

who talk so much about the encouragement of recruits? Have they all fossilized? Amateurs will confer a favor on us by putting our name on their exchange lists AT ONCE.

The Syracuse bundle is worthy of the city it comes from; there being at least a dozen papers in it, of all sizes, from the diminutive *Excitement* to the *Gauntlet*. The editors in this State are engaged in a warm fight for the presidency of the local A. P. A., and as a result some of the remarks are of altogether too personal character.

Mr. Emery is the subject of a good many articles at present, of a not very flattering character. It is a significant fact, that while the papers of many of his opponents abound in "slang" and and coarseness, his own is free from anything of the sort, and his editorials are all written in a spirit of moderation that shows he is a gentleman, at least, while his sketches and poems show that he is of more than average ability.

The *New Yorker* will again be issued about the middle of March, with Roger Burke, Jr., at the helm.

It is a curious fact that we have received more exchanges from California than from any two other States, with the exception of New York and Maine.

We would like to hear of someone who would edit a "Puzzle Department" in BRIC-A-BRAC. In future, one column will be devoted to "Puzzledom."

If those amateurs who receive more than one copy of BRIC-A-BRAC would kindly reciprocate, they would oblige us greatly; we do not ask this for ourselves, but to put on the files in the different reading rooms in this city and in Quebec. We wish to make amateur journalism as well known in Canada as possible, and so far, cannot think of a better plan than this. Montreal should be a good locality for recruits, and we confidently hope before long to see it a rising amateur centre.

BRIC-A-BRAC is rather late this month; the reason being the Carnival, which was held during the last week of January; while it lasted, there was no possibility of getting any time to work on a paper or anything else.

The saddest news that has come to England for many a day, came in the shape of a telegram on Friday the 6th inst. The tidings may be put in three words: "Khartoum has fallen," but how much do these three words mean? They mean that Gordon is a prisoner, that the course of the British in the Soudan has been checked; that Wolsley's little army is in the greatest danger, and lastly, it means that Mahdi will be reinforced by thousands of those who waited to see to which side victory would incline, before joining it.

On Monday the 9th instant, the cable wires brought us more news. Italy will send fifteen thousand troops to aid England. The generous hearts that beat in bosoms of those who live beneath the sunny skies of Italy, will not allow them to forget that to England they owe great debts; that they owe to her, in a great measure, liberty itself. It is said that Canada will send a regiment of volunteers to help in the Soudan. Such a proceeding would be most popular both here and in England. Canadians are as loyal subjects as any the Queen has; and as we shared the joy which every advantage gained in the Soudan brought to England, so we share the sorrow that this great disaster has given her.

Exchanges.

The first exchange to enter our sanctum was the Christmas number of the *Violet*, well printed on toned paper, and filled with interesting matter. It is a credit to its editress. We, too, think that if more ladies would enter our ranks, it would greatly benefit the 'dom.

The November number of the *American Sphinx* is a worthy successor to those other numbers which have gained for Spencer a name "second to none" in our ranks. If Spencer enters the lists against Sullivan for the N. A. P. A. presidency, we predict a hot campaign.

While the columns of the first number of *Al-Ki* show many proofs of Wick's ability as an editorial writer, they are also distinguished by some very coarse language. Every coarse word, and every bit of "slang" appearing in an amateur paper, does something to retard the progress of the 'dom.

The editors of the *Nutshell* have been kind enough to send us some back numbers, including their "Midsummer" issue. The contents of all are varied and interesting, and the editorials are especially well written. Thanks!

On being elected to the official editorship of the *Golden State A. P. A.* Mr. Bull has found it necessary to sever his connection with the *Nutshell*; as a result, that paper goes out of existence, and *Chic*—published by his former partner, Hastings—takes its place. *Chic* is one of the few papers with two editors that is worth the two copies it asks for.

The first all-editorial paper we have received was the *Nugget*, from New Glasgow. The editorials are all well written, and every word shows an honest regard for the true interests of the 'dom.

The best paper we have yet received is *Youth*, from Boston. It is filled with interesting articles of all sorts, and the editorials are, of course, well written. While edited by two such editors as Stone and Sullivan, it can scarcely fail to meet the success it deserves.

Hailing from Syracuse comes the *Arcanum*, a little sheet published under an *incognito*, and abounding in personalities. If it is necessary to write under an *incog.*, *Arcanum* should at least avoid this; not to do so is the act of a coward.

The *Amateur Naturalist* is a well edited, well printed and interesting paper from Philadelphia. While it is interesting to any one who may take it up, it must be doubly so to those who take an interest in Natural History.

The October-November number of *Progress* shows that it is worthy of its name, and its editors deserve great credit. Their dispute with Emery has gone far enough, and the sooner they drop it the better will Amateurdom be pleased. With Burger's evident talent, it is a great pity he should waste so much space with such senseless disputes.

The January number of the *Sentinel* is a credit to its editor, and a worthy successor to those former numbers which gained for it the title of "the best literary magazine in the 'dom."

A worthy representative of the city it comes from is the *Gauntlet*; the editorials are all written in a bright, pithy style, that makes them very pleasant reading. That article on "Mr. Emery," however, is very unjust, and, moreover, is not over refined.

No wonder that the professional press ridicule the amateurs, when such papers as the *Western Amateur Press* are issued. Such papers are a disgrace to the 'dom, and should be driven from it.

The editors of the *Scrap Basket* have kindly sent us two extra copies for the Montreal reading-rooms. With the exception of the *Nugget*, they are the only ones that have done so.