

CANADIAN.

The apple crop is likely to be a failure in Elgin County.

An earthquake shock was felt at Cushing, Quebec, on Monday.

Prices of sugar and molasses are having a sharp advance at Halifax.

The Presbyterian general assembly will meet next year in Kingstown.

Archd. Ferguson, a Moss Township farmer, was killed by a train near Alvinston.

The High Court of the Canadian Order of Foresters will meet next year in Toronto.

Mr. George A. Cox was elected president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce on Monday.

The Grey Cotton Manufacturers' Association has decided to raise prices five per cent.

A. Russell, a retired farmer living at Midland, shot himself dead on Thursday morning.

The first sod for the Kincardine & Teeswater Railway was turned at Kincardine on Saturday.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught bade farewell to Canada on Thursday, and sailed for the Sardinian.

Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, was chosen as moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly at Ottawa.

The striking weavers of the Ontario Cotton Mill, Hamilton, have resumed work at the reduced wages.

The Toronto Methodist Conference elected the Rev. Dr. Pirritte, of Meaford, president on the fourth ballot.

The Alaska exploring party are said to have discovered a large lake in British territory in the far north.

A new and very rich vein of silver has been struck close beside the celebrated Badger mine, near Port Arthur.

The first through trains passed over the new Canadian Pacific route between Montreal and Chicago on Monday.

Mr. Fred W. Johnston, Q. C., of Goderich, has been appointed Junior County Judge of the District of Algoma.

A number of gentlemen throughout the Province of Manitoba are in correspondence with the view of forming a Canadian club.

Chief Ashfield, of the Toronto fire brigade with which he had been connected since 1839, died on Sunday in the 72nd year of his age.

The Toronto Methodist Conference on Tuesday passed a motion in favor of increasing the pastoral term from three to five years.

The re-count of votes in Prince Edward gives Mr. Sprague, Liberal, a majority of eight and deprives Mr. Meredith of a supporter.

The result of the elections at the Toronto Methodist Conference of delegates for the General Conference was decidedly in favor of federation.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company will erect this year ten or twelve grain elevators in Manitoba with a capacity of 30,000 bushels each.

John Byron, of St. Catharines, was tried at Toronto last week on a charge of manslaughter committed at Mimico, and the jury disagreed.

It is announced in Montreal that Mr. E. S. Clouston has been appointed joint general manager of the Bank of Montreal with Mr. W. J. Buchanan.

W. Carson, while umpiring a game of baseball at Kingston, was struck on the nose with the ball and knocked senseless. His nose was broken.

The details of the purchase of the New Brunswick Railway by the C. P. R. have been arranged, and were accepted last week by the C. P. R. directors.

After inspecting the St. Clair tunnel, which is now nearly completed, Sir Joseph Hickson gave an order for the immediate construction of another alongside.

Lord Lansdowne has sent \$100 from India to be added to the fund for erecting a monument in Quebec to Major Shortt and Staff-Sergeant Wallick. The fund now amounts to \$2,300.

The county judge in Toronto has given judgment in a case to the effect that when property passes into the hands of a corporation exempt from taxation it escapes all local improvement taxation.

Rev. Dr. Castle, formerly Principal of the Baptist College in Toronto, died on Wednesday evening in Philadelphia. He had been in ill-health ever since his resignation of the principalship two years ago.

The Catholic Committee of the Quebec Council of Public Instruction pronounces strongly against the "deplorable custom" of giving children ridiculous names, for the most part taken from novels.

The Synod of the Church of England, diocese of Montreal, met on Tuesday. The question of consolidating the various sections of the Anglican Church in British North America is under consideration.

Chief of Police Wills, of Woodstock, Ont., has recently been in Lockport, N. Y., searching for evidence in the Benwell murder case. He says he has located an important witness who will testify at Birchall's trial in October.

At the Toronto Criminal Assizes Joseph Maroney, convicted of assault on a jurymen who had served on a jury that returned a verdict of which the prisoner did not approve, was sent to the Central Prison for eighteen months.

