

## THE FAIRY TALES OF SCIENCE

[From the Montreal Magazine.]

The whole earth was one great, streaming, fragrant hot-house, and everything that was of tropical luxuriance, and of more than tropical magnitude. Mosses and ferns and grasses, as large as our largest forest trees in broad savannahs by rivers to which the Thames is but a silver line. Thick jungles of trailing plants knotted themselves from balm to pine; and fragrant groves which reached to man's knee and were so easily trodden under foot these towered overhead and arched themselves into monstrous groves which nothing could have broken down save the gigantic creatures—the mastodons and the mammoths—which came crashing through the jungles to the river side. Strange fishes, too, filled the tepid waters: some with long heady eels others globed winged and spear-armed; and one covered with bony scales—more like a shark than anything else of modern existence. A monstrous frog—a very elephant of a frog—squatted in the rank reeds; and, perhaps, he croaked in the midnight like a modern frog, shaking the earth with his voice like a lion roaring at a fountain; immense lizards lumbered in the slimy mud, basking in the burning heat of the sun above and of the earth below; fish-like type of beasts, crocodiles and tortoises crowded together, amid exaggerated unfinished forms; while pouched beasts (marsupials), and things like the Australian kangaroo-rat leaped and hopped among them, from one inch to a cart-wheel in diameter, belemnites, ceratites, and the beautiful stone-lily gathered thick and close about the heated shores. All sorts of waste shapes and infinite varieties were there. Beasts that could fly or swim or walk, as the humor took them realized the fantasies of the afterward respecting flying dragons and winged serpents. The petroclype was one of them; a huge beast with a bird's head and lengthy jaws armed with formidable teeth, with a long neck of the greenish color, wings of folded skin like the leather wings of a bat furnished with hooks at the ends of what are called by courtesy fingers; while its body was clothed with scales not with feathers nor yet with hair. Now what was this creature? It was not a bird nor a beast nor a reptile. What congress was there between its beak wings, and its scaly body; its dragons teeth and its bird-like head? Where could you class it? what could you name it? A beast when it climbed the jungle trees, and swung from the branches, holding on by the curved claws of its powerful paw; a bird when it flew through the air in its large eyes staring in its darkness for its prey; a reptile when it crawled along the ground and struck its long stiff tail among the shells by the ocean shore; and a fish when it swam through the waters, or waded over the tortoises and the young of meagre-fish; it was a combination of all but perfect in none; a creature of force, none of which had space for development as of five acts.

But in those days nothing was complete, nothing seemed wrought out by a master hand; all was endeavor; the first essays of the "prudent hand," which has not yet learned the truth lying in beauty and symmetry and laboring with the imperfect idea. It was like a giant child modelling awkwardly and clumsily but gigantically, according to the laws of his childhood and his strength. And yet, out of these strange forms, Nature slowly put by such sure progression elaborated the present condition of graceful organism and who can say put the same force at work yet not that in the light of the great eye staring in perfection, the face to which neither poet or artist has ever imagined or depicted? Then come other animals; the iguanodon, a monstrous browsing reptile, an innocuous kind of crocodile, living on the pine and fir buds, on the huge club-mosses, tremulous horizontal grasses to the end of the river of the future, and after him the megalosaurus, or great lizard, thirty-five feet in length at its lowest computation—a great, fat clumsy lizard, but dangerous too, feeding on fish and especially on the helpless iguanodon and his herbivorous brethren. It was a bad day for the iguanodon when he heard the megalosaurus come trampling through the thickets to his house, intent on crushing through his huge bones huge as they were between those fearful teeth, good at and thrust, like lancets, or at veritable mill stone crushing. What a frightful beast for anything to meet in that length, and his tail fifteen, and twenty-two feet odd in girth round his unwieldy carcase! A lion would be put to a petulant mouse by the side of that primeval lizard; and our elephants would fare no better than did the poor iguanodon, could such a monster step out new from the mud of a cold future time, grinding beneath heavy feet the myriads of minute shells afterwards to be known to man as limestone. . . . But out of all these strange revelations of geology, and the wonderful things written in the fossil books of creation—the "fairy tales of science" which never end, and never put upon the reader's mind to one very manifest conclusion: that existing life is generally of a much higher organization than that which is passed—of more perfect adaptability, and more complete fitness and use and that if we may reason from analogy and the gradual progress upward from the archaic to the modern, the future will live as above the present, the beauty, refinement, symmetry and spiritual power, as the past now lies below it—the perfected world will be as little like the present one as existing forms are like those dumb uncouth struggles of early nature before she had shaped herself to the glory and divinity of beauty and grace.—National Magazine.

