

# THE ACADIAN,

WOLFVILLE, N. S., NOV. 28, 1884

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Boston, Nov. 16.—The Journal will print to-morrow an interview by a staff correspondent with Mr. Blaine at Augusta yesterday upon the cause of his defeat.

"How do you account for the closeness of the result in New York?"  
"Well, considering the loss of the bolt of the Independent Republicans, and the far larger loss from the action of the Republican Prohibitionists, the wonder at first sight is that the Democrats did not carry the state by a large majority, as they confidently expected they would. This result was prevented by the great accessions to the Republican ranks of Irish and Irish American voters, and working-men of all classes, who sustained me because of my advocacy of a protective tariff. They believe, and believe wisely, that free trade would reduce their wages."—New York Sun.

(The italics are ours.)

But we suppose the Watchman knows more about it than Mr. Blaine does.

Speaking of the Watchman, which claims to be the official organ of the Sons of Temperance, we notice that not a word has been said in it about the last annual session of the Grand Division, held at Halifax this month. We say "official organ" with a vengeance.

While we admit that the Kentville paper man has a perfect right to come to Wolfville for news items, we must say we think it would be more to his credit if he would occasionally put a Kentville item into his paper. Give Wolfville a rest. As it is now, his paper might as well be published in Africa as far as Kentville news is concerned.

Even as it is, we would not object if the Wolfville items were ever correct; but they are in most cases either greatly exaggerated, or else entirely incorrect.

Our readers attention is directed to the advertisement of the Montreal Witness publications, which appear in another column. We notice that the circulation of the Weekly Witness has increased very much during the last couple of years—a clear proof of the estimation in which it is held by the reading public. All the journals emanating from the Witness Office, are "family papers" in the true sense of the term, and contain a large amount of varied and interesting news. It is always a person's advantage to take a first-class city paper in addition to that of the locality in which he resides.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Acadian.

Dear Sir:—It is with feelings of the greatest regret that I have noticed during the last two or three months the steady increase of drunkenness in this village. While the Scott Act was being actively enforced, the "rum sellers" kept the thing very quiet; but now that the temperance folk have, for what reason I know not, ceased their prosecutions, the bar-rooms are thrown wide open and liquor is sold without any attempt at concealment. Will you kindly permit me to ask through your columns why this is allowed, and if the right thinking part of the community are satisfied to allow it to go on?

Surely in the near future shame awaits us if something is not done.  
Yours &c.,  
A SUFFERER.

P. S. I wonder if the authorities of Acadia College know to what extent the students are suffering from this evil.  
S.

## VACATION NOTES.

BY HARL HARLEE.

Vacations are becoming very popular. Summers are saturated with them. Invitations to come and visit are quickly followed by fulfilment; and city residents flock to the country to see friends, or cream and eggs, while country ones seek the city to return visits and get the fashions. I am quite susceptible to invitations, and in this I resemble a great many of the human family. My vacation this year was brought on by one. As soon as it was duly received I was at the station waiting for the train, which was not quite an hour late that day—her usual time is an hour and twenty minutes.

Waiting for the train is the most important part of going anywhere. It often takes you longer to wait than it does to go. Since the I. C. R. have put restrictions on return tickets, a person's ticket is very apt to run out before he gets away. Buying a first-class ticket, and spending most of your time in a second-class waiting room, and then having to pay the conductor on the train, is not going to be popular with the travelling public. The next change in the rules of the I. C. R. will probably be admittance fee to the waiting-rooms, and then the higher officers of the road can have an increase of pay, and the agents and operators can try for one. The train comes at last, and I go. The train is nearly full of passengers; some sleeping, some eating, some reading. I never sleep, eat, or read on the train, that is what I work at at home, and when away I like a change. On the train I like to notice what is going on around me. I like to watch the country as it flies past, and get a glimpse of its hills and valleys; its pastures, with the sheep scampering away from us; and its fields all checked with grass and grain. I like too to look at the people that gather at the different stations to "see the train." The more important the station, the larger the gathering. All ages and kinds are generally represented; from the girls that come with borrowed letters to mail so they can have a little talk to the postal clerk, to the smart-acting boy who possesses sufficient bravery to ride a few steps on the rear car, and thus show to the little boy over the fence behind the station, who has never seen the train before, and afraid to move lest it will take after him, the marvellous dexterity that is in him. Two hours ride and Halifax is called. Here a cordial reception is tendered me by the hack, bus and cab men. They seemed delighted to see me, and enquired most affectionately for my baggage. Nothing cheers a person more than to meet with cordial receptions when away. I like to see people cordial at home. These who are only cordial away from home, I don't associate with. I saw at a glance that I could not go with all these men without it being very inconvenient for me, so I picked on one and was driven by him to the "International," where I remained at my own risk and expense till morning. At seven I took the S. S. "Edgar Stuart" for Liverpool, N. S.