Six farmers, heads of families, from Dakota were in Brandon, Man., on Saturday en route to the Lake Dauphin district, where they propose to locate. One of their number stated that they had seen eight seasons in the land of the Dakotas and only reaped one good crop.

The dry dock for torpedo boats being constructed in Halifax dock yard is nearly completed. It is 250 feet long, 60 feet wide, built of concrete and the main portion covered by an iron roof. Two torpedo boats are now on their way from England to be used on that station.

Prof. Saunders, of the experimental farm, states that he has received crop prospects from all over the Dominion. Manitoba reports state that there are excellent prospects, North-west Territories, fair; British Columbia, very good; Nova Scotia, backward, owing to late seasons. Prof. Saunders anticipates a more than average crop over the Dominion.

A water-melon trust has been formed in Georgia, Ga., which has bought up 90 per cent. of the crop.

The Duluth & Winnipeg Railway Company has decided to build a line of its own through Manitoba.

A plot was discovered in New York on Sunday night to burn down a tenement house containing 75 persons.

A census enumerator in Richmond, Va., has found a colored woman named Martha Gray who has had 37 children since 1868.

The Indians on the Cheyenne reservation in Dakota are short of provisions and show signs of an uprising. The settlers are uneasy.

The attitude of the Cheyenne Indians in Montana continues to be menacing, though no overt act has occurred since the killing of Ferguson.

Larue, the San Francisco hotel waiter who beat another waiter in a prize fight so that he died, has been found guilty by a coroner's jury of murder. The fight was over a girl.

An explosion and fire in the Hill Farm mine at Dunbar, Pa., on Monday resulted, it is believed, in the loss of 34 lives. Eighteen miners only escaped out of 52 known to be in the mine.

The vicinity of Stracker's Bend, Ill., is in terror over the appearance of a wild man, who has taken possession of a tract of country, and forages for supplies, living on the fat of the land.

The negroes in Battleboro township, Edgecombe county, N. C., have a mortal fear of census men, and whenever the latter appear the former rush for the woods despite all efforts to allay their fears.

Governer Fifer has called a special session of the Illinois Legislature for July 23 to submit to the electors a constitutional amendment to permit of the issue by Chicago of \$5,000,000 bonds and other matters connected with the World's Fair.

Jos. Jonasson, a member of a New York firm, was arrested in Berlin a few days ago on a charge of using insulting language towards the Emperor, preferred by two drunken students. Mr. Jonasson was treated with great harshness, and he does not feel inclined to be satisfied with his mere acquittal.

The American brewers and maltsters have succeeded in inducing the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to reduce the proposed duty on barley to fifteen cents per bushel. The tariff bill thus amended will be reported to the Senate. It is proposed also to reduce the duty on fine lumber to one dollar per thousand.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Mahdi has set free his European prisoners.

Rev. John Oakley, D. D., dean of Manchester, is dead.

The Duchess of Fife has been delivered of a still-born child.

Mr. Gladstone will undertake a stumping tour in Midlothian in October.

The Duke of Clarence will take his seat in the House of Lords next week.

Bishop Cornthwaite, of the Roman Catholic diocese of Leeds, Eng., is dead.

Thirteen thousand dock laborers at Swansea have struck for higher wages.

England has agreed to surrender Heligoland to Germany for German concessions in Africa.

The Edinburgh municipal authorities last week presented the freedom of the city to Henry M. Stanley.

Stanley has been appointed Governor-General of the Congo Free State, his duties to commence in 1891.

Miss Alford, a niece of the celebrated Dean Alford, has won first place in the classical tripos Cambridge.

Burns' manuscript of "Scots Wha Hae" Wallace Bled" has been sold by auction in London to an American for £70.

Chief Munroe, of the Metropolitan Police, has resigned in consequence of a quarrel with Home Secretary Matthews.

It is announced that Portuguese troops are hastening from Mozambique to Angola to repel an alleged English invasion.

The negotiations between England and Germany on the East African question are progressing satisfactorily. It is said Germany has made all the concessions required by England.

The English Government has consented to the appointment of a committee to examine into the question of compensation in connection with the Licensing bill, and to report what is proper compensation.

