

SHAW'S AUCTION, FURNITURE AND PIANO WAREHOUSE, MONTREAL.

We give this week a fine view of the interior of the principal Salesroom of this great Auction, Piano, and Furniture Warehouse, and cannot give our readers a better description of it than the following which appeared some time ago in the *Montreal Gazette*:

"To obtain an idea of the number, variety and value of the articles arranged or piled in the salesroom, it must be visited. Our visit was made during one of the evening sales. As you enter from Craig street, two long rows of brilliant gas-lights illuminate the whole, and give a very pretty effect. Near the front entrance, standing a little apart, are six or eight pianos—some large, square, modern in style, and of fine tone; others old-fashioned—one made ten, twenty, or forty years ago, and some of the old 'Broadwood Grands' that look, if put in some houses, as though the long projecting end would have to be put out of the window. There are also in this department, harmoniums, melodeons, violins, and all kinds of musical instruments, intermixed with engravings, paintings—some of them mere daubs, and others, works of real merit—landscapes, portraits of mothers and fathers, whose grandchildren are now old; books, magazines, telescopes, time-pieces, grand old English hall clocks, with their large honest face and well-known 'tick-tick'; silverware, glass, and old china, swords, pistols, stuffed birds, deer's heads, and other specimens of natural history. Yonder sits a happy couple, evidently lately married; they are interested in a fine drawing-room suite, with handsome green silk cover, and they are not going to leave the spot till that is sold; another couple select a handsome bedroom suite, with marble-top; an elderly gentleman walks up and down before a wardrobe which he intends to purchase; and an old lady with glasses is intently examining a Brussels carpet, and, to prevent another who seems likely to compete with her for it, she points out a corner where there have been moths;—yonder is a shrewd bargain hunter, brushing the dust off a mirror to see that there are no flaws; another takes possession of a fine Turkish easy chair, and is evidently unwilling another should even look at it; another examines the forks and spoons, or silver tea sets; another holds a piece of china up to the light; a young miss runs her fingers over the keys of a piano; a book-worm pores over the musty volumes, while an old woman down the room rattles the tins on a stove, on which she intends cooking her old man's dinner on the morrow. The whole scene is a study for an artist or the student of human nature. Meantime Mr. Shaw himself arrives on the scene and takes the management of the sale. His manner is pleasant and lively, and his voice, though not loud, is heard distinctly at the farthest end of the room. Since he has taken the sale in hand, the bidding is more spirited, and we have to change our position, or be borne down by the mass of people who crowd around to get a view of the articles. Though the purchasers know they will have to pay more for the things, they seemed pleased at the change. He is counted a first-class auctioneer, and those who cannot approach near enough to examine the articles, depend on his representation of them; like all auctioneers, he gets all he can for the goods, but without misrepresenting them, nor will he take advantage of those who, in their excitement, advance on their own bid—and is as polite and considerate to the poor mechanic or laborer, who buys a five dollar cooking stove, as to the wealthy who can run up to six or eight hundred dollars for a drawing-room or bedroom suit.

He has now reached the young couple who have placed themselves and their affections on the pretty green suit; the bidding has already commenced; "fifty," "sixty," "sixty-five," "seventy," "eighty," "ninety," "one hundred," "one hundred and ten," says the gentleman with the young wife; "one hundred and twenty," says an old lady, not moved a bit by the pleading looks of the young lady, who still retains her seat in one of the large chairs. After a moment's hesitation, a word more of recommendation, it is knocked down to the young pair, and with a look of real satisfaction, the lady grasps her husband's arm and both leave the room. It is no wonder that Charles Dickens loved to frequent the auction room, and no doubt he drew many lessons of humanity therefrom.

Consider for a moment, the probable history of the articles sold at auction. Some are sold because their owners have become rich and are supplying themselves with grander furniture at "Thompson's." Some have met with misfortune, and one by one, are parting with their household goods. Other things are sold under seizure to satisfy rapacious landlords. Whatever the causes, an incredible amount of goods change owners at this salesroom, during this season of the year.

