The Free Press.

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THE SENATE BILL PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

The French Republic has had an additional element of stability added to its constitution in the form of a Senate of three hundred members. One may judge of the importance which the different parties in the Assembly attach to this enactment, from the difficulty that has been experienced in framing the measure and in obtaining the necessary support to give it effect. The extreme Right or Legitimist party are said to have been so opposed to its passage, as to have vacated their seats when they saw all further opposition to the course of the measure hopeless. The Bonapartists or Imperialists too, gave a united, a determined and a persistent opposition to the passage of the Bill. There can be no difficulty in understanding how much this is likely to contribute to the permanency of Republican institutions among the French, from the strong opposition of the two parties who both hold views in favor of Monarchy, though somewhat different in form. Each of these parties gave the measure a determined opposition, and did so from the same cause,—that the establishment and organization of a Senate would infuse into their half-formed Constitution, a principle of steadiness and of durability that would render a sudden revolution, such as occur so frequently in France, less likely, and less easy to accomplish. As this new Bill has only been lately introduced, and the information regarding it received by telegraph rather meagre, it is not easy to judge correctly of its details from all the facts that have come to hand. The measure seems to have originated with the Right and Left Centre, and to have received the support of the Republicans. The passage of the bill depended upon gaining the support of the latter, and this support was loyally given after a full discussion in caucus. The object of the Imperialists was to separate the Republicans from the Centres — Right and Left — and with this view amendment after amendment seems to have been moved, containing principles which it was thought the Republican party would not dare to vote against; but these understood the game and refused the bait, so that the measure was finally passed by a vote of 448 to 241. It seems a complicated piece of elective machinery, but it may work better in practice than it looks in theory. This Senate is to be an elective body, though the appeal is not immediately to the people. Of the three hundred members, seventy-five are to be nominees of the Legislative Assembly, though how these are to be elected is not yet very clear. Of the remaining two hundred and twenty-five, some will be elected by Councils-General, some by the Councils of Arondissements, and others by the Municipalities. It is probable that the election of Senators will not be by the immediate vote of those bodies but by colleges appointed or deputies chosen for the purpose. The seventy-five members chosen by the Assembly will retain their seats for life, while the remaining two hundred and twenty-five will retire, one-third annually. This variety of constituencies ought to secure such a selection as will represent pretty fairly every interest in the country, and if the intelligence of the country is properly represented in these constituted bodies, the French Senate may be expected to assume a high position, and gain some weight among the legislative bodies of Europe. Its sphere of legislative action is not limited, as it may initiate bills on any subject, except that money bills must first pass the Chamber of Deputies. If the French Republic were once fairly started, and the country generally reconciled to this form of Government, their Senate, constituted as proposed, may aid the legislation very much, and give a vast increase of strength to those institutions, that are as yet only in the process of formation. The life members will, or ought to be, well acquainted with the business of legislation, with the wants and resources of the country, and are not likely to encourage the propagation of revolutionary opinions that would send themselves adrift. So that in a country like France, a Conservative element of this kind may be highly advantageous, as imparting a certain degree of stability to the Government, and as giving a greater amount of confidence to the people generally. France since the end of the war with Germany, has shown that she possesses unlimited resources, and she has put forth recuperative powers that surprise the world, and none more than her recent antagonist. A stable and popular government seems all that is wanting to the regaining of her former prestige among the nations of Europe.

An exciting scene occurred at the Holliday Street Theatre, in Baltimore, the other evening. A "utility man" named Hall was, at a certain juncture of the play, to fire a gun at a leading lady, Miss De Forest. Hall came on the stage at the proper time, and carried his part ably enough until he mistook a point in the dialogue for his "cue," and raising the musket fired at Miss De Forest when she was quite unprepared for it. She was standing about four feet from the muzzle of the gun, and immediately after its discharge fell to the stage insensible. The curtain was dropped as soon as the accident occurred, was was raised again in a few minutes, and Miss De Forest came forward and concluded her part amid great applause. It appears that the powder and wadding had passed on the left side of her face, and although her hair was slightly scorched, and a few grains of powder had struck her cheek, she was uninjured. The suddenness of the discharge, and its being so near, had caused her to fall from fright. Hall, the actor whose carelessness had caused the accident, also appeared again, but his reception was not particularly friendly.

A short time before his death the Emperor of China made proclamation that pending his recovery the empresses dowager would hold the reins of government. The imperial decree was thus prefaced:—"On the happy occurrence of a visitation of small-pox which has this month befallen us, we have been besought in unison by the Prince of Tun and his colleagues to undergo restorative attention in undisturbed tranquility of mind; it has nevertheless seemed impossible, as we reflected on the solemn importance of the affairs of State, that we should dare to take thought for our own comfort and repose." The "happy" occurrence had a fatal termination, though all Pekin, on the report that his Majesty progressed toward recovery, burned paper offerings to the Goddess of Small pox.

The detention of the mails by the late snowblockade deprived the people of Goderich of outside news for many days together. Their isolation at length becoming insufferable, the *Signal* was stimulated to get the current news by telegraph and issue a daily edition, until communication could be reopened.

The Erie Railway, one of the longest lines of railroad in the world, employs 15,500 persons in various occupations. It is estimated that there is scarcely an hour of the day or night when there are not 100 trains in actual running along its line.

GEOLOGIZING CANADA.