It is stated that Henry M. Stanley is to deliver fifty lectures in the United States during next fall and winter, and that he is to receive \$1,000 for lecturing in New York and \$500 for those in other cities.

Some alarm is expressed in London at the proposal to build an additional underground railway which will run beneath St. Paul's cathedral. Fears are entertained that the foundation of the cathedral may be undermined.

Cardinal Manning, addressing a deputation on Sunday bringing him jubilee gifts, said he wished to die as a priest ought to die—without money and without debt. He then mentioned the charitable objects on which he intended to bestow his gifts.

The White Star steamer Doric, trading between London and New Zealand, it is claimed, has made the fastest voyage around the world. The total time the Doric steamed was 77 days 6 hours and 50 minutes. The distance was 23,000 miles. The engines worked continuously.

It is positively announced that General Wolseley will resign July 31. Lord Wolseley's views as to the reorganization of the army are at variance with those of the commander-in-chief, the Duke of Cambridge, whose retirement he considers necessary before anything practical can be effected. The Queen stands by her cousin, the duke, and refuses to hear of his withdrawal.

IN GENERAL.

Cholera has broken out in the province of Valencia, Spain.

Another plot against the life of the czar has been discovered at St. Petersburg.

France will shortly declare her recognition of the Brazilian Provisional Government.

The German Reichstag has adopted a grant of 4,500,000 marks on account of East Africa.

The Government of India has heavily subsidised a company to build a railway from Simla to Kalka.

Great preparations are being made in Berlin for the reception of the German-American rifleman.

The czarowitz will start on a tour of the world August 1. He will return by the way of the United States.

Emperor William will attend the Austrian manoeuvres in Transylvania, and will then spend a week in Hungary.

The French have occupied the territory in South America which was in dispute between France and Holland.

Three hundred Soudanese and as many Indian troops will enter the service of the British East Africa Company.

Princess Victoria of Prussia, is betrothed to the Prince of Anelnhalt Dessau. The marriage will take place at an early date.

Arrests have been made in France which prove a connection between the German Anarchists and those of London and New York.

Michael Eyraud, arrested in Havana for the murder of M. Gouffe in Paris in July, 1889, has been handed over to the French detectives.

A Cairo despatch says Major Wismann is surprised at Stanley's utterances. He says there is plenty of room in Africa for both nations.

The discovery is announced of a plant growing in abundance on the shores of the Caspian sea, which is likely to prove a powerful rival of jute.

The steamer Columbia has made the voyage from Southampton to New York in 6 days and 16 hours. Southampton is about a day's longer sail than Queenstown.

The Czar refuses to recognize Prince Ferdinand as ruler of Bulgaria, but would favour either the Duke of Leuchtenberg, or Prince Karl, son of the King of Sweden.

The Italian authorities have seized a quantity of valuable objects of art in the form of religious paraphernalia, as contraband goods, which were in transit to Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin.

It is claimed that M. Bursual, the French electrician, is the real inventor of the telephone, having discovered and applied the principle twenty years in advance of either Edison or Bell.

The Legislative Assembly of Victoria has unanimously approved the scheme for the federation of the Australian colonies, and has appointed delegates to the convention to consider the subject.

As if to put at rest the rumours of increasing friction between Germany and Russia, the Emperor has requested the Czar to allow him to command in person the Viborg regiment, of which he is honorary colonel, during the coming Russian manoeuvres.

The Labor Problem.