The new and splendid building deserves some notice, as it is not only the largest salesroom in the Dominion, but probably the best lighted and adapted for the purpose in America. The ground was purchased by Mr. Shaw some six years ago for \$9,000, and comprises about 6,000 superficial feet. Judging from the price paid for the adjoining lot a few months ago, it is now worth with the buildings above \$70,000. The present building was erected on the site of that destroyed by fire in October, 1872, on the plan and under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas, architect, and cost Mr. Shaw about \$38,000 to erect it. It is five stories high, with an arched coal cellar under the sidewalk. The lower flat or basement is devoted to the sales of second-

hand furniture, and is 12 feet high, about 42 feet wide and 140 feet long. The next flat—the principal show-room, and the one represented in the engraving—is the same area, 16 feet high, with a raised dais along the sides and down the centre, for the better display of goods. Those who visit the place during the display and sale of furniture, will remember the fine effect this arrangement gives to the appearance of the furniture. There are also two fire and burglar-proof vaults. In the flat above this is stored the fine walnut and other furniture for which Mr. Shaw is agent. The front of the second story is partitioned off as a piano room, and in this is to be seen a large number of valuable instruments of various makers for sale; noticeable among them are the celebrated Vose & Sons, of Boston, and of J. P. Hale of New York, who also have their agency here. The number of pianos sold in this establishment is something surprising, averaging two a day during the past year, besides the large number of second-hand instruments sold in the auction salesroom below.

The 4th flat is filled with chairs and cottage furniture from the Bowmansville and other manufacturers—and on the 5th flat is the upholstering department, where parties can have their furniture covered in the best and neatest style, selecting the quality and color they prefer.

The whole building is admirably adapted for its present purposes, and is crowded with furniture, pianos, carpets, and general household effects, and is in striking contrast with the small dilapidated place in which Mr. Shaw carried on his business, a few years ago, in St. Francois-Xavier Street.

THE FASHIONS.

Fig. 1. RECEPTION COSTUME.—Dress of black faille with long train, which is trimmed with three rows of plissés. Corsage cuirassé. Fichu of black lace. Sleeves plaited with narrow longitudinal folds, and at the waist two volants with bow of black faille.

Fig. 2. DINNER DRESS.—Dress of grey lavender faille. Overskirt with train trimmed on the sides by large bias variegated with band of black silk. Corsage open square, and laced. Sleeves bouillonnées.

Fig. 3. PARLOR DRESS.—Dress of maroon poplin of two shades. The train is of the darker shade. Tunic with bias, round apron. Corsage opened heart-shape on the bosom.

Fig. 4. MOURNING COSTUME.—Dress of cashmere. Skirt with light puffs. Rounded apron. Corsage with short round basques.

Fig. 5. VISITING TOILET.—Dress of pearl-grey faille. Skirt ample, with ostrich feathers in front, and bows below, in the shape of trefoils. Corsage with large basques. Wide belt.

Fig. 6. VISITING TOILET.—Dress of ruby-colored faille. Skirt trimmed with volants.

Fig. 7. CARRIAGE DRESS.—Skirt of cashmere adorned with a high volant. Large apron.

Fig. 8.—MORNING DRESS.—Simple skirt narrow above, and almost like a bell below. Pale-tot sack of light cloth.

Fig. 9.—DRESS FOR GIRL OF 6 OR 7 YEARS. Blue poplin dress with rounded skirt and little volants. Belt with clasp.

Fig. 10. DRESS FOR GIRL OF 5 OR 6 YEARS.—White rep dress with yellow bias. Blue paletot.

Fig. 11. WALKING DRESS.—Maroon dress with rounded skirt, and tunic forming a second skirt. Corsage with adjusted basques.

THE GLEANER.

It is reported that up to the present date 60 volunteer regiments in England, have adopted the scarlet uniform, in accordance with the War Office regulations on the subject, and that 82 retain grey clothing and 62 green.

It is expected that the money testimonial which it is proposed to present to Cardinal Manning, from Roman Catholics in England, will amount to £10,000. Cardinal Manning is expected in London next week.

An English grievance against Ireland is given by the Registrar-General, who states that a million and a half sterling is lost in Ireland annually through the farmers allowing weeds to grow unchecked.

The Pullman cars have at length reached Manchester, and there are now two daily services of this kind between London and London-road. The extension of the system seems to show that it has been found successful.

Good Friday was observed in Scotland with annually increasing respect. Besides the banks and public offices, many leading mercantile houses closed their places of business. Several Presbyterian churches were open for Divine service.

Considerable progress has been made with the swimming-bath which is in course of construction on the Thames, close to Charing-Cross Bridge. One feature of the structure will be an ornamental tower. It is said that the bath will not be ready for the use of the public before the end of May or the beginning of June.

By order of King Alphonso, his sister and housekeeper, the Countess of Girgenti, has assumed the title of the Princess of the Asturias. In other words, the King, having no brother, has made public intimation of his desire that his eldest sister should meanwhile be regarded as heir to the Throne.

It is worth knowing that if one volume of castor-oil be dissolved in two or three volumes of spirits of wine it will render paper transparent, and, the spirit rapidly evaporating, the paper in a few minutes becomes fit for use. A drawing in pencil or in Indian ink can thus be made, and if the paper is placed in spirits of wine the oil is dissolved out, restoring the paper to its original condition. This is the discovery of Herr Füscher.

