

had been "compelled to fight old Nick with fire," and Mr. Dymond said a few words on behalf of the Hon. George Brown.

The debate was again adjourned and resumed in the same strain by Mr. McCallum, Mr. Young (Waterloo), Mr. W. H. Gibbs and others, until the Premier was compelled to suggest mildly that the members were rather overdoing the thing. It was, however, of no avail, and the House was again adjourned. The debate, if debate it can be called, is still going on and is likely to last over the balance of the week, by which time the members will possibly feel that they have thoroughly done their duty by their constituents, a sentiment in which it is more than doubtful whether the country will coincide.

ARGUS.

### THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

For the last two days the time of the House has been occupied with the most unfortunate series of occurrences, and the result is anything but creditable to those on the Government Benches either as politicians or gentlemen. At the same time the Opposition have brought the result on themselves by their manner of debating, which has been extremely discourteous, to say the least of it, to those on the other side of the House. Both sides are to blame, and where both are wrong the weaker of the two always suffers.

The circumstances are these:—On Tuesday afternoon, shortly after 5 o'clock, the gas which had been burning very dimly, suddenly commenced to jump and nearly half of the jets in the large centre chandelier went out. On perceiving which, the Sergeant-at-Arms immediately had the gas turned off, leaving only those in the reporters' gallery alight. On this several members on the Government side called out 6 o'clock, while on the Opposition side they cried "No! No! Go on," whereupon the Speaker said "I declare it 6 o'clock," and immediately left the Chair.

After the recess the Speaker read an explanation of his conduct in which he stated he believed it to be the desire of the majority that he should leave the Chair in consequence of the darkness and he had done so. Mr. Joly expressed himself satisfied with the explanation, and added it had been his intention to take the opinion of the House on the subject, but after the explanation that had been given he would take no further steps. The following afternoon Mr. Joly pointed out that the explanation of the Speaker did not appear on the Records of the House. Mr. Angers argued it was unnecessary and the Speaker decided it being in the hands of the House, he should not put it on the Records of the House unless directed to do so by motion. This challenge was immediately accepted by Mr. Joly, who moved that in leaving the chair as he had, the Speaker had infringed the rules of the House. A hot discussion followed on this and the motion was ultimately voted down. Mr. Mathieu then moved that none of the proceedings relating to the question be entered on the Records of the House. The debate on this motion lasted till 6 o'clock and was renewed after recess, when Mr. Joly in speaking to the motion said in the heat of debate, that the majority ruled the House by brute force (*la force brutale*). This the Speaker decided to be unparliamentary, when Mr. Joly said "Very well; I won't use them again." Mr. Chapleau, however, demanded the retraction of the words, stating they were insulting to the House. The Speaker accordingly requested Mr. Joly to retract. Mr. Joly answered that believing the words were true, he declined to do so. The Speaker being called on to rule what should be done, postponed his decision till the following afternoon, and the House immediately adjourned, the Opposition objecting. On Thursday afternoon, on the opening of the House, the Speaker again asked Mr. Joly if he would retract. Mr. Marchand raised a point of order by objecting to the subject going any further, as there was nothing in regard to it on the votes and proceedings of the previous day. The Speaker overruled the objection, when Mr. Joly said, "As this proceeding seems to me to be irregular, I do not think I am obliged to reply." The Speaker then said, "Owing to the position taken by the honourable member I have now a painful duty to perform, which is to submit his conduct to the judgment of the House." On this Mr. Angers moved that Mr. Joly be reprimanded in his seat by the Speaker. On this the Opposition raised point after point of order, all being decided against them and the decision supported by appeal to the House. This lasted till 6 o'clock, when Mr. Anger's motion being carried, the Speaker said to Mr. Joly, "I admonish you," and the House took recess. After recess Mr. Mathieu's motion that nothing on the question should appear on the Records of the House was carried, but notwithstanding this the votes and proceedings of the House contain a full account of Mr. Joly having been reprimanded, while not a word is said about the Speaker's volunteered explanation and its concomitants. This afternoon Mr. Marchand made a motion protesting against the above entry on the votes and proceedings and directing them to be struck off.

Another discussion, another division, and the minority are again crushed. Concerning the above I cannot help a few remarks expressing the opinions of many who looked on, taking no part in it and who differ in politics. Mr. Speaker was wrong in not entering his explanation on the Records of the

House, as was expected by nearly every member in the House. Mr. Joly was wrong in not bowing to the decision of the Speaker, who certainly made a great mistake in postponing his decision till the following day, as the Records of the House, containing nothing about the matter, made the whole of the proceedings of Thursday irregular if not illegal, and lastly the taunts of the Opposition openly thrown in the teeth of the Government side aroused the passions of many members and disgusted all but their immediate supporters. A little concession on the part of the Government would have gone a long way to prevent the breach that now exists between the Right and the Left, and which bids fair to last till the end of the Parliament.

