BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Report of the Directors at the General Meetingo f the Shareholders.

Six Per Cent. Per Annum and a Bonus of Three Per Cent. Declared.

Statement of liabilities and assets at head offices and branches, 31st December, 1892:

LIABILITIES.

		£.	s.	d.
Capital paid up		600,000	0	0
Reserve Fund		250,000	0	0
Notes in Circulation	£ 174,978 11 2			
Current Accounts and deposits	1,961,557 3 1			
Bills Payable	470,730 17 6			
Other Current Liabilities	23,930 4 5			
		2,631,246	16	2
Balance of Profit and Loss Account on 31st December, 1892		51,164	3	9
		£3,532,410	19	11

ASSETS.

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Specie at Branches	486,330	9 0		
Cash at Bankers	61,489	4 9		
Gold Bars and Gold Dust	1,606	9 4		
			549,426	3 1
2½ % Consols £100,000	95,850	2 0		
3 per cent. Dominion of Canada Government Inscribed Stock £50,000	47,000	0 6		
			142,850	2 6
Bills Receivable			716,393	17 9
Bills Discounted and Loans			2,068,149	9 5
Other securities			13,692	19 0
Bank Premises and Furniture			42,898	8 2
			£3,532,410	19 11

Profit and Loss Account, 31st December, 1892:—

	£	s. d.
To Charges to 31st December, 1892, including Rents, Salaries and other expenses at Head Office and Branches	£35,563 17 1	
To State, etc., Taxes	1,479 16 6	
		27,043 13 7
To written off Bank Premises and Furniture		2,100 11 8
To Directors' Fees		1,500 0 0
Balance at date proposed to be dealt with as follows, viz:—		
To Dividend (58th) for the last half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum	£18,000 0 0	
To Bonus of 3 per cent.	18,000 0 0	
To Reserve Fund	10,000 0 0	
Balance carried to Profit and Loss New Account	5,164 3 9	
		51,164 3 9
		£81,808 9 6
By Amount brought from last Account		10,194 10 7
By Profit for Six Months ended 31st December, 1892, after deducting Income Tax and rebate on Bills not due		71,613 18 5
		£81,808 9 6

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia was held at the Cannon street hotel on Wednesday last; Sir Robert Gillespie (the chairman) presiding.

