

THE CITIZENS' BALL, OTTAWA.

The ball to His Royal Highness Prince Arthur from the citizens of Ottawa took place last Friday night. It was on a scale of more than ordinary grandeur, and yet there was no effort at display. The Music Hall was decorated in excellent taste. There were no green herbs, no tawdry Chinese lanterns, no pieces of flannel, nor absurd mottoes and grotesque devices to vulgarize the large but very pretty hall. Lighted from the roof by gas, the light from which was thrown down by the newest style of octagonal shaped reflectors, and with additional lights at regular intervals around the room, and grouped over the stage, every object was distinctly visible. The carpeted stage, on which sofas were arranged in such a manner as not to obstruct the view of an excellent portrait of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen in her robes of state, was pleasantly enlivened with the emblematic colours of England's might, the red, white, and blue, the wings being laid out as refreshment rooms, with convenient entrances from the ball room floor. Around the ball room were large mirrors, to reflect, like the *mirage* on a placid river, the gay scene produced by the varied dresses of the perfect throng of fair women and brave men. On one wing of the stage were the city arms, and on the other the seal of the Dominion most artistically painted. The dancing floor was as smooth as the crystal surface of a lake; at the lower end, where the seats, inside of a bar, rise gradually upwards from the floor of the house, forming a gallery, and the floor of which was richly carpeted, were sofas for ladies and gentlemen to seat themselves after the fatigues of a waltz or galop, and very neatly screened from view was the supper room, groaning with boned and stuffed turkeys, peculiarly dressed lobsters, jellied hams, pyramids of candied cakes, blanc manges, Charlotte russes, and all those niceties of the culinary art, got up in the best style of mine host Gouin, the much esteemed and well-known proprietor of the Russell House.

At ten o'clock, His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, leaning on the arm of Her Excellency Lady Young, His Excellency the Governor-General escorting Mrs. Rochester, and a numerous suite of distinguished officers and ladies of distinction, among whom were Lady Macdonald, the Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, K. C. B., Miss King, Miss Allen, the Hon. Mr. Tilley, C. B., the Hon. Peter Mitchell, Minister of Fisheries, and the Hon. Mr. Kenny, President of Council, entered the ball-room, Gowan's truly excellent band, which filled the orchestra, playing the National Anthem, and the numerous company forming a lane through which the illustrious party passed to the upper end of the room. Only a few minutes elapsed until the dancing began. "La Grande Duchesse" quadrille opened the ball, and as the brilliant dresses of the ladies, the rich and varied uniforms of the officers of the army, the sombre green of the Prince Consort's Own, the brilliant scarlet of His Excellency's staff, and the officers of Royal Engineers, the richly embroidered jacket of an officer of Royal Horse Artillery, an officer of the gallant 78th Highlanders, in the imposing "garb of old Gaul," the very neat and rich uniform of the 69th Royal Rifles, the chaste uniform of the Commissariat, and the gay and handsome tunics of the Garrison Ottawa Artillery, commingled with the magnificent costumes of the ladies, which were of all imaginable kinds of tulle, with satin tunics of every colour in the rainbow—black, blue, red, yellow, green, purple, and white—some of which were speckled with flowers or peacocks' feathers, while others were elaborately trimmed in lace, a light semi-crown of diamonds, over the brow of Lady Young, whose neck was resplendent with brilliants, and the jewelled and costly head-dresses of the ladies generally, as the stirring strains of the band set the whole in motion, produced a kaleidoscopic scene, such as eye of man or woman never rested upon without a sense of pleasure.

How! as the wind did without, there was a sound of revelry within. Six hundred of the fairest among women and the bravest among men tripped it on the light fantastic toe until all were lost, and, literally, mixed up, in the mazy windings of the dance. Prince and commoner were blended together in a whirl of sound and excitement, produced by that poetry of motion which fascinate the eye and bewilder the imagination. Waltz, lancers, and galops succeeded each other with marvellous rapidity, increasing as the dance went on to "Harum scarum," when the royal and vice-royal guests, Senators, and members of the House of Commons, the Hon. Mr. Holmes, the Patriarch Senator of the Dominion—and ladies and gentlemen from Quebec, Hamilton, and Toronto, entered the supper-room. Returning again to the scene of festivity, dancing, which had scarcely ceased, was resumed until the "wee short hour ayon the twal," when the Prince and His Excellency the Governor-General, Lady Young, Lady Macdonald, and the whole suite of His Excellency bade adieu and left for Rideau Hall.—*Ottawa Times*.

