

Drummond, who had made the oxy-hydrogen flame intensely brilliant by directing it upon a cylinder of lime, he had experimented with many refractory minerals unsuccessfully. Some were friable in use, others were brittle, yet more gave but feeble light. So carefully made are his magnesia combs that they can be plunged white-hot into water without injury. Their light is very similar to the incandescent electric light—while, so as to be serviceable in photography, steady, as proceeding from a solid instead of a flickering gas-jet. The combs last one hundred hours, their adjustment under gradual wear, and their replacement are two deductions from the value of the "Northern" light. In remote and inaccessible places, as on lofty ceilings, the combs could not advantageously be used. Water-gas is largely employed in Toronto, New York and throughout America, is carbureted with naphtha as an illuminant; the magnesia comb renders the expensive carbureting process unnecessary. It further holds out hope that a cheap gas may be laid on to our houses to serve at once for heat and light. The reduction of fuels to the gaseous form at vast works, for economical and clearly consumption in cities, is booming up as one of the next advances in practical science to be expected.

A NUMBER of the descendants of the old Dutch settlers of New York have taken steps to organize a society to which no one can be admitted who cannot trace his pedigree back through the male line to old Knickerbockers. So says the *New York Town Topics*. The projectors naïvely announce that it is not intended to interfere with the St. Nicholas Club and Society, or to be in any way like them. It is safe to say that it will be like nothing on the earth or under the earth so long as it confines its membership to gentlemen whose names are adorned with the prefix Van, which, it is understood, is the trade-mark and unalienable birthright of the ancient Knickerbockers. No fewer than sixteen gentlemen were present at the first meeting, who turned their heads inquiringly whenever anyone called out "Van" in a colloquial tone of voice, and letters of regret were received from as many more who rejoice in that familiar abbreviation of their lawful names. The new society hopes soon to have a house down on the Battery, where they may sit in restful ease, smoking, and drinking schnapps, and playing "Van-John" as in the good old days.

THE following extract from *The Century* reflects so much to the honour of the periodical in which it appears, and is in such refreshing contrast with the unneighbourly rubbish which is occasionally published by less conscientious prints, that we have much pleasure in reproducing it: "Dynamiting is not the American way! The methods of the assassin, of the sneaking and cowardly murderer, are not, and never will be, popular in this country. It is true that two of our Presidents have met their death at the hands of the illegal taker of life, but there was no popular support to either mad and murderous act. . . . Let the question once be brought to an issue in our American communities, and the politician who hesitates to denounce dynamite, and all that goes with it—all cowardly and conscienceless attempts to settle either public or private questions by means of private and secret violence—such a man is lost. He will find too late that his deference to an unreasoning, brutal and restricted sentiment has brought him into contact with the great, sound, uncowardly, law-abiding sentiment of the people of the United States."

THERE was certain to be a considerable amount of criticism upon the commissariat of the Soudan Army. It has come to be looked upon as a matter of course that the British War Office must be incapable of provisioning a force, large or small. "Give a dog a bad name," etc. The newspaper *flaneur*, however limited his stock of general information, is aware, or thinks he is aware, of the rotten state of the English navy, the decline of her army, and the utter disorganization of the commissariat. Has he not read it? And so this complacent gentleman, true to the traditions of his race, has been "spreading himself" upon the "shameful neglect displayed by the old women" who had served Her Majesty a quarter of a century before their glib critic was born. This *apropos* of the reports of cartridges becoming jammed in the Martini-Henrys at Abu Klea and Metemnah. Such a hitch does not necessarily result from any fault in the cartridges or the weapons. The hurry of battle is responsible for much careless loading and consequent jamming. By the introduction successively of charge after charge the barrel is choked to an extent little dreamt of, and perhaps deemed impossible, by those who know nothing of the confusion, and terror, and excitement of a fierce battle. An official report of the examination of the arms collected upon the battlefield of Gettysburgh, in the American Civil War, affords a curious insight into the condition of mind of even veteran soldiers in hot action. The report says:—"Of the whole number of arms received (27,574) we found at least 24,000 loaded. About one half of them contained two loads each; one-fourth from three to two loads each, and the balance one load each. In many of these guns from two to six balls have been found with only one charge of powder. In some the balls have been found at the bottom of the bore, with the charge of powder on top of the ball. Twenty-three loads were found in one Springfield rifle musket, each load in regular order. About 6,000 of the arms were found loaded with cartridges most of which were only about half-way down the barrel, and in many cases the ball end of the cartridge had been put into the gun first. These cartridges were mostly found in the Enfield rifle musket." When we are told officially that at least 12,000 men fought at Gettysburgh, who, not knowing or caring whether their rifles had gone off, rammed home a second charge, and that at least half these men went on ramming home charges, for the most part topsy-turvy, until they were shot down and could not ram any longer, we are better able to appreciate how it is that so few of the enemy are killed in proportion to the quantity of ammunition served out.

