

variety. The old fustic, cochineal, logwood and indigo dyes with the berries and barks of trees and shrubs, give an inexhaustible and ever varying assortment of permanent colours, or rather "tones" so superior to the aniline dyes which were largely in use until the Women's Art Association began its work in developing the Home Industries of Canada, the results of which may be seen any day at the Association's headquarters, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. A large assortment of tweeds for men's wear is shown, comprising greys, browns, indigo and varied mixtures made from natural wool and wool dyed before being spun.

The "tufted" portieres and couvertures show artistic development. The designs are primitive but distinctive. They use the fleur de lis, reminiscent of France, the pine tree, the little Mary and geometrical forms quaintly adapted in whites, blues, pinks, reds, yellows, greens, with various combinations in warp and woof giving a charming and attractive result.

The revival of linen spinning and weaving is a more difficult problem, the growing of flax having been neglected, Quebec alone in a small way preserving the industry. In Prince Edward Island where in former days the best linen was made, nothing is now being done; but owing to the demand which is being created for homespun linen, efforts are being made to bring about flax raising in the Maritime Provinces, and it is hoped that the hand loom will again be brought into requisition to at least supply those who value the thrift of the home, the good work which lasts a lifetime and the unadulterated material used.

The illustration shows various linen combinations in weaving and tufting. Some of the homespun linen is sent to the North West to be embroidered in Russian, Persian and other Oriental designs which many of the people recently come to Canada know so well how to do, thus giving employment and sustenance to them and preserving another home industry to Canada.

## Public Opinion

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The Editor The Canadian Courier:

Sir,—You ask in your last issue, "Are you thinking about it?" I was, fifteen years ago, until the Royal Commission brought out their weak-kneed report on the "Civil Service of Canada" in 1892, then I gave up hope.

Your little note, "Are you thinking about it?" should appeal to every man who loves Canada. You put the case in a nut-shell in saying "political patronage is the curse of our politics, the bane of our public life." "To the victors belong the spoils" system once flourished in the Motherland and every public man in Canada should read from beginning to end, "Civil Service in Great Britain": a history of abuses and reforms and their bearing upon American politics, by Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, Chairman Civil Service Commission, published by Harper & Bros. in 1879.

When, Mr. Editor, a journal has the pluck to take up a matter of such burning interest to the higher political morals of our country it is time that it should receive support.

Owing to the plethora of publications I had contented myself with purchasing odd copies of "The Canadian Courier" up to the present, but I now enclose my cheque for the annual subscription. Yours, etc.,  
"Canadian."

### ETHICS OF JOURNALISM.

To the Editor:

Sir,—Allow me to say that I think the "Monocle" needed wiping off, or he would never go into a defence of the Thaw stuff. For the life of me, I can't see a bit

of interest in it for Canadians. Ever since the mushroom aristocracy of the United States got hold of more money than they have any right to, and therefore too much spare time, they have been breeding Stanford Whites, Harry Thaws and Evelyn Nesbits. So they are nothing new.

If either one of the remaining two or Stanford White had been related to any Canadian, or even if they were well known here for any reason, I could see some excuse for our papers taking it up, but even those reasons are lacking. If we want any "horrible examples" we have them of our own. How long ago is it since a should-be respectable young man from Toronto finished a round of revelry by committing suicide in a hotel in Chicago? The situation was created mainly by some one's over-indulgence towards him in money—the very same as a foolish mother defeated a father's plans in Harry Thaw's case.

It is the thinnest kind of sophistry to talk about Star Chambers, etc., because people want a readable paper to come into their homes and not one with disgusting details of something entirely foreign. If Great Britain wants lewd publications, let her have them! And if the United States must have yellow journals—let them. Any citizen of Toronto who wants any of those sheets can buy them right in Toronto; but the citizen who does not want them should have a choice. If he pays for a paper according to his ideas, he ought to have it. Paris is rather an unfortunate example to hold up to Canadians—a people who have shoved hell out of their reach by doing away with God—why need they care what they print or what they do? Besides the stage need not come before the youth of the land at every age, but the daily paper reaches multitudes of homes, and, as a rule, is read by young and old alike.

Now you are not so far from your childhood that you forget how the evil stays in a child's mind far easier than good. Newspapers are reformers of the very best kind, and it's very true, as one of Chicago's representatives to the Press Associations declared—not in so many words but to the effect—that whatever class of people you write for, that's the kind of readers you'll get. If you write for the gutter—clean people won't read it. If a paper wants to live, it will be particular, and the better class of New York's papers are not yellow, neither are those of Chicago.

Yours for prosperity,

Not a Puritan, but one who prefers Clean Literature.

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Another letter on this subject from "Anti-Canadian Courier" is omitted because the writer neglected to enclose his card.—Editor.

## Gems from the Schoolroom

Among the gems of a recent collection of school-boy "howlers" are the following:

The Star Chamber was a room decorated with stars in which tortures were carried out. From this we have the modern expression, "to see stars," i.e., to be in pain.

Charon was a man who fried soles over the sticks.

Socrates died from a dose of wedlock.

The heart is over the ribs in the midst of the borax.

A thermometer is an instrument for measuring temperature.

The snow line stretches from the north pole to the south pole, and where it crosses the Alps and the Himalayas it is many thousand feet high in the air.

"Honi soit qui mal y pense."—Let him be honoured who thinks evil.

A toga is a sort of naval officer usually found in China or Japan.

Cigarnet Wolseley was the first man to introduce tobacco into England.