The General Manager (Mr. Hugh Hughes) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, in the first place, I have to ask your indulgence to-day, owing to a very severe cold I have got. I have also to offer an apology for my colleague, Sir Charles Tupper, who is compelled to-day to be in the north to attend some Chamber of Commerce meeting. I have now the pleasure of submitting to you for your approval and adoption the half-yearly report and statement of accounts made up to the 31st December last, and I shall move, before sitting down, a resolution to that effect. It has been the custom hitherto at these meetings to take these statements as read, and, assuming that that custom will be followed to-day, I will proceed at once to offer you a few remarks on the character and success of the past half-year's business. In the first place, permit me to congratulate you on the satisfactory results of that period, and, I may add, of the whole year of 1892, in the face of much depression in trade, and in the extreme cheapness of money; nearly all the leading industries of British Columbia, and on the Pacific Coast, viz., lumber, grain, coal and fishing, have suffered more or less from the slackness of demand and the extremely low prices ruling. But I am happy to say these interests are indicating generally some improvement at present, while the fishing operations for the coming season are looked forward to as likely to be on an extensive and profitable scale, this being the year, the fourth year, when the heavy run of salmon has hitherto and invariably taken place, from past experience. There seems to be an interregnum for two or three years, and then comes an enormous flood of fish into the rivers, and this has been the period, for many years past. I may also mention that there seems to be a confident feeling that mining development will be more active and on an important scale during the current year, particularly in the Kootenay district—we have a branch there—which will tend to attract capital and population to the country. Altogether, there seems no reason to doubt that the Province of British Columbia will continue to advance, and that progressive development of its resources will go on, and this will be further assisted by the railway construction going on and expected to be undertaken during the present year. Gentlemen, I have ventured to offer you my congratulations on the result of the half-year, and I am sure you will consider a net profit of £51,164 as fully justifying them, made, I may truly say, under somewhat adverse circumstances, and necessitating increased care and prudence in the management of the branches, which at the same time naturally would affect the profits to some extent. The disposal of this sum is, I may say, the important question of the day. We recommend that out of this sum of £51,164 we pay you a dividend at the usual rate of six per cent. per annum, and that we also pay you a bonus of three per cent., which, with the dividend and bonus paid you for the June half-year, will make ten per cent. for the year. (Applause.) We propose to add to the reserve fund the sum of £10,000, making that fund £260,000—(applause)—and to carry forward a balance of £5,164 to next half-year. This sum of net profit is somewhat less than the amount made for the corresponding half-year in 1891, but it is better than the last half year—that is, June, 1892—while the gross profits of the year 1892 are the largest the bank has made since its establishment in 1862—(applause)—showing conclusively that its earning power increases, and that the bank still holds the confidence of the communities in which it dwells. I may here mention a fact that I believe will be very pleasing to the shareholders; it is this, in 1882, ten years ago, the gross profits were for the whole year £51,053, and the net profits £30,500, while these are now £141,350 and £84,680, respectively; while the total gross profits for the ten years amount to £956,741, and the net to £614,045. And now, gentlemen, I will ask you to follow me while I advert to our balance-sheet and profit and loss account. The capital account remains at £600,000, but the reserve has during the year 1892 been increased by £25,000—that is £15,000 in June half-year and £10,000 in December half-year—making the total now £260,000; and this, I think, speaks for itself. The amount of notes in circulation is less than at both the previous periods, and simply indicates less activity in the trade of the country. The current accounts and deposits are in excess of the two previous half-years, and it is pleasing to notice that the largest portion of this increase is at the branches, and may be taken as a proof of the continued and increasing confidence of the communities there. (Hear, hear.) Bills payable are materially less than in the two half-years previously, and I think is attributable to some extent to the branches availing of cable transfers at sight more than usual, in place of drawing at the ordinary usance of sixty days. The other liabilities are much as usual, and do not call for further remark. Turning to the assets, you will observe that the amount of specie and cash is larger than usual, but it has been deemed prudent and advisable to maintain in these times strong cash reserves at all points. It is noticeable that the total amount of cash on hand is equivalent to, say, 28 per cent. of total liabilities on current accounts and deposits, even inclusive of the latter for fixed periods. I think that shows an abundance of strength. (Hear, hear.) The funds invested represent £142,850, and consist of £100,000 Consols and £50,000 Three per cent. Canada Stock, both standing in the books considerably under the market value. A shareholder, who is not able to be present to-day, has written me stating that he thinks this is a very small proportion of the reserve fund to have invested in stocks of this character. My own opinion is that it is a very large amount, and it is amply sufficient, because we employ our reserve fund partly in our business. This is a precautionary step which I think is advisable, and which I think is amply sufficient. (Hear, hear.) The reserve fund earns a larger return in our general business, whereas this investment gives us less than 3 per cent. Bills discounted and loans are less than the two previous half-years, owing to the dulness in trade. Bills receivable are more than in June, 1892, but less than in December, 1891; this falling off may be principally owing to the reduced exports of wheat consequent on the great fall in prices, which has undoubtedly and unfortunately checked shipments. The great depreciation in the value and the prices of wheat must be patent to everyone. Whether it is in this country or abroad the prices are extremely low, and this has undoubtedly affected business not only in the particular locality I refer to, but also throughout Canada and America. What is to be done for the agriculturist is not for us to discuss to-day, but it is evidently a burning question. The small amount of other securities does not call for any special notice. Bank premises are less than previous half-years, and we continue to write down these items, although the aggregate value is materially in excess of the amount standing in our books. I have already referred to the profit we have now to deal with, and the way in which we propose to do so. I need not therefore go over the same ground, but I may just mention that the amount of charges account and State taxes somewhat exceeds previous half-years, and arises in great measure to the necessity of an addition of officers on the staff abroad and the necessary expense of sending them out. Gentlemen, these officers are of a higher class than we have ordinarily sent out to fill vacancies which occurred, and, consequently, we have had to pay higher salaries to those gentlemen, but I am happy to think that our selection has proved to be most satisfactory. (Applause.) It is impossible always to keep a level to our charges accounts. Accidents happen and vacancies occur, so that it is impossible for us to say, "Thus far shall we go, and no further." We must accommodate the charges to the circumstances which arise. The other two items speak for themselves, and do not require any explanation. I feel, gentlemen, that it is due at this time to our general manager and to the existing staff generally that, during a period of unusual anxiety and care, they have, as a rule, exhibited great thoughtfulness and prudence, and though we may have had some disappointments in our selection of officers, the present staff deserve the cordial thanks of the shareholders and directors for their continued loyalty and attention to the interests of the bank, and I would particularly name the general manager, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Townsend, the inspector. Gentlemen, I will be glad to afford any information or explanation needed by you, and in the meantime I beg to move the following resolution:—"That the report and statement of accounts as now submitted be received and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr. Eden Colvile (deputy chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman—My next duty, gentlemen, is to propose, "That a dividend be paid on the paid-up capital of the bank at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 3 per cent., free of income tax, for the half-year ended the 31st Dec. last, payable on or after the 18th inst."