As showing how careful the conductors of public journals require to be in ascertaining who their correspondents are, an English editor remarks that he has recently been in treaty for the services of a gentleman who always adds B.A. to his name. Wondering from what university he hailed, the journalist in question ventured to ask the question, which elicited the very candid reply that he was *no* graduate at all, but a member of the B— Athenæum! This reminds one of another instance of an attempt a long time ago to prey upon the credulity of the British public by a prominent lecturer, who was advertised as Mr. —, M.D., F.R.S. On the matter being probed it was ascertained that the letters stood for *Drum-Major of the Royal Scots Fusiliers!*

AN English journal asserts that the Sultan is about to establish an opera at Constantinople, and the ladies of the harem are to receive musical instruction. Such is the latest resolve of His Majesty, who has taken quite an æsthetic turn. It is not said whether His Majesty intends to have a string band composed of the loves and lights of his harem, and to lead them himself. Such a decision would show at length that the institution has its practical purposes. The instructors of music, especially the handsome young tenors, may dream of pleasures to be theirs, and of episodes *à la Barbère*.

A PARIS paper publishes the following statistics of the average audience on the first night of a new piece. Personal enemies of the author, 50; persons who, without knowing him, hope for a failure, 103; those who have paid an exorbitant price for their seats, and are therefore furious against the piece, 123; ill-disposed through dining badly, 14; generally ill-natured people, 21; women deserted by the author at some period of his life, 9; fellow-authors, 28; men to whom the author has refused to lend money, 42; enemies of the director, 60; indifferent, 450; friends, 0; floating population, 100. Total, 1,000. On a rainy night 200 of those originally indifferent pass over to the ranks of the enemy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK
5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

CANADIANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The following letter has been addressed to a Toronto gentleman:—

Bay City, March 12, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I promised to send you a few points in regard to the immigration of Canadians into the United States. I see that there has been considerable controversy as to the report of the Ontario Minister of Education, and later upon the Budget Report in the Dominion Parliament. When we examine the United States Census Reports, there is but one conclusion to which we can come, viz., that the prosperity of Canada must be very slow whilst she is giving such a large proportion, not only of her bone and sinew, but her intelligence, to build up a neighbouring Republic. Looking the facts in the face, Canadians must begin to see (regardless of political party or opinions) that some change is necessary in the relation which Canada holds to the United States and to the Mother Country.

During the last quarter of a century, notwithstanding the rapid increase of population in the United States, the proportion of inhabitants who are Canadian-born, or who have resided in Canada, has been increasing, both as compared with the total population and the foreign-born population. In 1860, when the eighth United States census was taken, 249,970 of the foreign-born were from Canada; being 6.04 per cent. of the foreign element, and 7.9 per cent. of the total population. In 1870, 493,464 of the foreign element were from Canada—8.86 per cent. of the foreign, and 1.28 per cent. of the total, population. In 1880, 717,157 of the population were one-time Canadian residents—10.74 of the foreign, and 1.43 per cent. of the total, population. It will be seen that during these two decades the Canadian population increased 4.70 per cent. on the total of foreigners, and .64 per cent. on the whole population. Germany is the only other country which shows an increase, but the Canadian immigration shows a larger increase than the German. I estimate that there is now in the United States a Canadian population of over 950,000. It may be said that this is too high an estimate, but does it appear so when we consider the ratio of increase? In 1877, 22,121 Canadians settled in the United States; in 1878, 30,102; in 1879, 53,267; and in 1880, 139,761. It will be said that in the last four years the tide of emigration was to the North-West; but, if the truth were known, a large proportion of these may be found in Minnesota and Dakota, having never reached the North-West, or having been driven back by the villainous land policy of the Canadian Government.

It may enlighten some who have been perplexed by the Ontario Minister of Education's Report, when we inform them that at the present time there are now in the States over 60,000 youths between the ages of five and sixteen years who were born in Canada. Give Ontario its proportion of these, and then add those of school age who have gone to the North-West and Manitoba, and that report is no longer incredible to an unprejudiced mind.

Let me give a few statistics showing the class of citizens who come from Canada, The census of 1880, divided the Canadian immigrants into four classes—the agricultural, of which there were 351,103; professional, 90,614; trade, 33,119; manufacturing, 153,935. Of the professional class, 90 were architects, 187 artists and teachers of Art, 19 authors, lecturers, and literary persons; 32 chemists, assayers, and metallurgists; 930 clergymen; 559 lawyers; 1,520 physicians and surgeons; 2,617 teachers and scientific persons.

I am a Canadian still, and love my native land. I have no hesitation in saying that Canada will find her true prosperity in a distinct and independent national existence—not *Annexation*, or *Imperial Federation*; but *Independence*. Instead of limiting her trade with foreign powers, which seems to be the present policy, she must have a government that will give her prominence: she must make her own treaties. Then Canada will be known abroad and honoured and loved by her sons at home.

I am, Yours very truly,

J. REID.