Among the "Reforms" of the present session is the reduction of $1,700 for what is known as the Geological Survey of Canada. This important work was carried on at one time under the superintendence of Sir W. Logan, and proved of very great importance to the industrial interests of this country. The Director now is Mr. Alfred R. C. Selwyn, F. R. S., aided by a corps of assistants, who have been specially selected on account of their practical knowledge and scientific attainments. Great as the importance of this work was in former times, it has become vastly more so since the acquisition by Canada of the Nor'-West and British Columbia; immense territories in which the work of the geologist should be particularly fruitful. During 1873-74 a series of explorations were made by the staff, the Report of whose proceedings has just been published, accompanied by some useful illustrations, by Messrs. Dawson Brothers, Montreal. The book comprises 258 pages, and is a mine of fact, the working of which should prove excellent value. The staff had their operations directed as follows: Mr. Selwyn himself went over the Fertile Belt, N. W. Territory. Mr. Richardson "did" the coal fields of British Columbia. Mr. R. Bell carried on, like Mr. Selwyn, explorations and surveys on the Fertile Belt. Mr. H. G. Venor looked after Ontario, and has mapped out many of the deposits of iron, gold and phosphates to be found in it. Mr. McOuat undertook the continuation of the survey of the coal fields of Cumberland Co., N.S.; Mr. Chas. Robb the coal fields of Cape Breton, and Professor Barclay those of Central New Brunswick. It is the result of these important labors that form the ground-work of the Report just issued. To the general reader those portions of the reports comprising the explorations in the Nor'-West will prove, perhaps, the most entertaining, though all are equally interesting, in a scientific point of view. The explorations as detailed in the Report are indicative of great care and labour, and cannot fail to form the ground work, especially in the West, of important discoveries. For example, Mr. Richardson brought from Hope, B. C., a specimen of a yellowish decomposed vein stone, which was assayed and gave 271 oz. of silver to the ton. And Mr. Selwyn states that, from the general geological features observed in portions of Central British Columbia, there is every reason to anticipate that a rich silver-bearing region exists there, which only requires for its development the introduction of capital, enterprise and skill. In the same way other great natural resources to be found in the Dominion lie neglected and unproductive. For development time must be allowed, but there seems to be no good reason why instead of lopping off $1,700 from the appropriation in favor of the geological survey its utility to the country at large should not be acknowledged by keeping it up to a full point of efficiency, even if it be not made still more effective. Meanwhile, Mr. Selwyn's Report of the recent progress made in the geological survey of Canada is a welcome addition to our knowledge of its great resources.

A RAILWAY IN A TIGHT PLACE.

The Detroit & Milwaukee Railway is so intimately connected with the Great Western system, and the latter Company so deeply interested financially in their affairs, that the condition it occupies becomes one of public interest in Canada. It has been known for some time past that the D. & M. Railway is in deep financial distress. The coupons falling due in November, 1873, are not yet paid, and it is almost needless to add that those that have fallen due since that time also remain unliquidated. Further than that, the road does not meet its regular cost for working expenses, and it now stands in need of large outlays in order to make it approach efficiency. It requires at once new engines and passenger cars, additional freight car stock, and two-thirds of the line requires relaying with steel rails with as little delay as possible. Without these expenditures, which will require even at present low prices a cash outlay of nearly $1,200,000 this year, the road must still more rapidly depreciate physically, and become less able to pay even the cost of working it, if, indeed, it is possible to keep it open at all. Its present floating debt is placed at $587,291 and the unpaid coupons at $530,000. In addition to these sums, amounting to $2,317,291, mortgages of various kind exist against, bearing from 7 to 8 per cent. interest, to the amount of $2,017,000, so that a sum of over nine millions of dollars hang like a mill-stone about the neck of the enterprise. It is simply impossible for it to carry such a load at such rates. The Great Western shareholders having been appealed to to help them out of their difficulties, the late Board declined the propositions submitted to them, but on the occasion of the recent visit of Mr. Childers, the present chairman, he agreed to an arrangement by which the sum of $1,787,291 is to be advanced to pay off the present floating debt of $587,291, leaving $1,200,000 wherewith to re-equip the mechanical department. It is further proposed, if this arrangement is adopted, to take a lease of the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad, and work it at 70 per cent. of the gross receipts in each year, thus securing to the bondholders 30 per cent. annually of whatever the traffic may be. To do this without loss the Great Western must earn, as lessees of the road, an amount of traffic equal to about $1,350,000, which, considering that in the great railway year of 1873 the Detroit & Milwaukee traffic only reached $1,700,000, and fell last year to $1,150,000, is a very generous, even a very bold, offer. Let it be hoped that better times are in store for both companies than have presented themselves of late, for it is really deplorable to read of the decadence of enterprises upon which the public convenience so much depends.

Earnest Gye has written a letter to the Cincinnati *Commercial* in regard to the departure of Mlle. Albani. He says that the public has been induced to believe that "the failure of the opera season this winter is to be attributed to the 'exorbitant' salary paid to her, when the true cause is that there has been a considerable loss on every night when she has not sung, and however good the receipts might be on her nights, they would not possibly make up for the deficiencies on those other nights. This will explain the 'steady financial loss' of which the article I refer to speaks, and the proof of it is this, that, although Mlle. Albani was engaged to sing only twice per week, she has sung three times more often than twice, expressly to help Mr. Strakosch, who told me that 'if she did not do so he must give up, as nothing else drew at all.'"

For a few months back, the sea around us, says the Panama *Herald* of the 8th inst., has been very phosphorescent as is usual in this month in the bay. The fact was clear enough in the dark, every wave as it broke at half-tide on the reefs looking like a wreath of bluish fire. It but adds to our admiration of this striking natural phenomenon to know that the star-like light given out by every little wave is the announcement of the myriads of oceanic animalculæ with which the sea at this season abounds. At this time also the fish abound in the bay, and keep active all day the pelicans and boobies. The water in the bay at this time of the year is always much cooler than in the rainy season. The barometric variation is small, varying from 29.90 inches to 29.96.