Mr. Colvile seconded the motion, which was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman—The next proposition I have to submit to you is one which I do with very great pleasure, from old associations and valued energies and assistance, namely, the re-election of my old and valued friend, Mr. Eden Colvile. He has been associated with us since the establishment of the bank, and you all know him well. I beg, therefore, to propose, "That Mr. Eden Colvile, a director who retires by rotation in accordance with the deed of settlement, be re-elected."

Mr. T. G. Gillespie seconded the resolution, which was cordially adopted.

Mr. Colvile—Gentlemen, I have to thank you very much for my re-election, and I have also to thank the chairman for the very handsome way in which he has proposed it. I am afraid that I am not quite so energetic a director as I was forty years ago, but I will endeavor as long as I hold the position I do to do my best for you. (Applause.)

The Chairman—Under ordinary circumstances, I would simply say ditto to the next resolution, but I suppose that would hardly be courteous. I can only say that my friend, Mr. Anderson, is a most valued assistant, and regular in his attendance. He gives us, on all occasions, the benefit of his great experience and knowledge of business affairs. I have, therefore, great pleasure indeed in proposing "That Mr. James Anderson, a director who retires by rotation in accordance with the deed of settlement, be re-elected."

This was seconded by Mr. C. S. Jones, and carried unanimously.

Mr. James Anderson—Gentlemen, I beg to thank you for this renewed expression of your confidence.

Mr. Scott—We have for some years past had auditors who have discharged their duties very carefully and satisfactorily, and I beg to move—"That Mr. Wyndham Gibbes and Mr. Robert Cumming be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of £75 each."

Mr. Langmore seconded the motion.

The Chairman—I fully endorse all the hon. gentleman has stated with regard to the services of our auditors. They are vigilant, most attentive, and most urbane in their audit.

The motion was passed nem. con.

Mr. James Nairne Scott proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and his colleagues. He said he knew they had had very arduous work to perform for years past, but all difficulties had been triumphantly overcome. He (Mr. Scott) had held his shares from the first. The Board had never had a more consistent supporter than himself, and he was now reaping his reward. (Applause.)

Mr. Dealy seconded the proposition, which was passed with acclamation.

The Chairman—I thank the proposer and seconder of this resolution on behalf of my colleagues and myself most heartily and most cordially. It is true that we have taken great interest not only in advancing the interests of this institution, but in protecting your interests—(hear, hear)—and though we have had our difficulties, our cares and our anxieties, we have never lost heart. We have not been frightened of a slight cloud that hung over us, but we have held firmly to the helm, and we have pulled the ship gloriously through the troubles and waves of life. That will be the course which we will follow henceforth, and I only hope that we may be able to continue to show you such good returns as it has been our good fortune to do in the past. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CHAMBERS.

Before Mr. Justice Crease.

March 9, 1893.

Harper vs. Cameron—Wooten, for defendant, moved to allow his appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada and the $500 bond brought in as security therefor. The appeal is from a judgment of the Chief Justice, Walkem and Drake, JJ., sitting both as a full court on appeal from the judgment for plaintiff ordered upon motion for judgment by Crease, J., before whom the case was tried with a special jury, and also as a divisional court, upon a motion for a new trial. The new trial was refused and the appeal dismissed.

Mr. Lindley Crease, for plaintiff, contended that as defendant's appeal to Ottawa covered both motions, double security should be given as on two appeals; also that Mr. Justice Crease had no jurisdiction to allow the appeal, as he was not a judge of the court appealed from within the meaning of the Supreme Court Act, as he did not sit on the appeal.