To the Editor of the Montreal Magazine.

DEAR SIR,—Having observed in your paper, several articles copied from the Globe, relative to the resolutions said to be passed at the legal Orange Toronto District Lodge, I think it only fair that you should give the other side of the question, by copying the enclosed letter as published in the Atlas.

Yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

September 26th, 1858.

ORANGEISM.

To the Editor of the Atlas.

SIR,—What purpose to have been a circular letter signed "JULIAN SALLS, District Secretary," and addressed to the Master of Orange Lodge in the District of Toronto, has recently been published in the Freeman and Globe newspapers in this city, and from these journals copied into most of the newspapers of Canada. In almost every instance, if not in all, my name has been misused with this circular, and with the resolutions which accompany it.

Being then neither the author nor the publisher, of the supposed circular and resolutions, I may, perhaps, be permitted a paragraph or two in reference to their general purport.

The object—if I understand the resolutions correctly—is to induce all Orangemen to support a Brother, in preference to an outsider, where all other qualifications are equal between candidates. If this is really the object, then I highly approve of it. Upon this matter the Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the Grand Lodge of British America, have long since pronounced judgment. Upon the point they have given forth no "uncertain sound."

The Grand Lodge of England, as appears by their annually published reports, expelled several members of the order, (Grand

Taylor in the chair,) for joining with the Radicals under the leadership of Henry Hunt; and a sin, for voting for the Radical candidates at elections held in various boroughs, in Lancashire and Scotland, in England, and in one, in Lancashire, in Scotland. The Grand Lodge of Ireland, as appears by their semi-annual published reports, expelled several members by name and cancelled several Warrants for Lodges, for joining in a cry for the repeal of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland. And again they expelled several members of the Order in 1854, for voting for the Radical candidate; Mr. Richardson, again, his Orange antagonist, (whose name was also Richardson) at the election for the borough of Lisbon in the county of Antrim.

The Grand Lodge of British America unanimously resolved (John Holland being the proposer of the motion) "that all other things being equal, a candidate who is an Orangeman in good standing, is to be preferred in preference to all others, who are not Orangemen; because being equal in all things else, his Queen and country have the additional guarantee of his pledged fidelity to Protestantism, order and Constitution." Upon this point there can be no misconception, and no misunderstanding as to what are now, and what at all times have been, the sentiments of Orangemen, as well in the parent countries, as in these distant appendages of the Empire. And indeed it is only consistent with reason and common sense; it is only carrying out the principles of the free form of government under which we live, that it should be so.

As regards my "living out of Orange funds," I challenge the world to furnish an instance; and any such can be furnished, or ever had an existence.

I think it but fair to ask these papers that have published their attacks upon the said circular and upon me, to insert this reply to them.

Your obedient servant,

OGDEN R. GOWAN.

Noho Lodge, Nassau street,

Toronto, 8th September, 1858.

The Herald.

CARLETON PLACE.

Thursday November 11, 1858.

Our Rules.—Subscribers will please to remember, that we invariably stop the paper when the advance payment is exhausted. Therefore, all who desire its continuance should send on the money for renewal, that they may miss no papers between the expiration of the old, and the commencement of the new subscription.

To Merchants, traders, and others the Carleton Place Herald, offers the best inducements as an advertising channel, by its extensive circulation, being the largest in this part of Canada.

TRIAL OF MINISTERS.

The accused ministers have succeeded in staving off the threatened trial of their public conduct, which was expected would have entered into during the present session in Toronto. This has been done by involving the case in a maze of legal technicalities, which will require it to be laid before the judges as a point of law, instead of before a jury as a matter of fact.

