

with applause by the citizens present at the discussion.

A subscriber in Victoria, B. C., writes to us that the people of the Pacific coast have a terrible time with their mails. The last direct steamer brought no Canadian mail of newspapers, and when he wrote, April 29, they were four weeks behind time. He thinks they are either not forwarded by railroad, or else detained in San Francisco. Our correspondent adds that he has plenty of corroborative evidence to substantiate his complaint. We recommend the matter to the attention of the Postal authorities at Ottawa.

At a conference between Prime Minister CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO and the delegates from the Northern Spanish Provinces in regard to Fueros, the latter denied that their privileges were incompatible with the constitutional unity of Spain, and refused further negotiations unless the privileges of their provinces were incontestably maintained. SENOR CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO rejected their demands. The conference therefore terminated.

THE FREE LANCE.

"Why do they always serve hot dishes, oyster soup, macaroni, &c., at bazaars, mother?" asked an innocent young lady, on coming out of the Mechanics' Hall, last week.

"Because it is emblematic of Charity," was the matron's wise reply.

"How so?"

"Charity, like macaroni or oyster stew, must be served hot!"

"The poor are starving, while these swells are gorging themselves," said a philosophic friend to me, referring to a late public dinner.

"These dinners are good for the poor," I replied; "they make money circulate, and the poor get the savings. Don't you remember the beautiful lines of the French poet?"

One, le pauvre est joyeux quand le riche s'égare. Un bal est un banquet, un somptueux repas. Fast vivre bien des gens que l'on n'invite pas.

After a dinner at one of our most stylish French eating houses, a gentleman coming forth was heard singing in a rather shaky voice:

Au vin de Bourgogne
Buvons sans vergogne.
C'est un Égide
Plus délicieux que l'eau,
Plus gai, plus rose,
Et moins perfide!

Scene at a boarding house breakfast.
Dorinda--Madame, this butter must be very old.

Lanthea--(startly) How so, sir?

Dorinda--I found this white hair in it.

Lanthea--Appearances are deceptive, sir. I have got a few grey hairs myself, and yet I am not old.

Henry Warren and Arthur Kingsley paid their respects to Miss Arabella Biehy, of Sherbrooke street. Henry was a civilian, Arthur a volunteer.

One evening, during the late carnival, Arabella was having a delicious tête-à-tête with Henry.

Suddenly the street bell tinkled in their ears. The servant opened the door of the boudoir, and announced:

"Captain Arthur Kingsley!"

Arabella was taken aback for one brief moment, but recovering, she said coaxingly to Henry:

"Run down into the kitchen, dear. Bridget will give you a bowl of milk. When I get through with the Captain, I will call you."

Two pretty girls on Beaver Hall.

Maud--Have you noticed how altered Geoffrey is of late?

Maggie--Yes. He who used to be so polite has become as rough as a bear.

Maud--Do you know the reason?

Maggie--Alas! I do not.

Maud--He is now a railroad ticket agent!

The scene is at the Academy of Music.

Two young spooneys fix their opera glass upon a lady accompanied by her old foggy husband.

"I should like to know where that charming person lives."

"It is easy enough to find out."

"How?"

"As we pass out, push against the old party. If he resists, pull his nose. Cards will be exchanged, and then you will learn both the address and the name of the woman."

On moving day.

"What is the matter, Mary? You seem sad."

"I have reason to be. We sold our furniture yesterday, before moving here."

"But why regret your furniture? Your father has given you a much finer set."

"That is not it. In my writing desk there was a miniature bible, on the fly leaf of which papa had written the date of my birth. If that

desk and bible fall into the hands of Charley, who was at the sale, I am ruined."

A school ma'am got into great trouble the other day with an outraged parent, in that a scholar had reported that she had absolutely said that "Men were Animals."

Men differ from the brutes only in a few things:--to wit, cooking, dressing, laughing and talking. Women do the dressing; men do the cooking (accounts); children do the laughing. But all do the talking and very few really care to listen.

The rain is having a long reign. So is the "rene" too for all that.

Kane said that his men in the arctic circle "suffered not so much from any special disease as from a general unhealthiness and lowness and spiritlessness caused by the absence of sun." We are suffering from that now in Canada, and shall suffer still more when our mothers-in-law sharply make our wives keep venetians and blinds closed "to save the carpets." As if health and happiness were not worth more than carpets. We have not only not seen the sun for an age, but we never saw the last full moon; every night was cloudy and love-sick moonlight walks were none.

