

upon. Mahon ordered him to watch Pincher's movements closely all night, and at once to carry to where he was waiting in the hollow of a decayed tree. The lad sat down, and as if in a dream, he was conscious of the sound of a key turning in a lock, and when Pincher came out, he concealed himself, kept him within view, until he saw him deposit something in the side of an old beech, which stood alone in a remote part of the demesne. When his master re-entered the castle, he at once carried the letter to Mahon—who was hidden not far off—and as immediately preferred a personal interview, and appointed twelve o'clock next night at the place of Johnson's selection. Mahon quickly set out to reconnoitre the ground, and take his measures.

The mud walls of a roofless cabin, where the meeting was to be held, stood in an angle, formed by the crossing of two roads, on the side of a bleak and desolate mountain, far distant from any other habitation. It had formerly been a "shebeen," where illicit whisky was purchased from the makers, and re-tailed to travellers, or sold to the less scrupulous of the neighboring gentry; and was built upon a sort of neutral ground, between the producers and consumers; but a large seizure of contraband spirits having been effected by the gaugers, the proprietor was committed to prison for fines which he was unable to liquidate—and the unoccupied dwelling soon fell into decay. There was not a tree within miles, and Rory was sadly puzzled to find any place of concealment suitable for his purpose. Two roads, running up the ascent from different directions, intersected each other at right angles. Just in front of the ruin, being only fenced by low and hedgeless ditches, they could be commanded for a long distance by persons standing within its walls, so that by them it would be impossible to approach it on either side unnoticed. In one of the angles formed by the intersection of the roads stood the wreck of the shebeen, and in the opposite one, its former occupant had laid out his little garden, which now overgrown with weeds was surrounded by a ditch, the back being turned to the road—in its front, on the garden side, grew a stunted whitethorn hedge; and in the dyke, under its shelter, there was a possibility of concealment, but the chances of discovery were great; and it must be occupied long in advance of the appointed hour. About ten o'clock, four men dressed in cabmen hats and coats of frieze, such as are worn by our peasantry, had reached the cross road by a pathway leading through the fields. One of the party carefully examined the old walls, and then all four lay in the garden ditch, two taking their positions at either end, so as to command a view of both roads, the other two being placed in the centre immediately opposite the roofless cabin, and keeping a sharp lookout towards the mountain. The sky was clear, and a little before midnight they perceived Johnson descending the hill. When he came within a short distance, he halted, close by a patch of furze bushes, while he took a survey of his surroundings—after having apparently satisfied himself that all was safe, he entered the walls, but soon again returned to his first position, where he remained crouched amongst the furze, until the noise of approaching horsemen was distinctly audible—he then crept down to the back wall of the cabin, and from thence anxiously watched the direction from which the sound proceeded. On the appearance of two persons, he evidently became alarmed; for he at once retreated on all fours to his place of refuge on the hill side; but when only one of them alit, and was walking forward alone, while the other remained stationary with the horses, his confidence seemed restored, and he again ventured down. As Pincher entered the old walls, the who lay in the garden ditch could hear the sailor bid him "welcome;" the reply was a shot. Then there was an exclamation of "villain!" immediately followed by the discharge of a second pistol. After the first shot, the man with the horse came galloping up, and before the concealed party had time to determine what they should do, Pincher cried to his follower: "I've stopped that scoundrel's tongue anyhow; he has one ball through the head, and another through the body."

"Is he dead?" demanded the person addressed.

"He must be, if he had as many lives as a cat."

"Be sure of that," added the other.

(To be continued.)

#### Louise Latane.

An extract from a recent letter from Bishop S. V. Ryan, of Buffalo, to the *Catholic Union* of that city, says:

"You have heard of Bois d'Hane and Louise Latane. Well, with the good Rector of the College, Rev. F. Pulsers we started Thursday evening and at dusk we reached that out-of-the-way place, now however, world-renowned, and visited by strangers of every nation. I only say that I carried the most Holy Sacrament to her Friday morning, accompanied by a crowd of pious pilgrims more than enough to fill twice over her little room. After administering to her the Blessed Sacrament, while she in ecstacy communed with her God, I turned to the bleeding wounds of her hands to the gaze of all present, and looked myself in wonder and a species of awe, now at her ecstatic countenance, now at the blood flowing from the open wounds on the back of her hands. At 10 o'clock I returned again, this time with the parish priest alone, and had this time an opportunity of seeing her and speaking with her and examining the stigmata, not now bleeding, but fresh and open as if a nail had actually pierced her hands."