That they have succeeded, so far, in postponing the consequences of the prosecution we trust is no guarantee that they will ultimately escape the most searching investigation; otherwise our judicial system is but a mockery and a snare, and our laws but of partial and respective application. It will be utterly in vain to expect us to respect a system of jurisprudence which punishes the poor and defenceless, with severity, and allows men in high positions to trample upon the country's rights and outrage the first principles of our constitution with impunity. We have had quite as many coups d'etat in Canada as we want, or as the country will tolerate; and after the heads of the government have disgraced themselves in the eyes of all right thinking men, it will be too bad if the heads of the judiciary should follow their examples and earn for themselves a notoriety as unenviable as their own.

The eyes of Canada, nay of the British empire, are watching with intense interest the result of the appeal to the tribunals of the country, and the result will live in the future history of our country to the disgrace or honor of those engaged in it.

Whatever technicalities or legal quibbles may be to obscure it in a court of law, they vanish into empty air when tested by the plain judgment of an intelligent community. The question is capable of being reduced to very narrow limits; and for the purity of our legislature and the honor of our country, we earnestly hope to see meted out to it the investigation it seeks and the justice it deserves, unalloyed by the fripperies of place and unwielded by the timorous liver of power.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON.

We are again passing through the days, dark and gloomy which characterize this season of the year. After an almost unprecedentedly fine autumn, so far, we may in future prepare for dreary days, dark nights, and splashing mud-boles, until King Frost winds his sceptre over us, unchaining his blizzards and sealing up our slushy quagmires. A power more potent than that of the poet, has given us up to "vapors and clouds and storms," and it becomes us to protect ourselves against these by such means as art has provided for us, and as our circumstances permit us to adopt. In addition to warm bodily clothing, the most careful attention should be paid to our understandings. Boots and shoes of thickness and strength to render them impervious to moisture or even dampness are indispensable to all who sufficiently estimate their health; inattention to the comfort and requirements of the pedal extremities being one of the great originators of the "coughs, colds and influenza" so prevalent at this season of the year. We should our friends to remember that the thinner they make their coats the more elas-

tic will be their spirit, and the heavier their boots the lighter will be their hearts and the freer will be their lungs; notwithstanding the fact which might seem to make against this, that the thinner and higher the extremities are covered and the less they are protected, the more the nose will run. Still in the face of this fact, and because it is not the business of the nose to run at all, we venture to adhere to the principles at first enunciated, and to stand up boldly in defense of the feet, and the necessity of keeping these dry and warm at this season of the year, and we offer our thoughts for what they are worth "to whom it may concern."

Now is the time to secure the cellars against the frost and our houses and dwellings from the draughts and cold air, which by and by will be penetrating through "holes and corners unobserved,"—unwelcome visitors, which, if admitted at all, not even the roaring fire or the crackling grate can wholly conquer or subdue. Heedless of "the cold shoulder" or the shivering back, they will obtrude themselves unless shut out finally and irrevocably. Now is the time.

CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

The London Times has lately been directing some of its thunderbolts against our system of railways in Canada; and sympathizing with its English friends who have taken stock in them. In several powerful articles he shows, plainly enough, a fact which cannot be denied, that a great depreciation of Canadian railroad debentures has taken place, and that the amount of business now being done, and that which may be calculated on as prospective, will pay small dividends and be productive of small profits to the stockholders; that, for the future, such unfortunate investments should cease. The facts, although somewhat colored, are as we have said, too true; but they are the result of a combination of circumstances some of which are beyond control, and others are attributable in a great measure, to the Stockholders themselves. It must be borne in mind, that the late "hard times" and the commercial crisis and consequent stagnation of business, have had a serious effect upon our railway returns, and have had very much to do with the deficiencies and shortcomings of which the British Thunderer complains. We must also remember that the Grand Trunk is yet in an unfinished state, and that important extensions are in course of construction both east and west, and that when these are completed the traffic on the road will be greatly increased. The bridging of the St. Lawrence, it is calculated will add thirty per cent to the present receipts, whilst the extension to Sarnia together with the completion of a number of feeders along the line, such as the B. & O. Railway, will add very materially to the business of the Grand Trunk.

