

each a heart to supply them with blood. The bodies are generally enveloped in a fold of soft elastic skin, and in some this is the only covering, but generally there exudes from this mantle a peculiar fluid which on exposure to the air becomes hardened, and gradually forms a shell, this constituting a secure and convenient house of refuge for the otherwise helpless and defenceless animal. These shells exhibit the greatest diversity in shape, color and texture. Some are quite plain and rough, but of great strength; others are of elegant form, but not otherwise remarkable, while others, especially those of the tropical seas, in their form and polish, in their delicate or glowing tints, in the infinite variety of design in coloring, render them, perhaps, the most marvellous and beautiful objects in nature; and there is, probably, no more fascinating and delightful study than that of conchology or that branch of science which has for its object the classification and description of the thousand species of these wonderful formations.

Those species which are not thus furnished with such a hard protective covering, are provided with a remarkable compensatory apparatus. This consists of a bag containing a secretion resembling ink, which in case of attack, the animal has the power by compressing the bag to diffuse through the water, and thus by surrounding itself in darkness, is enabled effectually to elude its pursuer. The Cuttle fish is a case in point. This is a creature of curious formation, and yet is rightly regarded not only the most perfect of all its own class, but as forming the nearest approach in organization to the vertebrate type, of all those forms to which we have referred. Its general appearance is that of a sack, open to the front, and surrounded with ten long arms. It has a well developed head, with a pair of great sharp-sighted eyes, and a great horny-hooked bill, something like that of a parrot, and so strong as to be capable of easily breaking to pieces the shells of limpets and others. The size is usually from five inches to two feet long, but in the Indian Ocean has been known to exceed this. According to Indian accounts some have been found to be as much as twelve feet broad over the centre, and each of the arms above fifty feet in length. In the Mediterranean, also, the great cuttlefish is of such a size as to be exceedingly formidable, the tentacula or arms being not less than twelve feet in length.

Closely allied to the above is the Pearly Nautilus, so very remarkable for its beautifully convoluted pearly shell. There is also the glass boat or paper nautilus, with its thin white and finely formed shell, and having two expanded membranes on its first pair of arms, so long and erroneously supposed to be used by the animal as sails, and as such regarded in the lines of Pope—

"Learn of the little nautilus to sail,
Spread the thin oar and catch the driving gale."

Another form worthy of notice is the Common Poulpe, which is also of a somewhat curious and fantastic shape. The head is in the centre, and around this is disposed eight long tapering arms, which are used for swimming, crawling or seizing prey. For the latter they are particularly adapted, each of the arms being furnished with over one hundred suckers at the point, so that once the poulpe succeeds in touching any object which it desires to cling to, it is enabled to take such a firm hold as to make removal an impossibility without cutting off the arms. Nor when once captured is the possession of the hardest shell any protection against the formidable poulpe, as it is provided with a beak of such strength as to be capable of breaking even the stoutest shell in pieces.

The Tereido Nautilus, which belongs to the species known as multivalve, or having a shell of several pieces, is a comparatively small animal, yet such is the perfection of the instruments with which it is provided, as to render it one of the most formidable and destructive creatures with which ship owners have had to contend. Even the hardest woods, such as oak, teak, sissoo, etc., are not proof against the boring capacity of the tereido, and not only wood, but

limestone, marble and coral reefs are also tunnelled with much apparent facility.

Of the headless mollusc and the bivalve shell, we have examples in the oyster, the clam, and the mussel, all of which are familiar as to their general appearance, though perhaps not as to the internal structure. That of the oyster is very curious, and those to whom it is so great a delicacy would find that the delay of a few minutes in the gratification of their palate, (if devoted to an examination) would be amply repaid, by obtaining an insight into the organization of so interesting and useful an animal.

The univalve shell is represented by that of the snail, of which there are many varieties, and of the general character of which the snail, best known (garden snail) conveys a very inadequate idea. Many of the shells of marine snails especially are very striking, as for instance the cockle shells, the cowrie, the trumpet, etc., the latter of which has a beautiful red colored mouth, and is about six inches in length, while at least one species of snail is esteemed by some as very delicate and nutritious food.

HOSPITAL NOTES.

(Written for the Ontario Workman.)