"Again at 3 p. m., a crowd had assembled, but this time men, for women are now excluded at this hour, much indeed to the disgust of several ladies who had come from a long distance. But there were besides ourselves physicians from different parts of Belgium, France and Germany, and here she lay in ecstacy rapture insensible to all around her, the blood flowing profusely from her hands. We recited prayers and psalms of the divine office, she seemed to unite with us at times, and even raised herself up with a wonderful expression of countenance at certain parts of the same. Physicians present wiped the blood from her hands and examined the same, others dipped handkerchiefs and other articles in the flowing blood. Relics of the holy cross and other blessed things were presented, and she smiled and bowed in recognition. I quietly took from my neck my episcopal cross and placed it over her, when she arose immediately to a sitting posture, stretched out her bleeding hands and seized it with holy joy. I left it for some time in her hands and then gently withdrew it, she fell back again upon the bed. I sat thus by her bedside and watched the varied expressions that were depicted on her countenance, which I must not now describe, and when all others but the parish priest were excluded, I saw her return from this wonderful ecstasy, and again spoke with her, while modestly and naturally she tried to hide her bleeding hands. I only relate the facts myself have seen, let others attempt to account for or explain the extraordinary phenomenon, remembering that for

upwards of ten years every Friday similar scenes have taken place, witnessed of thousands and tested rigorously and scientifically by distinguished professors, physicians and theologians."

#### A Whole Day Without Food!!!

Wm. Williams, General Secretary of the "French-Canadian Missionary Society" writes a letter which appeared in Saturday's *Witness*. Mr. Williams intends his letter to be taken *au sérieux*, but people who cannot see through their spectacles will think it more funny than wise. He first insinuates that the French Canadians are working for the "great movement" in order to leave the church en masse and then he gives the following touching account of his experience:

"A man received a Testament from one of the colporteurs, got his wife to read it to him, and they marked every passage which he thought was contrary to the teachings of his Church. Then he went to the priest and began to question him. But the priest bade him begone, adding that he could no longer regard him as a Catholic the moment he doubted the teachings of his Church through reading the 'Swiss' gospel. The man on this determined to get the Roman Catholic version to compare with it, and he did so as follows: One day, leaving for Montreal with little money, his wife asked him to try and save enough to get a little cloth-stuff for her. But on reaching the city his first thought was for his new Testament. He found one of the Archbishop's version; but its price was a dollar and a half. He counted his money and found he had not enough for his expenses, for the book, and for the cloth. He determined to reduce his expenses by going without his supper, and, if necessary, to postpone the purchase of the cloth; but the book he must have. By the time he reached home he had been a whole day without food. Beginning to compare his new book with the one obtained from the colporteur, he was soon convinced of their substantial agreement; and also that the teachings of his Church did not agree with either. He had another interview with his priest, which ended in his leaving the Church of Rome. He is now regarded as a zealous Protestant, intelligent, and anxious to speak of the truth to his Romanist neighbors."

"A whole day without food!" Comment needless.

#### Lenten Reflections.

(New York Tablet.)

We are again, in solemn season, which the Christian Church has for more than eighteen hundred years annually set apart for penitential works, for prayer, and meditation. Year after year, when the winter is passing away and giving place to reviving spring, the Church, that mother tender and wise, calls upon all her children to arise, with the awakening year, from the cold torpor of the sad winter time, and enter upon a new life of grace and fervor. She invites them to retire with her Divine Spouse to the desert, and far from the noise and tumult of the world, with thoughtful mind and contrite heart, consider the great eternal truths, the shortness of life, the length of eternity, the certainty of death and judgment, and the uncertain duration of life. By every means in her power she disposes the hearts of her children to unite with her in the penitential exercises of the Lenten time, to mortify and restrain their evil inclinations, to practise self-denial and humility, and enter seriously into themselves, so that they may see how they stand before God.