Judgment reserved.

Adams vs. McBeath—Action to set aside the will of late Samuel Adams, of Victoria, made in favor of defendant, on ground of undue influence.

Mr. Hall, for defendant, moved absolute a summons for a commission to Seaforth, Ontario, to examine Isaac Modeland, one of the witnesses to the will, and Elizabeth Modeland, his wife, who reside there, and also asking the trial, which is fixed for 17th inst., to be postponed in the meantime. He read defendant's affidavit that the witnesses were necessary and material to the defendant, and that he could not safely proceed to trial without their evidence.

Mr. Cassidy *contra*—The affidavit is insufficient. It shows no efforts to get the witnesses here, or any inability on their part to come. It does not show what evidence the witnesses can give upon which the Court can judge whether the order should be made. (Smith v. Grey, 10 P.R. 531.) The nature of the case is such that the witnesses who defend the will should be produced, give evidence and be cross-examined in open court, the witnesses' demeanor being, in such a case as this, peculiarly important. (Braden v. Greenwood, 20 Ch. D. 764.)

Crease, J.—The objections to the sufficiency of the affidavit are alone fatal; also, it does not appear to be a proper case to dispense with the presence of the witnesses at the trial. The summons is dismissed with costs. The defendant may make another motion to postpone the trial.

THE PACKWOOD MYSTERY.

One of the Most Cold Blooded and Heinous Crimes Fully Confessed.

DELAND, Fla., March 10.—Marion Clinton has made a confession to-day, in which he tells what he claims is the story of the hitherto mysterious murder, celebrated as the Packwood case. Clinton implicates William A. Macrea and a negro named Irving Jenkins. The persons mentioned are in jail, and to-day the grand jury of Volusia county returned indictments against them. The Packwood murder was committed at a desolate spot known as the Packwood Place, near New Smyrna, on the Atlantic coast, two miles from this place, on December 18, 1891. The victims of the murder were Mrs. Hatch, Miss Bruce and two children. It was one of the most cold-blooded, heinous crimes in the history of the state, and was shrouded in mystery, as the assassins left no clue behind, and no motive was known or suspected. Clinton, impressed with the belief that Jenkins or Macrea was going to turn State's evidence, decided to make a full confession. In substance Clinton's confession is to the effect that on the night of the murder he, Macrea and the negro Jenkins went to Packwood in a boat. Clinton says Jenkins and Macrea went across to the house, a short distance from the river, and left him on guard in the boat; that he saw Jenkins break into the house with a scantling and the two entered. Soon afterwards two shots were fired in rapid succession, and Jenkins and Macrae ran down to the boat and were pulled hurriedly to Macrae's house by Clinton. The three men will be tried in the circuit court to-morrow.

$25,000 IN REWARDS.

Seventh Half-Yearly Literary Competition of The Canadian Agriculturist.

In accordance with their usual custom for some years past, the publishers of that old and reliable publication, The Canadian Agriculturist, now present its 7th Great Half-Yearly Literary Competition for the winter of 1893, to the people of the United States and Canada. The following is the prize list:

1st Grand Prize		$2,500 in Gold
2nd "	"	1,000 in Gold
3rd "	"	500 in Gold
4th "	"	250 in Gold
5th "	"	100 in Gold

5,000 Elegant Silver Tea Services, Pianos, Organs, Gold Watches, &c., &c., making a total of over 10,000 prizes.

HOW TO SECURE A PRIZE.—Take a few sheets of paper and make all the words you can out of letters contained in the words, "COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION," and send them to us, enclosing one dollar for six months subscription to the Agriculturist or the Ladies' Home Magazine—two of the best home monthlies in the world.

RULES—1. Foreign words not allowed. 2. Letters cannot be used oftener than they appear in the two words, "Columbian Exposition." 3. Names of places and persons barred.

All lists containing over 100 correct words will receive a valuable special prize. Send postal card for list of prize winners in former competitions. Address,

THE AGRICULTURIST PUB. CO.,
Ja22-su-wk Peterborough, Canada.

SOME TRAIN ANECDOTES.

The Laugh Makers' Experiences En Route—Sealing Wax an Uncertain Protective.

A Land Shark's Experience with a Dutchman—A Triumph for Honest Innocence.