The humorous side of human misery has seldom, we believe, been presented to the public. During the recent American War there was some effort made in this direction; but very properly frowned down as unsuited to the great cause at issue, and exhibiting bad taste, as well as being sadly out of place. It is not the intention of your contributor to make fun of pain and suffering; but rather to show how a spirit of cheerfulness can be maintained even under the most excruciating circumstances.

In a charitable institution like the General Hospital of Toronto, where may be seen people from all parts of Europe, as well as of the Dominion (who are treated with the same degree of kindness without regard to nationality), there is ample opportunity afforded of studying the varieties of characters that may be met with within these walls.

Although it may appear contradictory, there is generally found a large amount of humor in a hospital; but, usually speaking, the quality of humor is not of a kind likely to raise the spirits of the afflicted; now and then there is a flash of genuine wit, which will shine forth from a patient suffering the most acute agony. For example: One of the surgeons in describing the muscles of a broken limb compared it as "being as stiff as a rake." "Ah, doctor," replied the patient, writhing with pain, "there is more of the 'Oh!' (ho) about it now." Another individual, whose organ of smell was more acute than that of sight (being under treatment for some disease of the eyes), remarked to a fellow-sufferer in the next bed, "that he was never likely to forget how much he had to pay to the institution, for he had a very strong reminder of the forty cents (cents) a day."

A young man upon being told that he should not repine, as "those whom the Lord loved he chastened," observed, "that he must be mighty fond of him, as he had been 'chastened' pretty badly for two months."

A case of amusing simplicity occurred a few weeks since. An emigrant from Devonshire, England, had taken a severe cold on his passage out. Upon his arrival at the emigrant sheds, Toronto, he was sent to the hospital, suffering from inflammation of the lungs. His brother-in-law had bought some 200 acres in Muskoka. Where Muskoka was he had not the slightest idea, and was a fair sample of the English agricultural laborer. The ward-nurse inquired if he intended stopping in Canada when he got well. "No, Ize he goin' to Ameriky." He had not the slightest idea that he was on the American continent.

A man, suffering from a most painful malady, requested your contributor to write a letter to his wife, residing some 200 miles west of here. "Well, Dan, what shall I say?" "Oh, you know what to say," said Dan. "How should I know what to say?" "What's the use of you writin', if you don't know what to say!" replied Dan. "You don't understand me. I mean what shall I tell her as to how you are getting on, and how long you are likely to stay here, and if you are treated kindly, and if there is anything you want her to send you; that's what I mean, Dan."

"Well," replied Dan, thoughtfully, "yes, you can tell her all that." "Is there anything else, Dan?" I enquired. "No, I guess not; but you can send her my respects."

The letter was written to Dan's great delight, who considered it a marvellous achievement.

There are several clerical visitors of all denominations, who are very zealous in the spiritual welfare of the poor sufferers; though I regret to say some of them without regard to the condition of the patient, will converse with him when he is suffering severely, and quite unprepared to listen to anything; others will show more consideration. One of them asked a poor fellow, whose hours of sleep were "few and far between," if his soul was troubled. "No, sir," was the answer, "I am happy to say it isn't, but my leg is; and I don't think your talking will do it much good today, if you'll excuse me saying so." The hint was effectual.

In acknowledgment of the surgeon's kindness and attention in saving a badly-broken arm, a patient perpetrated the following:—
Thou wounded limb, helpless, inflamed, and broken;
Of life's short-comings indeed thou art a token;
Struck down so suddenly—that ill-fated stroke
Near proved to be for thee an (harmless) joke!

(Ah, man, thou art at best a feeble creature,
So apt to pride thyself in form and feature;
Whose chiefest thoughts are taken up by wealth;
How great thy loss, if thou should'st lose thy health?)

Poor, useless arm; but there are many worse.
That dislocated radius near proved thy terminus.
The pain acute caused most severe distraction,
And far more study than a compound fracture.
(Excuse the pun, which is most vile, I fear,
I was born in pain, and painful 'tis to bear.)
The limb much swollen by that fearful shatter,
Like George Brown's Globe, was full of vilest matter!

Yet after all, dear limb, thou art most lucky;
I claim no credit; I'm by no means plucky.
'Twas not for—(like some useless ember),
Or Sir George C., you'd be a defunct member.
So I'll hope on until thou art quite well;
Strengthened by time, and by that magic spell,
Which I must own is far more to my taste—
I hope to place thee around some maiden's waist!

