure diseases of the mind.

OCTOBER - October's child is born for woe, And life's vicissitudes must know, But lay an Opal on her breast, And hope will tell those woes to rest.

NOVEMBER - Who first comes to this world below With dress November's fog and snow Should prize the Topaz in her hand, Emblem of friends and lovers true.

DECEMBER - If cold December give you birth - The month of snow and ice and night - Place on your hand a Turquoise blue: Success will bless what'er you do.

SELECT STORY.

THE ABSENT COUSIN.

A Life-Sketch.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR. "But, Bella, if he should come home full of health and vigor, and as true and kind of heart as he was when he went away, wouldn't it be his wish to know you? You wouldn't mind if he were to stand in the way of your marriage, would you?"

TRADING WIVES.

A Curious Case and a Russian Solomon's Decision.

A curious instance of trading with wives is reported in the newspaper Kavkaz of Tiflis. In the village of Zadroha a peasant by the name of Goseen married a good-looking young woman. A few weeks later his neighbor, Kerimoff, offered to buy his wife from him. He was satisfied to sell her for cost price if Kerimoff would pay him 150 roubles which he had spent on his wedding. The bargain was made. Goseen signed a paper renouncing all his rights on the woman, and Kerimoff took her to his home. Two weeks later the woman disappeared from her new home. A search was instituted, and she was found in the village of Karadjly, living with a man named Abdaly-Effendy-Ogly, who had been her suitor before she was married to Goseen. Poor Kerimoff, deprived of his wife and of the 150 roubles he had paid for her, was in deep woe. He applied to the administrative authorities and to the clergy, but neither could help him. At last he sued Abdaly-Effendy for the sum of 150 roubles which he had paid for his wife. The latter appeared before the justice and pleaded that she had never received any money from Kerimoff and owed him nothing; she was not responsible for the money he had paid to Goseen. Finally Goseen, her first husband, was sued. All the three husbands of the woman, the Tartar, the Moslem, and the Slav came to court; the Slav, Kerimoff, as plaintiff, the Tartar, Goseen, as defendant, and the Moslem, Abdaly-Effendy, as the one who had had the woman in his possession. After much talking and arguing on either side the justice rendered the following Solomon decision: "Goseen has purchased a right on the woman for the sum of money he had spent on his wedding. The latter is consequently entitled to the possession of her woman. But since Abdaly-Effendy is now the actual owner of the woman, he must render to Kerimoff the sum he had expended on the article of trade." "Probatum est," says the paper in which this case is reported. "The woman is estimated as an article of trade, but the fee will which she exercises as a human being may be the cause of trouble and litigations which her purchasers take into the bargain at their own risk."

HOW HE SWORE OFF.

As strange as it may seem there was once a judge of the district court of San Bernardino county, California, who proved of liquor and wine drinking, and lost to opportunity in sternly holding up a public gaze all persons who had committed crimes or misdemeanors while under the influence of strong drink. There he was, in the act of giving the poor play man set upon the bench a good many men who looked upon the wine when it was good and red and who often frolicked with John Barleycorn until they got the worst of it. There was one young man in particular, who belonged to a good family, who was to find San Bernardino a very hard place when he was not too low. This youth entered his honor's study one day and exclaimed: "Judge, I'm going to swear off and I want you to see."

CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

The report of the minister of railways and canals shows that the number of railways, including the government roads, in actual operation in 1880, was 35. The number of miles of railway completed, irrespective of sidings, was 13,325, of which 12,639 were laid with steel rails. There were 12,628 miles of railway in actual operation. The paid up capital amounted to \$700,576,446. The gross earnings of all these railways amounted to \$42,149,615, and their working expenses to \$31,038,945, leaving the amount of net earnings \$11,110,670. They carried 12,151,051 passengers and 17,928,626 tons of freight. The total number of miles run by trains was 38,819,828. During the year ending June, 1880, the Dominion government paid out \$1,078,105 in earned subsidies to railways, and in the six months between that date and the 31st of December last, \$683,089 more. The total payments since 1880 amount to \$4,824,076, not including the C. P. R. subsidies, nor the subsidy to the Canada Central, nor the subsidy to the Quebec government for the line from Ottawa to Quebec.

THE CHURCH AND THE PEWS.

