When Johnny Carves the Duck.

We all look on with anxious eyes
When Johnny carves the duck,
And mother almost always sighs
When Johnny carves the duck.
Then all of us prepare to rise,
And hold our bibs before our eyes,
And be prepared for some surprise—
When Johnny carves the duck.

He braces up and grabs a fork
Whene'er he carves a duck,
And won't allow a soul to talk
Until he's carved the duck.
The fork is jabbed into the side,
Across the breast the knife he slides,
While every careful person hides
From flying chips of duck.

The platter's always sure to slip
When Johnny carves a duck,
And how it makes the dishes skip!
Dances fly amuck!
Squash and cabbage leap in space,
We some gravy in our face,
Johnny mutters Hindoo grace
Whene'er he carves a duck.

We then have learned to walk around
The dining-room and pluck
From off the window-sills and walls
Some share of Johnny's duck;
While Johnny growls and blows and jaws,
And swears the knife was full of flaws,
And mother jeers at him because
He couldn't carve a duck.

—*B. V. Wright.*

THE PRIMA DONNA.

With its curious—almost prophetic—eccentricity I recalled the last Persian poem which I had translated for my professor in Florence. The argument was all that I remembered, but in it I seemed to see myself and to receive a vague suggestion for the future. I was this:

"Prone upon the sand extended,
Shadows with a shadow blended;
Hidden in a deep recess
Of Persia's prodden wilderness.
Fiercely at the far west lying,
Flashed the day, in crimson dying,
Zoroaster's altar-fires
Pervading Persia's wilderness.

"And the fiery crimson lining,
On the desert's silver shining,
Left the shadow's deep impress;
Phantom of the wilderness!
(One from Ishmael descended,
With his knee to Allah bended)
And his cry of deep distress
Awoke the sleeping wilderness.
Facing then the fiery shading
From the east, in darkness fading,
Thus, to Mecca, to address
His prayer, in Persia's wilderness:

"'Nammi Ullah hi wulhamdah!'
Pleaded low the Persian u and h.
'Thou, and thou alone, canst bless
Thy power pervades the wilderness.'

"Lo! The prayer returned in blessing;
And, the prostrate form addressing,
Spake an angel!—nothing less:
'O Pilgrim of the wilderness!
By the grace of Ilah, sending
From His throne of light, and sending
Succor, lo! for thy distress
I come to lead thy wilderness.
Look about thee and discover
That for which, thy bondage over,
Thou wast sent in sacredness
To probe the prodden wilderness.'

"He turned to obey, but in dismay
He beheld the angel grow old and gray
And to the desert, drearily
Stretching before him, wearily
Turn to the pilgrim's prodden way.

"'Bismillah! For me thou shalt not be
Aged and old and gray!' cried he.
'Allah forbid it! I will not boast
Salvation purchased at such cost;
Why should my crime b. laid to thee?'

"'Thy crime shall be dead,' the angel said
'As dieth the day in yon gloaming red.
But God nor man can blessing bring
Without vicarious suffering—
—The joy that suffers in other's stead.'

"'Naught have I done, immortal one,
That my curse from me to thee should run.'

"'It was thy importunity.
God pities weak humanity;
Loving all life beneath the sun.
'Tis Allah alone who doth atone.
Rus-jil-Ullah! Beyond him is none
Can suffer in our equity
And unto him be guaranty,
To His for Him thy thanks be shown.
Arrest thy rage. He doth engage
Thy curse, for ten years, to assuage;
And thou shalt see, in charity
One deed of such great rarity
As blots a crime from Memory's page.
When it is done and rain-in woe,
Haste to the desert and I will run,
The joyful message carrying,
To Him who know no tarrying
To pardon a penitent, pleading one.'"

That day I wrote to my father's bankers, requesting them to order the disposal of everything belonging to me and to forward the proceeds at the earliest possible moment. Then I waited. The sum was larger than I had hoped for and in itself it gave me courage. It was accompanied, however, by a very curious letter that was full of vague suggestions, from which it was easy to discover that my old friends in Florence had no suspicion whatever that I had been in an abnormal state, and were not only chagrined and astounded in the transformation that had taken place in me, after my father's death, but were seriously offended, too, over the brutal defiance I had exhibited; but I did not write again to gather further information or offer any further explanation. I knew of no apology for what I had been, and was eager that the dead past should hasten to bury its dead out of the way of what I hoped to be. The principal question which arose was for the future. Where could I go? Should it be back to Italy? No. To Germany? No. Remain in Paris? No. What then? Why, my dear friend, that is the answer to the question which you asked me at the outset, and which started me off upon this long egotistical ramble. That, indeed, is how and why I came to America.

Life without a charm, love without a hope, determination without an ambition, a past without pride and a future without promise, all came, as boon companions, with me. The rest you remember; that is, I take it for granted that you do. How I first taught drawing and then the languages, and then obtained a professorship in your grand university. You know how many friends I found in that generous contiguity of charity for all, making life's desert blossom with roses, and malice for none, robbing the roses of their thorns. My only disappointment was in my failure to do, in charity, some deed which I might fondly fancy tended toward atonement; for I met with so much of precisely what I would have bestowed upon others that I found myself only imperfectly able to return kindness with kindness.

