

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

WHITE SLAVES.

Mr. Editor.—Since the payment of the expenses incurred by Mr. T. H. Adams and myself in the Government investigation of our charges against the farming-out of the Digby County paupers, in which payment we were assisted by generous friends, Mr. Adams, by successfully defending himself in a case of defamation brought against him in the Supreme Court in the name of John Handspiker, and by preparing still further to defend himself against an appeal of said case, commenced by Handspiker's legal advisers, has incurred a still further cost of \$350, as Handspiker escaped paying Mr. Adams' costs by a timely scouring of the costs of his own side of the case.

As Mr. Adams is a poor man, I felt sure that a generous public would not suffer him thus to be injured for his manly and utterly disinterested efforts to liberate our down-trodden poor from their helpless condition of slavery and degradation, I issued a circular for the purpose of raising a defence fund by which his expenses might be liquidated. Up to the present date the following subscriptions have been sent to me and paid over to Mr. Adams. For these I return my most sincere thanks, whilst asking for further assistance, in order that as soon as possible the balance may be sent to me, which, so soon as received, I will promptly and thankfully acknowledge through the public press, with a notice that the subscription is closed.

Thus far, the generous contributors will have the satisfaction of knowing that our labors have borne good fruit, for although this county has not yet seen its way to the change of the present cruel and immoral system for that of the Home and Farm for paupers, several other counties have done so since our agitation of the subject drew public attention to the matter. The good heaven is working not only in Nova Scotia, but also in New Brunswick, and we trust the time is rapidly approaching when the poor will rejoice in their jubilee.

Mr. Adams and myself have not passed unscathed through the fire, but our discoveries of still further evils at first unknown to us, with the assurance from many friends that those evils must be put down, are to us a great satisfaction. The public press has been a most powerful assistance in our work, as we are sure it will continue to be until the evil is abolished. The following is our present list of subscriptions, showing the balance still needed. On this list will be noticed many highly influential names:—John Doull, \$10.00; Miss Strickland, (Eng.) 10.00; Collected by John Doull, 9.00; His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, 5.00; Rev. E. G. B. Nichols, 5.00; Miss E. Franco, (Eng.) 2.44; Rev. John Ellis, (India) 2.37; Rev. J. M. Davenport, 3.70; Rev. F. R. Murray, John Pugh, H. C. Tully, \$2.00 each; W. H. Wiswell, 1.40; Thomas Brown, 1.10; Frank Crozier, James Harris, Mr. Annand, (Annapolis) W. C. Silver, Rev. J. A. Kaulback, Rev. Canon Brigstocke, W. C. Ambrose, B. Lester Peters, Dr. Cowie, Edwin Kaulback, H. W. Hoyle, John P. Mott, W. J. Stairs, E. P. Archibald, J. C. Mackintosh, Alex. Stephens, Thos. A. Brown, Alpin Grant, J. R. Lithgow, Rev. J. McLellan, George A. Schofield, Dr. Moody, Mrs. J. H. Jones, Dr. Tronaman, Rev. P. H. Brown, A lady (by P. H. Brown) Rev. J. Lowrie, (Barbadoes) Professor Lawson, H. Pryor, J. Lyle, S. M. Brookfield, John Overy, Michael Dwyer, J. W. Fuller, M. Power, Miss F. H. Binney, Jas. Morrow, W. L. Lowell & Co., C. D. Tucker, T. W. Johns, Dr. Willotte, Miss Sterne, 1.00 each; Mr. Hallet, (Truro) 70c.; William Hill, 70c.; Rev. L. N. Bliss, 60c.; Rev. V. E. Harris, 52c., J. F. Ivory, 48c.

JOHN AMBROSE, Rector of Digby, N. S.

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

What is it that everybody is rushing after? Simply a condition of mind called happiness. Although the idea which this word conveys, and the ground which it covers in each one's thought, is never the same, either in outline or contents, yet the word itself, in popular apprehension, stands for the *summum bonum*, the great good of life. Each heart seems to regard happiness as its natural and inalienable birthright,—what it was made for, and what properly and rightfully belongs to it,—hence no means are left untried to secure its own. The ways of seeking are as varied and diverse as are the different personalities engaged in the search; but each imagination "stands on tiptoe on the misty mountain tops," watching and waiting for the first symptoms of its approach. You could not blast a human life so effectively as to shut out from it forever all possibilities of happiness. Real desperation begins when only the dim outlines of such a prospect appear on the horizon of thought. And, as this condition of mind is largely dependent on outward circumstances, people will rise early and sit up late, eat the bread of anxiety and care, stop at no exertion, obstacle or sacrifice, rush hither and thither in hot haste, climb over each other in eagerness, enter into all sorts of schemes, devices and plans, tear up and down the great highways of human endeavor, go crazy from disappointment or overwork, get drunk, swear, lie, cheat, rob, fight, and even commit murder, all to bring about a state of things which will produce happiness! Verily, this world is a strange compound, and human life is made up of startling incongruities.