The lamentable scene which occurred in the church of the Ascension at Hamilton on Thursday night, when members of the congregation stopped the services because they considered the "high" goes to show that the pews are no longer mere receptacles of doctrine, but are becoming the centers and judges of it by virtue of their contributions to the support of the pulpit. It is highly desirable, however, that they should adopt some other way of expressing their dissent from the doctrine of the pulpit, than by creating a hubbub in the house of God. Last Sunday in the Baptist church at Saugerties, N. Y., a preacher was very roughly handled. "When the bell stopped tolling," says the reporter, "Mr. Boyce rose and gave out hymn No. 6. Then, with a steady voice, he read two stanzas and stopped; but the volume of song was not forthcoming for the organ played not. Nothing daunted, the clergyman lifted his book and sang the hymn through alone, the congregation remaining silent. The hymn finished, the pastor took up the bible and commenced to read therefrom, but he had hardly finished a verse when trustee Robt. Worthington ran up the aisle, mounted the steps and snatched the bible from the minister's hands. Not content with that, he seized Rev. Mr. Boyce by the arm and dragged him from the pulpit." Mr. Boyce ran back into the pulpit and in order to bring the scene to an end began to pronounce the benediction, which the congregation needed badly; but "Mr. Worthington again jumped upon the platform and again dragged the pastor down." The congregation then dispersed. Mr. Boyce was engaged for a year, but it seems that one of the trustees, not the blackguard Worthington, wishes to get him out of the church in order to secure the position for a son-in-law, whilst other leading members of the flock fancy that Mr. Boyce is "too old-fashioned on certain points of doctrine." Neither the Saugerites people nor the Hamilton worshippers appear to see the impropriety of putting mildly, of such conduct or the evil effect of it upon the religion which they profess to follow.

A ST. JOHN ROMANCE.

Met at the Dufferin about Christmas, Married in May. Among the arrivals at the Dufferin hotel, St. John, last week, were Wm. R. Stewart, Buckingham, Quebec, and M. A. Westaway, Georgetown, P. E. I. A little further down appeared the entry, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Stewart. On enquiry it was found that Mr. Stewart and Miss Westaway had met accidentally in the Dufferin about Christmas. They had never met before but it took only a few minutes to discover that they had met their destiny. They parted on the day they met, and came together the second time in the Dufferin last week. Half an hour sufficed to arrange details and a visit to Rev. W. O. Raymond followed. The happy couple are the centre of interest at the hotel.

TROOPS BEING SENT OUT.

Another Boer War About to be Inaugurated by Great Britain.

Replying to a question in the house of commons, London, in regard to the reported Boer "trek" being prepared for the invasion of Mashonaland, Manicaland and other South African territory, for the purpose of establishing the so-called republic of the North, Hon. Edward Stawpole, secretary of war, intimated that troops were being sent to British Bechuanaland in order to oppose the proposed Boer "trek." Recent advices state that 20,000 well armed Boers propose to cross the Limpopo in June and proclaim the republic of the north. The leaders of the "trek" included men of position from both the Free States and Cape Colony and all the steps taken are said to have met with the approval of the famous African band, recently in session at Kimberley. The Boer movement is a South African movement in the direction of northward expansion and is bound to conflict with the claims of the British chartered company, to say nothing of the claims of the Portuguese South African company. One of the objects of the raid is said to be the replacement of the chartered company by a popular movement free from the imperious government's control. There is a strong feeling against the company and against imperial control in South Africa. The leaders of the "trek," however, say little or nothing about the chartered company, claiming to base their proceedings on concessions granted long before the chartered company existed. The new republic will be founded on the constitutional laws of the South African republic and is expected to attract men of high character and ability from all parts of South America. Another "little war" in South Africa seems to be threatened. It will require many more British troops than are now available to cope with the 20,000 Boers, who are dead shots and capable of suffering the most severe hardships without complaint.

CANADIAN BARLEY.

Russians Annihilated by the High Tariff.

The United States senate committee on trade relations with Canada met in the Merchants' Exchange, Buffalo, N. Y. John B. Manning, ex-mayor, was the first witness. He said he had been in the barley business for many years. He asserted that reciprocity with Canada would help the people of this country as well as Canadians. He pointed out that in Buffalo \$100,000 is invested in the malting interests. He showed that Canadian barley is the best for malting that is grown on this continent, and should be admitted into this country under favorable conditions. He said, as a result of the high tariff, our Canadian barley business is annihilated, and that fifteen cents duty was high enough. He thought 3-000,000 bushels less was in New York than in Buffalo last year. He then explained why American barley was inferior to Canadian. He thought the new duty would not tend to increase the production in this state. 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