You remember when Mina made her first grand triumph in America, how you were with the throngs that gathered to hear her sing, and how you joined in those ovations and wondered that I, so fond of music, would let anything call me away from the city while she was there. Now you understand, it was because I knew at last my utter unworthiness and dared not to risk some fatal accident that might have brought us face to face. The love was still in my heart, you see, as dominant as ever, but it had changed from that audacious selfishness to a timid but all-absorbing devotion. Twice Mina's scorn had only angered me, but at last I had reached a state where I knew that a rebuke from her would kill me; and I could not rest in the city until I knew that she was gone.

The next time that she came to America you remember I was blind. I no longer feared that I might see her. The injury which I had done to my eyes in Florence, and the insults added in Paris, had reached the fulness of retributive justice in depriving me of the power to distinguish not color from color alone, but day from night. It was just ten years since I had turned into the new way, and, in the final deprivation, I had joy, at least, in the discovery that, during that time, I had made some little progress in the way of doing better. Upon waking in the morning to realize that I was blind, I did not turn at once to torment myself with my own misery, as before, but, to my astonishment, began to set in order many things about it which seemed to me to call for gratitude; for the sake of the friends about me I was glad that there was no apparent change in my eyes, so far as the world saw them; and for myself I was inexpressibly grateful that it had not come ten years earlier, in Paris; then withal, when I had so heartily abused that which I once possessed, what reason could I urge why I should not now patiently endure the loss of that which I had once abused?

CHAPTER XXI.

THE MORNING.

Leonora's curse was satisfied. For the first time and the last I had looked into the eyes I loved, over her lifeless breast. A thorny path had been the one which I had followed to see the sunrise. My day had dawned in darkness, and, verily, my morning light fell upon a cloud and not on me. Yet, withal, into my darkness there stole the brightness of the shining of a quiet, peaceful morning. It was not the rapturous triumph of motion which I had so earnestly sought. It was not the dazzling triumphant morning which my ambition had painted, but she still, soft reflection of the silver lining of the cloud, falling in mercy upon a penitent in sackcloth and ashes, humbly bending to the rod that smote him, kissing the gentle hand of Fate that had allowed him ten years for something a little better than that which he had evolved for himself, up to the time when he touched the hem of Mina's garment.

Thanks to the kindness of friends I found myself in this delightful home upon the Hudson. I have never seen the "Rhine without a citadel of tyranny," but as I hear its murmur from my veranda, I seem to know it as an old friend, for I recall the vivid pictures which my father painted for me, with his pen, long years ago, when he was wandering upon its banks. And, fortunately, though I possessed sufficient means to support myself with moderate economy, it has not proved necessary for me to live as utterly useless life. Thanks to my father, I yet had the talent of an education, and, to utilize it, found some young men whose ambitions led them higher than poverty allowed them to aspire, and for them I opened a free evening school, fitting them for college. This soon so far outgrew its limits that through the day I found myself conducting a real private school of languages.

It was a suggestive thought, occasionally coming into my night, that this capacity, without which my life would now be such an utter blank, where instead it has been filled with pleasure, was the only acquisition which I had not abused, and the only good thing which I had received, for which I had tried to find any abnormal adaptation to the aim of my one ambition.

Era long it was absolutely necessary that I have an assistant, and I had hardly realized the need when, providentially, a colleague was secured for me, possessing all the requirements for the peculiar position. He was a German youth of superior education and remarkable ability, and at once he grew so much into my life, as well as my labor, that I wondered how I had ever succeeded without him. Though young, he was skilled in all the modern languages, and was more apt than I in imparting them, so that he soon relieved me entirely in that department, while, in our hours of rest, he was so much a companion and friend as well that, in time, I found myself almost kneeling at a confessional while we conversed.

It was the first time in my life that I had ever experienced the delight of whispering life's sentiments and sorrows to a sympathetic ear. Perhaps I might wisely have heard an admonitory whisper saying: "Go bury thy sorrow, the world has its share. Go bury it deeply. Go hide it with care." But I thought of the German proverb: "*Durch Erfahrung wird mann klug,*" and hoped that my experience might be for my young friend the wisdom which my father's would have been for me had I given my thoughts to his warnings. Here it would have ended had not my colleague beguiled me with shrewd and searching questions, delicately hidden in susceptible avenues, still, unwittingly, I was led deeper and deeper in the confessing, till, at last, everything was confessed. It came about more in the way of discussion than as an open confessional, and we argued warmly sometimes over the various motives and lack of motives; first and second causes and extent of responsibility; having what my companion would laughingly call an hour at metaphysics when the pupils left us to be our own teachers.

I protested that my own life was being made too much the text book, but my colleague only laughed and said:

"That is quite as it should be, Professor, for it is a book which you can read."

