

Selections.

The Canadian Thames.

Navigation has closed at London, Ont. It may seem rather early in the season, yet the *Advertiser* says: "Owing to the lowness of the water all the steamboats have stopped running on the Thames." This state of things is deplorable when the lowness is due to natural causes, but this is not the case in London. The utter stoppage in the vessel interests is caused by the new water works pumping too much out of the river, and it is feared that if this hot weather continues the river will be forced into bankruptcy and London will have to forego all hope of being a prominent maritime city. No doubt several pails of water have been taken on the sly from this mammoth stream, and thus the interests of navigation have been seriously jeopardized by unthinking persons. Any person who has had the privilege of gazing on the magnificent proportions of the Thames at London might imagine that the steamers were about the size of a Detroit River skiff, but in reality they are large boats that will carry 300 persons. Last year 200 Detroiters, who were visiting London, greatly enjoyed their four-mile ride on the little river and big steamer. The steamers are broad and flat and draw very little water. During the season of 1878 a rumor reached this city that one of the steamers was lost by running ashore on an oyster can, but Mr. WASTIE, Chief of the Fire Department there, and owner of the steamer, called at the *Free Press* office shortly after and contradicted the rumor. He told some interesting anecdotes about the dangers of the deep as shown by the navigation of the Thames at London. On one occasion the boat with a hundred and fifty persons on board was returning from a voyage when a cow was standing on the track—that is in the river. The cow was perfectly satisfied with her position and would not move. Unfortunately the boats are not provided with cowcatchers. For half an hour that cow kept the tired Londoners from their home. Every movable article on board except the anchor was flung at the cow. The boat was run up to the cow and the whistle tooted, but the bovine merely moved up the stream and chewed the cud of sweet and bitter fancies. At last a boy, for ten cents, rolled up his trousers, stepped over the guard and drove the cow ashore, and then climbed back on the steamer which went on its way rejoicing. Another time the steamer, which had on a heavy load, did not return at the hour it was expected. Mr. WASTIE, becoming alarmed, started down the river bank in search of the missing boat. About a mile down he saw her in the centre of the stream stuck on a sandbar, while some dozens of men were out in the river trying to shove her back. Taking the situation in at a glance, Mr. WASTIE mounted a bluff, made a trumpet of his hands and shouted to the captain: "Get all the passengers aft: then back out and take the north channel." The captain, who did not recognize his employer in the dusk, cried: "See here, granger, you go and tend to your cows. I'm running this boat." In ten minutes after WASTIE was running the boat and running her toward London too.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Do not despise small beginnings. Many a boy starts out in the world as a friendless orphan with only one pair of pants, and ultimately reaches the exalted position of a sea-side hotel clerk and wears a fifty-cent diamond breastpin.—*Middletown Transcript*.

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TENDERS addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals will be received at the Canadian Emigration Office, 31 Queen Victoria street, E. C., London, England, until JULY 15, next, for Steel Rails and Fastenings, to be delivered at MONTREAL, as follows:

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By order,

F. BRAUN.

Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, }
OTTAWA, 13th June, 1879. }

xiii-6-3.

Stage Whispers.

We are to have a week of *Pinafore* in the delightful Gardens, by LAURENT'S Fifth Avenue Opera Co., commencing on Monday evening 17th.

Let those now laugh who've often laughed before, And those who've never laughed see *Pinafore*. Miss TRURSHY is singing in ballad concerts in London, England.

They say SOTHERN took the Juke of Beaufort along to dig the worms.

Miss MARY ANDERSON has a new play entitled "For Sybil's Sake."

J. H. HAVERLY has SALVINI on all engagements played by him outside of New York city next year.

ADA CAVENDISH remains in this country next season, and will star under the management of MAT CANNING.

Either next fall or 1880, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. FLORENCE propose to make "The Mighty Dollar" pass current in England.

TOM TAYLOR'S play "Retribution" has been revived at the Olympic Theatre, London, after a sleep of twenty-three years.

Mr. W. W. STORY in the intervals of his modelling, has found time to write a charming little comedy for his own private stage. Its title is "Second Thoughts."

ADELAIDE NEILSON will make her first appearance in this country next season at the Park Theatre, Brooklyn, on October 20. She will not play in New York until January.

Mr. WALLACK is said to have bought a play that has had a great success in Copenhagen. It represents in the most satirical manner a party of adventurers who have a plan for a railway to St. Paul's from the moon.

The death of CHARLES A. CALVERT, the English actor and theatrical manager, is announced from London. Mr. CALVERT was chiefly known in this country by his supervision of the stage spectacles *Henry V.*, and *Sardanapalus*, produced in Booth's Theatre in the same style in which they were first presented by Mr. CALVERT in Manchester.

A story concerning the late Mrs. HOWARD PAUL is related by the *Dramatic News*. Once in London, when there was a large take, SIMS REEVES, who was the hero of the hour, sent word that he was indisposed. This meant a return of the money. Mrs. HOWARD PAUL was one of the singers, and at a moment's notice she went on for Mr. REEVES, and imitated his voice and manner so correctly that no one knew the difference.

Mme. NILSON had a rapturous reception on her first appearance at Her Majesty's Theatre a few days ago. She had not sung in London for two years, and the public was delighted to hear her again. She chose *Faust* to effect her reappearance in, and it is said by the English papers that she was never more charming as "Marguerite" than on this occasion. CAMPANINI was the "Faust," and FOLI the "Mephistopheles."

Mr. CARL ROSA has arrived in New York, and is looking over the operatic field in this country, with a view to investing some of the surplus capital which he is said to have derived from a highly successful season in London. Mr. ROSA will have to secure the services of a regiment of militia to protect him from the advances of an army of amateurs who have served a professional apprenticeship before the mast of H. M. S. *Pinafore*.