Francis A. Walker whose criticism of Edward Bellamy's theory of an industrial army, as enunciated in "Looking Backward," attracted so much notice from those interested in the social questions of the day, has an interesting article in the June Atlantic on the eight hour labor agitation. The spirit of the article is friendly towards the workmen, with whom Mr. Walker has evidently no quarrel. He recognizes their lot as being hard, and hopes for a time when a more satisfactory condition of things will exist. This does not prevent him, however, from carefully examining the remedies with which would-be reformers would cure the present social ills. After pointing out some of the untenable positions of economists on the one hand and labor agitators on the other—that under no circumstances is the state warranted in interfering in the contract for labor, and that inasmuch as a reduction from fifteen and eighteen hours to ten or eleven has not been followed by any appreciable decrease of production or diminution of wages, the reduction from ten to eight hours would follow the same rule—Mr. Walker proceeds to state his objections to the present movement. Four difficulties present themselves in the way of the State interfering to adopt such a law: First, Mr. Walker is of the opinion that this is a matter which should be left to debate and decision between employers and laborers; the former retaining their right to grant or refuse the demand; the latter exercising their unquestioned right to refuse, individually or collectively, to work except upon terms agreeable to themselves. Second, the rights of the minority in such a matter demand consideration. If six hundred workmen are willing and desirous to secure greater leisure at the sacrifice of some part of their wages they have no moral right by a mere majority of votes to refuse to four hundred fellows the privilege of earning all their wages; they can in a longer day of work, always within the limits of health. Third, conceding for the moment the desirability of a further reduction in the hours of labor, it is a very grave mistake to undertake so long a step at once as that which is proposed from ten hours, or more to eight. Fourth, the uniform application to all trades and avocations of an eight hour law would be an injustice as between workman and workman. The several trades and avocations differ so widely among themselves, in the conditions under which they may be pursued as to make any single rule the height of injustice. It is evidently impossible so to control the conditions under which labor is conducted as to make it compatible with political justice, or even with ordinary honesty as between man and man, to prescribe the same number of hours per day for all.

A Music-Loving Canary.

Rev. Mr. James, of London, writes as follows of a remarkable canary bird: "Immediately I began to play upon the flute she chirps about as if enjoying the music. If I open the cage-door and leave her, she will come as near to me as possible, but no attempt to fly to the music; but if I put her upon my desk, and lay the flute down, she will perch upon the end, and allow me to raise the instrument and play. I often take her into the church and play there upon the organ, and she will perch upon my fingers, notwithstanding the inconvenience of the motion of the hands, and chirp in evident delight at the sweet sounds."

More than He Wanted.

Angry Caller (at newspaper office)—"Say, I want that little ad. I gave you two days ago—'Wanted, an electric battery in good working order'—taken out." Advertising Clerk—"What is the matter? Didn't we give it the right location?" Angry Caller—"Location be dashed! The blanked ad. overdid the business. My house was struck by lightning last night!"

"Black Dogs at Midnight."

Not always is sleep "tired nature's sweet restorer." Sometimes, instead of a balm, it brings a bugaboo in the shape of the nightmare. Mai is a wonderful piece of work, but his machinery may be thrown out of gear and set a-whizzing by so slight a thing as a late supper. An indigestible Welsh rarebit at 11 p. m. may result in a big suffocating black dog across his chest at 1 o'clock in the morning; an overplus of oaf-pastry, which his gastric juices cannot conveniently assimilate, may precipitate him from a precipice in dreamland into a bottomless abyss; or a surfeit of pate de foi gras send him to a Morphean galloway, there to endure all the tortures of actual strangulation. This sort of thing, by the way, is only one remove from apoplexy, and the incubus-ridden victim of inordinate and untimely self-indulgence is likely enough to be at last bestridden in his sleep by a nightmare too strong for his vitality—even death.

The term nightmare is supposed to have been derived from Mara, the name of a demon which, according to the Scandinavian mythology, pounced upon men in their sleep and held the will in thralldom. The old Saxons called the distemper *Euf-sidenne*, or self-squating. With the doctors it is *Ephialtes*, from a mythic giant of that name who undertook to climb to heaven, but, missing his foothold, tumbled into the fathomless depths. Most of us have probably been convulsed in our sleep with the same sort of horror which the tripped-up Titan is fabled to have experienced during his "lofty fall" from the celestial battlements. There can be little doubt that many of the spectres of the dark ages were Maras begotten of indigestion. Your Saxon gormandizer, who sometimes feasted far into the night on boar's flesh and venison pastry, washing them down with frothy mead, must have gone to bed with his stomach in a nice condition. No wonder that of the internal fermentation, caused by such stuffing and swelling, hobgoblins and hippogriffs in endless variety were born. The surest way to avoid the nightmare and procure that sound, healthful repose with which each day's life should be "rounded off," is to live temperately, regularly and honestly. Ay, honestly, for a troubled conscience, as well as an over-laden diaphragm, may engender evil dreams.