PRESENTATION.—A handsome and well-given demonstration was made on the 12th instant, by the lumber merchants of the Ottawa, to the Hon. James Skend, at his residence. It had for some time been contemplated to recognize, in a proper way, the views which the honourable gentleman has already put forth in the lumbering interest. A number of traders in this staple article met and decided on giving the Hon. Mr. Skend a substantial expression of confidence and trust—a costly silver tea and coffee set was accordingly presented to him on Saturday evening. The inscription on the tray was as follows:—"Presented to the Hon. James Skend, by the Ottawa lumber merchants, as a mark of their appreciation of his earnest advocacy of their interests in the Senate of Canada." The gentlemen who represented the lumbering interest were Messrs. Poupore, Stubbs, R. Skend, Nagle, Cruice, and McGillivray. Each piece bore the initials of the name, and the crest of the honourable gentleman. John Poupore, Esq., local member for the County of Pontiac, in presenting the set, made a few neat complimentary remarks, which were gratefully answered by the honourable recipient. The gentlemen named and others present were invited to partake of the sumptuous hospitalities which the Hon. Mr. Skend is ever prepared to extend.—*Ottawa Times*.

On the night of the 28th ultimo a severe shock was felt at Cologne and several adjacent towns, caused by an explosion of dynamite which was stored in a manufactory at Dunwald, about seven miles from the city. The manufactory had only recently been finished, and the manufactory had but just commenced. The whole fabric was destroyed, and fifteen workmen were literally blown to pieces. Twenty-nine persons, the widows and children of the deceased men, are left unprotected by this calamity. The quantity of dynamite which exploded was only about two hundred weight, and, what is remarkable, a much larger quantity, deposited in the immediate neighbourhood, remained intact.

HOW THE CARDIFF GIANT WAS MADE.

The efforts of the Boston papers to again dignify the Cardiff giant with a mysterious origin are met by a correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*, who declares that he is one of the sculptors of the beast, the stone for which was actually got at Fort Dodge, Ia., as before stated. This man, who signs himself F. Mohrman, was to have \$150 for his share of the work, but has never got a cent. His fellow sculptor, Henry Salle, got \$40 in cash. George Hull, a former owner, was the man who hired them. They had a model three feet long to work from and a beer was supplied. Mohrman says the figure was proportional except in the back, where a layer of the stone peeled off and left the body some inches thinner than it should be. "The figure was pronounced complete in the latter part of October. Hull came occasionally to see how the work progressed. Hair had been carved on the head and a beard on the chin. Hull did not like this when he saw it, and said he would see about it. When he came the next time, he told us that he had consulted with a geologist, and was informed that hair would not petrify. So he ordered it to be clipped off, and we shaved the giant. Several ways were tried to make the figure look old, and at last one was invented. Quite a number of needles were placed in lead, with their points protruding, and the figure was pricked over with this. Two days were occupied in this work, as the chisels left marks on the stone which had to be effaced by this slow process of pricking. Some vitriol, sulphuric acid, and English ink were next procured and rubbed on, which gave the antiquated look required. Hull thought at first it would be best to put on a clay covering, but concluded it had better not be done, as the clay where the statue was to be buried might be different. He was undecided where to bury it at first, and suggested Mexico. I told him I thought that would be a good place, but he finally concluded not to take it there, as the distance was so great. Hull at one time proposed that we should insert in the figure here and there petrified pieces of wood or stone, so that when geologists called to see it he could chip off a small piece and give it to them to examine. This, however, was not done, as he could not find the pieces." Mohrman gives further particulars and names, dates and places, with a fullness that would soon expose his story if it was untrue.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.—An apparently sound scheme for bringing Australian Colonies into telegraphic communication with the mother country has been introduced this week. It is to be styled the British Australian Telegraph Company (Limited), and is created in connexion with the five companies by which the various sections that will constitute the great through line from England to the East have already been put in active progress. The present work is to consist of a cable of 563 miles from Singapore to Batavia, to join the Dutch lines which run to the south-eastern extremity of Java, whence another cable of 1163 miles will be laid to Port Darwin, in Australia, where a land line of 800 miles will connect the system with Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. The capital is to be £660,000, in shares of £10, and the making of the entire lines is to be confided to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, at the contract price of £634,000, of which £120,000 is to be in paid-up shares. The Falmouth and Malta, the Anglo-Mediterranean, the British Indian, and the British Indian Extension Companies are to allow the same rebate upon their through rates on all messages forwarded over their route by this company as they have granted to the China Submarine Company, thus creating a reciprocity of interests calculated to operate as a strong inducement to the harmonious working of all. According to the prospectus, the estimate of profit, reckoning 25 daily messages from the Dutch islands, and but 65 from the whole of the Australian colonies, is £121,665, or about 18 per cent. per annum, exclusive of local and Chinese traffic, and should this be steadily realised it may be hoped the directors will have the wisdom thenceforth to preclude all chance of future competition by giving their customers the benefit of a constant reduction in charges in proportion as any increased success may be attained.—*Engineering*.