TOMMY TUBE.

ST. CATHARINES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Last week we were favored with a visit of Dan Rice's circus, and it was very deservedly largely patronized, especially in the evening performance.

In my last letter, I stated that the capital of the new stove factory was \$20,000; I should have said \$30,000, and all paid up.

A circular has been issued by the secretaries of the various organized trades unions in town, with reference to the first Dominion Labor Conference. I think this is a move in the right direction, and doubtless St. Catharines will do her duty in the matter. The subjects mentioned in the printed circulars to be brought before the Conference, are all matters of vast importance; but I humbly think there are other matters of equal if not greater importance, that Mr. John Hewitt has entirely omitted to mention: such as, systematic emigration, female labor, and the organizing of trade unions in every town in Canada. The conference should also take up the subject of increasing the circulation of the WORKMAN, a paper of which every workman should feel proud. I trust that these matters will not escape the notice of the Executive of the proposed Labor Conference. The workmen here wish it every success.

The colored people of St. Catharines are making great preparations for Emancipation Day, the 1st of August. I see from the programme which I have before me, that they have secured the services of the colored band of Chatham, which will head a procession composed of the colored people of St. Catharines and strangers from a distance. They will march through the principal streets of the town to the Montebello Gardens, where dinner will take place at 12 o'clock, after which several eminent speakers will address the meeting. Among the proposed speakers we notice the following gentlemen: the Rev. R. Millar, S. D. W. Smith, R. Fairfax, Wm. Mowbray, Mr. Jones, Mr. Goosely, and the Hon. J. G. Currie, late Speaker of the House of Assembly, Toronto. It is to be hoped they will spend a happy day.

Trade shows no signs of improvement, and money is still scarce.

The Caledonian and St. Andrew men are just now organizing a grand excursion to Toronto, which will take place some time in August, and promises to be a great success.

THE WIMBLEDON MEETING.

The Canadian team on their arrival accepted a challenge to shoot with the Cheshire men, and, for convenience sake, it was agreed that the aggregate scores of 20 men on each side in the first stage of the Queen's Prize should decide the match. It is announced that the Canadians scored a total of 1,098, being 64 points more than their opponents.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN IRON MANUFACTURERS.

EXCITEMENT IN BIRMINGHAM—MOURNFUL PROSPECT OF THE BRITISH HARDWARE MANUFACTURER—ANOTHER CHOICE morsel FOR FREE-TRADERS.

The following, under the head of "A Warning," appeared in the London Times of July 1:—

Not a little interest and some apprehension have been excited in the hardware district, of which Birmingham is the center, by advices lately to hand from New York respecting the wonderful development of the iron and hardware industries of the United States. The accuracy of these advices is, indeed, to some extent, confirmed by the serious diminution of orders for certain classes of hardware, the manufacturers of which have hitherto found in the American market their principal customers. Nor does it appear that our rivals in the States are content with satisfying the requirements of their own market, for their productions are already supplanting English goods in Canada, and to some extent in Australia and New Zealand. A well informed correspondent, writing from New York under date June 5, thus refers to the subject in the Birmingham Post: "On one point the hardware merchants of New York are all agreed, that the day for the sale of English hardware in the United States has almost departed. In some few special articles, such as pliers, &c., the Germans will probably always be able to undersell all competitors; some English manufacturers of long-established repute, such as Roger's cutlery, will also continue to be in demand, but for the rest foreign-made hardware will soon be unknown in this market, unless some unexpected turn of affairs changes for awhile the course of trade. And not only is the country competent to supply its own needs, but every year it is gradually increasing its exports of hardware to Canada, to the South American States, and to the British Australasian Colonies. Indeed, it is a common boast that in a very short time the superiority of Yankee skill and ingenuity will force a market in England itself for many articles of American hardware; that Yankee cutlery will appear on English dinner-tables, and Yankee saws, augers, and chisels, be preferred by the carpenters of Birmingham and Sheffield." These statements are to some extent corroborated by the advices now being received by the merchants in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. There can be no doubt that American manufacturers have turned to profitable account the opportunity afforded by the recent course of events in the English labor market. For some years the American manufacturers have had to contend with the disadvantage of dear labor, but this very circumstance has in the long run proved a benefit to them, seeing that it has enforced the application of labor-saving machinery on a much larger scale than has been attempted in this country. The superiority of American fine iron castings has long been acknowledged, and in the earlier years of hardware manufacture in the States the dearth of labor was largely compensated by the substitution of cast for wrought iron in almost all classes of produce. This advantage was, however, obtained at the expense of the quality of the goods for strength and endurance, and the necessity of increased mechanical appliances for the saving of hand-labor became apparent some years since to the leading manufacturers of the States. The wonderful system of labor-saving machinery now existing is the result. Railway fastenings, door locks, spring bars, curry-combs, tinwares, and some descriptions of edge tools are among the classes of produce in which American competition is beginning to be seriously felt in Birmingham and the South Staffordshire district. Last year's produce of iron rails in the States was nearly 1,000,000 tons, of which Pennsylvania alone yielded nearly one-half. Other descriptions of finished iron are also being produced in large and rapidly increasing quantities, and at the present rate of progress the shipment of iron from England across the Atlantic will soon become a thing of the past.