I remarked, too, that the ground which he took in arguing was always one to palliate my errors and find plausible excuses therefor. Laughing again, he said:

"We never see ourselves as others see us. Sometimes it is for better; sometimes it is for worse. We may have the right of it, I suppose, and equally well we may have the wrong. For years, as you say, Professor, you had yourself very much better than you really were. I wonder if it be not possible that, in the reaction, you are now far enough the other way to make up in all a fair average."

Well, it was thus that I told my story, and this it is, just as I am sending it to you now; for, unseen by my blind eyes, while I told it my colleague was transcribing it word for word, as he drew from me the story of my life.

It was while this was going on that we discussed the errors and weaknesses, which to-day I so bitterly regret, and I gained a much clearer understanding of myself, which would very greatly aid me—*if* I were to live my life over.

"We are coming to the end," I said, one day, "and I am hoping that you will permit it, that your life shall be the next volume for us to study. We shall have a happier time of it, I am sure, my friend, for it stands without saying, it sounds in your very voice, that we shall have sunshine instead of clouds to discuss, and after my night we shall the better appreciate your morning."

"When we have done with this volume, you shall choose the next according to your pleasure," he replied. "If you wish to discuss my life, why—yes, there will be sunshine; but no morning sun shines the whole day. The sword of Damocles, unseen, hangs over many a sovereign of sunshine. The skeleton, unnoticed, stands in its closet behind the chair of many a host, of smiles. Too lose an investigation may out that hair and unbolt the door, but there is no need of shaking the skeleton prematurely. 'Sufficient unto the day,' you know, Professor, and we have yet the pleasantest part of the present volume left to us. I assure you that it has been to me interesting, suggestive, instructive and, why, I can hardly say what it has not been to me. We have at least an hour before sunset, and I am eager for what is to come. Let us proceed to the last chapter. You found—

CHAPTER XXII.

THE LAST CHAPTER.

"—You found that you were blind. How did you think of it?"

"It seemed to me more of a just reward than what we unjustly call a punishment," I replied. "And my chief regret is that I have so poorly succeeded in anything more than repaying kindness with kindness; doing so little as casting bread upon the waters, so little loving as God loves."

"To what end?" he asked.

"That to me (and to her, I suppose, if she should ever know of it) it might be a guaranty that my desire at least was to do better."

"Do you know the effect of every act considered by divine economy, so well that you can say to a certainity that you have failed?" he asked.

"Surely," I replied, "one knows much if not all instinctive revelation and reflex action."

"What then," he asked, "is your criterion?"

"The consciousness of personal sacrifice and the heart's appreciable benefit," I responded promptly.

There was a curious solemnity in the full, rich voice that, without further comment, repeated:

"'Have we not prophesied in Thy name, and in Thy name cast out demons and in Thy name done many wonderful works?'"

"You are right," I said, smiling. "You have the Master's authority when you depreciate a confidence in that criterion, so far as the soul's here after faith is considered; but what, for instance, would you suggest as an established criterion for him who longs for something of that consolation here?"

Again the full, melodious voice replied:

"'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these.'"

"That," I replied with a deep sigh, "is the gentle criterion established by the ineffable love of the Most High. God grant me mercy upon a judgment more charitable than I could judge. I think you are bringing too much of the hereafter as an element in the here. When, for myself, I cannot, how shall I venture to ask of another mortal to look at me trough the eyes of the Almighty?"

"It needs not the Infinite, Professor. The very finite mind can easily realize that to err is but a human weakness. Who has not erred?" he asked.

"To forgive is a divine compassion," I replied. "And when I have been so egregiously human is there any justice in my thinking that she should be divine?"

There was a moment's pause, followed by five words of such strange complication that they startled me: "Her God has forgiven you?"

It did not appear as an interrogation, but as as the shadow of a thought, falling accidentally upon the tongue, without intention, and equally without consideration I replied:

"Unworthy as I am, I surely trust with all my soul that her God has forgiven me."

Again a moment's pause, and again that gentle voice pronounced the startling enquiry: "Is she greater than her God?"

I could not see my companion's face, but I know that the zeal of sympathy was in it and was not angry; but feeling that we had carried the discussion too far, I replied

"If I could feel, some day, only that she saw in the past, in my waywardness, something, after all, of the imperfect love I bore her, that she were willing to find such excuses as you have found, dear friend; that when she thought of me she realized that, at the least, I had tried to do better; that she knew how bitterly I regret that so often and so much my thoughts have wronged her; if I could feel this, dear friend, I should be happy. I should possess infinitely more of forgiveness than I can ever hope for or deserve."

His startling comment was:

"Who knows but love may still abide with her?"

