



The Toronto Zoological Society is insolvent.

The Dominion Parliament will meet on January 31st.

Quebec now pays 22 cents per lamp for its electric lighting.

The town of Fraserville (River du Loup) is lighted with the electric light.

Savings banks deposits in Canada amounted to over \$50,500,000; ten years ago they were \$13,500,000.

Over two hundred members of the Northwest Mounted Police have savings bank deposits. Their deposits exceed \$25,000.

The Canadian Pacific intends building a road through Crow's Nest in British Columbia with a view to making it their main line.

The proposed monument to Jacques Cartier is to be made of the splendid granite lately found on the line of the Lake St. John Railway.

British Columbia shingles are readily sold all over Manitoba and the Territories, and a profitable market might be found for them in Eastern Canada.

The Messrs. Allan have interviewed Sir John Macdonald and urged the claims of the Allan Line to the Atlantic mail subsidy, declaring that they could offer advantages equal to any.

C. J. Brydges, land commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company, reports that the Company has sold as much farming lands so far this year as they did in the preceding five years. The Company also sold a much larger amount of Winnipeg property this year than in any year since the boom.

A very considerable emigration from those rural districts of France from which the first settlers in Canada came is expected in the province of Quebec next year. The *curés* in these districts are said to be interesting themselves very much in the movement, and the people being dissatisfied under the present regime in France are disposed to emigrate.

From a statement which has been compiled respecting the proportion of children to population in Ontario and Quebec, respectively, it appears that in 1881 Ontario had more children in proportion to population than Quebec of every age from eleven years upward. Below that age Quebec had the preponderance. It must be concluded, that English Canadians raise larger families than French Canadians.

HERE AND THERE.

SQUARING THE CIRCLE.—W. J. Barnwell, a mathematician and organist, of Berkshire, England, claims to have squared the circle. He has been at work on the time-honoured problem for 15 years. His solution consists of eight figures, which, in concrete shape, form a perfect cyclo-meter. Mr. Barnwell has laid his formula before the French Academy of Sciences. If he has really squared the circle he should now devote himself to the effort to discover perpetual motion, and also settle the historic question as to who filipped the late lamented Billy Patterson,

VOODOOISM.—Voodooism is practised in Hayti, but without human sacrifice. There is no cannibalism known on the island, reports to the contrary notwithstanding. The Voodooists are a remarkably learned people in the science of botany, and they can do things which would seem incredible to those who never saw them performing their strange rites. They profess to be able to give a charm to the life of a warrior, and they can render the human body impregnable to the thrust of the sharpest sword. This is done by bathing the body in a vegetable solution. They are a strange people, and their influence on the island is considerable.

BEARS AND GAME.—Mr. Louis Lapointe, wood-ranger for the county of L'Islet, reports that 56 bears were killed in that county this fall, in the townships of Garneau, Lafontaine and Fournier, and in the seignory of St. Roch des Aulnais. One *habitant* named Legros killed 8, another named Caron 7, a third named Jincas 7, and a fourth named Launiere 5. Mr. Lapointe also reports that moose, cariboo and red deer have considerably increased in that section, and that a great number of the two latter kinds have been bagged of late by hunters.

A MARITIME PROVINCE MEDAL.—A prize to be entitled the "Charles G. Coster Memorial Prize,"

and intended as a tribute to the memory of the late Chas. G. Goster, M.A., Ph. D., Principal of the grammar school at St. John, N.B., is offered by Mr. Colin H. Livingstone, B.A., to the undergraduates (men or women) from the Maritime Provinces, in April, 1889. It is not restricted to any academic year, and will be awarded to that undergraduate from the above Provinces who, in the opinion of the Faculty, shall have passed the best sessional examination. In 1890 it is to be restricted to undergraduates of the first year.

A GREAT COLLECTION.—The Slater memorial museum at Norwich, Conn., has been opened. It has been established under the supervision of Edward Robinson, curator of antiquities in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and is said to be the finest collection of casts of Greek and Græco-Roman and renaissance sculpture and photographs of the frescoes and paintings of the masters of art, in the Italian, German, Netherland, Dutch and other schools between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries, and of the architectural monuments of the old world on this continent.

LA BELLE POULE.—The French are considering the question of breaking up the old "La Belle Poule," the vessel that brought Napoleon's remains from St. Helena to France. There is much opposition to the project among the Imperialists, who declare that every splinter of the famous vessel is sacred.

IN THE TUNNEL.

My little son
Was troubled in the darkness, and he cried.
As we sped on,
I felt him nestle nearer to my side;
Soon, hushed and calm, his hand in mine he laid,
And whispered softly, "Now, I'm not afraid."

I sat and thought.
I had been troubled in the dark—had cried—
Not trusted as I ought.
Yet had not I long since drawn near His side?
Was not my hand within my Saviour's laid?
Why had I been so troubled and afraid?