TAXING THE COUNTRY PRESS.

The ministerial press is not at all pleased with the proposition of the Postmaster General to compel the publishers of newspapers to prepay the postage on their issues. The Paris *Star*, which may be taken as an example of the whole, says:—

"We are glad to see that the bill, which strikes a blow at us local papers, is receiving spirited opposition. Messrs. Currier, Oliver, and Colby made excellent and telling speeches on Monday, at discussion of the second reading, pointing out how our Canadian press, and specially the provincial press, would be swamped by cheap American journals and serials."

What Canada wants is rather free postage than prepayment. It has been often shown in these columns that an industrial corps is of much more importance to the country than a military establishment. Yet while nearly a million and a quarter is to be spent in Militia, the Postmaster-General grudges to throw off the trifle of $72,135, which is all the newspaper postage amounts to. One of the chief reasons why the local papers complain of the intention of the Government to force prepayment upon publishers, arises from the fact that the large city press use the facilities the Express affords to convey their parcels to the different agents scattered through the country, thus avoiding the item of postage altogether. But with the country and local press the case is different. They send their papers not in masses that are measured by hundred weights, but by ones or twos through the post to subscribers in outlying parts. If the Government plan is adopted it will so far favor the city press as to enable us to continue to use the express system, while it will throw upon our less fortunate brethren a pre-payment which in the nature of things they will never have refunded to them. It will be, in fact, a special tax upon the country press. What have they done to deserve this adverse discriminating infliction at the hands of the Grit Government? They fill a useful place in the connecting links of society in this country which could be hardly spared. In point of ability, very many of them are—circumstances taken into account—fully equal to the city papers, though the commercial basis upon which they rest does not permit them to assume proportions equal to the WEEKLY FREE PRESS and *Globe*. The true policy for the Government would be to abolish newspaper postage altogether. They have put on, quite unnecessarily, 12½ per cent. upon Customs, and have a revenue in excess of expenditure, which in June—the end of the fiscal year—is likely to touch $2,000,000. Why not, then, abate the paltry $72,135 collected on newspapers, and thus give the country press—to which the Grits owe so much—a chance in the race? Free postage is in accordance with the spirit of the times and the wishes of the people, but prepayment would be, in practice, nothing else than an outrageous tax upon the rural press, which, instead of being oppressed, deserve every encouragement.

In the Eastern States, the children, old and young, have been improving the unbroken opportunity of months, to slide down hill. All sorts of vehicles that would go have been brought into use, and go they did, from the solo passenger on his little sled to the great double-ripper that would carry fifteen or twenty gentlemen and ladies over the road like a runaway thunderbolt. In Boston, as in the revolutionary days, the boys this winter have insisted upon their rights, and their claim upon their thoroughfare across the Common, from Beacon street down, has been recognized by the city which constructed bridges over the route for pedestrians so that the coasters could coast and break nobody's neck but their own. This, in various parts of New England, the coasters have done. Every day there were collisions, more or less serious, on Boston Common, and within the last two days lives have been lost by unmanageable crafts which smashed against obstructions and killed or maimed their riders.

A young man who has for a long time been employed as a book-vender on one of the railroad trains leading into Louisville was detected a few days ago in a practice by which he evaded the gambling laws and at the same time disposed of his wares with wonderful rapidity. He would take two books, put a five-dollar bill in one of them, and allow the passenger with whom he was dealing to take his choice, charging, however, a great deal more than the value of either book for the privilege. By some mysterious chance the passenger always chose the empty book. A police court considered this kind of traffic reprehensible, and the ambitious young man was compelled to pay a good-sized fine and seek other fields of labor.

Charlotte Cushman has published a card in the Chicago newspapers, saying that the announcement of her farewell to the stage in New York last October, made by Jarrett & Palmer, was without her knowledge or consent, and was very embarrassing, as she had other farewells to make in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and St. Louis, for which engagements were pending. She wished to make the explanation in New York, but as all arrangements were completed, she feared it would seem discourteous, and she makes it in Chicago at the beginning of her final trip, because she does not wish to stultify herself.

A rather novel phase of disappointed expectations has just developed at Baltimore. Two old ladies have entered into a suit against the administrator of the estate of a Mr. Robert Tuttle, who, they allege, died owing them for board for twenty-seven years. He had frequently promised them substantial remembrance in his will, relying upon which they had not enforced payment of their claim during his life.

The Glasgow *Herald* reports a case where an entire family nearly lost their lives through an escape of gas into their bedroom. On investigation it was found that rats had gnawed a large hole into one of the pipes.

There is now an oyster famine in the United States, caused by the accumulation of ice at the beds.

☞ The conductor on a train of cars that had just left Malden, Mass., for Haverhill, tapped a man named Dudley, living at Newton, on the shoulder, while collecting fares, yesterday morning, when he discovered all of a sudden that he was dead. Dudley was talking with a fellow passenger at his side, only a few minutes before, and the latter hadn't the slightest idea but that he was well.

☞ Grenier, the late French comedian, owed his fatal illness to curiosity to witness the double execution in Paris. When the first head fell off he burst into fits of uncontrollable laughter, and hid behind the clergyman's carriage to avoid the second spectacle. The excitement brought on a nervous fever.

☞ The Countess Girgenti, daughter of Queen Isabella, is as thin as her royal mamma is fat, and as cross-looking as Isabella is good-natured in appearance. It is said that her temper is "diabolical," and the Parisians do not hesitate to declare that she worried the Count Girgenti into committing suicide.