To the true Catholic Lent is a time of sweet and hallowed associations. Whatever little acts of mortification or penance we may perform, whatever prayers we may address to the throne of mercy and the heavenly court, we feel that the faithful throughout the world are fasting and praying in unity of heart and spirit with the intention of the Church, and that when myriads of holy men and women in every land beneath the sun are engaged in the same penitential exercises, ours poor and imperfect as they are, will find favor before God, even for the sake of those just ones who walk always in his presence.

Lent is a time of hope for the repenting sinner; it is, indeed, "the acceptable time," and its days are "days of salvation," if we only use them aright and avail ourselves of the special graces then offered to our acceptance. If we solemnize Lent in the way that our Mother the Church points out for our guidance, uniting our intention with hers, this very Lent, which may be the last to many of us—will, certainly, to some—be the salvation of our souls, as it will undoubtedly be our condemnation if we refuse to avail ourselves of the advantages it offers.

What a privilege it is for us to belong to a Church who holds out to her children so great spiritual advantages, who loses no opportunity of directing their thoughts to God, and of renewing in their minds the saving recollections of his sufferings and death. Many Catholics do not sufficiently realize the inestimable value to their souls, and even to their bodies, of this calm, grave, solemn season, following closely on the long round of thoughtless dissipation which, especially in cities and large towns, winter is sure to bring. Even the recreation, which Lent brings to one and all, are, in themselves, benefits which cannot be too highly estimated.

The Church in her Lenten garb, her penitential purple, with her grave and mournful music, her unadorned altars, her continued prayer and fasting, presents a solemn and most impressive sight to the eyes of the outer world; why will not all her children do as she does during this time commemorative of Our Saviour's mysterious fast in the desert? It is little to the credit of any Catholic who does not conform to the precepts of the Church in Lent, and give up, in compliance with her wishes, the vain amusements, the tumultuous pleasures which have all year long engrossed his thoughts and his affections.

And never was there a time when the children of the Church had greater need of following her wise counsels and humbling themselves before God in prayer and penance. Not even in the days of Nero, Decius, Trajan, or Diocletian, did the fire of persecution burn more fiercely around the Church than it does now, and that from end to end of the whole earth. In view of the condition of affairs in Rome and all Italy, in Germany, in France, in Spain, in Poland, and even in our own free country, have we not need of showing ourselves faithful children of that wronged and persecuted Church against whom even some who call themselves members of her communion have raised their sacrilegious hands? If God was appeased by the fasting of the Ninivites of old, may we not hope that he may now be moved to compassion by the fervent prayer and penitential works of his own oppressed people? The Church has tyrants to overcome, nations to reclaim, rebellious children to bring back to subjection, as she has many a time done in the ages past; penance, and prayer, and sacrifice are her weapons, and we can each of us wield these in her defence. Now is the acceptable time, now are the days of salvation! Lent comes but once a year; shall we not make good use of its precious days and hours ere they fleet back into that "dread eternity, how surely ours?"

#### Von Moltke.

When Von Moltke was a traveller in Turkey, the plague raged in Constantinople. So great was the horror of infection that very few would give aid or comfort to the sick or dead. The Prussian officer excepts a Catholic priest, who not only did his own duties in the hospital, but waited on the sick as a nurse, attended and dressed them, and buried those who died. Testimonies are ever cropping up of the heroic devotion of the priesthood—devotion surpassing, as Moltke says, the courage of the soldier in battle.

#### On "Good Authority." (2)

LONDON, February 28.—With respect to the reported offer of a Cardinal's hat to Dr. Newman, it is stated on good authority that there has not been any time during the past ten years when Dr. Newman could not receive this honor had he been willing to accept it, but that he made it clear to the late Pope that he wished of all things to spend the remainder of his days in his institution at Birmingham, and would only accept the hat if positively ordered to do so. When the present Pope came to the throne he caused an intimation to be conveyed to Dr. Newman to the effect that an additional English Cardinal was thought to be desirable, and that his promotion to the scarlet would be made if he wished it. Dr. Newman made the same reply as before, and the matter has since remained in that position.