[Copyright, 1893, by Edgar W. Nye.]

In the past week we have been traveling through frost and snow and tears and cold sheets up to our armpits. Let those who like this style of business help themselves to it. I do not wonder that English lecturers like Dr. Joseph Parker after a few fawnlike leaps from Minneapolis to Memphis adjourn and go back to England, where you can lecture in London one evening and take breakfast in Paris the next morning if you wish.

Here one tears himself away from an audience that has just learned to love him, and changing his evening dress in the cab on his way to the 10:40 train, rides till 2:30 a.m., gets out at a junction where there is a well and a liberty pole and waits two hours for a way freight, on which he rides all day, eating what the engineer doesn't want, and at 7 o'clock he drops fainting into the arms of an old acquaintance who wants to take him out to his country home in a cutter. The thermometer is 20 odd, or at least it would be 20 odd if it had not been that way for three weeks and ceased to be odd.

The manager advertises "500 laughs in two hours," and below is given a picture of the two men who are to produce them. It is made on the spot, just before the curtain goes up.

Yesterday I met a lawyer on his way to catch tarpon in Florida. He goes down there every winter after Christmas and lets the warm breezes blow the tobacco smoke and courtly air and the odor of the juryroom out of his clothes.

He was telling about fighting an election return a few years ago in his state. He was sent for by the county attorney to get hold of the matter, for he was sure the count was fraudulent, yet did not see how.

The lawyer went up to the county seat and asked to see the returns. The count had been close. Box had been defeated by a majority of 53 votes, and this majority was in one precinct. The lawyer, Mr. Chase, asked to see the return from that precinct. It was East Jasperville. The figures were O.K. as made by the county board, though a great error had been made the other way by the precinct in its count.

Then the lawyer asked for the bag containing the ballots. It was brought to him with the ballots still in it. The county board had only cut open the bottom, leaving the seal on the top undisturbed. The ballots had been recounted by the board and found correct, with enough extra ballots to defeat Box.

But the seal was evidently intact. The mouth of the bag was closed and a ridge of dark green sealing wax run over it along the fold or lap of the envelope.

It was pretty clear that, whether there was fraud or not, it was past the detection of the human eye.

TWO MEN TO MAKE LAUGHS.

In the evening, however, the lawyer asked the local attorney some questions and had the express agent come over to the house for awhile.

Next day the trial began. The usual business had been gone through with. Each lawyer had said "I object" a number of times to make time, the court had overruled the objection, and the attorney had asked that the objection be noted, together with the ruling of the court.

Finally, after all the questions had been asked and the lawyer was about to rest, he called the express agent and had the ballot bag and its seal examined. Then the lawyer cleared his throat and said:

"Mr. Garnaw, state your business."

"I am an express agent in this town."

"State, if you please, if you have had any experience in sealing and unsealing express packages."

"Yes, sir. I have done that sort of work for 20 years, more or less."

"And you sometimes have to unseal a package and then reseal it? How do you do it?"

"I plow a furrow with a hot, pointed instrument along the seal line of the envelope, and before the wax cools I pull it apart. Then after I have examined the contents to see if they are all right I close the envelope exactly as it was and run a little wax in the furrow I made so as to round it out, and there is your package again all right."

"Are there other agents who do this?"

"There are. It is generally understood among them, but it is considered best not to give it out to the public for obvious reasons. We generally confine it to our own matters—that is, express matters of the company, and not the public's business.

"Examine this envelope and see if it has been tampered with."

After examining it he answered:

"Yes, it has."

"Come over to the light and state to the jury how it has been monkeyed with, please."

"Well, it has been unsealed in the way I spoke of, and then a wax a shade lighter has been used to fill up the furrow. Besides," said he, "the original wax was put on by heating it over a candle, while the other job was done by an artist with an alcohol lamp."

Then the jury themselves could see it and the tallowy surface of the old sealing. It was clear enough, so that the clerk's count was thrown out, and Box was elected.

Afterward it was learned that the East Jasperville express agent had for $50 gone in over the transom and changed the returns of East Jasperville as above and resealed the bag, so that only the ingenuity of the lawyer had found him out.

This should teach us that when we enter politics we had better forget the teachings we received at our mother's knee and lead a life of sin as soon as we can get at it.