A little incident that happened this afternoon will bear me out. While Mr. Angers was speaking to Mr. Marchand's motion, he was frequently interrupted from the Opposition side until Mr. Lafontaine, one of the interrupters, was rebuked by Mr. Houde, of Maskinonge, whereupon Mr. Lafontaine taunted Mr. Houde, who at one time was a Liberal, with being led by his new masters, to which the old gentleman replied, "I left my old masters because they were no good."

Now for matters more attractive, but before leaving the subject I must apologise for the length to which I have gone, the uniqueness of the affair being my sole excuse.

In my last letter I pointed out one mutual admiration society in the House, now I have discovered another one which, however, would be better styled the applauding quartette. They are Messrs. Larue, Dupont, Lavallée and LeCavallier. They all sit near one another, and so soon as Mr. Larue, the leader, shouts "Yare, Yare," then the others join in. As applauders they are a tower of strength.

From the floor to the gallery. The Press galleries have been badly treated, not a word has been said about them. Now I will mention them for the first and last time. They contain desks for 21 journalists; between 30 and 35 individuals have obtained that right. Out of that large number not more than six or seven do any reporting, the others are principally composed of young students who obtain credentials from country papers and there loaf away an hour or two with their faces poised on the tips of their fingers staring widely at the ladies' galleries, then suddenly remembering an appointment they swagger out with more style than a dog with two tails. There are a number of journalists who, although they do no work in the gallery, occupy a seat there because it is easier of ingress and egress than any other gallery, while there are others, very few, who sit and ponder over the proceedings for editorial purposes. The great difficulty is to keep our gallery clear of outsiders. There seems to be an idea, here, that a journalist's life is a very enviable one, or anyhow to be thought to be one, is the height of many a young man's ambition. Therefore we are overrun with boys just out of their teens, who draw pictures, talk and otherwise interrupt those who work, and in fact do all they can to make themselves as disagreeable as they possibly can.

The Quebec Gas Company of Quebec is deserving of a note of censure. For several days during the session the gas has been abominable, sometimes it refused to burn altogether, and then candles would be lit, one for every two members and distributed around the House, causing a picturesque appearance certainly, but giving very little light. Since the result of too little gas, however, the light has been all that could be wished.

Speaking of the Right and Left sides of the House, I must mention that notwithstanding there is plenty of room on the Opposition Benches, Messrs. de Beaujeu and Cameron, who invariably vote against the Government, persist in sitting on the Right side, to the exclusion of those Conservative members who are crowded on to the other side.

There is, at present sight, but little doubt that the session will last for another fortnight or three weeks, so you will hear from me again.

KRIS KRINGLE.

### TO A CHILD.

As on the pages of some fairy book,  
With rapt, delighted interest we look,  
Reading in every line the magic lore  
That makes our world-worn spirits young once more,  
So look we, lovely child, upon thy face,  
So in each line some tender record trace,  
Of pleasures pure as might the angels know,  
Could they come down to walk with us below.

Gazing, we muse and murmur can it be  
That life's sad cares must come to such as thee?  
Must those soft eyes, so full of gladness now,  
Grow dim with tears, and must that radiant brow,  
Where sweetest, tenderest characters are writ,  
Be e'er by anguish or wild passion knit?  
And that entrancing smile, whose winsome grace  
Plays like swift sunshine o'er thy dimpling face,  
Must Time and Sorrow even that efface?

Ah! sweet it were if love could learn some charm  
To shield its darlings from the touch of harm!  
But Love can only breathe a pleasing prayer  
To One who holds us all in heavenly care.  
As he doth keep a star of holiest light  
Safe in its orbit thro' the darkness night,  
So may He keep, dear child, thro' perilous youth,  
Thy soul secure in Innocence and Truth;  
And if the mists of Error round thee rise,  
If Evil lure, or Sin her witchery tries,  
Still may thy heaven-protected spirit be  
From every dark and baleful influence free;  
Free as the morning star in yon bright plain,  
Which takes from blackest clouds no hurtful stain.

New York, January, 1878.

E. S. S.

### VARIETIES.

SIR EDWARD CREASY, the historian, author of "The Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," died lately, aged sixty-six.