But there is a heavy drawback to the profitable working of this line, which appears to be, in a great measure, overlooked by the stockholders and directors of the road. We allude to the lavishness of expenditure in the working department which too generally prevails. We opine, that a great annual saving might be effected by reducing the staff of officers, lessening their pay and dispensing altogether with the services of a vast number of hangers-on, who are doing little else than raking up the profits of the road.

Some jealousy appears to exist, because Canadians have not contributed as liberally towards the completion of their railways as their English friends; but this, as the Transcript very truly says, is because they have not the wealth or means at their disposal. Their good faith in all transactions of the kind in which they have embarked, and their belief in the ultimate success of such undertakings, has been shown by the large grants voted by them, in their aid, through the Legislature of the Province. And but for the opportunity of investment of surplus capital, the Colonies, and especially Canada, afford the English capitalists would not be able to find a market for the employment of half the money they can spare.

We sincerely hope that the good sense of the Times may induce him to stay his hand and bottle up the remainder of his wrath, until some more fitting occasion. Let us have a little breathing time. A few years more to grow and expand ourselves, during which our English friends may be profitably employed in making themselves acquainted with the riches of our yet undeveloped resources and the vastness of our Canadian territory.

MORE FILLIBUSTERING.

It appears that the filibustering propensity of the Yankees has not yet spent itself. Another expedition, under the leadership of General Walker, is being fitted up, the destination of which is reported to be Nicaragua. The "Leader" informs us that enlistment for this piratical service is being openly carried on in many of the principal cities of the Union, and Mobile has been selected as the point of embarkation of the freebooters. Whether the authorities, thus amply forewarned, will again connive at the departure of a hostile expedition bound for a country with which the Government of the United States is at peace remains to be seen. Some show of intention towards the prevention of the sailing of the buccannering squadron is already visible, and the President has issued a proclamation calling upon all good citizens to abstain from enrolling in so illegal a service. In order to raise money for equipping and maintaining this expedition, persons connected therewith have issued and sold bonds and other contracts pledging the public lands of Nicaragua and the Transit route through its territory as a security for their redemption and fulfilment. So little secrecy has been observed by the ringleaders of this nefarious enterprise that the Nicaragua Government is acquainted with all the plans of the invaders, and is making preparations to give them such a reception as will, it is to be hoped, put a final stop

to these criminal incursions upon an unoffending people. It is also much to be desired, that the real interests of humanity, that the misplaced civility exhibited on former occasions by the Nicaraguans towards the desecrators of their soil will not again be repeated.

TRIAL BY JURY.

A considerable portion of the Press, both here and in England, is at present engaged in discussing this question. The point at issue appears to be the utility of making a verdict lawful when rendered by a majority of the jury. To effect this object, Lord Chief Justice Campbell has given notice of his intention to introduce a bill into the next session of the Imperial parliament. How such a law would work or with what favor it would be received, it is impossible to say, as many arguments might be adduced for and against it. One thing is certain, that more convictions would take place under such a law than under the present system, and the possibility of the innocent sometimes suffering for the guilty would be greatly enhanced. And who would rather see ten guilty men escape justice, than witness one innocent man suffer? Many cases of the abuse to which our present jury system is liable, are being cited by some of our contemporaries, cases in which, through the doggedness of a single jurymen, justice has been foisted under the clearest evidence of the guilt of the accused. Such cases have, doubtless occurred within the memory of many of our readers. But on the other hand, cases have also occurred in which a majority would have condemned the innocent. Last spring, McHenry was indicted as one Townsend, who had committed a series of atrocities. When tried at Cayuga, the evidence was so contradictory that the jury divided and although a majority were for his conviction, the minority would not yield, and they had to be discharged with an understanding verdict. On being tried again at Merrittsville, eleven of the jury were for conviction and only one for his acquittal, but he persisted in his determination until a verdict of "not guilty" was returned. A train of circumstances, however, afterwards transpired, which proved indubitably, that whatever crimes McHenry may have had to account for, he is, at least, guiltless of the atrocities then laid to his charge. Had the majority decided the matter in either of his trials, he would, doubtless, have been condemned and executed.