"Tell us another," exclaimed two or three voices in the smoking car as half a dozen bright, young commercial men gathered around the old man's seat.

"Well," says he, looking at his watch, "I must go back very soon to where my wife is in the other car. She always claims that I get into a hard gang as soon as I've got her nicely settled in a car and then go and desert her, she says, to smoke and tell stories, and then come back and sit facing her four minutes till she goes to sleep, and then I go back again to where the men folks are.

THE LAWYER'S STORY.

"I could tell you a little experience I had where I hated to take my fee.

"An old German from northwestern Indiana—right in Chicago it is now, you know—came to see me at Indianapolis about his land, which had been hopped on by some of these land sharks who advertise all over a page of the daily paper:

"OWN YOUR HOME.
WHY PAY RENT
WHEN SANDBAG & HOLDUP
Will sell you a lot! etc.

and brought suit for title or to eject Mr. Schwartz from the land so that he could cut it up into lots and sell homes for $300 to $500 each out of it.

"It seems that the land was in the shape of a flatiron. He had a rude map of it. When he went up there on the lake, he was a fisherman, and his wife did sewing, so that they had laid a little money aside. One day a kind friend told Schwartz that this 30 or 40 acres was for pre-emption and he could get it at government price, so he took the money and bought the land, but by means of ignorance on his part, or rascality of some one else, it was not duly recorded.

"Now the shark had started out for it, and said that he had money enough to wear out the old man, also that the old man could show no title.

"Schwartz told the lawyer that he could show undisturbed possession of the land for 25 years anyhow, and also told the whole history of their simple lives up there on the sandy shores of the lake.

"The lawyer got the whole case, set up uninterrupted possession and had the boundaries supported with a legal survey. The surveyor came back with the same outlines substantially, with locality of house, barn, meadow, and in one corner facing the lake the word 'grave.'

"The case came on for trial, and the plaintiff put in his evidence. It was pretty strong. He had secured the place, and there was no record to show to the contrary. He was a quiet, well dressed man, with not too much jewelry—a humble man who simply wanted his 'rights.'

"Mr. Schwartz was ruddy in the face. He was clean. His face had just been shaved. He was excited, but he was not studying to make a hit. He acted as he would have done at home if he had been told that his house was on fire. He would have tried to put it out.

"When the plaintiff had piled up all his great volume of evidence and tried to knock down that of Schwartz, he rested, and the lawyer introduced such documentary evidence as he had and called Mr. Schwartz. He went on the stand with a sigh, for he knew what was coming.

"He told his simple story in his own way.

"'I bin here now long time on my lan. I liff here since der 19th of Augoost, '71. I come to fish on der lak and sell him to Seecago. We live here plain, but goot. My vife she can sew goot by her fingers, and barnby she get the sew mas'een.

"'Ve never go vay from dat blaice. Ve giff Mr. Blitz de money to buy de probity of Ooncle Sam, and he do so. But now some says he don't do it de ride vay. So you see we liff on our own lan and kess our own fiss an be happy.

"'Now, dat man you see dar, he say: go avay. Take your ole vite headed voomans and go avay. One day he say to me, Go vest, young man; go vest. He say dat, and den he laff. I live dere from ven I been young mit no viskers on till now I 'ave the pall head and de Santa Class viskers, nich?'

"'I see there is on the plot a spot marked "Grave." Is that merely an Indian grave or one of those you know? State if you know whose grave it is.'

"'Vell, ven ve come on that blaice ve haff a little chile, Mr. Choodge. You know dot some dime ve hear of dose rainpow chasers dot make a chackass off bimself, but she—she—little Kaddrena—she vas a rainpow maker. Ven she gone on de sant peech she vas altogetter the sweetest shield to me, choodge, vat I eber seen. She climb on me like a nice new mornin-glory and giss my hard viskers like a violet.

"'Ve haff no more shildren; dat vas all, choodge.

"'She vas sick. Ve haff no doctor. She is det. I cannot say much. I am a Dootzman, but I luff my chile. Ve perry her py de pig plue lake in der glean, cool sant, ant ve go, my vife and me, in der spring and der summer dime and put der vild vlowers, der little violets and der susans mit der plack eyes and der abble plossoms and der ferns on dot little qwiet crafe off our peautiful chile.