☞ Mrs. Jones, wife of the Senator, did not get angry when an awkward man trod on her dress at a recent reception and parted the delicate fragment in twain. She picked up the fragment of illusion and smoothed it out, exclaiming, "This will make me a couple of nice white veils."

☞ The Roman Catholics of Germany have resolved to demonstrate their unfaltering allegiance to the Holy See by a pilgrimage to Rome, in which deputations from every diocese in the empire are to take part.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

Social Affairs—Savings Banks—The Doctors and Modern Hats—A Model Ball—The Great Cravat Question.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Feb. 5.

To reduce the expenses for the support of the poor in the city, it has been over and over again urged to send the distressed in body and estate to their respective native places, if they belong to the Provinces. To promote the moral and physical health of Paris, it is now proposed by M. Delasiauve to abolish interments. The plan is this:—Forty-five thousand persons die annually in Paris, and there are 37,000 communes in France, each possessing a cemetery; nothing remains to be done but to transport one or two deceased citizens per year to each commune. The expenses of transport are to be defrayed by voluntary subscriptions and municipal grants, in the common interests of the capital. It is believed that the relatives of the defunct, having generally connections with the Provinces, would like the arrangement. Dr. Caffe, relative to the same subject of public health, maintains that the longevity of individuals and peoples is in proportion to their useful labor, and that the smallness of a national debt—and it would seem, per contra, its greatness also—do not affect death rates, so long as work is constant and remunerative, and favored by natural conditions of climate. Before the war of 1870 the annual national debt tax per head in France was 12½ francs; it is now 20 francs. In England such impost is nearly 22; in Italy, 17½; in Holland, 17; in Spain, 7; and in Switzerland, 1½ francs.

The "white cravat" agitation still reigns; without this tie, on state occasions, no young man on entering life can expect to gain admission either into the elegant or the serious world. Under the First Empire and the Restoration black satin was the favorite cravat; it was considered to be stoical and military. However, after the death of Charles X. in exile, according to the modern fashion for French sovereigns to die, the aristocracy decreed the white cravat, and since 1837 it remains the social law of the land. When Verger was director of the Italian Opera he vainly essayed to impose the white tie, and it was even suggested that he should form a depot of these cravats in the green-room. The manager of the new opera is struggling to regenerate French elegance in this respect, which was a homage also rendered when the sovereign visited the opera.

Jacques Laffitte, when he picked up a pin in the courtyard of Rothschild's offices, was only a poor and obscure employe, but it exhibited such a trait of practical life that the great banker engaged him, and he soon rose to be a millionnaire. Devinct, at present a celebrated manufacturer, was in early life an humble clerk, and avows he laid the foundation of his immense wealth when in 1828 he deposited his first savings of a few francs in the first savings bank opened in Paris. In France, as many efforts are made to induce the working classes to economise something, as to enable them to obtain the employment necessary to do so. The French are by nature thrifty, some might say parsimonious even; better this fault than the vice of extravagance. The mean average daily salary for a workman in Paris is in round numbers five francs, and in the Provinces three; and he ever manages to put by a few sous. His wife is as industrious as himself; where she may bring no fortune at her marriage, she makes up for the deficiency by enriching the house by her unremitting toil. It is proposed to adopt the Belgian system to the French Savings Banks; that of dividing between the depositors all benefits accruing after paying the uniform interest of 3 per cent, who will not have withdrawn their deposits during a period of three years. In Belgium these deposits are loaned to localities to execute public works. The French depositor generally withdraws from the bank each time he has a sufficient sum to purchase a share in the public stocks, hence the aphorism, every inhabitant is inscribed on the state ledger. It is thus that the French themselves have bought in all the scrip held by foreigners in connection with the terrible ransom loan, and to judge of the great wealth of the country, it is only necessary to look at the crowds besieging at present the Treasury to receive their dividends in order to invest them in the municipal loans now in course of being issued.

The doctors appear not to have enough of work on their hands during these influenza and rheumatic times, so they draw attention to the subject of hats as worn by both sexes. Originally the head was covered as a protection against heat, not as against cold; Mercury and Shepherds were the first to wear a head-dress, and the Lacedemonians wore a kind of mitre to distinguish them from their slaves. Ladies generally have enough of hair to protect their heads from cold, and the obligatory parasol will ward off heat; it is thus not necessary to construct bonnets as high as the tower of Babel, loaded with birds and flowers so as to recall a poultry yard or a flower garden. There is no necessity for ladies it seems to change the materials of their hats according to the season, and two hats are enough for an entire year. The wife of Marcus Aurelius was considered extravagant because she used four new bonnets in seventeen years! Dr. Nicolas considers the Grecian hat the style for the girl of the period; it was not only coquettish, but so small as hardly to cover her hair, dark as the raven's wing; he considers the Spanish mantilla to be in point of health and eloquence the model headdress. However, to wear such requires a Spanish education. In France the most ancient hat is that worn by the clergy; the best is the kepi, and the worst the chimney pot, which like all persecuted objects, lives longest. The fez and the turban are excellent for persons liable to headaches and colds; and for old age and babies, a night cap is a necessity.

M. Gunzbourg, the Russian banker, in his late ball to 600 guests, adopted an excellent arrangement for the dancing folks; to the ladies and gentlemen he delivered cockades in white, red, and blue satin; they were divided thus into three *corps* of 25 pairs each; to the ladies he presented a sheathed dagger, and to the gentlemen a card with the arms of a French town emblazoned thereon; at a given signal an escutcheon was run up over the orchestra, displaying the white rosette; the white cockade wearers then formed line; at a signal the ladies drew their daggers, which opened out into elegant fans, having the name of the city thereon; thus the lady with "Raven" fan was sought as partner by the gentleman displaying the "Raven" card. The fun was only equal to the absence of all confusion. Then succeeded the turn for the red and the blue.