In civil cases, in which life and death are not at stake, where pounds, shillings and pence are alone involved in the issue, it is not as important that the jury should agree; and a law has lately been passed that a majority of them may decide.

BOARD OF WORKS.

Mr. J. A. Begley, secretary to the department of Public Works, has been officially notified that his services would be dispensed with. The reason of this abrupt termination of a lengthy connection with this department, has not yet been made public; but we presume the following extract from the Montreal Gazette, throws some light upon the matter:—

"A few days ago, Mr. Scitotte made up his mind about something to be done in the department—the Beauharnois land damages we believe—and gave instructions to Mr. Begley accordingly. Mr. Begley took it upon himself to pursue a different policy, and Mr. Scitotte dispensed with Mr. Begley's services in the department."

Without stopping to comment upon the action taken by the head of the department, who has an undoubted right to insist that his orders be obeyed by all his subordinates, we would suggest that the beam be introduced into some of the other departments also.

There is great room for improvement, and many incapables and incorrigibles in the other departments, whom it would be a charity to remove. It is high time that a warning of some kind were given—something to inspire life and energy into the dull and dozing papers instead of doing their work and attending to the public business of the country in the government offices. We fear there is too much winking at indolence, disobedience, and incapacity.

THE JUVENILE REFORMATORY.

The Kingston "News," in congratulating the country on the opening of Juvenile Reformatory Institutions in both sections of the Province, notices the fact that some ten days ago Andrew Dickson, Esq., late Penitentiary Inspector, left Kingston in charge of some forty juvenile offenders there incarcerated for the new Institution. Our contemporary goes on to say, that Mr. Dickson would not allow the young criminals to be shackled or confined in any way on the journey, relying for security chiefly on their own promises not to make any attempt at escape. Such a course on the part of Mr. Dickson betokens a thorough knowledge of the nature of children, because the most of his charge were nothing more than children, and will beget confidence and respect when other harsher means would have a directly contrary effect.

While on this subject the News makes some very pertinent remarks on the immediate erection of a Provincial Lunatic Asylum, and states that about forty lunatics were confined in the Penitentiary at Kingston for want of better accommodation for them; and although they are as well provided for as circumstances will permit, still humanity revolts at the idea of so many poor creatures, deprived of reason, being confined in such a place. Government has purchased a most suitable site for a Criminal Lunatic Asylum at Rockwood, and already temporary accommodations have been constructed for female criminal lunatics. Plans and specifications for a permanent building have been submitted and approved, and parliament has appropriated £25,000 for its erection; and the News strongly urges the Hon. Atty.

Gen. West to cause the plans to be hustled up in the Board of Works' office, and, for humanity's sake, cause the erection of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum to be entered upon at once.

THE MONTREAL BANQUET.

It appears that the Montreal Banquet, which was got up in honor of the Hon. Mr. Dufferin, was quite an affair. We hear from a special telegraph to the Globe, that the city Concert Hall, where the Banquet took place, was magnificently decorated for the occasion, and upwards of six hundred were present. Jacob Dewitt, late M.P.P. for Chateaugay, presided. The members of the late Administration present at the Banquet were Hon. Messrs. Brown, Dorr, Drummond, Macdonald, Holton, Moray, Lemieux, Thibodeau, Foley Dr. Connor and Mr. Levesque; and among other distinguished members were Hon. Mr. Kierzkowski, M. L. C. for Montarville, Hon. Mr. Archambault, M. L. C. for Repentigny, Dunbar, Ross, Esq., M.P.P., R. B. Somerville, Esq., M.P.P., F. D'Arcy McGee, Esq., M.P.P., W. McDonnell, Esq., M.P.P., D. A. Macdonald, Esq., M.P.P., J. H. John, Esq., M. P. P., J. O. Bureau, Esq., M.P.P., F. Bauassa, Esq., M. P. P., E. U. Piche, Esq., M.P.P., Thomas Short, Esq., M.P.P., J. R. Clark, Esq., M.P.P., Joseph Papin, Esq., late M.P.P. for L'Assomption, J. B. E. Deane, Esq., late M.P.P. for Drummond, &c., &c.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The summer half year session of this institution closed on the 15th ult. and we learn from the Toronto Leader, that the number of candidates who applied for admission was 196 (a large increase on any previous session)—103 males, and 93 females. The number of candidate-admitted was 95 males, and 91 females—total 186. Of these 58 had been teachers before applying for admission to the Normal School. A considerable number left during the session, from sickness and other causes. The number present at the final examination was 70 males and 79 females—total 149. The Council of Public Instruction appointed Examiners in connection with the masters of the Normal School. The examinations were on paper from printed questions—including in all upwards of 1,500 examination papers. The number of provincial certificates awarded is as follows:

