

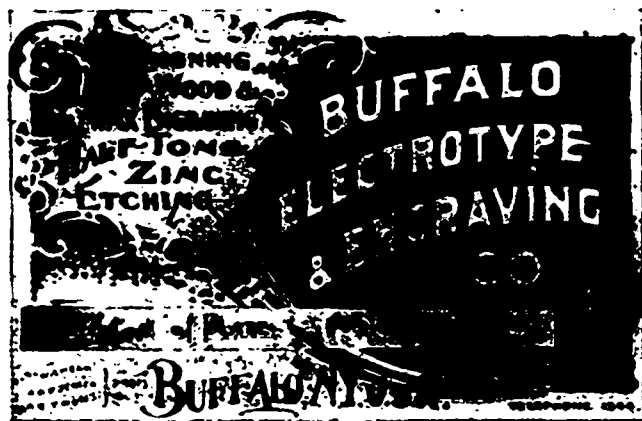
the people who will read of his return. Bismarck and the Emperor William are bigger than Thomas aforesaid, but the planet Mars is bigger than Bismarck and the Emperor William. The gentle readers have just as much right to be interested in a small body like the returned villager, as they would have to contemplate Bismarck and the Emperor William when a great body like the planet Mars claims their attention."

#### A JOURNALIST AND A BICYCLE.

A. Dennis, of Pictou, N.S., rides a bicycle, and occasionally he doesn't ride it. Both of these sets of circumstances are agreeable and comfortable except when they follow each other in too quick succession—that is when it is a sort of "now you're on it and now you're off" business. Mr. Dennis went out with a party of friends the other evening for a run. It was a hard hill to go up, but He-of-the-Shears was brave, and he climbed it. Then he started to go down, and when near the bottom his wheel took a sudden desire to look down into a deep ditch. When his friends arrived they heard only a hollow sound from the bottom, which sounded like "Pick-me-up." One unfeeling friend remarked that he was still sorrowing for his lost journal, the dead child of his fancy. But others less sentimental drew him from the depths and gave a farmer one hundred and fifty cents to drive him back to town, covered—that is, he was covered with bruises, court plaster and an old quilt. The same unfeeling friend remarked next day that the journalist's exclamation reminded him of the old story of Queen Mary that we have all read in Collier. She said that when she died

"Calais" would be found written on her heart. So had the Nova Scotia journalist died then his last words would have been: "Pick-me-up."

Who is the favorite novelist of Canadian readers? If, as the Canadian Gazette points out, the experience of the St. John (New Brunswick) Free Church Library is any test, the place of honor belongs to Edna Lyall. The order of favor runs thus: Edna Lyall, Rosa N. Carey, F. Marion Crawford, A. Conan Doyle, W. Clark Russell, R. L. Stevenson, Walter Besant, Charles Reade, Thomas Hardy, William Black, James Grant, Mrs. Craik, Mrs. Oliphant, James Payn, E. P. Roe, W. H. Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, George Elliot. It will be noticed that the modern "feminine fiction" finds no place in the list.



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