A British Columbian Marvel.

A very interesting work just published on the Glacis of the Selkirk, and giving in popular form some of the results of explorations made in these mountains for the Royal Geographical Society of England, mentions a strange bouquet-making creature called the Sewellell as a curious inhabitant of the rocky wilds of our Pacific province. In climbing the wooded steeps on the margin of a glacier, Mr. Grant and his companion discovered along their path bouquets of flowers well arranged with their stems laid closely together. Very naturally they concluded that some one had been there before them, but yet the place was so inaccessible and so much out of the way of any settler, or tourist or possible visitor other than an explorer who felt it his bounden duty to make the arduous ascent, that they instituted enquiries, with the result that they learned of the existence of this flower-loving creature. No reasonable explanation is offered of this strange habit, nor is any hint given of what the "creature" with so human an instinct is like. The author evidently is not venturing on a joke, but the mention of the whole thing seems so like a fairy tale or fit the pages of a traveller in the days when barman geese were hatched on trees and fierce, headless men roamed the forests of the Upper Nile, that one can only regret that Mr. Grant has not anticipated the curiosity of his readers and departed from the beaten track of his book to give a short chapter on the Sewellell. The name appears to be that sometimes given to a little animal somewhat resembling a beaver, but it may be doubted whether its flower-gathering propensity has hitherto been known to naturalists.

The Wind's Way.

I whisper all day to the rushes, I ruffle the smooth-flowing stream, And borrow from cloudland and sunlight Their shadow and beam. I hurry through grain field and forest, I sweep the valley and high mountain chain; Their sadness and sweetness I gather From meadow and main. The secrets I murmur are many, As surely or blithely I blow, Yet what I reveal to the river No mortal may know.

Whether from too high living or too little exercise dependent saith not, but the latest report is that the Czar is growing very fat, and that with his increasing obesity there is a corresponding increase in his natural indolence. No aversion has he become to details connected with the affairs of state that many of his officials are said to have adopted the policy of saying in a word that all is going on smoothly and then going out and doing about as they please. Perhaps it is as well for the peace of Europe that the man in whose hands such power lies should be too indolent to stir up a strife which if once begun might outlive the present generation. If Europe's tranquility depends upon a continuance of his present condition, few will pray that the scales may be less severely strained when he steps upon them.

The theory of Prince Bismarck that the discontent of the masses in Russia and Germany is due to education is one that will hardly find many friends among the educated and intelligent classes. The Chancellor says: "Over-education has led to much dissatisfaction and disappointment in Germany, but in Russia it has led to disaffection and conspiracy. There are ten times as many people educated for the higher walks as there are places to fill. Further, education is making pedantic theorists and visionaries unfit for constitutional government. It would be madness to put such men in authority. The Russians do not know yet what they want. They must therefore be ruled with a rod of iron." Prince Bismarck would have come nearer the truth if instead of condemning the quantity, he had found fault with the quality of the education. A course of instruction that begets an aversion to honest labor, however menial, or renders a man less capable to perform the duties of even manual callings is sadly deficient in character. Of such education it is not difficult to believe that it does harm. Probably the Russians and Germans have been cursed with instruction of this kind.

A Banshee Clock.

"We have not exactly a banshee in our family who foretells by her wailing an approaching death," said a lady to the writer yesterday, "but we have had mysterious warnings of such given us time and time again by an old clock which has been in our family for the last 120 years. The works were ruined by a shot fired by a British soldier during the Revolutionary war at my great-grandfather, which shot, passing unobtrusively through his body, killed him instantaneously and then broke the glass door, penetrating the works and stopping them, forever, for though innumerable attempts have been made to repair them, it seemed that some unknown power kept the clock silent except when death flapped his black wings over the household; so it was banished to the garret."

"The first instance of its warning was when my grandfather died. He had been very ill, but the physicians had at last pronounced him out of danger, and his family were just congratulating themselves on this news when the loud tones of a clock striking twelve, slowly and solemnly, like the tolling of a bell, was heard. 'Why, what is that?' said my grandmother. 'There was but one other clock in the house, which was in full view, so it was evident that it was not that one. 'It is my father's clock,' said her husband. 'It has struck the close of my day,' and before they could reach him he was dead, just as the last stroke died away."