Male Teachers. Female Teachers. Total.

First class.....14 11 25

Second class.....40 42 82

Whole number of certificates granted.....107

After mature consideration, the Council of Public Instruction has determined upon the following changes in the Normal School:—

1. To raise the standard of qualifications for admission to the Normal School, so that teachers of higher qualifications may be trained and sent forth to meet the demands for male teachers. 2. The half-yearly Sessions, instead of commencing, as heretofore, on the 15th of May, and the 15th of November, and closing the 15th of April and the 15th of October are to commence the 8th of January and the 8th of August, and close the 22nd of June and the 22nd of December. The close of the half-yearly session of the Normal School will thus correspond with the periods at which it has now become customary in many parts of the Province to engage teachers—namely, at the beginning of each half of the civil year,—and also with the periods of the half-yearly returns and payments of School Fees, to the Common Schools. The next session of the Normal School will therefore not commence until the 8th of next January, instead of on the 15th inst.

"WHILE WE JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE, LET US LIVE BY THE WAY."—We are assured, by the Paris correspondent of a London (England) contemporary, that the various French railway companies intend to introduce a material improvement in their first class carriages. They are about to construct carriages consisting of saloon, bedroom, and ante room, so that a family or a party of five or six persons may travel the longest journeys without staying by the way. Of course this will be by a special tariff, but when the savings of hotel charges is set against the additional railway fare, the cost of such travelling will not be materially enhanced, while the saving in time and the diminution of fatigue will prove to be of material advantage.

A CLERGYMAN KILLED BY A BULL.—Rev. Samuel C. Parker, of Hinchley, Medina county, Ohio, met with a terrible death on Sunday, the 10th ult. He was seen to go into a field in which he kept a bull, with a pitchfork in his hand, for the purpose, as is supposed, of driving the animal out. About an hour after a person called at his house and invited him to preach a funeral sermon, and was directed by the family to the field where they supposed Mr. Parker to be. On looking for him he was found dead, the body tossed over the fence several rods from where the pitchfork was lying.

THE NEW YORK FORTUNE TELLERS.—Major Tienan has made a descent upon the fortune tellers of New York. Eleven of them were brought before him one day last week. The extent of their swindling, the credulity that supplies them with victims, and the amount of their profits, are astonishing, and deserve a place in the records of the civilization of the nineteenth century, on the same page with the prize fight in Canada and the course of the administration in Kansas.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS.—We understand, says the Ottawa Citizen of Saturday, that nearly all the timber manufactured on the Ottawa during the past season has been sold by the Manufacturers at remunerative prices, and that active operations are being made for getting out an increased supply, to meet the demand of the trade next year.

The Halifax Morning Chronicle states that passengers who arrived from Sable Island on the 7th, report that Gold has been discovered on the Island, and in considerable quantities. An application to the Government to work these mines, says the Chronicle, was understood, and made a short time ago, which was granted, and an association formed to dig for the precious ore.

DUPER AND DUPER.—A female astrologist was arrested in New York last week, for practicing her arts, and her investigation showed that her receipts were from \$50 to \$75 a day. Her customers were all ladies, who were in quest of husbands, ladies who were about to leave their husbands for other men, ladies who wanted information as to whether their husbands spent their evenings, and whether they were attached to any other women or not.

It is evident that merchants are becoming awake to the advantages of advertising. For advertisements are coming in from all quarters. We call attention to a new one inserted this week by Mrs. Ann Geddes, at Bellamy's Mills, who, as we hear from independent sources, keeps a stock of Goods of very high character.