In every 1,000 marriages in Paris, 32 of the brides are between the ages of 15 and 16; 233 between 20 and 21; 60 between 26 and 27; 14 between 32 and 33, and 1 between 38 and 39 years.

A weekly periodical, devoted to geography, has been just brought out under important commercial patronage. Frenchmen will henceforth have no excuse not to know at least their own country. It will descend to minute details; Sardon can thus read up that Uncle Sam cannot take a river boat from New York to Chicago, nor Dumas shoot partridges in Piccadilly.

The jury that condemned Moreau to be guillotined for poisoning his two wives can have quiet consciences; the doctors stated that they analysed the stomachs of ten other dead women, but found no poison, such being present only in the case of the dead wives.

At the Mayoralty of Antony, the marriage of "Mlle. Heloise-Abailard" with a M. Reynaud, is announced.

A worthy Vicar gave nearly all his salary to buy bread for his poor parishioners, so that his cassock was threadbare and could not bear further darning; his bishop blamed his worn garment at his visitation, but a few days later sent him the short cloak of a canon to cover his torn soutane.

☞ Recently a man fell a depth of 170 feet into a chasm in the Swiss mountains. He was unhurt. His escape was attributed to the miraculous intervention of a saint whose image he wore. One of the newspapers ridiculed this fancy, and the government authorities have proceeded against the newspaper for "attacking the conscience and morals of the public and for a gross and gratuitous insult to the persons professing the Catholic religion."

☞ We are to have a Life of Lord Shelbourne, the Minister of George III., which will contain much new matter as to the peace negotiations between America and England, which occurred during Shelbourne's Ministry. The first volume includes the years 1737-66.

EXTRAORDINARY NARRATIVE.

Escape of Two French Communists from New Caledonia.

Their Arrival in Queensland—Exciting Adventure in an Open Boat.

Sydney, N. S. W., Jan. 16, 1875.

New Caledonia, under the rule of M. Alleyron, is a much more difficult place to escape from than it was a year ago, owing to the religious supervision exercised over all classes of the community. The news that two deportes had reached Queensland in a small boat was received with incredulity, so well had the secret of their escape been kept by the authorities, and few believe that the boat was their sole mode of conveyance. Great discontent prevails among the prisoners. Their enforced idleness, their want of means to procure anything save what is served out by the government and the new regulations by which any finances sent them from France are filtered through the hands of their keepers, will certainly cause some rash outbreak unless some alteration takes place.

THE ESCAPED COMMUNISTS LANDED IN QUEENSLAND.

The two Communists who reached Queensland in an open boat on December 22nd have been extremely reticent as to their real names. One has evidently been a person of some position in France, and tells the following story of how they escaped:—

HOW THEY GOT AWAY.

The narrator says:—From the time of my arrrival at New Caledonia I constantly brooded over the idea of escaping. The thought was never absent from my mind, and although time passed away without any opportunity occurring, I continually kept making preparations to avail myself of the first chance that offered. From my scanty rations I regularly put apart and concealed a portion, and I managed to accumulate a quantity of flour bagging, out of which I managed during the nights and my leisure time when I could be secure from observation, to make a tolerable sail. I can hardly say in what manner I hoped to find the means of crossing the ocean, but at length the arrival of one of the trading vessels which supply the island with bullocks appeared to afford as good a prospect of success as was likely to occur. My preparations had escaped all attention, and all that remained to be done was to evade the guards, procure a boat and make a dash for it. From the place where I was quartered the ship at anchor, a short distance off the shore, could be plainly seen, and I observed with delight that a boat was floating astern of her. Unable to endure the daily insults and menaces of the wardens, I said to myself, therefore, this night I shall escape or I shall drown myself; one or the other I am determined on. I have but the two things to choose between. Feeling that in an undertaking of this sort one man would be helpless single-handed, I addressed myself to one of my fellow-prisoners whom I knew to be discreet, and to him I confided my resolution. He hesitated a little, but concluded by consenting to share the risk. From this moment I thought no more of putting an end to my existence, but fed all my thoughts on making my way to Australia, where I had always heard people would be ready to give me employment.

On the 8th of December I said to my comrade that we would make a start that same evening. He consented. About an hour after midnight we quitted our quarters, and, eluding the sentries who guarded the camp, we succeeded in gaining the shore. Taking noiselessly to the water, we swam out toward the vessel, and successfully reaching it, cut the painter which attached the boat riding astern and noiselessly impelled it away from the ship. Arrived at a safe distance we scrambled on board and quickly reached the shore. Here we embarked our little store of provender, amounting to twenty-nine biscuits and about twelve or fifteen litres (about eleven or thirteen quarts) of water. My sail we also put on board. We then set out on our course without being so far perceived, either from the shore or by the guard sloop which watched the coast and lay right in our way. Seeing, however, that we should not have time to clear the land that night, we ran into a rocky and wooded part of the shore, where we concealed our boat among the rocks by breaking boughs and heaping them over her. In this situation we lay hid during the whole of the day, in spite of the search which was no doubt made when the boat was missed. The following night we

LEFT OUR HIDING PLACE

and arrived without being perceived at the reefs which intervene between the shore and the open sea. The darkness, which favored us in one respect, nearly caused our ruin in another way, for having no knowledge of the passage through the reefs and not being able to see where dangers lay, we came plump in the midst of the coral. Luckily the sea was calm or we must have been dashed to pieces. And it was, we found it impossible to get clear that night, and were obliged to get out of the boat and hold on to her. Sometimes standing on the coral and sometimes swimming in deep water, so as to prevent the waves from staving her against projections. Here my companion got his foot bady bruised between the keel of the boat and the coral, and had we not both been able to swim, we should certainly have perished. The following morning, at daybreak, we managed to make our way through, and, although the guard sloop saw us, their greater draught, and the long extent of the reef, made pursuit impossible. We set sail as happy as kings, but an hour later our boat was full of water. She had been so bumped on the coral, in spite of all our efforts, that she leaked seriously near the stern. We were compelled to keep bailing with our shoes, night and day.