IDLENESS NOT HAPPINESS.—The most common error of men and women is that of looking for happiness somewhere outside of useful work. It has never yet been found when thus sought, and never will while the world stands; and the sooner this truth is learned the better for everyone. If you doubt the proposition, glance around among your friends and acquaintances, and select those who appear to have the most enjoyment in life. Are they the idlers and pleasure-seekers, or the earnest workers? We know what your answer will be. Of all the miserable human beings it has been our fortune or misfortune to know, they were the most wretched who had retired from useful employment in order to enjoy themselves. Why, the slave at his enforced labour, or the hungry toiler for bread, were supremely happy in comparison.

SCHLIEHMANN'S DISCOVERIES.—In Dr. Schliemann's collection of relics from Troy and Mycenae there are no fewer than 8,700 small golden jewels. The work on them is in some instances almost microscopic. Pins, buttons, pendants, even shirt-studs are among them. There are six golden bracelets, somewhat injured by fire. There are over sixty ear-drops, generally made of fine gold wires closely compressed, and in some examples soldered, with much skill, and unlike any hitherto discovered. Two of them are a pair of beautiful serpents; four others are serpentine. In the chains there are no links; the beads and oblong bits of gold are soldered together or fastened to each other in some inscrutable way.

SENSIBLE WOMEN.—A true woman honours her duties and delights in her home. She knows what portion of life's work is naturally assigned to her by the fitness of things and the best division of her labour, and she does it, finding in the exact performance of those duties which nature and custom have laid on her both her place and her pride. She does not disdain to examine closely her grocer's book and her butcher's bill. She does not think the keys of the store-room her symbol of degradation, nor hold the nice condition of the linen something below her dignity to ensure. Sometimes she even undertakes that kind of deft embroidery known as darning, and does not leave all to the housemaid, whose fingers are hard and her needles sure to be large.

NOVELTY IN PAPER.—When the usefulness of compressed paper for railway wheels was demonstrated two or three years ago, people asked "What next?" The question can now be answered. The latest use of paper appears to be for chimney-pots. They are made in Breslau, and are light and durable. Before the paper pulp is moulded and compressed into the required shape, it is treated with chemicals which render it non-inflammable. Specimens of paper and cloth made from the California cactus were recently exhibited before the Maryland Academy of Sciences. The cactus grows abundantly in many of the Western States and Territories, and it is found on arid soil where nothing can be cultivated. The success that has been met with in making paper from this plant is so marked that the business will probably be attempted on a large scale.

VICTOR EMMANUEL AND VENESESECTION.—In view of the fatal termination of King Victor Emmanuel's illness, the fact that he was bled, even to a small extent, is much to be regretted, as it is to be feared that it will increase the prejudice against blood-letting which now so largely prevails. It appears that in the late King's attack so large a proportion of the lungs became intensely gorged that no treatment could have been attended with satisfactory results; but there is no doubt that the abstraction of a few ounces of blood often gives enormous mechanical relief in cases of acute pulmonary disease. A healthy relation between the heart and the lungs is re-established, and the further development of the disease checked. It is probable that many lives would be yearly saved in this country if practitioners had the courage to oppose the deep-rooted prejudices against phlebotomy which now so sadly cripple their action.

"HEAT IS LIFE—COLD IS DEATH."—The saying "heat is life—cold is death" has a striking illustration and confirmation in the reports now regularly submitted to the Glasgow Sanitary Committee. The death-rate rises and falls with the regularity of the thermometer. So many degrees less heat, so many more deaths, *vice versa*. In a recent fortnightly report Dr. Russell says:—"The death-rate in the first week of the fortnight was twenty-one; in the second week twenty-five. The mean temperature in the former week was 40.8 deg. F., in the latter 39.5." He attributes the low rate of the first week to the high mean temperature of the preceding fortnight, which was 47.3 deg., and adds:—"This is a good illustration of a law which we frequently observe in these reports of temperatures and death-rates—that a week of low temperature produces a rise in mortality the week following." This explodes another popular notion, not specially of the old, but of the young and strong, that a good sharp frost with a plentiful accompaniment of snow is the most healthy weather we can have.