#### Quite a History.

QUEBEC, February 26.—A farmer named Burns, of Port Fairfield, Maine, and O'Brien, of River du Loup en bas, arrived in town yesterday morning in search of one Chas. Seymour, who had been in Burns' employ, but had stolen a team of horses and a young girl's heart and cleared that part of the country. Burns traced him to Moncton, thence to River du Loup, where he found O'Brien on the same track, both joining in pursuit. With the aid of Detective Skelington, of this city, they succeeded in arresting Seymour yesterday afternoon, conveying him back to River du Loup. The prisoner has quite a history. Some years ago, being a waiter on one of the boats running between Quebec and Saguenay, he was suspected of stealing a diamond ring from a lady of this city. He was some time afterwards arrested for robbing and sent to the Reformatory, but after two years made his escape, and the summer before last stole a sum of money from a Capt. Walker, and likewise a quantity of clothing from another person. He has several aliases, amongst others Drolet, Moisan and Martel.

#### Obituary.

It is with feelings of deep regret that we chronicle the untimely death of Mr. Patrick Molloy, of Bridge Water Cove, Quebec, which sad event took place on the 12th instant, after a short illness of three days at the early age of 34 years. He was for the past ten years in the employ of Messrs. John Sharpley, Sons & Co. as deal shipper at Bridge Water Cove, and was a member of the arch-confraternity of the Holy Family of St. Patrick's Church, and Treasurer of St. Patrick's Society of St. Columba, and also a member of the Sillery Literary Association. He leaves a widowed mother and a large circle of friends to mourn his sad loss.

LUNenburg, February 26.—There is general regret at the decease of J. H. Kauback, Esq., for many years High Sheriff of this county, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. Kauback, though an old man, was in the enjoyment of good health until last Monday evening, when he was taken suddenly ill, and died yesterday, shortly before noon. He was one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Lunenburg county. His grandfather, Martin Kauback, was one of the original grantees and settlers of Lunenburg in 1752. His father was appointed High Sheriff of Lunenburg in 1788, and continued to hold the office until his death, since which time the office was held by the deceased. His mother died only a few years since at the advanced age of 104. Mr. Kauback leaves three sons—Hon. Senator Kauback, C. E. Kauback, M.P., and Rev. Mr. Kauback, and one daughter, now a widow, together with a large circle of friends and relatives, to mourn his loss. His death will create a profound sorrow among all classes of people in this county, where his uniform integrity and kindness will be long remembered. The office of sheriff will probably be offered to Mr. C. E. Kauback, M.P.

#### Anniversary.

CHAMBLY, February 26.—The grand entertainment given here last night, which has been looked forward to with such interest for some time past, in honor of the hero of Chateauguay, whose services to the country during the war of 1812-13 render his name illustrious, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his death, was a brilliant and enjoyable affair in every respect, and the committee of management deserve credit for the success which attended it. The hall was elaborately decorated; the walls were hung with appropriate mottoes and banners of every description, arranged with exquisite taste, and presented a remarkably fine appearance.

Col. D'Orsonnens, of Montreal, delivered a fluent oration alluding in suitable terms to the bravery of the valiant hero and volitours of 1812 and 1813.

L. O. David, of Montreal, delivered an eloquent eulogy of the deceased hero, followed by Judge Dugas and Mr. Globensky, Mr. Bernier, advocate of St. Johns, and Messrs. Martel and Willett, of Chamblay, and others, all of whom were greeted with reiterated applause.

Mr. Dion, of Chamblay, effectively recited some appropriate verses, which were received with applause.

The pupils of Chamblay College sang some verses composed by Mr. Benjamin Sulte for the occasion, which were enthusiastically received.

Letters of excuse of presence were received from Hon. R. Masson, Hon. J. A. Chapleau and from Messrs. Taillon, Lorange and a number of others. The stormy weather of late, which blocked the railway and deprived us of a special train, disappointed many who would have been present. Excellent music was furnished by the different bands of Chamblay, which greatly enlivened the proceedings, the Canton brass band being particularly noticeable by the manner in which they executed the different pieces furnished by Pepper, of Philadelphia.