LACLEDE.

THE GREAT METROPOLIS.

LONDON, APRIL 29.--At the Concert to be given in the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of the 17th of May, to welcome the return of the Prince of Wales, Sir Michael Costa will be the conductor of the largest band of picked players ever yet engaged at the Albert Hall; there will be a programme limited to ten pieces, and the performance is to last only one hour and a half, an innovation which ought to be imitated. There will be a full choir to sing the National Anthem, and the *God Bless the Prince of Wales*, of Mr. Brindley Richards. Mlle. Titiens will sing in the *Ichamauts*, from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*.

A proclamation by the Queen appears in the *London Gazette* which gives effect to the Royal Titles Act. It declares that henceforth, and so far as conveniently may be, on all occasions and in all instruments wherein the Royal style and title are used, with certain specified exceptions, the following addition to the Sovereign's titles shall be used:--"India Imperatrix" in the Latin tongue; and, in the English tongue, "Empress of India." This addition, notwithstanding the coinage now current, will continue to be lawful throughout the United Kingdom and its dependencies.

The ex-King of Hanover, with his eldest daughter, Princess Frederica, will start for London on a visit to England about the 1st of May. The Queen, Princess Mary, and the Crown Prince following a fortnight later.

The Paris journals have quite recently spoken of a projected marriage between the Prince of Orange and the Princess Frederica, eldest daughter of King George of Hanover. The rumor is unfounded, as the Prince has no wish to form a matrimonial union, and the probability is that his younger brother, Prince Alexander, born in 1851, and a captain in the navy, will be after him, the occupant of the throne.

The proposal to construct a subway under the Thames at Woolwich, which originated in October, 1873, consequent on the upsetting of a skiff in a fog, and the loss of nine lives, is about to be carried into effect, and the necessary capital, £750,000, is said to have been subscribed. The tunnel will be for foot passengers only, but wide enough for five persons to walk abreast. A subway which would have admitted carriages as well has been thought very desirable, as there is no way for vehicles across the river below London-bridge, but the estimated cost exceeded £350,000, and it was thought impracticable to raise the amount.

THE CENTENNIAL TRUNK.

As the time rapidly approaches when we must all gather up our good clothes and go to Philadelphia, and there execute our quota of hallooing for the American eagle, or in other words "do" the great Centennial, it behooves us to take some thought how we shall best accomplish the patriotic trip. Our fellow townsman, Mr. Jeremiah Perkins, with the characteristic forethought which has ever marked the Perkins family, has relieved us of a world of trouble and perplexity by inventing what he with great originality calls "The Centennial Trunk." The Centennial trunk, as its name indicates, and as will be seen by the following accurate description, is worth just 100 ordinary trunks.

In shape and outward design the Centennial travelling box is a counterpart in miniature of the White House at Washington. In the act of unlocking and opening the trunk a music-box within is set in motion, playing with most soul-stirring vigor a series of "Hail Columbias" and "Star-Spangled Banners," and the moment the lid is raised a handsome 25 cent chromo of George Washington becomes visible, which is so natural that people frequently shed tears on beholding it. Printed on the cotton lining of the trunk is a compendious epitome of our nation's history for the last 100 years, together with the Declaration of Independence, the "Farewell Address," and other new and entertaining miscellany appropriate to the year.

The compartments of the trunk are numerous and varied. One in the top contains a beautiful little library, the volumes all in blue and gold. Among them may be mentioned the "Lives of

the Presidents," a biography of Washington containing a pictorial representation of the famous cherry-tree episode, and a life-size prolific view of the identical "little hatchet," which of itself is worth the price of the trunk. The design of these works is, of course, to refresh the mind of the Centennial visitor, and at the same time to stimulate his patriotism to such an extent that he will be able to shout in spite of the terrible sore-throat he will contract while waiting in line outside of a Philadelphia hotel for his turn to go to supper.

Another compartment is designed to accommodate such relics of 1776 as may be purchased by the visitor, the genuineness of said relics being vouched for of course by the boss relic manufacturer of Connecticut.

On one side of the trunk is a pocket for such diaries and sketches, designed for newspaper publication, as the ambition of the visitor may prompt him to build during his stay at the Exposition.