SLAVERY IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

Josh Billings once wrote of a woman who would sell her great grandfather for a new bonnet, and every one treated it as one of the humorist's best jokes. An inhuman wretch resides in the township of McNab, not many miles from this city, and a farmer in comfortable circumstances. His niece has been living with him for the last four or five years, receiving nothing for her labor but her board and the small amount of clothing which covers her. Two weeks ago her uncle apprised her of the fact that he was going to exchange her for a number of years for Mr. S——'s brown mare with the colt. There was no alternative but to

submit to the bargain, as she was without money or friends. He told her that she must be kind to her new employer, work as hard for him as she possibly could, and under no circumstances allow herself to imagine that she was to receive any remuneration for her labor. She submitted, went to this friend of her uncle's with whom the exchange had been effected, and the bay mare and colt was transferred to their new owner. Everything worked smoothly for a few days, and in the meantime the girl had become a favorite with her new master and mistress, who pitied her condition. She told them the history of her life; how she had been taken away from her parents, and the cruel treatment she had received at different stages of her existence from the brute she called her uncle. On hearing her statement the kind-hearted people offered to free the girl, and gave her a chance to make a respectable living for herself. They gave her money and a letter to friends in this city. She came here three days ago, sought employment, and obtained it at once.—Ottawa Citizen.

Labor Notes.

The carpenters at Belfast have struck for an increase of pay of a halfpenny per hour.

8,000 weavers in Berlin, Prussia, have inaugurated a strike for an advance of 33 per cent. in their wages.

The strike of the Leipzig, Germany, printers, which began February 1st, ended with a partial success, after having lasted fourteen weeks. The Berlin printers sent a sum aggregating \$10,220 to aid them in their struggle.

A correspondent of the N. Y. World writes from Madrid, Spain, that a general strike in all classes of industry is contemplated in Andalusia. The workmen on the railroads from Cordova to Seville and on other lines have already quit work.

A mass meeting of the engineers now on strike in Sheffield was held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, on Saturday, July 7. A resolution was unanimously passed to the effect that the men were determined to remain on strike until their demands were conceded. About one-third of the men obtained their demands, and are at work.

The carters employed by the railway companies, as those in the service of the public carriers at Dundee, have intimated that unless they receive an advance of 3s. per week and 6d. per hour overtime, they would strike on Saturday. This the employers refuse, and appeal to the public for indulgence should delay occur in the delivery of goods.

The New York City coopers are on a strike, and after quitting work the first thing they did was to pledge themselves to abstain from liquor during the struggle. This shows that their heads are level, and will do more towards their again putting heads on barrels than drinking whisky would, with the accompaniment of "putting heads" on their opponents.—Philadelphia Sunday Mercury.

Recently a general meeting of the Master Builders' Association was held at Westminster, to consider on what terms the masters should agree to a conference with the men. It was urged that the delegates should come with full authority to settle the questions at issue. It was ultimately resolved to meet the men's delegates next week without any stipulations, the masons separately first, and the carpenters afterwards. Both parties seem anxious to avoid a strike.

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