A grand dinner was given after the proceedings by Mr. Joyce, of Chamblay, at which speeches were delivered by L. O. David, Lieut. Bernier, J. P. Stebbens and J. Taylor. The ancient residence of the Hero of Chateauguay, at present occupied by John Yule, was beautifully illuminated. The front of the building was decorated with banners and an elegant inscription bearing the word "Chateauguay" was displayed to great advantage. Altogether, it is a celebration which will be long remembered with pleasure by all those present.

#### LATEST FROM THE CAPE.

The Loss of the British Reported to Be 1,500—The Colors of the 24th Regiment Safe.

LOSDOX, February 28.—The steamer "Warwick Castle," from the Cape, has arrived at Madeira, bringing latest intelligence. The loss of the British in the engagement with the Zulus on January 22nd was upwards of fifteen hundred, including native troops. Lord Chelmsford continues to act on the defensive. News from the frontier to February 10th reported everything quiet. A missionary is on board the "Warwick Castle" who witnessed the disaster to the British troops at Isandwana. Col. Pearson, who is entrenched at Ekowe, expects to be attacked by the Zulus. The bodies of Lieutenants Melville and Coghill, slain at Isandwana, were found, together with the colors of the 24th Regiment, which they had saved from falling into the hands of the Zulus. King Cetewayo is very defiant. The Boers have refused to assist the Zulus.

#### Horatio Davis Sheppard.

NEW YORK, February 25.—Horatio Davis Sheppard, D. L., aged seventy, founder of the first penny newspaper in New York, died at St. Luke's Hospital, at midnight, of pneumonia, complicated by disease of the heart. He was admitted to the hospital last Wednesday. His only relative known to be living is a cousin, Caleb Henry Sheppard, of Skilton, N. J. He appears to have dropped out of sight of his friends, for none called at the hospital to visit him, and his body is still unclaimed. In 1831 he conceived the idea of a penny newspaper, and visited the office of the *Spirit of the Times*, which had but recently been established. Horatio Greeley was then a journeyman printer on that journal, and Francis Storey was foreman of the composing room. Greeley was not in when the Doctor called, but he came in soon afterwards. Sheppard unfolded his scheme, and was laughed at by every body present. (Greeley, Storey and Sheppard started the *Morning Post* on New Year's day at two cents, but it would not pay at that price, and in three weeks the price was reduced to one cent and the sales were good, but it was too late, as the capital was expended and the paper failed. Nine months later the *Sun* appeared in this city as a penny newspaper. In 1839 a penny paper called the *Cent* was published in Philadelphia, and later another in Boston called the *Bostonian*, but they were mainly gotten up by unemployed printers and could scarcely be regarded as newspapers, much of their space being devoted to cheap and ordinary literature. In 1841 Horatio Greeley seems to have become a convert to Dr. Sheppard's idea, for in that year he issued the prospectus of the *Tribune* at one cent a copy.

#### The Society of Jesus.

(Philadelphia Standard.)

The falsehood that "the Jesuits" are trying to dictate to the Sovereign Pontiff continues to be circulated persistently. Yet nothing is more preposterously absurd. No other Order in the Church is so directly under the Pope as the Society of Jesus, none less able were it inclined, and less inclined were it able, to dictate to him on matters of Papal policy. As pertinent to the subject, we republish again the following letter of Rev. Father Becky, General of the Society of Jesus, to the Provincials of the Society:

"The public and the press occupy themselves largely, and in different ways, with regard to the doctrines and the line of conduct adopted by the Society of Jesus relative to various forms of political government. In presence of these polemics, I feel obliged, by the duty of my ministry, to recall to the Fathers Provincial the principles of the Society in this matter. The Society of Jesus, being a religious Order, has no other doctrine or rule of conduct than those of Holy Church, as my predecessor, the Rev. Father Rothmann, was led to declare in 1847. The greatest glory of God and the salvation of souls—such is our true and only end, at which we are aiming by the apostolic works suitable to the institution of St. Ignatius."