"'Do you tink, choodge, dot man reelize dat he shall rob me and my poor sat vife of dat home and dat little qwite He dry to have a choak mit a poor ole feller, crafe ven he tell me to go vest? No, no, isn't it? He vill not dake away my home and the grave off my chile.

"The plaintiff looked down. He swallowed hard. He dropped his eyeglasses on the floor, and as he rose to leave the courtroom he stepped on them and crunched them under his heel. He kept on bareheaded to the depot and rode away on the first train. It went the wrong way, but it took him to another place.

"Mr. Schwartz also went by the first train, but it went toward home—home with a title to it—home where they might see the big breakers come in and watch that little quiet grave."

BILL NYE.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

GAS FOR ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—The advantages of gas-engines for electric lighting were urged by Mr. J. Emerson Dowson at a recent meeting of British engineers. Facts were presented tending to show that when town gas is used the consumption is only about half as great as that necessary to produce the same light from ordinary gas-burners; and that when generator gas is employed not more than half as much coal is consumed as is required for steam power. Great economy over steam results from the ready adaptation of gas-power to the greatly varying load upon the engines, while no fuel at all is burned when the lights are not needed. With town gas, neither boilers nor firemen are required, little space is needed, and electric lighting plants may be located in crowded districts where steam engines would not be allowed. It is only within a very few years that large gas-engines have been made practicable. But they already supply 7000 horse power for electric lighting in Great Britain, and operate 1100 arc-lamps and 90,000 glow-lamps in Germany.

THE FORM OF EGGS.—Various attempts have been made to account for the diversity in shape seen in eggs. A recent study convinces Dr. Nicolsky that the differences may be all traced to gravity, and he finds his idea confirmed by all the eggs in the zoological collection of the St. Petersburg University. He supposes that pressure by the sides of the ovary tends to elongate the egg before the shell has hardened. In birds which keep a vertical position while at rest, as do the falcon and the owl, the soft egg is made short by the action of the weight of the body against the ovarian pressure; while in birds that, like the grebe, are nearly always swimming the egg is lengthened because the bird's weight acts with the compression by the ovary. The egg is made more pointed at one end than at the other in birds that, like the guillemot, are frequently changing their position—sometimes swimming and diving, sometimes perching on the rocks, etc.

GREAT TORTOISES.—In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, navigators reported huge land tortoises in two widely separated regions—the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific, and several islands in the Indian Ocean. The tortoises were taken from Mauritius and Reunion, but seem to have been particularly numerous in the smaller island of Rodriguez. From this island they were in 1761 being sent by thousands to Mauritius, but early in the present century extermination was here complete, and only in the little island of Aldabra are a few specimens of the tortoises now known to be living in a wild state. Steps are being taken to preserve these individuals, and to introduce them into other islands. Two tortoises—probably of the Rodriguez kind—were delivered to the Royal Artillery on the surrender of Mauritius in 1810, and one of them—2½ feet high, with a shell 9⅓ feet in circumference—is still living.

EXTREMES IN LIFE.—Both the largest and the smallest living organisms belong to the vegetable kingdom. The largest plants are the gigantic sequoias of California, which reach nearly 400 feet in height and 30 feet, and sometimes much more, in circumference; and the smallest plant forms are the bacteria, some of them less than one fifty-thousandth of an inch in diameter. Comparing these extremes of size, Prof. J. I. D. Hinds, of Cumberland University, finds that they bear to each other about the same proportion as that of a football to the earth itself. Some of the trees, moreover, are more than 3000 years old, while the duration of life of many bacteria is only an hour, the tree having, therefore, lived on while 26 millions of generations of its invisible kindred have lived and died in the stream at its foot. "From the bacterium to the sequoia, what a span!"

A FRENCH LOCOMOTIVE.—The plan of J. J. Heilman, to be tested on the State railways of France, gives promise of important and instructive results. It seeks to combine the advantages of electric and steam motors for railway lines, while rejecting the most undesirable features of both, and offers a system that can be adopted anywhere without change of track or rolling stock. The electric current is to drive the wheels, but it is not to be conveyed from stationary machines along the line, but is to be generated on the train, the locomotive being simply a traveling electric plant. A steam engine at the rear of the locomotive is to work the generating dynamo, which will furnish current to a small motor placed on each axle of the locomotive, and also, when it is desirable to extend the system further, to a motor on each axle of the cars. The absurdity of converting the steam into electricity before using the power is declared to be apparent only. The double loss in thus using the energy of the fuel is more than offset by the gain in applying rotary power direct to the axles, avoiding slipping on the rails, and making unnecessary the connecting rods cranks and great wheels, whose jar and friction absorb a great part of the motive force. The new locomotive, it is claimed, gives exact regulation of power, and an increase of speed to 56 to 62 miles an hour without change of road-bed.