Our troubles were not diminished by the discovery that

THE WATER KEG SHRUNK,

and we had lost nearly all our water. It lasted us five days, drinking at the rate of a half litre each day—about three-quarters of a pint—and we ate daily a biscuit and a half between us. I had judged that we should not take more than six or seven days in the passage. When seven days had elapsed we only allowed ourselves half a biscuit a day. Matters went on in this fashion during the remainder of the transit. We suffered greatly from thirst, but not so much from hunger. I had the additional worry of keeping up the spirits of my comrade, who on one occasion threw himself into the sea, telling me that I sought to cause him to perish with thirst. We were very nearly coming to blows while far at sea (*en pleine mer*). However, I got him to listen to reason, telling him that we could not possibly exceed ten days in our voyage.

SIGHTED LAND.

At length, on the morning of the 22d of December, we sighted land, and at noon we reached the shore, and, to our unspeakable joy, once more tasted fresh water. We had been four days without water, and during the first three of them had drunk sea water, but found it added to our torments instead of relieving them.

WE WERE RECEIVED BY FOUR BRAVE ENGLISHMEN,

who dashed into the water to meet us, the breakers being very heavy. But for them I believe that we should have been drowned. Thanks to them we sustained no harm. I shall ever have for Englishmen the greatest esteem which man can have for his kind, were it only from the thought of that day on which these men threw themselves into the waves in order to save us, and for all the attention they subsequently bestowed upon us. For their name and their memory I would gladly lay down my life.

☞ An ingenious mechanician connected with the postoffice at Washington has constructed a talking machine which, when wound up, pronounces, on its keys being played on, all the parts of speech with perfect clearness and distinctness. That is, it speaks well for the inventor.

☞ We eat thirty-six lbs. of butter per annum, and only four and a half pounds of cheese. After all the butter is made from 100 pounds of milk, it will yet make six pounds of cheese, each pound worth two pounds of meat; but skim milk cheese cannot be cared.

☞ Vasquez, the California outlaw, and the murderer of thirty-seven persons, now under sentence of death, is ready to go. Mr. Hammond, the revivalist, has been visiting him, and Vasquez is anxious even to leave a world where sin doth so abound.

☞ An English physician, during a lecture to a female audience on the use of alcoholic beverages, asserted that the "babies of London are never sober from their birth until they are weaned."

☞ The Marquis of Hartington, the new liberal leader, made his debut in a criticism of the reference in the royal adress to Alfonso, and Disraeli called the leader's speech a string of "grotesque reminiscences."

☞ Mr. George H. Lewes' "Problems of Life and Mind" has reached its second volume, which is devoted chiefly to logical processes.

New Advertisements.

NOTICE.

All persons having Claims against or indebted to **The London Sewing Machine Co.** Are requested to send the same to the undersigned on or before **THE FOURTH OF MARCH. 1875.**

S. PETERS, President L.S.M.Co.

London, Feb. 26, 1875. d-eod-v

BROWN & MORRIS
DEALERS IN
HARDWARE
Glass, Paints, Oils, Cordage, Leather Belting.
Counter and Platform Scales,
Spades, Shovels, Garden Tools, etc.,
CORNER DUNDAS & CLARENCE STS.
feb.26 LONDON. d-ly

DRY GOODS STOCK FOR SALE.

TENDERS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL

The 4th day of March Next,

For the purchase of the Stock-in Trade, Fixtures and Book Debts of S. C. SMITH, of Windsor, amounting per inventory, as follows:—

Stock	$4,130 00
Fixtures	69[illegible] 00
Book Debts	95 00
Total	$4,918 00

Tenders to be at a $ rate on invoice, as taken, and may be made for each portion of the estate separately, or all together. The Stock List may be seen on application to D. Cameron, Esq., Windsor. Tenders to be endorsed, "Tenders for Smith Stock," and to be addressed to John McCrae, Esq., Windsor, stating time wanted for payment, security, etc.

JOHN McLEAN, Assignee.

Montreal, Feb. 19, 1875. feb.26,d-v,26,mar.1,3

SPETTIGUE HALL.

Tuesday, February 23, 1875
AND DURING THE WEEK.

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE CANADA'S FAVORITES,

THE GUY FAMILY

Great English Comedy, Opera, Burlesque, and
PANTOMIME TROUPE.

The World-renowned Guy Brothers, in conjunction with the celebrated gymnasts, Leroux Brothers, and Niblo, the French clown, received with roars of laughter and rounds of applause.

☞ The hall will be well warmed.

Prices as usual—25 and 50 cents.

☞ Matinee for Ladies and Children, SATURDAY AFTERNOON. Children 10 Cents.

London, Feb. 23, 1875. d-tf

A 1
BARBER'S SHOP,
TRACY'S
Opposite Revere House. The patronage of the public respectfully solicited. feb.24,d-eod-ly

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GOOD NEWS
FOR THE PEOPLE.

Cheaper than the Cheapest.

BETTER THAN THE BEST!

C. F. COLWELL & CO.

have a splendid Stock of

Pianos & Organs!

and are selling them at lower prices than ever. Call and try an **Andrus Organ, or an Emerson Piano Forte,**—as they take the lead everywhere.