"In fact and in theory, the Society of Jesus is, and declares itself, a stranger to all political parties, whatever they may be. In all countries and under all forms of government, it confines itself exclusively to the exercise of its ministry, having in view only its end, which is far superior to human politics. Always and everywhere, each member of the Society loyally accomplishes the duties of a good citizen and a faithful subject to the power that rules his country. Always and everywhere, the Society says to all by its teaching and its conduct: 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' These are the principles which it has never ceased to profess, and from which it will never depart."

The testimony of history from the first formation of the "Society of Jesus" proves the sincerity and truth of these statements. They have been accused, time and again, and in every country, of exercising undue influence in the government of the Church, and also of interfering in politics. Yet, when the accusations have been sifted, they have been uniformly found not only entirely false but to have been inspired by envy, jealousy and malice.

The members of the Society are shut out by their express vows, and by the Constitution of the Society, from aspiring to or accepting any dignities or ecclesiastical offices in the Church. They cannot become Cardinals, Bishops, or even Vicar-General to a Bishop, without a special dispensation from the Sovereign Pontiff and ceasing therefore to be members of the Society. The acceptance of any such dignity or office severs at once all connections between them and the Society. Their number is less than that of almost any other religious Order, not one-tenth of the great Orders of Benedictines, Augustinians, Dominicans and Franciscans.

They can exert no other influence over the Sovereign Pontiff than that which is due to piety, devotion, zeal, conjoined with learning.

As regards the charge of their interfering in the politics of different countries, it has not only been proved false in every instance in which it has been made, and that, too, by the unwilling, unintended testimony even of the enemies of the Society, but it has also been proved that one special reason of the enmity against the Society, and of the calumnies invented against it, is that courtiers and politicians have found themselves disappointed, time and again, in their efforts to employ the influence of the Society for their own purposes in politics. They have attempted constantly to employ that influence, to enlist the members of the Society in their political intrigues and schemes, and use them for their furtherance. Failing in this, finding that they could not use them in a revenge they turned against them and accused them of these facts; in the light of recent researches into the history of France, Spain, Portugal and other European countries, have become incontestable.

#### Immigration.

The Ontario immigration report for 1878 shows that 13,055 immigrants settled in this Province last year, of whom 2,975 are booked as coming from the United States. The actual European immigration was therefore 10,080. The cost was \$31,975. It is a pity these reports keep no account of the number of emigrants from Ontario. They credit us with every arrival, but on the departures they are sadly silent.

#### Pleuro-Pneumonia.

Professor Crookes, of England, says carbolic acid will ward off pleuro-pneumonia from cattle. He advises farmers and drovers who have reason to suspect the infection to sprinkle crude carbolic acid abundantly about the yards and byres; and to put carbolic acid in the water in the proportion of one part of pure acid with three parts of salt-soda to 1,000 parts of water. This has been successfully tried, not only in England in rinderpest times, but quite recently in New York and New Jersey.

#### What the Indians Cost.

The Indians in Manitoba and the North-West cost the country last year \$394,200. The Mounted Police cost \$334,700. So that poor Lo in the North-West stands us in the sum of about \$730,000 a year. The report of the Minister of the Interior for 1877 gave the number of Indians in Manitoba and the North-West as 27,000; hence each Indian cost us \$27 a year. The annual payment of \$730,000 capitalised at five per cent., represents a debt of over \$14,500,000. The total Indian population of the Dominion is 99,650.

#### A Fool.

Khalil Bey gambled away \$2,000,000 in Paris in three years, his last loss amounting to 300,000. A friend, in trying to stop him, was met with the rebuke: "Remember this, my friend, I prefer losing by doing what I please to winning by doing as you wish." Purchasing tea services was one of his peculiarities. During his stay in Paris he brought forty-seven of them for his lady friends. Kalgiris, Greek Minister in 1866, hated Khalil Bey. When the former won at cards he taunted the Turk invariably in the words: "The days are gone by when you could split my ears," at the same time showing his ear, which had been split when he was a prisoner in Turkey. Khalil Bey died lately in Constantinople.