"Love!" I exclaimed. "Love in her heart for me! Dear friend, how soon you have forgotten all that I have told you of myself. Love overcoming such abhorrence? Love for a blind man

"I am thinking more of what you have told me about her," my friend replied, speaking very slowly. "You have not represented her as being less than human, that she should so persist in condemnation. I do not believe that she is cruel. Forgive me, Professor, I am speaking from my heart. Such sentiments as were provoked by yesterday to be drawn into to-day would simply be diabolical. I can better believe that, even now, she is tormented, yes, more than you have been, with thoughts that she has been in the wrong. Nay, Professor, let me speak, for it is in my heart. What if she realized she had erred? What if as bitterly as you, and as earnestly she longed to be forgiven? I will speak it, Professor; it has grown and grown upon me. You shall not interrupt me until I am done, for you are doing her to-day a great injustice. You are wronging her to think that she cannot forgive. Nay, I can almost believe, at this moment, that she is thinking that after her cruelty to you, though that, too, was meant in love, it is you, instead, who cannot forgive. Pardon me, Professor; in my earnestness I forgot to be respectful; but I believe that she is right; I believe that she has carried her austerity too far. I believe at this moment she would gladly come to you and tell you of her penitence, with heart in her eyes acknowledge she had blundered, that when she might have opened her arms to you, as her longing heart had urged her, she had misjudged you and driven you farther into wrong. Oh, I wish I could open your heart to understand it so. Perhaps she might do it. If she were to make some very great sacrifice; if she were to give up all the world to be with you now, to try to prove to you her love and her sorrow, and if, upon her knees, she should plead with you and tell you how blank and empty was the world to her, till you forgave her and took her to your heart again, as the only loving, longing hope of all her life—Think of it—Professor! I tell you it is possible. Think of it. Could you not, would you not believe her?"

"Dear friend," I replied after a moment's pause, almost choking with emotion. "No, I should not believe it, even if Mina herself should say to me that she was cruel or wrong. Your kind heart is too full of sympathy for what I am to appreciate what I have been."

He had nothing more to say, and we sat a little longer in silence. Then I heard his step as he crossed the room, and I new that he was standing by the open window.

"Is it sunset yet?" I asked. But he made no reply. He was thinking too deeply; thinking of my sorrow. I could hear him sigh but nothing more, till softly, like the distant warble of a bird when one must breathe lightly to listen, and he stood at the window a quivering note and another of that dear old song of which we had been talking:

"Ich weiss nicht, was soll es bedeuten,
Das ich so traurig bin;"

How strangely my life had woven itself in and out of that song, till Mina, my father, my friend, in thinking of me must think of the Lorelei. For a moment I thought that my heart had borne me back to Boppard, and forgot that it was my companion who was singing, unconsciously, as his thoughts of me wove themselves about the song of the Lorelei. He had never sung before, but, even in that simple strain, there was the force of a rich, melodious voice that thrilled me, almost as when Mina had sung it upon the Arno. I would not ask him to sing louder, for he could not sing it so sweetly if he were conscious, but rising, softly, I approached him needing no guiding hand if the Lorelei led me on. I had almost reached the window when he began the last verse and a sudden pang of regret shot from my heart. In the strange joy that had filled me with that singing I had not thought of the little trill at the end; the rest might be almost as sweet as Mina could have sung it, but that trill was more than all the song to me. I could have stopped him, but each note breathed so much of a warm heart's sympathy, that, for his love for me, I thought it were better that I should suffer than that he should know how his song had caused me pain, and when I stood in silence as each clear note fell—a sad, sweet memory of the lost, she unforgotten:

"Ich glaube die Wellen verschlingen
Am Ende Schiffer und Kahn;
Und das hat mit ihrem Singen
Die Loreley gethan."

Boppard! Florence! That trill!

"Mina! My Mina!" I cried, springing forward. And two arms wound tenderly about my neck, and a loving whisper fell upon my ear:

"Yes, Carlo! My Carlo! Mina's here; not to forgive, Carlo, but to be forgiven. Only believe me! Only take me to your heart again!"

And this is what, with her singing, my Lorelei has done.

What then? Why, for you, too, God grant it, out of the night into the morning.

THE END.

ROBERT GEO. WATTS, M. A., M. D., M. R. C. S., of Albion House, Quadrant Road, Canonbury N., London, Eng., writes: "I cannot refrain from testifying to the efficacy of St. Jacobs Oil in cases of chronic rheumatism, sciatica and neuralgia."

Mine Discoveries in Leadville.

Many of the discoveries were made by men who had no knowledge of metallurgy or of practical mining, and they achieved success through the sheerest blundering. Two poor and ignorant men named Gallagher opened the Camp Bird mine; a prospector who shot a deer for dinner one day saw that there were sparkles in the earth that the animal kicked up in its last agony, and staked his claim there when he found that these bright specs were carbon. The rich deposit found by a recluse named Fryer, who lived in a dirty cabin, gave the name of Fryer Hill to the locality. A man having died one winter, his friends engaged a sexton to put the body in snow until the ground thawed; he started to dig a hole in the drift, but struck ground sooner than he expected, and not only found but carbonate, the "dead man's claim" panning out, as she saying is, to the great profit of the sexton. Senator Tabor kept a little grocery in Leadville, and took part of a mine in payment of a claim for $30 that he had advanced to the owners, the mine returning to him over $2,000,000.