THE LATE TORONTO MYSTERY.—On Wednesday evening the inquest on the body of the man Cunningham, who some days ago was found dead in the Streets of Toronto, was brought to a close, the jury returning the following verdict, "that the man came to his death by a pistol shot, but whether inflicted by himself, or the hand of another, does not satisfactorily appear."

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LONGUEUIL.—While two men were engaged in repairing a house at Longueuil, a ladder which they were using fell accidentally amongst a party of children whom they had previously warned from the place, and one of them, a little boy, was killed on the spot.

It is said that the Emperor of China will pay the Thirty millions of francs damages to the Allies in English and French coals, to which he attaches no value, their not being current in those parts, and his ideas on the subject of exchange being very vague.

SUICIDE.—A farmer named Maginnis committed suicide by swallowing poison at Laprairie. He was a man in comfortable circumstances, and so motive for the act could be ascertained. An inquest was held the same day, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The population of Newfoundland, as shown by the census of 1856, is 11,336. Of these, 55,152 are Catholics, 42,859 Episcopalian, 20,142 Methodist, 302 Presbyterian, 520 Scotch Free Church, 347 Congregationalists, 44 Baptists.

It is stated that some of the Baptists in New York have offered Spurgeon, the preacher, the sum of ten thousand dollars and his expenses, if he will make a six months' tour in the United States.

We understand the government are about to issue commissions of inquiry into the state of several government offices in Canada.

A special statute has been ordained by the Queen for appointing the Earl of Elgin a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Bath.

One firm in New York employs 780 girls in the manufacture of crinolines.

His Excellency the Governor General is at present on a snipe shooting excursion in the neighborhood of Bradford.

To the Editor of the C. P. Herald.

MR. EDITOR,—Being a constant reader of your paper, and in general coinciding with your opinions as therein expressed, I make bold to trouble you in reference to one of the prevailing fashions of the day, and wish to know what you think about Hoops!

I perceive that some clergymen in Britain as well as America, have begun to warn their hearers against wearing them, as odious in themselves and dangerous to salvation. Now Mr. Editor, I cannot help thinking these gentlemen, although well meaning and sincere in their opinions, are troubling themselves, needlessly, about a matter that does not belong to them, and in reference to which their opinions are very erroneous. What, for instance, can be more light and graceful than Hoops, as a substitute for the load of undergarments, heretofore worn by ladies, which almost weighed them to the earth, impeded their motions, and proved an intolerable burden?

Surely looking at it in the light of sound philosophy, which is always Christian in its tendencies, the change is a desirable one, and not of such a nature as to endanger either our manners or our morals. For my part, I shall continue to wear them, and in the meantime, do give up your thoughts on the matter.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

LUCK.

We must confess that "LUCK" has "taken us all aback" in appealing to our judgment on so delicate a matter. We never presumed to enquire what was beneath the flowing skirts which we have seen perambulating our streets, and took them just for what they appeared to be worth. It is true that once or twice we thought they monopolized rather more than their due share of the sidewalk, but, for ourselves, we would much rather suffer many such trifling inconveniences than have the dear creatures "crib'd, cab'd and confin'd" in the manner set forth by our fair correspondent. As for the ecclesiastical interference referred to, we cannot but think it was quite unnecessary, and only betrayed the narrowness of mind of those who engaged in it. We are sure that the old regime could not be otherwise than

injurious, and that some change was badly called for, and until something better is found, LUCK may rely upon receiving our courteous and support in defence of hoops.

And now having said this much, more than we would otherwise have said in reference to such a subject, might we not say to Miss LUCK and numerous other intelligent young ladies that they could hardly employ their time and thoughts more profitably during some of the long winter evenings, which are approaching, than in contributing occasionally from the stores of their minds, such matters for publication as might naturally present themselves to their thoughts or observation. We are sure many of them could thus find a solace and a delight, besides the stimulus to pleasurable mental exercise it would occasion. We trust our young friends (and old ones too) will not allow their thoughts to stagnate and their ideas to mildew for want of ventilation.