A THIEVES' SUPPER.

An effort is now being made to reform the criminal classes of South London by means of a series of supper-parties, at which they are entertained with peace soup and wholesome exhortation. The leader of this movement is Mr. Wright, or, as he is popularly called, "Ned Wright," an active missionary in that quarter, who is himself a "converted convict," and, although now only thirty-three years of age, has been repeatedly imprisoned for theft. A week or two since he collected a number of the male thieves of the district, and last night the invitation was extended to thieves of the other sex.

The gathering took place at Gospel Hall, New Cut, in a bare dingy room, with a raised platform at one end, and rude benches without backs for the audience below. The aspect of the company was not less melancholy and depressing than that of the hall. The number of tickets distributed to the guests for whom the gathering was specially intended was 95; but only 72 came, representing altogether 151 convicts. Their aggregate sentences amounted to 39 years, the shortest being for seven days, and the longest for as many years. Every woman had been at least once convicted of robbery from the person. The oldest woman present appeared to be between 50 and 60. Her hair was grey, and she had two children born in prison. There was another woman a few years younger, who had once given birth to a child in gaol. Of the rest there was not one, we should say, over twenty-two years of age. They seemed to be all clad warmly enough, and some even, especially as to hats and bonnets, with pretensions to finery. There was no appearance either of rags or squalor. As a rule they might, as far as dress was concerned, have almost been taken for servants in a household of the lower middle class. Care had been taken, we believe, to identify each of the women on entering, and to make sure that she had been duly qualified by crime to avail herself of the invitation. There was, however, nothing that struck one as essentially pertaining to the criminal character either in the features or demeanour of the company; nothing of the heroism, the violence, or even brute determination of crime. What impressed you most was rather the stillness and stupidity of the faces. If there were none comely, there were certainly none which one could call really bad in expression. Apparently the women belonged to the class who drift into crime more through weakness and want of thought than anything else. Perhaps, how-

ever, on that account they may be the less promising subjects of reform; and it is not improbable that the more knowing thief, the woman of spirit, was not in attendance at the meeting. We cannot say that at any moment during the evening did they seem impressed or even capable of impression. They giggled and nudged one another, and every now and then burst into a roar of laughter while the supper was being served. They had apparently little appetite for the meal, and it was a favourite joke to pretend to be eating very fast when any of the assistants passed, but without really taking anything. One or two of the youngest, and some of the eldest, seemed to be really hungry, and soon emptied their bowls, but the majority played with their spoons, and had evidently come for the fun of the thing. There were five or six little children, mostly infants at the breast, among the audience, one or two of them bright, lively little creatures, with round rosy cheeks, who crowded at the gaslights, and by the contrast of their innocent gaiety deepened the melancholy of the scene. In the gallery above there were between forty and fifty male thieves, who shared the remains of the women's supper. This consisted of a basin of peasesoup and half a loaf of bread to each. At the close every woman received a paper bag, containing two ounces of tea, and a proportionate quantity of sugar and bread. The supper, of course, was only the prelude to the religious services which followed. Several hymns were sung; the women, after the first few bars, taking up the tune with voices singularly clear and sweet compared with their generally hoarse speech and laughter, and with evident relish for the music. Mr. Wright's address, which was vigorous and homely, but prolix, rather taxed their patience. It was full of professional points, as when he warned them of the folly of sacrificing themselves for the "fences," to whom they disposed of their "stuff"—in other words plunder—all the risk being on one side and the profit on the other, and when he added a happy touch to his picture of heaven in laying stress on the fact that in that blest abode no bobbies would appear to give false evidence. He invited any who sincerely desired to abandon a dishonest calling to come to him next day, and he would see what could be done for them.