In an under tray of this baggage receptacle is a small refrigerator and provision magazine, in which the thoughtful traveller will stow away vast supplies of substantial to appease that hunger which will surely gnaw his vitals when he shall have paid \$4 for a dinner of cold fish-balls and sour rolls at a Quaker hashery.

The trunk has also an extensible bottom, so that its carrying capacity can be increased to any desired amount. This is for the benefit of those who may have an antique bedstead, family set of furniture, or Centennial corn-crib which they wish to take along and exhibit.

The frame-work of the trunk is made of wood which grew in a vale across the river from Mount Vernon. The straps on the trunk are of precisely the same pattern as that which the senior Washington stuffed under his coat-tails preparatory to asking that momentous question: "Who cut that cherry tree, my son?" This is the question, the reader will remember, which saved our country and which is chiefly responsible for our glory as a nation to-day. In short, there is nothing tending to enhance the comfort or insure the glory of the pilgrim to Philadelphia which is not contained in the "Perkins Patent Centennial Trunk." Every traveller should have one, even if the purchase money is abstracted from the savings of his mother-in-law.

THE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL.

PARIS, April, 20.--It is calculated that the cost of the Paris International Exhibition to be held in 1878 will not exceed ten or twelve million francs, which is under half a million sterling. In Marshal MacMahon's decree it is recommended on the ground that it will at the same time prove France's confidence in her institutions, and be a fresh guarantee of peace. The German papers are enthusiastic in their praise of the spirit which prompts the French to undertake this colossal work.

We have had walking, riding, and bicycle matches between Vienna and Paris, but here is an undertaking of the same character which must excite the attention of all the sporting world. A. M. Pratz, who belongs to an old Austrian family, has laid a wager that he will ride from Vienna to Paris in a fortnight on the back of a camel which he has brought from Africa. According to the terms of the wager, M. Pratz is to be in Paris, on the Place du Trône, at one o'clock on April 27.

French goods and wares are now rapidly driving out those of Germany in continental markets, on account of being better and twenty-five per cent cheaper.

Leveco's "La Petite Mariee" has lately reached its hundredth representation at the Theatre de la Renaissance. It is quite equal to "Girofle-Girofle," and proves that the author is still in the maturity of his powers.

The site for the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878 will, it is believed, be the same as that of the 1867 Exhibition--the Champ de Mars. It is probable that a private company will be formed to carry out the undertaking under a guarantee of interest by the State, with the condition of sharing after certain profits have been made. It will not then be necessary to demand a vote of credit from the Chamber for the buildings and preliminary works, calculated to cost a considerable sum.

France has one man under arms for every 32 persons of the population; Germany, 1 in 98; Italy, 1 in 124; Russia, 1 in 127; Austria, 1 in 150; and England, 1 in 212, without counting the men in the Indian service.

Under the title of "La Révolution de Thermidor, Robespierre et le Comité de Salut Public en l'An II," Messrs. Didier have just published a work by M. d'Héricault, which gives a detailed account of the eventful months of 1795. His book, it is said, has all the interest of an exciting tragedy. He shows how Robespierre, without personal attractions, without genius, almost without ideas, and a thorough coward, climbed to power in playing off one party against another and eliminating all who could be his rivals.

The electric light is being applied in this city not only to illuminate public clocks and their vicinity, but to set forth the name of the building at the same time.

The arrival is announced of Bertaccini, the marvellous runner who is said to cover 50 miles in better time than an ordinary horse started at his side. Bertaccini is a native of Florence.

None of the French provincial papers possesses a really large circulation. Of the Paris papers, the *Petit Journal* and the *Petit Moniteur*, both at one sale, have an enormous sale. Of the *gros journals*, the *Rappel* sells 75,000; the

Figaro, 70,000; and the *République Française*, 65,000. The price of the *Rappel* is two sous; that of the *Debats* four sous; nearly all the other important papers sell at three sous.