APHEPHOBIA.—The "jumping Frenchmen" of Maine have acquired a unique fame through their inability to refrain from carrying out any command suddenly given them. Another mental disorder giving grotesque effects has been observed in a patient in a Lyons hospital. The victim in this case is in constant dread of being touched. He moves away if anybody approaches, withdraws his hand if anybody attempts to take it, keeps turning his head nervously if any person is behind him, and while in the hospital jumped out of bed whenever a physician came near to examine him. This singular condition, which has been named "aphephobia," seems to be hereditary, as this man's brother and nephew are also affected.

PREHISTORIC AMERICAN ASTRONOMY.—The researches of Dr. Forstemann prove that the ancient Mayas of Yucatan reached an astonishing accuracy in astronomical time-reckoning. They determined the mean synodical revolution of Venus, of Mercury, and probably of Mars, to a very small fraction, but there is no evidence that they considered Jupiter or Saturn. They found the lunar month to be 29.526 days, which is only about five minutes too short.

THE SMALLEST WOMAN.—It is claimed that the most diminutive human being of modern times is Princess Topaze, born at Buenos Ayres of French parents. She is now 16 years old, but weighs only 15 lbs., and her height is but 20 inches—an inch or two less than that of Gen. Tom Thumb. Her wrist measures 2½ inches in circumference. Her father, strange to say, was a giant, and her mother a tall and robust woman.

The watch is a piece of scientific apparatus of marvelous perfection. In a recent address, Lord Kelvin stated that electricians are supposed to possess instruments of precision, yet they are thankful if their measurements are accurate to one-tenth or one-twentieth per cent. But a common cheap watch will keep time to a minute a week, which is a variation from true precision of only one-hundredth per cent.

Micro-organisms are found by Mr. H. L. Russell to be invariably present in sea water, even at a great distance from shore and to a depth of 3200 feet, though the numbers are not so great as in fresh water. The bacteria are more numerous in the slime of the sea-bottom than in the water itself, and the forms so universally present seem to be quite peculiar to the water and mud.

The idea that nervous disorders of a hysterical kind have increased with civilization is denied by recent investigators, who find nowhere else such violent and epidemic nervous attacks as are common among uncultivated peoples.

A portable electric light for use in night search for wounded soldiers is being tried in Berlin. A 50-candle-power lamp is operated by a storage battery weighing only 17½ pounds.

The new process of electro-silvering, using a certain percentage of cadmium in the solution, gives a more durable, less easily tarnished and cheaper coating than pure silver.

Indiarubber paving for streets seems to be meeting with favor in Australia and in Germany.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 9.—Mrs. Walter Leigh, of this city, has petitioned for divorce from her husband, Walter Leigh, who is now in Chicago, and was employed as a professional cricketer in the United States last season. A Mrs. Moulton is named as co-respondent. "Walter Leigh" has long been known to be an assumed name for the defendant in this case. His name is Gilbert, and he is a relative of W. H. Grace, the famous English cricketer. He has lived in Halifax for years under the name of Leigh, but his identity was discovered some years ago by officers of the garrison who had met him as Gilbert in a cricket match at Lords, in London.

QUEBEC, March 9.—Coroner Belleau and Judge Chauveau had a long interview last evening, presumably on the subject of the present inquiry going on in the alleged poisoning case. Meanwhile, Madame Fortin spent the night in the jail. L'Electeur publishes a report that she recently made over all her property to a relative. The surgeons have not yet been able to begin the autopsy of the deceased in consequence of the long time it takes for the frost to leave the body, which appears to be decomposing as it thaws.

HALIFAX, N.S., March 9.—Nothing has been heard from the barque Juno (British), which left here January 18 with a cargo for Queenstown. She was in charge of Captain William Brown and had a crew of twelve men. The agents of the Juno fear she has been lost with all on board.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report.

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