IN SEARCH OF RHYMES.—Mr. W. S. Gilbert, co-laborer of Sir Arthur Sullivan, has found the long-desired rhyme for "silver" in "chilver," a word used in British sales of farm stock to denote a species of sheep. He does not reveal the rhyme which he has discovered for "month," but says it is not Thackeray's "onety onth." "When I am on the subject of rhymes," he adds, "I should like to suggest that any inventor who is in need of a name for his invention, would confer a boon on all rhymesters, and at the same time insure himself many gratuitous advertisements, if he

were to select a word that rhymes to one of the many words in common use that have very few rhymes or none at all. Any invention called, for instance, a Lorraine, would surely be referred to whenever a poet wished to rhyme to 'orange.' A few more words rhyming to 'love' are greatly wanted. All who have dabbled in amatory verse must have felt this necessity. 'Revongo' and 'avongo' have no rhyme but 'pango' and 'Stonohenge.' 'coif' has no rhyme at all. 'Starvo' has no rhyme, except (Oh irony!) 'carvo.' 'Scarf' has no rhyme, though I fully expect to be told that 'laugh' and 'nail' and 'calf' are admissible—which they certainly are not. 'Scalp' has no rhyme but 'Alp.' 'Falso' has no rhyme—'valso' is near it, but the French accent disqualifies it. 'Waltz' is also near it, but the 't' spoils it. 'Babo' has no rhyme but 'astrolabo'—certain proper names excepted. 'Gambogo' has no rhyme but 'rougo.' 'Tubo' would be rhymeless save for 'cubo' and 'ju-jubo.' 'Fuguo' has no rhyme at all. 'Gulf' rhymes with no English word; we have to fall back on 'Cardinal Pandulph' and 'Ulf,' the minstrel. 'Azimuth' has only 'doth.' 'Culm' and 'cusp' have no English rhymes."

COMMERCIAL.

The general condition of business is unchanged, and the trade movement has continued fairly active. As the season advances, the markets assume a more active appearance, and the early promise of a full autumn trade is amply sustained by transpiring transactions.

The Halifax Gas Company has declared a dividend of four per cent on its half-year's transactions. This looks like a "doff" to the city for daring to reject its proposition to illuminate the streets. It is probable that the H. G. Co. has forgotten, as the City Fathers evidently have, that all profits over a percentage, defined in their charter, accrue to the city. The Gas Company has hitherto dodged this responsibility by "watering" its stock. Is it possible that it intends to deal honestly by its *clientelle*, and to pay to the city the surplus profits that it makes?

"When the Devil was sick the Devil a monk would be.
When the Devil got well the Devil a monk was he."

Well, perhaps there are worse and more "grinding monopolies" than the Gas Company, but Halifax has, fortunately, had no experience of such. The specimen before it fills the bill, and the citizens ache for no more experience than that they now enjoy (!)

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—Lauchlan McDougall, general store, Ingonish, assigned to Angus McDougall; Vaux & Collishaw, grocers, New Glasgow, dissolved, John Vaux continues and liquidates; Ruggles & Chisholm, tailors, Halifax dissolved, St. Clair Ruggles continues under own name; Mackenzie & Co., general store, Sydney, dissolved, John A. Mackenzie continues under own name; Gresham & Burgess, drugs, North Sydney, dissolved, Robt. Gresham continues under own name.

DRY GOODS.—In wholesale dry goods a fair seasonable business has transpired during the past week; but it is expected to rule quiet for the rest of this month, after which travellers will commence their regular sortings-up, which will last till about the 15th of October. In many parts of the country fall stocks are reported to be unbroken. Remittances so far are as fair as could be expected.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron and hardware trade has continued to be fairly active and steady. In all the leading lines there has been a fair movement at steady prices, there being nothing of special interest in the situation. Warrants have declined to 42s. Finished iron has been in good request. Tinplates have ruled steady, and Canada plates firm. Tin, copper, and lead have undergone no change, but a fair amount of trade has been done in them at steady prices. London cables are:—"Tin, spot, £102 5s.; G. O. B. Chili bars £40; soft English lead £12 5s.; do. Spanish do. £12; best selected copper £45 5s.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market is more active and decidedly firm. In fact strong bakers' and Hungarian patents have advanced somewhat in consequence of the scarcity of old hard wheat flour, and bakers realising that new wheat flour will not suit them, are laying in stocks. We note that Mr. Harris, the well-known English statistician, estimates that there will be a surplus of 52,000,000 bushels in the world's wheat supply for the crop year of 1887-8. If this is an approximate estimate, it is difficult to understand why farmers are holding their wheat for much higher prices. In spite of the "bear" notions held on the other side of the Atlantic, there is, nevertheless, a growing feeling on this side that prices will be higher, and that wheat is, at present rates, good property to own. This feeling is also shared by representatives of Chicago and New York houses now in England, who have a chance of guessing the situation for themselves, being right in the heart of the "bear" element. It is, however, rather puzzling to account for the fact that, in the face of the ruinous declines in rail and ocean freights, the demand for wheat has not improved in proportion, although values have kept almost stationary on this side. The comparative absence of demand from the United Kingdom, under the late apparently favorable conditions for buying, can only be explained by the amplitude of supplies both on spot and in prospective. The potato crop is undoubtedly a short one on both sides of the Atlantic, and this fact must make itself felt to a considerable extent in the breadstuffs markets. It is estimated by reliable authorities in England that the shortage in the potato yield will be 25 per cent of an average in the United Kingdom, 20 per cent in France, and 10 to 15 per cent in Germany, while the United States and Canadian crops will be below the average, especially in the West. It is claimed that the shortage in the world's potato crop will be equal to an enormous equivalent in breadstuffs. Ohio must have an important bearing on the wheat and flour trade later on.