TWO NEW ANECDOTES OF TURNER.—Turner was staying once in a friend's house at Knockholt, where there were three children. Turner had brought a picture with him of which the

distance was already carefully outlined, but there was no material for the nearer parts. One morning, when about to proceed with this drawing, he called in the children as *collaborateurs* for the rest, in the following manner. He rubbed three cakes of water colour—red, blue and yellow—in three separate saucers, gave one to each child, and told the children to dabble in the saucers and then play together with their coloured fingers on his paper. These directions were gleefully obeyed, as the reader may well imagine. Turner watched the work of the thirty little fingers with serious attention, after the dabbling had gone on for some time, suddenly called out, "Stop!" He then took the drawing into his own hands, and added imaginary landscape forms, suggested by the accidental colouring, and the work was finished. On another occasion, after dinner, he amused himself in arranging some many-coloured sugar-plums on a dessert plate, and when disturbed in the operation by a question, said to the questioner, "There! you have made me lose fifty guineas!"

### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

THE press and public of Italy are making a decided stand against the extravagant salaries demanded by leading singers and actors. The official returns given to government disclose the fact that at the first appearance of Mme. Patti as *Violetta* at Florence the total receipts were £1,200. At her second, as *Rosina*, the receipts dwindled down to £264. Her share was £2500 a night.

MME. MODJESKA, the admirable Polish actress, over whom New York is crazy, is about forty years old, having been on the stage in her own country as far back as 1850, and having a son full twenty years old.

AMONG some autograph letters lately sold was one written by Kitty Clive and David Garrick, in reference to the stoppage of her salary, in which she says, "I hope the stoppage of money is not a French fashion." This brought something over seventy-five dollars. Another letter, which was sold for twenty dollars, was written by Mrs. Piozzi and contained this critical sentence, "But I would rather talk about Shakespeare, whose knowledge of colloquial Italian seems proved in each his 'taming of the Shrew'."

In one of the "Reviews" now in progress at a Paris theatre one act is played in the audience by actors scattered here and there, and the most intense excitement prevails in consequence. One of the leading actresses sings a song in the dress circle.

### LITERARY.

A MARRIAGE is arranged and will take place at Westminster Abbey during the first week in March between Mr. Lionel Tennyson, youngest son of the Poet Laureate, and Miss Eleanor Locker, daughter of Mr. Frederick Locker and the late Lady Charlotte Locker.

THE forthcoming report of the Royal Commission on Copyright will recommend that an exclusive right of dramatization shall be secured to novelists.

MR. TENNYSON has several new poems nearly ready for publication. One of them is something in the style of the famous "Northern Farmer."

THERE will shortly be published "Practical Legislation; or, The Composition and Language of Acts of Parliament," by Sir Henry Thring, K.C.B. Our Canadian law-givers should lay in an abundant supply.

THE prose remains of Mortimer Collins have been collected by his widow, and will, under the editorship of Mr. Tom Taylor, be brought out.

PROF. STANLEY JEVONS has in preparation an abridgment of Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," for the use of students. The volume will contain a large amount of original matter in the shape of notes.

THE poet Close has just been gladdened in the acceptance by the Queen of a copy of his "Christmas Book." She has likewise sent him a letter of thanks. Mr. Close, it seems, has had a severe illness all the winter, and is in a very weak state of health.

### CLOUD BANNERS OF THE ALPS.

Among the most exquisite scenes which delight the eye of the European traveller are those wonderful rose-coloured cloud banners, floating from the Alpine cliffs. But it is only in the sunlight that Nature hangs out those beautiful tokens. So it is only in the glow of health—the sunlight of our inner being—that nature reveals those physical cloud-banners, the "rosy cheek" and "cherry lip," to praise which every poet of the earth has evoked the Muse to aid him. But they are as rare as the cynical Hood conceived Christian charity to be. Woman, eager to retain this charm, resorts to French art and rouge. The effect is similar to that which would be produced by substituting auctioneers' flags for the delicate glowing cloud-banners of the Alps. If woman would aid Nature instead of adopting art, would seek health instead of vainly trying to mask disease, she would not only win the greatest charm of womanhood—health—but she would avert much misery both from herself and others. Dr. Pierce's Favourite Prescription has received the highest praise from thousands of pale, delicate, suffering women. One bottle often affords more relief than months of treatment by caustics and other medicines. It is harmless in any condition of the system, and its use often renders the modest invalid exempt from that most trying of ordeals—a personal consultation with a physician. It is the duty of every woman to become familiar with the causes and symptoms of the many diseases to which her peculiar organization renders her liable, and also to learn the proper means of preventing these maladies. The People's Medical Adviser contains an extensive treatise upon "Woman and her Diseases." The Author also advises courses of domestic treatment, which will often render the services of a physician unnecessary. Every woman should read it. A copy of the Adviser can be obtained by addressing the Author, Dr. R. V. Pierce, at Buffalo, N.Y. Price \$1.50 (postage prepaid). Favorite Prescription is sold by druggists.