#### Annexation of Afghanistan.

[London Correspondent of the Scotsman.] I hear on good authority that the military advisers of Lord Lytton do not now hesitate to avow that the ultimate aim of his policy is the annexation of the whole of Afghanistan, and I see that such a view is put forward in very precise language by one of the chief organs of the Calcutta Government. An Indian military correspondent, in answering the question as to where are there still forty battalions of regular infantry, says: "My expectation is that there will be found in Herat, where he will probably turn up in person, Herat, well garrisoned, will take thirty thousand men to besiege it, and at least twenty thousand more to maintain our communications, and to keep Cabul, Candahar, &c. quiet. We might by lavish expenditure begin the siege in May."

#### Secret Societies.

(New York Sun.)

A marked effect of the failure of public life insurance companies is the increase in the mutual beneficial associations among secret societies. As a rule, the assessments per death amount only to one dollar. Some of the older associations, having a considerable fund invested, pay stated sums at death, from \$500 upward, the average being \$1,090. A compilation of annual reports for the year 1877 places the number of such associations in the United States in that year at 204, with a membership of 153,680, divided as follows: Masonic, 55,758; Odd Fellows, 38,280; other similar societies, 61,648. The total number of deaths was 5,476; the death rate per cent., 1.03; average amount paid by deceased members, \$8.92; average amount of insurance, \$6.93 per \$1,000. The sum paid to beneficiaries by Masonic organizations was \$3,096,704.85; by Odd Fellows, \$4,574,905.50, and by others, \$2,113,136.74—making the handsome total of \$7,567,332.06.

#### Grain Product of Europe.

The average grain product of Europe is reported at 5,000,000,000 bushels, of which Russia raises one-third, France and Germany 520,000,000 bushels each, and Austria 500,000,000. The United States produces 1,500,000,000 bushels (about the quantity that Russia does), which, in proportion to our population, is much larger production than any other country can boast of. Counting our inhabitants at forty millions, we raise forty bushels per head, and Europe's inhabitants at three hundred millions, she raises but sixteen bushels per head. Russia has twenty-six, and Great Britain only four bushels per head. The amount of grain consumed by generally fifteen bushels per head, we produce nearly three times as much as we want, Russia almost twice what she needs, and Great Britain not more than one-fourth of her requirement. Thus it will be seen that the production far exceeds the consumption, but the excess is absorbed by breweries and distilleries at home and abroad, which, more than any other cause, keep up the price of breadstuffs.—*New York Times*.

#### Chinese Slavery.

(From the San Francisco Examiner.)

A case showing the horrible condition of women slavery among the Mongolians in this State was exemplified by the testimony of a Chinese woman named Wong Ah Sing, given in the police court on Saturday afternoon during the trial of a Chinaman named Lee Cheun, who was charged with having committed a battery upon her. Through the interpreter she said that she was twenty years of age. Ten years ago she was purchased from her parents in China for twenty dollars, by a woman known to her as the "gray-haired lady." This woman brought her and another girl to this city. After she had been here a few months, the "gray-haired lady" sold her to Dr. Li Po Tai for over twenty dollars. She remained but a few months, when she did something that displeased one of the doctor's wives, who induced the doctor to sell her to another Chinaman, for thirty or forty dollars. This man, who kept a Joss house, had her in his charge for several months, when he gave her to a Chinese woman, keeper of a respectable house, in part payment of a debt. From this house she was taken to another, where she was sold to a man for \$20. At that time she was but twelve years of age, and her last purchaser kept her as his wife for about three years, after which he sold her in a revenge to her father and against them and accused them of these facts; in the light of recent researches into the history of France, Spain, Portugal and other European countries, have become incontestable.

#### The Plague.

The plague now ravaging parts of Russia is not new to that country, and the epidemic of this year recalls to the people the horrors from which Russia suffered a century ago (1770). Those were days of trial for Russia; from the south were pressing the formidable masses of Cossacks and peasants under Pugatcheff, who shook the Czarism and terrified the serfholders; while inside the empire was an enemy even more formidable, the plague. The people became reckless and cared for nothing but their lives; they fled from the cities and villages, hid themselves in the woods, and there died from starvation as well as from the epidemic. Moscow, the heart of Russia, was in a state of anarchy, and there seemed to be no ruler but the plague. The victims died by hundreds in their houses, and the streets were strewn with dead bodies. There were not enough undertakers, and money could not procure the needed service, and it was at last necessary to employ prisoners who were promised pardon. The criminals went to work and put the dead into wagons which they drove to the places of interment; but they often seized the dying, who uttered their piteous cries in vain, and many persons were buried alive. In those days children were afraid of their parents and parents of their children; everybody suspected everybody else, and many perished from neglect and starvation. Those are the experiences of the last century, now recalled in Russia.