Satisfaction guaranteed and every Instrument Warranted for five years.

C. F. COLWELL & CO.,
GENERAL
MUSIC DEALERS
200 Dundas St.,
LONDON, ... ONTARIO.
Febuary 26, 1874.

CLARK'S ELEPHANT
SPOOL COTTON
Gives Better Satisfaction
than any other make,
FOR SEWING MACHINE USE.

We recommend this superior Thread to our customers, and

Keep constantly on hand a full Assortment.

A. CHISHOLM & CO.
Dundas Street.

GOTHIC HALL,
Established 1846.

Now is the time to use DISINFECTANTS. The following are some of the principal in use:

CARBOLIC ACID,
CHLORIDE OF LIME,
PERMANGANATE OF POTASS,
SULPHATE OF IRON,
BROMO-CHLORALINE.

Directions how to use any of the above can be had at the GOTHIC HALL.

B. A. MITCHELL & SON,
Dundas St. West, London, Ont.

THOROUGH AND PRACTICAL Instructions given on the **Violin, Cello, Guitar, Piano, Flute** &c., Also in Singing,

BY DR. MILLS,

Late New York Conservatory of Music. Those particularly requiring rapid advancement in Music will find it greatly to their advantage to give Dr. M. a trial. Residence—Mrs. Campbell's, Talbot Street, London. nov.11,d-hn

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Canada Stained Glass Works
King Street West, Toronto.

PATENT INDIA RUBBER

Banner and Flag Painting,
On Best Seamless Silk.

JOSEPH McCAUSLAND, Proprietor
jan.16,d-vn

SIX CENTS WILL DO IT!
DO WHAT?
Why, Cook a Dinner for 12!
that is if you use one of
Cooey's Lamp Cooking APPARATUS.

BE SURE AND SEE IT. It is now on exhibition at T. RICHARDSON'S Confectionery, opposite the Temperance Hall.

J. G. COOEY, Inventor.
R. A. McELHERAN, Agent.
feb.20,6-eod-fn

New Advertisements.

WATERWORKS BY-LAW.

Estimate of the Expenditure to be incurred in the Erection of Waterworks, according to the certificate of Thos. C. Keefer, Esq., C.E.:—

Pumping basin	$ 3 000
Engine and boilers with buildings, &c., erected	55 000
Rising the main	12 000
Reservoirs and connections	40 000
Country main	100 000
Grading pipe track	10 000
Distribution	100 000
Contingencies, including Engineering	30 000
Purchase of site, and right of way, and expense of negotiating debentures, say	50 000
	$400 000

Notice is Hereby Given

That the foregoing are the Estimates of the Intended

EXPENDITURE

To be incurred in the Construction of

WATERWORKS,

For which provision is made by the proposed by-law hereunder written; and take notice that a poll of the

QUALIFIED ELECTORS,

Of the City of London on the said proposed By-law will be held on

Monday, 29th day of March

A. D. 1875, at the undermentioned places:—

First Ward—At the City Hall.

Second Ward—At the Mechanics' Institute.

Third Ward—At the Fireman's Hall.

Fourth Ward—At the house of Mr. Jas. Percival, on North street.

Fifth Ward—At the School House, on Colborne street.

Sixth Ward—At the house of Widow Hillier, on Colborne street, between Great Market and Bond streets.

Seventh Ward—At the School House, on Waterloo street.

And that the polls will be opened at each of the said respective places at the hour of nine o'clock in the forenoon, and be continued open until five o'clock in the afternoon of the said day.

Dated at the City of London, this 22nd day of February, A. D. 1875.

ALEX. S. ABBOTT, City Clerk.

By-law to provide for the construction of waterworks and the issue of waterworks debentures.

Whereas, by an Act of the Legislature of Ontario, passed in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, chaptered one hundred and two, and entitled "An Act for the Construction of Waterworks for the City of London," it is amongst other things, provided that the corporation of the said city, by and through the agency of Commissioners and their successors, to be elected and appointed as therein provided, might and should have power to design, construct, build, purchase, improve, hold, and generally maintain, manage and conduct waterworks, and all buildings, matters, machinery and appliances therewith connected, or necessary thereto, in the city of London, and parts adjacent, as therein provided, and for that purpose to issue debentures, to be called "Waterworks Debentures," for a sum of money not exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, in the manner therein set forth;

And whereas, the amount of the estimated expenditure for the said waterworks is the sum of four hundred thousand dollars;

And whereas, the Municipal Council of the corporation of the city of London has determined to proceed with the construction of the said waterworks, by and through the agency of Water Commissioners, in manner provided by the said act, and to issue for that purpose debentures for the said sum of four hundred thousand dollars, which is the amount of debt which it is intended to create by the construction of the said waterworks;

And whereas, for the payment of the said debentures and interest, it will require the sum of forty-two thousand eight hundred and fifteen dollars to be raised annually by special rate in each year after the completion of the said works, or after the expiration of three years from the date of the first issue of such debentures;

And whereas, the amount of the whole rateable property of the said municipality, irrespective of any future increase in the same, or of any income in the nature of rents or income to be derived from the said waterworks, or from the temporary investment of the sinking fund hereinafter mentioned, or any part thereof, according to the last revised assessment roll of the said city, being for the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, is the sum of seven millions six hundred and five thousand and ninety dollars;

And whereas, the amount of the existing debt of the said city is one million one hundred and fifty thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight dollars, whereof the whole is principal, and no sum is due for interest in arrear;

And whereas, for paying the interest and creating an equal yearly sinking fund for paying the said sum of four hundred thousand dollars, and interest according to the provisions of the above recited act, it will require an equal annual special rate of five mills and seven-tenths of a mill in the dollar, in addition to all rates to be levied in each year as aforesaid,

Therefore, the said Municipal Council enacts as follows:—

1. That waterworks for the said city of London shall, and the same are hereby authorized, to be constructed, managed and maintained by and through the agency of Commissioners, and in manner provided by the said recited act.