The day was fine and sunny with just a gentle breeze. The passengers all clustered on deck—some to escape sickness; and the rest to promenade, lounge and read. But sea-sickness is so fashionable that it is hard to keep from taking it. Women are especially sensitive to it. One by one, our female passengers sought their berths, and before we were out two hours only one or two were visible. Some people think sea-sickness wholly imaginary, and will not believe that it is the result of an agitation of the brain caused by the peculiar motion of the vessel. No doubt the imagination encourages the disease on, but when you see a little child vomiting as if it was a squirt-gun, and a young lady calmly leave a young man, who wears a dyed mustache and a heavy ring, for the loneliness and narrowness of a state-room, you conclude there is a reality in it which you wish wasn't. The first place of interest we passed was Devil's Island. Opera-glasses were brought out to help us in getting a view of the old boy himself, but he was in Kentville that day and we missed seeing him. Soon we are shown the spot where last March the "Daniel Steinman" was wrecked; and a little farther on where, a few years ago, the "Atlantic" went down. All the awfulness of those disasters come back to us as we gaze at the breakers and rocks where they occurred. At Lunenburg we leave some of our passengers and take on more; then steam away, leaving the town, of which we get a splendid view from the water, behind. Five hours more and the whistle blows for Liverpool. Passengers that we have not seen since the morning now make their appearance, looking as happy and as tired as if they had just got through entertaining delegates to a convention. Quietly we draw up to the wharf and land. Two miles and a half drive in the moonlight and I am in Milton, where my inviters

are waiting for me. I like to see people cordial at home. These who are only cordial away from home, I don't associate with. I saw at a glance that I could not go with all these men without it being very inconvenient for me, so I picked on one and was driven by him to the "International," where I remained at my own risk and expense till morning. At seven I took the S. S. "Edgar Stuart" for Liverpool, N. S.

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## Science, Literature, Criticism.

### Sayings, wise and otherwise of Scientists and 'Sciologists.

WITH CASUAL NOTES.

(Continued.)

"I can hardly doubt," says Mr. Darwin, "that all the vertebrate animals, having true lungs, have descended by ordinary generation from an ancient prototype, of which we know nothing, furnished with a floating apparatus or swim bladder,—Darwin.

The whole passage is eminently funny—rather more so than comports with the dignity of so grave a subject. Every one but a development scientist would question the appropriateness of the phrase, "by ordinary generation" in this place; for ordinary generation could have had but little to do with the process. Extraordinary is the word needed.

But what does our author mean when he says of "the ancient prototype," conjured up that "we know nothing," and yet in the same breath tells us that he, or it, "was furnished with a swim-bladder." It is not the first time that we have been informed by these scientists, that "man's aquatic origin is demonstrated by his possession of lungs."

(1)—the development, that is, of this same swim-bladder. But the savant is obliging. If any one does not like the homely Anglo Saxon, he is allowed an alternative, and may adopt in its place the more euphonious, learned and respectable phrasology—floating apparatus."

Why however could not a swim-bladder be as well developed from lungs, as lungs from a swim-bladder? For this excellent reason, that it would go to prove the terrestrial origin of fishes; and so upset the celebrated doctrine, "Ex mari omnia," and with it that most beautiful theory of the scientists, "All things from slime." See Carlyle.

We have seen how Mr. Darwin treats the "Descent of man"—that a species of "apes" was his immediate ancestors and a "marine animal" his remote. But strange to say, Mr. Darwin does not claim that either of these types of life now exists, nor does he pretend that there are any remains of them existing upon the earth. They are hypothetical existences, conveniently conjured up to answer the demands of materialism.

We are informed that these imaginary "ascidians," our remote progenitors, "resembled tadpoles in shape and swam by means of a vibratile tail, which they shook off when they quitted the larvæ state and assumed the sessile condition." The hypothetical ape or monkey, man's immediate progenitor, "was a hairy quadruped, furnished with a tail and pointed ears, capable of movement. It was probably arboreal in its habits. Both sexes had beards, the males being provided with great canine teeth which served as weapons."—Darwin.

Such were our "ancestors," and of such Mr. Darwin informs us, in another place, that "we know no cause to be ashamed."

Well if any of us should happen to be of a different opinion, we have this to comfort us: there is no producible evidence that any such "ascidians" ever existed; they have not even a single living representative and there are no fossilized remains of such creatures upon the earth; the world in which they lived was that—so fertile in monstrosities—the imagination of materialistic philosophers. We may therefore without harm or loss discard and disown these as relations.

To be continued.

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QUESTIONS ON FRUITS AND PLANTS are answered by Mr. Jas. Dougall, Windsor, Ont.;

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