—*Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine.*

The Devil's Holiday.

New York *Herald*: When the devil hears about a new scheme for "ameliorating the condition of the heathen" he just takes a stroll through the New York slums and smiles softly to himself.

A despatch from Rome says that the Italian Government has threatened to suspend all diplomatic relations with the United States if a reply is not given to-day to its last communication on the New Orleans matter.

The water in the Welland Canal will be drawn off from the 18th to the 25th April, in order that the annual repairs may be made. The mills and factories on the old canal will in consequence be shut down during that time.

The troopship Himalaya has arrived at Plymouth from India having on board a large number of soldiers. There were 200 cases of influenza among the troops during the last fortnight, but none of them had a fatal termination.

The Kansas City Packing Company which failed last November and which has recently been re-organized with a capital stock of $2,000,000 and is now styled the "Phœnix Packing Company," has resumed active operations.

Jayeharp (a musical enthusiast)—Who is your favorite composer, Mr. Gazley? Gazley—Well, Dr. Choker composes me sooner than any other minister I ever listened to.

Robert Mantell will be under his own management next season. He closed his engagement with Pitou's management last Saturday night in New York.

"Alabama," a new American play by Augustus Thomas, has been produced at A. M. Palmer's Theatre, New York, and has made a hit. Maurice Barrymore plays the leading role.

He (gazing at the stars)—I wonder which are the evil stars? She—The ones that wink. Certainly such conduct is very reprehensible.

Unless a woman can be jealous she cannot be in love, but if she is really in love it is impossible for her to be jealous.

The Nova Scotia budget shows a deficit $45,559.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Mowat and Mr. Cleland introduced Mr. Gilbert McKechnie, the member recently elected for South Grey.

Mr. Fraser, in reply to Mr. Wood (Hastings), said that the Government would be ready to go on with the debate on the fees of officials on Wednesday week.

Mr. Tait, in moving the second reading of the Bill respecting the examination of stationary engineers and the inspection of stationary boilers, said that a great deal might be adduced in support of a measure which gave greater security to the public from explosions or accidents. The Bill made provision that competent persons might be in charge of stationary engines, and that boilers should be inspected. When the Bill passed its second reading, he proposed so move a reference to committee, so that any objections might be heard.

Mr. Hudson said the Bill had been before the House three or four times, and was no less objectionable now than when it was defeated previously. It would be impossible for many of the most practical engineers to pass a technical examination, and therefore the Bill would inflict a great injustice.

Mr. Fraser thought it would not be unfair to allow the bill to go to committee. Whilst many might not be prepared to go as far as the bill, they might consider it a wise thing to sanction an association which could examine and give certificates to those who desired to have them. This would place the engineers in a position similar to the architects and chartered accountants, as was proposed to be done in the case of dentists and embalmers. He trusted that the bill would be allowed to go to committee.

After further deliberation the bill was referred to a committee composed of Messrs. Dryden, Davis, Gilmour, Garrow, Bayside, Clancy, Wood (Brant), Hudson, Mackenzie (West Lambton), Whitney, Mscampbell and Tait.

Mr. Fraser suggested that the committee should have power to report any other bill in substitution.

Mr. Wood (Brant) moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and diseases affecting fruit trees. The especial object of this bill was to include smut, or grain infected by smut, with noxious weeds. Section 1 of the bill provided for the amendment of the Act by adding the words "to cut or pull or burn any smut growing separate from wheat or other grain as often as any shall appear during the growth of such grain in any season." Section 10 of the Act is amended by adding the words "Any person who knowingly sows any wheat or other grain infected by smut without first destroying the germs of disease shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than $5 nor more than $20." The bill received its second reading, and was passed to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Dryden, Awrey, Bishop, Charlton, McColl, Preston, Meacham, Kerns, Bush, Glendinning, Blezard, Mackenzie (Lambton), Carpenter and Wood.

Mr. Caldwell, in moving the second reading of the bill to prevent the extermination of the plant called ginseng, said the plant was very valuable for export. The object of the bill was to prevent the pulling of the plant before the berry is ripe. He read an extract from Kingsford's History of Canada which stated that in 1752 the export of ginseng was valued at $100,000. Such was the profit from the gathering of this plant that farming was neglected for the pursuit of it. The pulling of the plant when the berries were unripe had almost resulted in its extermination. If the berries were left to ripen, and the roots not removed, the plant survived. The plant had a single stalk, from which branched three stalks. There is a cluster of berries in the centre of purplish color and kidney-shaped. At the end of the stalk are three long and narrow leaves. Anyone who had once seen the plant could easily distinguish it. In the County of Peterborough a large amount had been gathered during the past season, and in the northern parts of the Province there was no doubt a large growth of ginseng. The plant was worth fifty cents a pound green, and $4 to $6 dry. (Applause.)