2. That for the purpose of constructing the said waterworks it shall be lawful for the Mayor to raise by way of loan from any person or persons, body or bodies corporate, who may be willing to advance the same upon the credit of the debentures hereinafter mentioned, the sum of four hundred thousand dollars, and to cause the same to be paid into the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at the said city of London, to be kept and applied in manner provided by the said recited act.

3. That it shall be lawful for the Mayor to cause any number of debentures to be made and issued for the moneys, so to be raised as aforesaid, but not for less than one hundred dollars currency, or twenty pounds sterling each — such debentures to be made under the common seal of the said city, and signed by the Mayor and Treasurer.

4. That the said debentures shall be made payable in thirty years from the date of the respective issues thereof, either in sterling money of Great Britain, or currency, in this province, Great Britain or elsewhere, and shall have attached to them coupons for the payment of interest.

5. That the said debentures shall bear interest after the rate of seven per cent. per annum from the date thereof, and such interest shall be payable half yearly in each and every year.

6. That for the purpose of forming a sinking fund for the payment of the said debentures and the interest thereon, an equal annual special rate of five mills and seven-tenths of a mill in the dollar shall be levied and collected, in addition to all other rates in each year after the completion of the said waterworks, or at the expiration of three years from the first issue of such debentures, upon all the rateable property in the said city, during the currency of the said debentures, or any of them.

7. That all moneys arising from the said special rate beyond the sum required for the payment of the interest upon the said debentures, shall be invested by the said Treasurer in each year, as the Council of the said Corporation shall direct, for the purpose of creating a sinking fund for the redemption of the said debentures, as they respectively become due.

8. That this by-law shall come into operation and take effect on the tenth day of April, A. D. 1875.

Passed in open Council this .... day of .... in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

London, Feb. 24, 1875. d-mar27

New Advertisements.

SPRING IMPORTS.
1875.

JOHN BIRRELL & CO.,
HAVE RECEIVED
235 PACKAGES OF
STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS
Which are now open for Inspection.

JOHN BIRRELL & CO.

London, Feb. 22, 1875. d-tf

TWO THOUSAND YARDS
OF
OXFORD AND ZEPHYR SHIRTINGS
IN BEAUTIFUL
NEW PATTERNS, FOR SPRING OF 1875.

THOSE, TOGETHER WITH

WHITE DRESS SHIRTS,

Will be made up to order IN THE LATEST AMERICAN STYLES, samples of which are now in Stock.

☞ Positively the only place in the city that constantly employs a PROFESSIONAL SHIRT CUTTER.

ROBERT WALLACE,
CLOTHIER AND GENTS' OUTFITTER,
First Door North of City Hall, Richmond St.

WALKER'S CLOTHING WAREHOUSES, | **DUNDAS ST., LONDON AND TORONTO.**

KEEP THE BEST MADE CLOTHING

Make all their Own Clothing.

Keep the Best Cut Clothing at a Low Price

Keep every Style and Size. Look for the Sign.

GOLDEN

LION!

Tweed Suits, Black Cloth Suits, Melton Suits,
Silk Mixed Suits, Boys' and Youths' Suits, Large Assortment,
Nobby and Cheap. One Price Store the Popular House.

R. WALKER & SONS,
DUNDAS ST., LONDON.
d-eod

LET ORDERS receive the best possible value.

AND THE GREATEST CARE and attention.

TEAS,

EXTRA VALUE, In good **MEDIUMS**

and fresh clean **LOW GRADES.**

ROBT. J. GRIFFITH,
(Late W. & R. Griffith,)
TORONTO.
ESTABLISHED 1861.

Toronto, Feb 15, 1875. d-aug.17

BOOTS, SHOES & RUBBERS
The Lowest Prices and the
LARGEST STOCK IN THE CITY.
SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
TRUNKS, VALISES AND SATCHELS.
Montreal Store, 167 Dundas Street.
E. ROWLAND.

New Boot and Shoe Store.

WE BEG TO INFORM OUR FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY, that we

HAVE OPENED OUT
IN THE
Boot & Shoe Business,
AT
196 DUNDAS STREET,

Where we intend to keep a first-class stock of every variety of Goods, which we can sell at prices to compete with any Store in the city.

All our Goods are NEW, STYLISH, DURABLE AND CHEAP.

A call respectfully solicited.

A. J. WEBSTER & CO.
London, Feb. 22, 1875. d-tf

R. DENNIS,

HORSE SHOER, Blacksmith, &c.,
MANUFACTURER OF
Bolts for Bridges and Building Purposes.

Not to be Equalled in the Dominion of Canada.

Fencing for Cemeteries and House Fronts MADE TO ORDER.

IMPROVED IRON HARROWS
KING STREET, opposite Clarence House, London, Ont.

W. WILLIS, DEALER IN LUMBER, LATH, Shingles, Cedar Posts, etc., Flooring and Siding, dressed and undressed. Yard—North side of York street, opposite the G.W.R. Passenger Station. A good assortment always on hand, cheap for cash. jan.15,d-ly

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GOLDEN SYRUP VINEGAR
PRONOUNCED BY PROF. CROFT
EXCELLENT FOR PICKLING PURPOSES

Address R. E. CHARLTON, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. 6 d-vn