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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1893.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

"DAISY BELL" is said to be the successor of "After the Ball." It has a bad sound.

THE Nautch girls are travelling west. Their father, Mr. Nautch, is said to be with them.

THE man who goes away and leaves a box of cigars open on his desk places a stumbling block before the feet of the weaker brother.

SARA BERNHARDT is to publish two volumes of memoirs. Here is a chance for any good man making up a Sunday school library to pass by on the other side.

WE observe that the renowned Nicholas Flood Davin defended McDonald, who recently killed a man at Regina, and got his man off with five years imprisonment. Nicholas is improving. He defended Bennett, who killed Hon. George Brown, accidentally it was said, and did it so successfully that Bennett was hanged when every one believed that a verdict of manslaughter should have been returned against the prisoner.

THE *Broadview Sentinel* is the latest addition to the journalistic ventures of the Canadian Northwest. The editor says "All subscriptions and business communications should be sent to Mr. H. Waite." It is not often that an editor arrives at that degree of distinction when he can append the "Mr." to his name in cold type, and we regard the innovation on the part of Mr. Waite as a sign of the long looked for journalistic millennium.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

W. H. Ker, of New Westminster, spent Christmas at his old home in this city.

Geo. A. Morphy has returned from his semi-annual pilgrimage to Port Townsend.

Mrs. and Miss Dewdney, of Vernon, are guests of the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Dewdney.

Gordon Hunter, Crown solicitor, spent Christmas at Vancouver, with his old college friend, Rev. R. G. Duff.

The 17th of January is announced as the wedding day of one of Victoria's young

manufacturers to a Menzies street lady.

The young people of Cedar Hill have made all arrangements for a dance New Year's night. Richardson's orchestra will supply the music.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Keating, of Koksilah, gave a very enjoyable dancing party Tuesday evening to a number of their friends in that vicinity.

Dr. R. E. Walker and Miss Helen M. Homer, fifth daughter of the late J. A. R. Homer, M. P., were married at New Westminster last Thursday.

The W. C. T. U. will hold a reception on New Year's day at the Temperance Hall, Pandora Avenue. A public meeting under the same auspices will be held in the Institute Hall in the evening.

Miss Kathleen Brady, daughter of Mr. James Brady, C.E., formerly of Winnipeg, and Dr. Meredith Jones, late surgeon of H. M. S. Warspite, were married Wednesday afternoon at Christ church cathedral by the Lord Bishop of Columbia, assisted by Rev. Canon Beaudais. There were only a few intimate friends besides the immediate relatives at the ceremony.

Ogilvie's celebrated Hungarian Flour, stands at the head as the finest flour ever brought in the market. Its popularity is ever increasing and the circle of its friends is widening rapidly. The reason is easily explained. It is manufactured from the finest quality of No. 1 Manitoba red rye, the best wheat in the world. The mills are equipped with the finest new machinery and produce flour of a high creamy color, which will make more bread to the barrel than any other in the market. Every bag is guaranteed and sown with special twine—red, white and blue.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SILK.

A Process by Which It Is Made of Cobwebs and of Wood.

A prominent revenue officer of Montpellier, France, named Bon, conceived the idea of using cobweb as a substitute for silk. The notion was not a new one. In 1665, when, one day, near Merseburg, Germany, the fields, meadows and trees were covered by masses of peculiar, blue cobwebs, the women of that town, both married and unmarried, wanted to preserve souvenirs of the strange phenomenon. They therefore by spinning made ornamental strings and similar trinkets of the cobwebs.

Bon had gloves and stockings manufactured of common cobwebs, and sent these articles, together with a treatise on the raising of spiders, to the Academy of Sciences at Paris in 1709. A commission was appointed for examining these propositions, to which commission the famous naturalist Reaumur belonged, the inventor of a thermometer still bearing his name. He showed that Bon's plan was impracticable because not enough flies could be procured for feeding the spiders kept for breeding. This seems to be credible, if one considers that nearly 700,000 spiders would yield only one pound of silk. Bon's idea was repeatedly revived, and particularly American spiders, yielding a more compact thread, were recommended, but cloths made of cobweb silk always remain curiosities.

Thus the French naturalist d'Urbigny had a pair of solid trousers for which South American spiders had furnished the raw material.

Reaumur, however, went further than Bon. "Why shall we borrow from animals?" he asked. "If a common worm is able to change the foliage it eats into silk, man, with his higher intellect, should be able, too, to make silk of similar things." Yet Reaumur failed when he attempted to prepare silk of gums and rosins. In the meantime mankind has advanced, chemistry has been greatly improved, and at Paris they now manufacture silk of wood.

In this respect even two methods have become known of late—that of Chardonnet and another of Du Vivier, which both, in reality, are based upon the same principle. If one pours nitric and sulphuric acid, not particularly concentrated and in a limited quantity, upon cotton, consisting of cellulose (woody substance), one receives a kind of weak gun cotton that, placed into a mixture of ether and alcohol, becomes a mucous mass known as collodion. Exposed to the air this mass becomes solid again by volatilization of the ether and the alcohol. The two French chemists named prepare of wood a mass similar to collodion that, placed in water, becomes solid nearly instantaneously. From this mass under water threads are spun that are called artificial silk.

It is a well known fact that artificial products are always inferior to natural products. This is also the case with the artificial silk just described. It is glossy, it is true, but it differs in some degree from natural or genuine silk, particularly by its combustibility. It burns with a brighter flame than silk proper, wool, or even cotton. Ladies therefore wearing such stuff will do well particularly to beware of coming in contact with fire.

Nevertheless the beginning has been made of producing artificial silk at the laboratory. Perhaps the time will come when man will excel the silkworm in the production of silk. For the present, however, the silkworm still excels man in this respect.—Philadelphia Press.

Names In New York's Directory.

The new city directory is even more interesting than its predecessors. People in search of light reading rarely turn to this volume, yet there is a great deal in it that challenges attention.

A perusal of the new edition will show that Julius Caesar is now making cigars for a living. Mark Antony is selling newspapers in Canal street. Cicero is a Thompson street tailor. Michael Angelo will be very pleased to shave you if you will step into his shop on Third avenue. William Shakespeare is a printer. Richard B. Sheridan is an engineer in the annexed district. There are not less than 25 Tom Johnsons, five Macbeths, and six Macduffs. Washington Irving has apparently forsaken the barren field of literature and is gathering coin as a broker. Henry Clay is a cook, and James G. Blaine a coachman. There are nine Knickerbockers in the good book. It is a significant fact that there are also nine Angels, and only one of them is a woman.

There are eight Homers, three Virgils, nine Miltons and two gentlemen bearing the name of Columbus. A. Dumas is engaged in the retail candy trade in Canal street. It is not stated whether this is Dumas pere or fils. Miss Cleopatra C. Ice is a typewriter. Eighteen people bear the name of Moon, but there is only one Sun—Mr. Kwung On Sun. There is an Isaac Sunshine, however.—New York Times.

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