It is decided that the ships for the Arctic expedition shall be supplied with 36 sledges of various sizes, including two which can be used either as bridges or ladders. There are also in preparation two ice saws, which, worked by a tripod stand, will be useful occasionally to cut a dock for the vessel in the fixed ice when threatened with a nip from floating masses. They are 14 feet in length, 6 inches in breadth, with teeth 2½ inches wide and deep, and half an inch thick. The ships will leave early in June.

A project is on foot to present a testimonial to Herr Lowenthal, to whom much is due by the lovers of the game of chess in England. He has been for more than 23 years past engaged in the promotion of the practice and theory of the game. From 1854 to 1866 he edited the chess column of the *Era*, and has since then been connected with *Land and Water* and various other periodicals. The *Chess Players' Magazine*, the career of which was not so long as it deserved to have been, bears ample evidence to his talents as a chess editor. He has also at various times delivered lectures on the game with great success, and was appointed manager of the British Chess Association in 1861.

A French gentleman of the name of Georges has, for many years past, been experimenting on the preservation of fish, and has at last discovered a fluid which will effectually bring about the long-desired result. For this fluid he has taken out a patent which has been practically tested. Fish of various kinds were simply placed in a bath of the solution for two hours only; they were then taken out of the solution and placed in a cellar for six days. The fish, salmon especially, is found to have kept its flavour and colour. Delicate fish, such as soles, mackerel, red mullet, turbot, &c., are found quite up to the mark, and though three days from the sea as palatable as though fresh from the fishmonger's stall. The importance of this invention applied on a large scale is very great. Many hundred tons of sea-fish caught in far distant localities are now lost as food to the inhabitants of large towns because the time required for the railway journey is too great.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GRAPE IN QUEBEC.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

In your paper of the 27th ult., an article with the above heading appeared, Mr. W. W. Smith, of Philipsburg, being the author.

In reading said article I have found a number of unreliable statements (honestly made, no doubt), but liable to mislead persons unacquainted with the culture of the Grape in our good old Province of Quebec.

I merely wish to point out a few inaccuracies contained in Mr. Smith's paper. It is a delusion to imagine that choice varieties of Grape can be grown in the open air in this Province, in any place where Corn will ripen.

Certain hardy varieties of the American Grape, when well sheltered and cared for, can be grown for amusement and adornment, but with very little success as to fruit-bearing.

I think Mr. Smith is inaccurate in saying that the Adirondack is a variety introduced but four years ago. I have seen it advertised in Nursery Catalogues at least ten years ago.

The maturity of Grapes stated by Mr. Smith, corresponds with those cultivated in some of the United States, that are favored with a more genial climate than ours. My experience on this point warrants me in saying that the earliest varieties will mature about two weeks later, when not sooner injured by the early frosts of September.

I will hail with much pleasure the discovery of some hardy choice varieties of Grape that will fully mature during our short seasons.

Those in the market have not done so.

We want a Grape that can be cultivated for profit in the open air, without costly protection, yielding an abundant crop, either for wine or the dessert, thus rewarding the cultivator for his outlay. Such a Grape is still wanting with me.

These few comments are not intended to discourage the Grape culture. Very far from it. Even though the crop should be neither abundant nor of the best quality, yet who would grudge to spend time and money on the cultivation of a Vine, which has such splendid foliage and creeping properties?

I admire their first peeping buds in the spring, and their opening rosette silver and bronzed-tinged leaves; their minute ivy pistils circled in their delicate white flowers; their luscious clustered fruit hanging. I love them, for they have beauty that always creates in me a charm, a satisfaction, a joy that is never impaired, only when the cruel frosty chills strike down their leaves in the autumn, leaving on their rude stems the drooping and crispy fragments of their past glory.

H. L.

Coaticook, April, 1875.

HUMOUROUS.

BETTER run in old clothes than run in debt.

THOSE old Greeks were pretty wise fellows. In their vocabulary *madden* is translated *nothing*, and *marriage* is *gammon*.

"SARAH was a good wife," said a Georgian, speaking of his last wife, "but she could never do up a shirt real nice."

ADVICE TO HUSBANDS.—Settle as much money upon your wife as you can, for her second husband, poor fellow, may not have a sixpence.

"John! John! wake up, there's a burglar in the house!" said the wife. John sat upright in bed. "Burglar—b-u-r-g-l-e-r—burglar"—and he rolled over waiting for a harder word.

A SUBSCRIBER to a South-Western newspaper died recently, leaving four years' subscription unpaid. The editor appeared at the grave and deposited in the coffin a palm leaf fan, a linen coat and a thermometer.

