

since the close of that great tragedy, yet every European was still greatly interested, and read as much as possible about the great eastern country. He spoke of the main characteristics of the country, its mountain ranges and lower plains, its great growth of tropical plants and the innumerable wild animals and reptiles. The country, he said, was a most unfortunate one, continually suffering from plague, famine and earthquake. India, as we all know, is famed for its heat, yet there are many places where in the cold seasons the cold and frost are extremely keen. A mountaineer, to his own knowledge, had even lost his toes through freezing. India is, however, almost synonymous with "heat." Mr. Keefer illustrated his lecture with several plates of the types of natives to be found in the Bengal Presidency. A point of great interest was the native headgear of the Indian soldiers. The puggaree is a long strip of silk, cashmere or muslin wound round and round the head. The method of winding the puggaree indicated in every case the caste and religion of the wearer. Great Britain, he said, had at present a force of 150,000 native soldiers. The fighting races are the Gourkhas, the Sikhs, the Punjaubis and one or two others. The fighting class, he said, were all drawn from the north. The great majority of the southern natives were of a very peaceful nature, and were of no use as fighters. The native soldiers were very often used in a civil capacity as a sort of orderly doing light work, such as letter-carrying. Major Keefer told the story of the assassination of the Viceroy, Lord Mayo, by Sherahli, and aroused everyone's sympathy over the sad event. Speaking of the civilian natives, the first type he mentioned was the Bengali Babou, so well-known for his mathematical skill and fine hand-writing, qualities which made him in great demand as a clerk in the Government offices. The trivial customs of the natives were well illustrated by the lecturer. Several letters were read demonstrating the curious use by natives of words of flattery which they do not understand. The professional thieves of India, he said, necessitated the employment of watchmen by all Europeans to guard their property. The Chokidar or night watchmen are chosen from among the thieves, as there is honour among thieves. We had here a remarkable instance of setting a thief to catch a thief. The thieves are a professional class, and will never steal from anyone who employs one of their own profession as a watchman. A curious fact which he spoke of among the natives is that they always know their masters only by their title, and they refer to every master who employs them as "Sahib." Major Keefer illustrated his lecture with stories of the superstition and religious ideas of the Indian natives, which threw much light upon their curious customs.

After this lecture teas were given by the Provost and Mrs. Welch, Miss Strachan, Professor and Mrs. Clark, Mr. A. H. Young, and also in several of the men's rooms.

## NOAH OUTDONE! AND COLUMBUS LEFT IN THE SHADE!

### THE CRUISE OF "THE UNDERTAKER'S JOY."

*Wherin the adventures and hardships of two of the "Gilded Youth" of Canada are truly reported and other interesting circumstances observed.*

#### I.

All aboard! Got the Camera?—and the soap? and the Cherry Pectoral? and all the toothache stuff? Hang it, we've forgotten matches! And say, old man, get the canoe sail, while you're up there—and the rifle—and just look around and see if we have left anything else behind, will you?

Baron Munchausen and his cousin, the Boy Trapper, are in the throes of setting forth on their perilous voyage of discovery over the tossing billows of Lake Ontario. Ere

their countenances will illumine Toronto once more, their bark will have ploughed waves that no keel has ever cut, (that's a handy thing about waves—their existence is but a brief and transitory one), and their footprints will have been left on strands where human foot has ne'er been planted. Great excitement convulses the fair city of Toronto. One can almost imagine that this vast concourse of people on the docks has been drawn together by a rumour that the sea-serpent has been seen disporting himself on the Bay, devouring a boat-load of people, or that the lordly sea-born monster, Marine Bovalapus, who ploughs the waves and threads the mazes of the forest, has escaped from the circus that he graces with his presence, and is now basking in the sun on the sand bar. But no! These people have risen at 10 a.m. for the sole purpose of bidding Godspeed to the intrepid discoverers. The Argonaut balcony is filled with spectators drawn together by a report (circulated by the Boy Trapper), that the "Undertaker's Joy" is to circumnavigate Lake Ontario, incidentally breaking all previous records from one hundred yards to a thousand miles.]

#### II.

Deferring to custom we now describe, first, the craft of the Dauntless Two, and then her crew. The "Undertaker's Joy" is somewhat more water-tight than a milk-strainer, and at first sight one would imagine she was longer than she is broad. Her nose is aquiline and her eyesight is excellent—when she goes to sea. Envious persons have called her a brazen-faced huzzy, and say that she is painted, insinuating, too, that she has been known to get full, or at least half-seas over, when the liquids were circulating freely. The lady, however, is well connected (when tied to the shore by a good strong painter), her family tree was a bass-wood. As to her age—well, ladies' ages are uncertain—like their tempers. Certain it is, however, that she's just a trifle stout (thirty inches in the waist), so, form your own conclusions as to her antiquity.

And next, the crew. The Captain, deck-hand and stewardess (likewise "The bos'un, tight and the midship-mite and the crew of the captain's gig") is Baron Munchausen—the sun, moon, stars, and electric light of legal learning. This distinguished lawyer took to law, and to trousers, at an early age. When only four years old he was vigorously engaged in contesting his father's will, but such paths of litigation lead but to the wood-shed. This meteor in the legal heavens is a man of wonderful generosity; he has been seen to give his last nickel to the gentleman who dispenses lager-beer over the counter. The Baron is a professor in the noble act of general jollying, while for glad-hand work he certainly takes the doughnut. He is not covetous, but he frequently expresses a desire to possess the whole of the outside world, not to mention the moon and other celestial bodies. His best work would probably be done in some position where he would have full play for his wonderful inventive power of creating events that have occurred only in his fertile imagination. As Editor of a Sunday Society paper or as special correspondent of the "Toronto World" he would assuredly rise to the top of the ladder, and thence, gently flapping his angelic wings, he would soar to the fields of Paradise to quaff ambrosia, and play upon one of the silver-plated harps that St. Peter distributes to the faithful as they scamper one by one through the Golden Gates.

The owner, first mate, chief engineer and helmsman of the staunch little "Undertaker's Joy" is the Boy Trapper, who sometimes also answers to the cognomens—"The Dentist's Delight," "Boy-oh," "The Gay Ascetic," and "The Attenuated Sigh." This gentleman possesses far more energy than any vegetable oyster that ever grew, and would make a real success of life as a postman, or as a landscape gardener in a coal mine. He has been known to propel his canoe for five miles while the captain was lying