#### The Public Accounts for 1878.

The Public Accounts for 1878 were laid on the table of the House by the Finance Minister on Monday, 17th ult. They are of an unusually interesting character. The total funded and unfunded debt on the 1st of July, 1878, was \$149,578,912.93, as compared with \$117,626,107.38 on the 1st of July, 1874. The total liabilities of Canada on the 1st of July, 1878, were \$174,957,268.96, as compared with \$141,168,551.33 on the 1st of July, 1874. The total interest on the total public debt was on the 1st of July, 1878, \$7,100,033.17, as compared with \$6,122,844.30 on the 1st of July, 1874. The average rate of interest on liabilities on the 1st of July, 1878, was 4.73 per cent, but this rate has been further reduced by the late negotiations of Mr. Tilley in substituting a 4 per cent loan for liabilities bearing interest at 6 per cent. The total expenditure on capital account up to the 1st of July, 1878, was \$6,657,200.36. The increase of public debt in 1878 was \$7,126,760.88. The receipts from Customs in 1878 were \$12,782,824.35; from excise, \$4,854,671.63; from bill stamps, \$200,442.21; from other quarters, \$4,533,074.69; total receipts Consolidated fund, \$22,375,011.88. The total expenditure as compared with the receipts was \$23,503,158.25.

The deficit for the past year, therefore, is \$1,128,146.40. Hence Mr. Cartwright's account with the electors of the Dominion stands as follows:

Salaries 1874-5	\$ 835,700
Deficit 1875-6	\$1,000,700
Deficit 1876-7	1,400,000
Deficit 1877-8	1,128,000
	\$4,364,400
Net deficit	\$3,563,900

#### Canadian Customs etc., as Seen by Yankee Eyes.

[J. C., in Inter-Ocean.] Ottawa, Ont., February 8.—Nearly everybody in Canada wears a cap in the winter, and every fifth man who has reached his fortieth year is bald, and his head looks like a light, shining billiard ball—only the head is the larger of the two balls, but may not be so hard. On the American side fewer caps are worn, yet the Yankees are more hot-headed. It is marvelous how their hair stays on.

On the Canada side, when breakfast is announced, usually at 8 o'clock during these short days if anybody is up and dressed, no short starts for the dining-room. There is an announcement, if there are fifty persons in the office and parlors of the hotel, not a soul rushes for the dining-room door. On the American side the first stroke of the dinner bell brings everybody to his feet, and there is a rush to the table, on the part of half the guests, as though they had not tasted food for thirty-six hours. Here people go to all their meals like a culprit on the way to the gallows, or a young man about to be introduced to his mother-in-law.

If you are at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, and want some postage stamps, do not be so stupid as to go to the post-office for them; you might as well go to the post-house for them. You will find them at the newsdealers and the hotels, cut don't ask for them at the post office or the post-house.

The writer once heard an Irishman declare "he never saw a cutler in Ireland till he came to America." So must your correspondent declare that he never saw every style of cutler till he came to Canada. Here they are in all conceivable shapes and sizes, and of such sleighing, and such heavy quotidian does of it. Shakespeare, modern, should read here just now: "All the world is a snow field, and all the men and women merely sleigh-riders."

#### The Kafirs.

The Kafirs, or Kafirs, who have given so much trouble to my British, with whom they had any number of wars, are a peculiar and ethnically considered, a very interesting people. The name, however, generally refers to the tribes occupying the coast country on the east side of South-east Africa, and particularly to the natives of the region between the Cape Colony and Natal. Kafir is derived from the Arabic word *Kafir*, meaning unbeliever, applied by the Mohammedans of the east coast to the