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Committee on Noxious Weeds.

Mr. Waters, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Ditches and Water Courses Act, said he explained that the chief feature is to increase the assessable area for drainage improvements from 50 rods to 150 rods in rural districts.

Mr. Meredith thought it would be better to have the whole matter referred to a commission of experts.

Mr. Waters did not see that his Bill would do any great harm, but in deference to the Leader of the Undrew it. He did not think a commission would be able to remedy all the evils complained of.

Mr. Hardy did not expect that a commission would remove all the difficulties which were inherent to the situation. The Government had every kind of suggestion upon this matter from every kind of men. A commission might smooth down the rougher points and harmonize the law and the practice.

The Bill was withdrawn.

Mr. Fraser, in reply to Mr. Meredith, said the Government proposed to oppose Mr. Hiscott's St. Catharines Railway Bill, not only on account of sufficient notice not having been given, but because it dealt with matters that should not be included.

Mr. Ross moved that the House resolve itself into committee to consider the following resolutions: That the Lieutenant-Governor may direct the payment annually out of the consolidated revenue of the sum of $5 per school to each county inspector, and the County Council shall pay quarterly, at the rate of not less than equal amount per school, and in addition thereto reasonable travelling expenses, the amount to be determined by the County Council. That the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may direct annually the payment out of the consolidated revenue of a sum not exceeding $5 for every teacher occupying a separate room with a separate register, to the school board of any city or town separated from the county, towards the payment of the salary of the Public School Inspector. Mr. Ross, continuing, said the whole cost of inspection had formerly been laid upon the municipalities. It was considered fair that counties and towns separated from the county should received $5 per teacher. He considered that cities should be placed in the same list. The inspection was important, and had to a certain extent fallen upon the municipalities. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ross, in moving the second reading of the bill to Consolidate and Revise the High School Laws, said that without going into details he proposed to call attention to some of the principal features of the bill. By the fourth clause it was provided that a Union Board could be dissolved by the vote of two-thirds of the High School representatives. By section eight the organization of High Schools was restricted to municipalities of not less than 1,000 inhabitants. It was proposed that High Schools should have a department for the study of commercial subjects. Another proposition was that municipalities which did not contribute to the High School of the district in which it is situate shall not be represented on the board. If a High School refused to receive county pupils, and thereby surrendered its right to county aid, the County Council would not be represented. He had also provided that there should be one representative of the Public School Board on the High School Board. Some years ago the Separate Schools were given a representative, and it was now intended to restore the equilibrium. Another amendment was that no member of the Municipal Council could be a member of the Public School Board. It was also intended to enact that representatives on the High School Board should be appointed at the end of the year instead of the beginning. The reason for this was that it was complained that the appointments made after election were sometimes done as a solace to defeated candidates. It was proposed to allow the county to shift part of the cost to the pupils by collecting a fee not exceeding $10 per annum. Last year $70,000 or $4 per head was collected in fees from High schools. Prior to 1879 the Boards had only to issue their fiat and the municipalities must pay them the money demanded for High Schools. In that year it was enacted that a two-thirds vote could override the request. It was now proposed to allow the Council, by a majority vote, to refuse the request where it was for permanent improvements and to extend the length of time allowed for debentures from twenty to thirty years. In the case of expenditure for maintenance the board must provide the sum required, and they have the right to levy fees on non-resident pupils. To make the entrance examination more uniform and less cumbrous, it was proposed that instead of examining boards for each school there should be a local board for each county, the expense of which might be met by a fee of $1 from each candidate. It was also mooted that the examinations might be held at various points throughout the county. The holidays at Easter, which are now simply Good Friday and Easter Monday, are to be extended into a week, and to compensate for that the High School term will commence on January 3rd instead of January 7th. It was also proposed that the summer vacation should commence on June 30th instead of the first Friday in July. These were the principal amendments. He hoped the House would feel he had made no wanton changes, and believed that for the next five years no further changes would be necessary. Such suggestions as might be offered he would be quite willing to consider.

Mr. Wood (Hastings), while believing that the changes proposed were much more radical than the hon. gentleman had led them to believe, believed that there were changes that ought to be made that had not been proposed. He took exception to the manner of appointment of High School trustees by municipal councils. It might be said that the council represented the people. There was a difficulty in inducing the councils to make a change. If a change was proposed it implied a want of confidence in the council. He thought there should be a uniform compulsory fee for the maintenance of the schools, which would do away with the possibility of one school attracting pupils away from another. In conclusion, he was pleased with the changes proposed in the mode of examination.

Mr. Meredith hoped the hon. gentleman would reconsider the portion of his bill relating to the dissolution of the Board. The hon. gentleman had not told them of the reasons that had induced him to make the change. It seemed to him that in the case of towns the Board should be appointed by the body of the ratepayers. It was desirable, too, that the trustees should be more in touch with public opinion. Mr. Gibson (Huron) thought we had High schools enough. The governing boards should be separated. There were times when their interest would clash. He maintained, as he always had maintained, that the counties paid far more in this respect than recompensed them in the benefit received.