"This occurrence was repeated when my grandmother herself lay dying. The old clock struck 12 just as she drew her last breath and my father, at last believing that there was something supernatural in the affair, had the old works removed, leaving only the hollow case; but a few years after, when my brother was brought home dangerously wounded after the battle of Chancellorsville, the long, slow, solemn tones of the old clock were heard as before, and poor Leon's life went out as they died on the air. They struck for my father and for my little child, who died last year. The clock warned me, too, when my sister died in Japan. I had just got a letter from her, in which she had spoken of feeling very well, when I heard the old clock, which was in a remote store room, strike so rapidly that the notes almost mingled, and then began slowly to strike another twelve strokes. 'My sister is dead,' I said to my husband, 'and has died very suddenly, but who the other strokes are for I cannot imagine.' My husband tried to reason and then to ridicule the idea, but I mourned for my sister as earnestly as though I had seen her die, and when, as I knew I should, I heard the news of her sudden death I found it had taken place on the same day and at the same hour as that on which the clock struck, allowing for the difference of time between Japan and Boston. Her baby, a few hours old, died a few minutes after the mother."

The Sunday School Grand Army.

The progress of Sunday school work will appear in the following statistics collated under the auspices of the International Sunday School Convention, which met at Atlanta, Georgia, in 1878. Ten to 18 per cent would probably represent the status of gain for the present time. At that time there were in the United States 78,046 Sunday schools, 853,100 teachers, 6,504,054 scholars, or a total of 7,357,154 teachers and scholars, 119,221 having been received into the churches from the Sunday schools, Canada had 5,395 schools, 41,693 teachers, and 339,943 scholars. For Great Britain, there were in 1876, 378,762 scholars, an increase of 186,418 in ten years. At present there are schools in successful operation in France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Italy, and Portugal. They are pushing into Asia and Africa with the missionaries. There are, undoubtedly, upward of a million teachers in the world engaged in this beautiful and beneficent work, and they have under their instruction ten million of scholars.

Origin of Texts.

The custom of taking a text as a basis of a sermon is older than the Bible itself. Ezra, we are told, accompanied by several Levites in a public congregation of men and women, ascended a pulpit, opened the book of the law, and after addressing a prayer to the Deity, to which the people said amen, read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading (Nehemiah viii, 8). Previous to the time of Ezra, the Patriarchs delivered, in public assemblies, either prophecies or moral instructions for the edification of the people; and it was not until the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity, during which time they had almost lost the language in which the Pentateuch was written, that it became necessary to explain, as well as to read the Scriptures to them. In later times the book of Moses was thus read in the synagogues every Sabbath day (Acts xv, 21). To this custom our Savior conformed; in the synagogue at Nazareth he read a passage from the Prophet Isaiah, then closing the book, returned to the priest, and preached from the text.

He Took a Bible.

An interesting story, apropos of Stanley, is given in the *British Weekly*. It was told originally at a conference of workers at the Bible House, Queen Victoria street, London. In the course of the meeting Sir Harry Vane rose and said—"I have something to tell you that I am sure you will all be very glad to hear. I was sitting a few days ago next to Mr. Stanley, the great African traveller, and in conversation he said—'Just before I started for Africa, Sir William Mackinnon said to me—'Now I want to give you something, but I should like you to choose for yourself. I shall have the utmost pleasure in presenting you with anything you like. Never mind the expense; just say what you would like.' 'I replied, 'said the traveller, 'give me a Bible.' The desired gift was soon in my possession, just the Bible I wanted. And during my absence in Africa I have read that Bible through three times.'" It need scarcely be added that the announcement was received by the meeting at the Bible House with the utmost delight and heartiest applause.

What He Meant.

Little Daughter—"Mamma, I heard papa tell a gentleman yesterday that every male should learn the mystery art of self-defense. What did he mean by that?" Mamma—"He probably meant that they should have a lie all ready to tell their wives when they come home after midnight; as he often does."