"Why do you use paint?" asked a violinist of his daughter. "For the same reason that you use rosin, papa." "How is that?" "Why, to help me draw my beau."

NOTORIOUS as a reader of his sermons, a reverend gentleman, in bantering a mason, one of his parishioners, on the superior stability of ancient compared with modern buildings, put the question, "Can you tell me when the masons lost the art of tempering their mortar?" "I've heard," said the man, with a sly leer, "that it was about the time that ministers lost the gift of extempore preaching."

A LOVER of good coffee, who has been several times swindled, entered a Woodward-ave. grocery, recently, and holding up a handful of ground coffee from the big can, he inquired: "Are there any beans in this coffee?" "No, Sir," promptly replied the grocer. "How do you know?" asked the man. "Because I was out of beans and had to put peas in!" was the answer.

LITERARY.

M. RANGABE, the Greek envoy at Berlin, has translated Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered" into Greek verse, and dedicated his work to the King of Italy.

M. THIERS is occupied in writing another important work, entitled "Histoire de l'Art," from notes collected during his late tour in Italy.

A *propos* of the recent revival of *Nicholas Nickleby*, it may not be uninteresting to know that the character of Smike was drawn by Charles Dickens from life, and that Smike still lives in London.

R. G. HALIBURTON, son of the author of "Sam Slick," will shortly publish a volume of poems. Mr. Haliburton is the author of the quaint Nova Scotian poem entitled "Injun Joe," which appears in the new number of *Temple Bar*.

DON PEDRO, Emperor of Brazil, has just been named corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences, in the section of navigation and geography. He is the only sovereign who has been enrolled amongst the active members of this illustrious scientific body since its foundation in 1766.

A SHAKSPEARE Memorial Theatre is to be erected in Stratford-on-Avon, the old town theatre having been pulled down. There is to be a library in connection with the building, and a gallery to receive pictures and statuary of Shakspearean subjects. Subscriptions are urgently requested by the local committee which has taken the matter in hand.

MR. SWINBURNE is progressing rapidly with his book on the progress of Shakspeare's style, and the first instalment will appear in the May number of the *Fortnightly Review*. He will shortly bring out a volume of his early poems, which will consist of the "Queen Mother," "Rosamund," those of "Poems and Ballads" which date from college years, and one or two pieces hitherto unprinted.

VARIETIES.

THE Empress Eugénie and the Prince Imperial will visit Madrid at the end of spring to see the Countess Montijo, the Empress's mother.

UMBRELLAS are now made with an oval pane of glass inserted in the front breadth, through which anything approaching may be seen.

THE statue of Jean d'Arc, put up in Paris in the Rue de Rivoli, was done for the Prince Imperial; they dared not put his name to it, so they put hers. It is very like him.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON has consented to France being thoroughly represented in an official way at the forthcoming exhibition at Philadelphia. The Marquis de Lafayette, very appropriately, will be at the head of the committee.

THE Empress of Japan has decided on causing a new college to be built for young girls who wish to devote themselves to the career of teachers, and has given the sum of 5,000 yen from her private purse towards the expense of the construction of the college.

MANY of the London squares are now being put into a highly ornamental condition. Mounds of brickwork and rubbish form a basis for elevated gardening, which will almost give a bill and dale effect from the boldness of the undertaking.

THE new egg and poultry voyage from Rouen to Leith, noticed lately as contemplated, is now an accomplished fact, and the burghers of Midlothian now feast on Irish French eggs at breakfast. The eggs are very rich in quality as compared with the fishy-tasted, coast-gathered eggs in Scotland and Ireland.

ARTISTIC.

IT is said in art circles that Gustave Doré will receive £10,000 for illustrating *Mary Cassell's* magnificent pictorial edition of Shakspeare.

M. PHILIPPOTEAU, a French artist well known for his exquisite drawings and his pictures of military life of various epochs, has forwarded a picture representing the charge of the French cuirassiers on the English squares at Waterloo. The painter has given, on the one hand, the full force of the *furie française*, and, on the other, has thoroughly caught the British tenacity. It has been said that the English squares were seventeen times pierced to be re-formed the eighteenth. M. Philippoteau has admirably displayed the best qualities of adversaries so worthy of each other, and since that period so closely allied.

CAPTAIN MERCIER has just finished a picture of the present British Cabinet, for which, something less than a year ago, he received a commission from a private committee of members of both Houses of Parliament. The picture includes portraits of all the Cabinet Ministers, each of whom, with the exception of the Premier, has given several sittings to the artist. Mr. Disraeli, was, however, none the less successfully "taken" whilst receiving a deputation. The scene is laid in the Council Chamber at Downing-street, which is sketched with a fidelity that has not omitted to take note of a rent in one of the yellow calico window-blinds.