It is possible that with all their apathy and levity some of the women may have been touched by the tenderness and solicitude shown towards them by their entertainers. If so, they must have felt more keenly the contrast of their reception outside. As they left the hall they were hooted by a crowd of roughs and impartially shaken and cuffed by the policemen whose supposed duties were to preserve order. One remark we feel bound to make: that admirable as is the intention of these meetings, there is a want of tact as well as taste in making the guests in any degree an exhibition for spectators.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

It is amusing to notice the various forms which our Parisian contemporaries adopt when they allude to the Emperor. The *Journal Officiel* describes him as H. M. the Emperor; *Constitutionnel*, His Majesty the Emperor; *France*, the Emperor; *Pays*, His Majesty; *Siecle*, Napoleon III.; *Cloch*, Napoleon; *Reveil*, the Executive; *Rappel*, Caesar; *Marseillaise*, Sardanapalus, Herod, and Heliogabalus.

The French cannot apparently forgive us for having anticipated them in seizing the island of Perim, and thus adding a Malta to our Gibraltar of the Red Sea, as they call Aden. According to the papers, M. Poilay, one of the engineers of the Suez Canal, has determined to counteract our influence in that quarter of the globe. He has with this object purchased a large tract of land at Babelmandeb, where he purposed to "créer une ville et un port." The future of this magnificent scheme is, according to his prospectus, already assured; for the neighbourhood is rich in coal mines, which can be worked (with forced labour, we suppose) at a trifling cost.—*Court Journal*.

The demand for perfumery in England seems to have outgrown the ordinary sources of supply; so the Society of Arts, at the suggestion and expense of Mr. Picse, invites the different British colonies and dependencies to compete with each other in the production of otto of roses and bergamot. For each of these, if extracted from native-grown plants, a premium of £5 will be given, and for a canister of enflowered butter or fat infused with flowers grown for the purpose in a British colony, a premium of £10 is offered. There are, no doubt, difficulties in the manufacture of the last article. Australia, for instance, which could supply any amount of fat, is deficient in sweet-smelling indigenous plants, while in the West Indies this condition of things is reversed. Those who have seen the fields of jessamine and violets in the South or France may have felt surprised that some of our waste lands have not been turned to so pleasing and profitable an account. With otto of roses at 20s. an ounce, one would think that the cultivation of England's own flower might prove fairly remunerative.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending February 22, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician, 387 Notre Dame Street.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Wednesday, Feb. 16.....	12°	25°	20°
Thursday, " 17.....	8°	16°	16°
Friday, " 18.....	35°	40°	38°
Saturday, " 19.....	18°	22°	14°
Sunday, " 20.....	10°	14°	15°
Monday, " 21.....	8°	10°	2°
Tuesday, " 22.....	2°	14°	10°
	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Wednesday, Feb. 16.....	30°	10°	20°
Thursday, " 17.....	22°	6°	11°
Friday, " 18.....	40°	16°	28°
Saturday, " 19.....	38°	16°	24°
Sunday, " 20.....	18°	2°	10°
Monday, " 21.....	20°	2°	11°
Tuesday, " 22.....	14°	4°	5°

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Wednesday, Feb. 16.....	30.35	30.37	30.44
Thursday, " 17.....	30.50	30.38	30.20
Friday, " 18.....	29.82	29.68	29.40
Saturday, " 19.....	29.92	29.98	30.08
Sunday, " 20.....	30.20	30.15	30.08
Monday, " 21.....	29.90	29.80	29.78
Tuesday, " 22.....	29.80	29.80	29.82