The bill received its second reading.

Mr. Ross moved the second reading of a bill to amend and consolidate the Public school laws. The first important provision of the bill would facilitate the dissolution of combined boards. This he thought all would admit the advisability of. The subject of free text-books was one which had been considered by towns, cities, and villages for some time. In the State of Massachusetts they had had free text-books since 1885, that was, they had made a charge on communities the same as was done for teachers' salaries. The provision in his bill was limited to cities, towns and incorporated villages. In the cities of Hamilton and Brantford and the town of Woodstock the School Boards had been satisfied with a tax of 20 cents a pupil per annum for school books, and would not new return to the old method of having each pupil pay his or her own expenses. However anomalous it might seem, it was nevertheless a fact that the pupils took greater care of books furnished them in this way than they did of those purchased by themselves. The teacher was to a certain extent, held responsible, and the books were the property of the Board or corporation.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) said the amendments were so numerous that it would be impossible at this stage to discuss them in detail. The raising of the county grant for school purposes would create a profound sensation throughout the country. He was in favor of the change, but felt it would fall short of meeting the real difficulty of aiding poor school sections.

Mr. Waters was favorably impressed with many features of the bill, but felt that the restriction of the third-class certificates to the counties for which they were issued would meet with widespread dissatisfaction. He hoped the Minister would reconsider this clause.

Mr. Preston did not think the provision with regard to free school books would be satisfactory to villages and rural districts. He thought a premium should be placed on the employment of first and second-class teachers, in order that the employment of third-class teachers would be discouraged.

Mr. Willoughby moved for a return giving a tabulated statement showing by license districts:

1. The gross amount collected in each license district for *(a)* Fees for licenses. *(b)* Fees for transfers. *(c)* Fees for removals. *(d)* Fines. *(e)* Mileage. *(f)* Costs.

He said that the order for which he had moved was one of the greatest interest to the community, and the question was one about which there was a great deal of anxiety and dissatisfaction expressed. There was no matter about which the Government deserved stronger or more severe condemnation than that of their manipulation of the license affairs in the Province. (Hear, hear.) Whenever information was given in the matter it was only given with the greatest reluctance. This was a matter in which the country should be taken into the confidence of the Government. In the matter of the amount expended for detective service which was only one of many heads under which the expenditure was irregular, he believed some of the inspectors were in the habit of acting as detectives and collecting detective fees which were appropriated by themselves. The Government had treated the municipalities unfairly in the past in grasping so much of the funds. It had been said that the municipalities were receiving more than ever before. They were driven to extremities to keep something in the treasury, and this was one of the methods resorted to.

Mr. Hudson was strongly of the opinion that the control of the system should revert to the municipalities. Who were better qualified than the county councils to deal with this matter? He agreed that there should be a correct return of all the moneys received on this account by the Government.

Mr. Harcourt said this question was an old, old story in this House. It had been debated so often that it was not worth while rehashing what had been previously said. The House was now in possession of all the information asked by the motion. Every item named had been each year by the Government unasked for put into the hands of every township council in the Province. In view of that fact it was strange that anyone would charge the Government with withholding information. Inasmuch as it might be desirable to have the information tabulated for convenience, the Government had no objection to the motion if it was limited for five years. The Government had nothing to hide, and did not object to any information being supplied that might be desired.

Mr. Mowat said that the difference between the Government and the Opposition was that the former relied upon the expressed sentiment of the people and the latter on what they expected would occur hereafter. The present system existed because it had been created by the people, and in every election they sustained it. The people approved of the present system. He did not dispute that there might be some objectionable features, but the administration of the law had been free from errors and free from blame. The leader of the Opposition had been studying up this question, and had only been able to find one instance where an inspector tried to raise money for election purposes. He had been compelled, however, to admit that in that case the commissioners had compelled the delinquent to refund the money collected. That was strong evidence of the satisfactory working of the Act. But did not the Dominion Government compel the brewers to subscribe?

Mr. Hardy—Yes; and the distillers.

Mr. Mowat—Yes; and every other body that stands in that relation to the Government. They are always compelled to contribute for election purposes very much more largely than our Reform innkeepers do.

Mr. Meredith—Hear, hear.

Mr. Mowat—My hon. friend seems astonished that I should speak of Reform innkeepers. I know they are very few, but there are some Reform innkeepers, and like all good Reformers they like to contribute towards maintaining good Government. Dealing with the statement in the Port Hope *Guide*, he said he was not responsible for everything that appeared in every little paper throughout the Province. If some inspectors had worked for Reformers it was known that a license commissioner in London had been a most active worker for Hon. Mr. Carling. Those who viewed their question from a moral standpoint did not agree with the stand taken by the Opposition. They knew that the law had been faithfully administered. What was collected by the Province did not come from the municipalities. It was taken out of the pockets of the licensees. He was pleased that the question had been discussed, and from what he had heard was more satisfied than ever that the administration of the license system was thoroughly unassailable upon any ground to which the people would recognize any force.