We flashed into the light;
My little son, his fright and trouble o'er,
His countenance all bright,
Cried gayly, "It is lighter than before!"
And I smiled back, my fear and trouble o'er;
"Yes, yes," I cried, "much lighter than before!"

E. H. Moore.

THE LOG CABIN.

The following lofty and touching reference to his early home is from the great Daniel Webster, and a masterpiece of eloquence and philosophy which deserves to be inserted in a book of Selected Readings. Hence it is that we publish it to-day:—

"It is only shallow-minded pretenders who either make distinguished origin matter of personal merit or obscure origin matter of personal reproach. Taunt and scoffing at the humble condition of early life affect nobody in this country but those who are foolish enough to indulge in them; and they are generally sufficiently punished by public rebuke. A man who is not ashamed of himself, need not be ashamed of his early condition. It did not happen to me to be born in a log-cabin; but my elder brothers and sisters were born in a log-cabin, raised amid the snow-drifts of New Hampshire, at a period so early that when the smoke rose from its rude chimney and curled over the frozen hills there was no similar evidence of a white man's habitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada. Its remains still exist. I make to it an annual visit. I carry my children to it to teach them the hardships endured by the generations which have gone before them. I love to dwell on the tender recollections, the kindred ties, the early affections and the touching narratives and incidents which mingle with all I know of this primitive family abode. I weep to think that none of those who inhabited it are now among the living; and if ever I am ashamed of it, or if I ever fail in affectionate veneration for him who reared it, and defended it against savage violence and destruction, cherished all the domestic virtues beneath its roof, and through the fire and blood of a seven years' revo-

lutionary war, shrank from no danger, no toil, no sacrifice, to save his country, and to raise his children to a condition better than his own, may my name and the name of my posterity be blotted forever from the memory of mankind."

THE FEAR OF THE LORD SHOWN IN SHAKESPEARE.

This "fear of the Lord" is incorporated by Shakespeare in the impression left upon us by his great tragedies in a way far more effectual than if he were invariably to apportion rewards and punishments in the fifth act with a neat and ready hand to his good and evil characters. It is enough for him to engage our loyalty and love for human worth, wherever and however we meet with it, and to make us rejoice in its presence, whether it find in this world conditions favourable to its action or the reverse. This we might name the principle of faith in the province of ethics, and there, at all events, we are saved by faith. The innocents suffer in Shakespeare's plays as they do in real life, but all our hearts go with them. Which of us would not choose to be *Duncan* lying in his blood, rather than *Macbeth* upon the throne? Which of us would not choose rather to suffer wrong with *Desdemona* than rejoice in accomplished villainy with *Iago*? But *Macbeth*, *Iago*, *Edmund*, *Richard III.*, *King Claudius*, and the other malefactors of Shakespeare's plays do not indeed triumph in the final issue. "The conscience of mankind refuses to believe in the ultimate impunity of guilt, and looks upon the flying criminal as only taking a circuit to his doom." Shakespeare here rightly exhibits things foreshortened in the tract of time. Though the innocent and the righteous may indeed, if judged from a merely external point of view, appear as losers in the game of life, the guilty can never, in the long run, be the winners. The baser types, which for a time seem to flourish in violation of the laws of health or the spiritual laws of the inner life, inevitably tend toward sterility and extinction. The righteous have not set their hearts on worldly success or prosperity, and they do not attain it; a dramatic poet may courageously exhibit the fact; but what is dearer they attain—a serene conscience and a tranquil assurance that all must be well with those supported by the eternal laws. But the guilty ones, whose aim has been external success, and who have challenged the Divine laws, or hoped to evade them, are represented as failing in the end to achieve that poor success on which their hearts have been set. "I have seen the wicked in great power * * * * but I went by, and lo, he was not." Follow a malefactor far enough, Shakespeare says, and you will find that his feet must needs be caught in the toils spread for those who strive against the moral order of the world. Nor can pleasure evade those inexorable laws any more than can crime. A golden mist, with magic exhalations and a strange glamour of pleasure may rise for an hour; but these are the transitory glories of sunset vapours, which night presently strikes into sullen quietude with her leaden mace. This is what Shakespeare has exhibited in his "Antony and Cleopatra." All the sensuous witchery of the East is there displayed; but behind the gold and the music, the spicery and the eager amorous faces rise the dread forms of actors on whom the players in that stupendous farce-tragedy had not reckoned, the forms of the calm avenging laws.

"A TABBIE."—When Miss Fawcett, daughter of the late Postmaster-General of England, applied to a famous mathematical coach at Cambridge to be taken as his pupil, she was rudely repulsed, and the ungallant tutor remarked that he "would take no tabbies." Very well. This same Miss Fawcett has been systematically beating the best men of her year in the Trinity College examinations, and will doubtless be senior wrangler for the ensuing year.