CANADA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The Dominion does remarkably well, occupying almost as much space as the mother country. There are articles from the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. The goods are put up in plain uniform walnut cases that give a very regular appearance to the department. This feature of uniformity arises from the fact that the collection is under the auspices of the Government itself, the Dominion treasury having contributed \$100,000, and the Provinces an additional amount for the display, the entire exhibit being in charge of three Commissioners from the Dominion, and one from each of the provinces. One of the striking features of the Ontario display is the elaborateness with which the school system is brought out, and in this a great deal of pride is evidently felt. The exhibitors say that their educational system is the best in the world. The geological department is made a leading feature of the exhibition. The ores and petroleum are noticeable. The Commissioners point out a lump of plumbago, six feet by four, said to be the largest ever mined. Fine specimens of red granite from New Brunswick also attract attention. There are displays of furniture from Quebec and Toronto, tweeds, woollen goods and hosiery. The ship-building industry is represented by an interesting display of models from leading ship-yards on the seacoast. Specimens of stone-ware, which are claimed to equal the celebrated Staffordshire ware, are shown. Marble mantel-pieces, made in Montreal, are claimed by the exhibitors to equal in delicacy of finish and beauty and design the work of the Italian chisel. The boot and shoe interests, drugs and chemicals, sewing machines, circular and other saws, pianos, and cigars have also fine samples in the collection. The furs are particularly noticeable, the Hudson Bay Company making a large exhibit. All kinds of articles of wearing apparel are profusely displayed. The extent and variety of Canadian industries, as represented at Philadelphia, will surprise English and American visitors, who have thought that they were well informed about the manufactures of the Dominion.

THE FASHIONS.

PROMENADE COSTUME. Plate I. The same costume seen under two aspects. Skirt with train, in taffetas of grisaille woollen, encircled by a large volant. Polenaire of the same material, trimmed with assorted tapes and draped behind. Dress of black silk, adjusted behind, with square basque, adorned with two lace volants. Ribbons above the volants. Small lace patterns around the neck. Hat *Baby* of black silk, with soft crown and adorned with laces. A black plume behind under roses, and ribbon ornaments.

VISITING COSTUMES. Plate II. 1. Skirt with train. Rounded apron, surrounded by blue fringes and fixed behind by deep pocket which is adorned, above and below, by knots of blue ribbon. Cuirass of plain material in front and brooch behind. Hat of Italian straw with soft crown of blue gauze. Knot at top from which floats a blue plume. A garland of forget-me-nots under the hat. 2. Skirt with train, surrounded by two large volants. Apron adorned in the middle. Cuirass adorned, above and below, by silk plissés. Grey buttons. Straw hat. Pink foulard around the crown.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

CHARLES FECHTER is in San Francisco. SALVINI will appear in London in the middle of May.

We hear that the celebrated German actress, Mlle. Janaschek, will appear in Medea at the Haymarket.

M. PIERRE BENOIT, the composer, who is striving to create a Flemish school of music, has produced in Antwerp, a symphonic opera, entitled *Charlotte Corday*, a realistic work of the actual events of 1793.

VERDI is not so much attached to Paris as a place of residence as were Bellini, Rossini, Donizetti, and Meyerbeer. He prefers rather to plough the paternal acres of his native Lombard plains, and come home at night with the oxen and the wooden plough.

The Vienna journals announce the death by violence of Neruda, the Czech musician, who invented--or, to speak more correctly, brought into fashion--the polka. He had lived with his wife a retired life in the country for some years, his residence being in the environs of Prague. Both have now been murdered by thieves.

LITERARY.

ADMIRAL VERNON JACKSON of the British navy, who died at Christchurch in England, the other day, at the age of eighty-nine, is said to have been the original of Marryat's character of *O'Brien* in "Peter Simple."

In the first part of Mr. Furnivall's edition, for the New Shakespeare Society, of Harrison's *Description of England in Shakespeare's Time, 1577-87* (now all in type), will be a copy of Norden's Map of London in 1594, engraved by Van der Keere, and enlarged to four times the size of the original by Mr. Stephen Thompson. Maps of the routes of Shakespeare in his journeys from Stratford to London will accompany Part II. next year.

GEORGE SAND, having ceased for upward quarter of a century wearing male attire, insists now on being styled "Madame Sand." She is far, it seems, from being rich, and her income consists chiefly of the salary she enjoys from the *Revue des Deux-Mondes* of 10,000 francs a year, and a casual sum for contributing *feuilletons* to the *Temps*. Her novels do not sell well nowadays, as their doctrines are more manly and antagonistic to society. She retains her old habit of commencing work when everybody else thinks of going to bed.