The motion, as amended, was then passed.

It being 6 o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The House went into committee and passed the following Bills to third reading:

To enable William Barclay Craig to assume the name of William Barclay Craig.—Mr. Awrey.

To amend the Public Parks Act.—Mr. Awrey.

The following bills were read a third time:

To extend the powers of the Toronto Home for Incurables—Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto).

To authorize the corporation of the town of Orillia to purchase land for a post office site.—Mr. Miscampbell.

"Money."

Benjamin Tucker, of Boston, Mass, has translated and published Zola's new novel, "L'Argent," or "Money." Over sixty men and women, of all sorts and conditions, move, sketched with no shadowy or uncertain touch, through its pages, all absorbed in, and eagerly intent on, the worship of the golden calf, and staged by Mr. Zola with the clearness and skill of which he alone, since Honore de Balzac gave the "Comedie Humaine" to France, seems to be capable. As forming a component part of the Rougon-Macquart series the scene of the novel is necessarily laid during the latter end of the second empire, but M. Zola has obviously been directly inspired by the financial disaster of some four or five years ago, the "krach" of the Catholic bank, L'Union Generale. The very figures quoted in the published accounts of the Union Generale have been followed by M. Zola in the rise and fall of his Banque Universelle and it is said, with considerable show of truth, that the various personages who have their being in "L'Argent"—Princess d'Orviedo, the kind, dreamy engineer Hamelin, Baroness Sandorff, and last, but not least, Madame Caroline, the most sympathetic and human figure of all—have their prototypes in the living Paris of to day. The plot of "L'Argent" has about it a certain fantastic originality. When some kind of financial scheme is needed to speedily restore the fortunes of Saccard (the brother, it will be remembered, of "son Excellence Eugene Rougon"), an idea must be propounded by the group of speculators intent on forming a new company, which will rouse public enthusiasm, and open the purses of the wealthy ultramontane portion of the community. Fortunately, there is in the vicinity an honest engineer, Hamelin, who has one Utopian dream and aim in life, that of reconstructing the kingdom of Palestine, and installing the Pope therein as temporal and spiritual lord of a new and yet ancient Holy Land. Jerusalem would be the Rome, the Eastern Holy City; Jaffa the seaport of the kingdom. Syria would soon declare her independence, and would be annexed to Palestine; and this new bloodless crusade, with the aid of steam, electricity, telephone, telegraph, and money, would achieve great things, and mean at once both spiritual and temporal reward to the shareholders of La Banque Universelle. The descriptions which follow of the mad rush for shares, wild speculations and rapid changes of fortunes, high and low, read like Michelet's history of John Law's Mississippi Bubble and the gold fever of the Regency, cast in dramatic form; for, needless to add, the "Kingdom of Palestine, Limited," though an excellent draw, does not mean business in the long run, either to its duped shareholders, or to those to whose initiative it first owed its existence—

"L'Argent" may be summed up briefly as a faithful exposition of four out of the seven deadly sins; the other three, however, are conspicuous by their absence.

Lovely Duchess and Lovely Dress.

At the drawing-room held at Dublin Castle a short time ago, the lovely young Duchess of Leinster wore an exquisite Gainsborough dress, adapted with remarkable artistic skill and taste to her figure, height and wonderful complexion. The long court train was of pale-blue silk of the richest and softest texture, edged all round with a ruche of crepe in the same pale, refined shade. This train was fastened on at the shoulders, curved pieces of the blue being brought round under the arms, edged with a light frill of white silk muslin, the two pieces meeting on the bosom and held together by a very large signonet. From the shoulders the train hung sheer away from the figure, the dress beneath falling in straight, harmonious lines to her feet. It was made of white silk muslin caught up in folds at one side with a long ostrich feather in pale blue. Two clusters of similar feathers, very long and of great beauty, trimmed the train. Yet another feather was placed on one shoulder. In the hair, above a diamond coronet, rose a single blue feather, the top of it curling over, as though anxious to look down into the beautiful face beneath. The ornaments worn with this were turquoises and diamonds.

A Dust Nuisance.

What an enemy dust is to the good appearance of a woman! Wrinkles are badly accentuated by it. There is nothing like steaming the face for keeping the skin in good condition and thus getting out the grime which clouds every complexion not daily submerged in soap and hot water. Dust is the ruin of the freshness of complexion and is most injurious to the hair and hurtful to the general vigor. During the cold weather hot water is especially beneficial to the skin, particularly if softened by borax, and if some soothing lotion is directly used after it. There is everything in the use of water for the skin, as bathing is worth all the medicines in the world always, of course, when the system is prepared for it. Like the taking of stimulants, there is the use and abuse of the bath, and as many are injured as benefited by the indiscriminate bathing, whereas at proper intervals hot water will be found to war with pimples on the face effectually, but draughts and cold air afterwards must be avoided, just as in the wash