Remember that if truthful and virtuous, they may brighten many a desolate home and cheer many a despairing heart. Think of Charlotte Bronte, (Carrer Bell) and hide not your light under a bushel.

Already we fancy ideas are being coined, and thoughts tossed upon paper, ready to be sent away to thousands of readers. We shall reserve space for them in future.

To the Editor of the C. P. Herald.

MOONSHINE.

SIR,—Although the notion of there being "a man in the moon" is now generally exploded, except, perhaps, by a few elderly maidens, there is strong reason for believing that the moon exerts a very powerful influence upon the surface of the earth, and upon the growth of vegetation in particular. It is a fact which has been before stated, and which I believe I have now proved by actual demonstration, that certain vegetables, as pease, cucumbers, &c., arrive at maturity sooner, and better, when planted in the last quarter of the moon than when planted in the new moon or first quarter; while the reverse is the case in reference to potatoes, cabbages, and parsnips as well as other vegetables which grow beneath the surface of the ground. I do not pretend to explain how this is, but the fact, if it be one, which I have no doubt, is an interesting one, and well worthy being put to trial by such of your readers as are interested in such matters.

Perhaps some of our agricultural friends may be able to send you some facts from their experience and observation in reference to the matter. In the meantime I assure you this is a sober fact and no moonshine.

Yours truly,

PARNIP.

Ramsay, Nov. 6, 1858.

The correspondent of the New York Herald, at Bridgetown, Barbadoes, writing on the 10th ult., says:—The House of Assembly is to meet on the 18th, and a stormy session is to be looked for, as the Government and the planters are utterly at variance with each other. A large party of emigrants have left this place for St. Vincent, and another party has gone to Montserrat, with the view of cultivating the sweet potato there. The island is healthy. Rain has commenced falling copiously, but too late to renovate the crops. Eight cargoes of salt fish have arrived within the last six days, containing 12,751 quintals, one half of which was shipped to the surrounding islands.

MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERY AT SEA.—A most horrible and mysterious discovery of a wreck at sea is reported by Captain Farley, of the ship William Singer, arrived yesterday from London. He says that on the 26th of September last, in lat. 38° 54' N. long. 45° 37' W., he discovered a wreck to the northward which proved to be the barque Maryflower of New York with her bulwarks gone and nothing standing but the mainmast. On sending a boat on board they found human bones strewn about the deck, and the bodies of a woman and child in the last stages of decomposition. The only articles on board which could be identified were a bundle of shirts, socks and handkerchiefs, marked A in red, and B D J and J D J in blue thread, a chromometer dial marked "Two days, Leavitt, Lombard Street, London, No. 279," and several articles of little value belonging to the master or mate; and a silver watch, No. 9,550 G. J. Orr, maker, London." She was loaded with stores, and had evidently been boarded before, as she was stripped of the gunwales. The imagination shudders in picturing the tale of horror, a sequel of which is shadowed forth by the discovery of Captain Farley's—N. Orleans Courier.

A young French Canadian, named Augustus Stone, was arrested on Thursday, the 21st instant, at Stanstead, Eastern Townships, charged with having embezzled about \$500 from Mr. A. T. Foster, of that village, in whose employ he has been for three years past. It is said he confessed his guilt, and gave up a portion of the stolen property. On Saturday evening while he was being conveyed from Stanstead to the goal at Sherbrooke, under the charge of a constable, he succeeded in making his escape, the constable having left him alone for a few moments.

A BARN BURNED.—On Tuesday night last a very large frame barn, with its contents including several tons of hay, a large quantity of pease, wheat and oats belonging to Mr. Peter Milne, three and a half miles north of Markham, was entirely consumed by fire. The fire took place about eight o'clock in the evening, and was not observed until the whole building was enveloped in flames, so that everything in the barn, including a famous mill and threshing machine, was entirely consumed. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The loss is severe on Mr. Milne, as there was no insurance on the property. The Fire Company, with their engines, proceeded about a mile in the direction of the fire, when they discovered that it was beyond their reach and then backed. About twelve years ago Mr. Milne met with a similar loss, when his barn, filled with grain, and several head of valuable beef cattle, were consumed.—Economist.