

we feel inclined to call out "que diable fait il dans cette galere." Anglice what on earth can Public Opinion have to do with Pomade Hongroise or the proficiency of any leading tailor in the art of making trousers? Enough of such silly squabbling. The public may enjoy it, but we give it credit for more discrimination. Newspapers are supposed to afford information on passing events and to express opinions on events which have already transpired. Newspapers were never intended to afford space for personal expressions of animosity against supposed editors of rival papers.

The public, greedy for news, can hardly be pleased with a leading article devoted entirely to the laudable endeavour of annihilating another newspaper. We stand or fall as the public may decide. We do our best to afford them readable matter, and will conclude these few remarks by quoting the words of the late Mr. Thackeray who, when personally (and as he justly assumed unfairly) attacked, wrote as follows in the *Cornhill Magazine*:—

"Attack our books, Mr. Correspondent, and welcome. They are fair subjects for just censure or praise. But woe be to you if you allow private rancors or animosities to influence you in the discharge of your public duty. In the little court where you are paid to sit as judge, as critic, you owe it to your employers, to your conscience, to the honor of your calling, to deliver just sentences; and you shall have to answer to Heaven for your dealings, as surely as my lord chief justice on the bench. Alions, Mr. Nameless! Put up your note-book, walk out of the hall, and leave gentlemen alone who would be private, and wish you no harm."

Local and other Items.

The Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science held its first meeting for this year on the 7th. The most remarkable feature of the evening was a mummied specimen of the Great Auk. This specimen which was found on the Funk Islands, Newfoundland is the most perfect in existence. It has been forwarded to the British Museum.

THE HAPPY FAMILY.—The *Quebec Gazette* says the proceedings of the Conference on the Union of the Colonies are kept strictly private. A simple correspondent, Mr. Greenhorn, wishes to know how it is, then, that the sayings and doings of the Conference can be telegraphed to St John? The *Humorist* answers, and quotes the *Morning Telegraph* as authority—no offence, ladies, we hope, we beg a thousand pardons, and—so forth—"Lt. Gov. McDonnell and lady, and several of the ladies of the Lower Province delegates, are present at Quebec."

Is it strange that such "perfect harmony" should prevail among the Happy Family?—*St. John Humorist*.

The improvements going on in the Merchants' Exchange Room are creditable to the enterprise of the Proprietor, Mr. Creed. Continued attention to the wishes of the subscribers will, we have no doubt, handsomely remunerate Mr. Creed for the expense he has been at, in fitting up a Reading Room, equal, if not superior, to anything of the kind in the British Provinces. —*Reporter*.

A QUEER FISH.—We observed yesterday, in the window of Mr. Hobson, in Buckingham Street, two unknown specimens of the finny tribe, taken from a lake in the vicinity of Chester, on Monday, by an Indian. One of them measures about 2 1-2 feet and the other about 18 inches in length. They appear to be "strangers" to the general run of the finny tribe that we have seen, and experienced heads are unable to state what species they belong to. They resemble a good deal the appearance of the "pike," or "pickarel," but the tail is more like the cod than the former. Altogether they are quite a curiosity.—*Recorder*.

NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—It has long been deemed necessary by the Wesleyan denomination, forming so large and influential a portion of our inhabitants, that greater facilities should be afforded for the accommodation of their constantly increasing number of worshippers, and more especially for those of that belief residing in the Northern part of the city. A meeting to take the matter into consideration was accordingly held on Monday evening in the Brunswick Street Chapel, when a decision to build an additional Church was arrived at. We understand the structure will be erected on the ground in the North End, known as Anderson's Field, the building to front on Brunswick Street.—*Acadian Recorder*.

We have been requested to state that the new schooner "Diamem," lost on her passage from Bermuda to Halifax, was fully insured, and that she had no cargo on board at the time.

A GENERAL COMPLAINT.—A great many complaints reach us respecting the carelessness of the Stone Cutters engaged at the

new Provincial Building. The exposed condition of the fences in connection with the workmen's sheds, renders it unsafe for pedestrians along the streets contiguous to where the former are engaged. We learn that on Tuesday, while an aged citizen was passing the lower end of the Building in Bedford Row, a large piece of granite flew up from a block of that material and was very near striking him in the face.—This occurs daily, and we think that if a little more care is not exercised on the part of the workmen, the consequences may be serious.—The authorities should see to the matter at once.—*Acadian Recorder*.

We have been informed that the whole of Lady McDonnell's jewels, baggage, &c., have been destroyed by fire, on board one of the Lake steamers. We hope most sincerely this is not the case.

BOARD OF HEALTH.—At a meeting of the Board of Health, held for the purpose of taking into consideration a letter from J. F. Phelan, Esq., agent for the steamer *Franconia*, complaining that a charge of \$3 is made by the Health Officer, for merely permitting the vessel to enter her port and asking that she be exempted from the tax. The letter having been read, the following resolution was moved, passed, and ordered to be transmitted to the Provincial Secretary's Office:—"Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of J. F. Phelan, Esq., to exempt the steamers trading between this port and Boston, be exempted from the tax of \$3 previous to entry, and that all other vessels trading between Nova Scotia and the Federal States be exempted from the payment of the same, while such ports are free from contagious diseases."—*Chronicle*.

THE QUEEN VS. WOODILL.—The trial of this case occupied Wednesday and Thursday. Little evidence, with the variation which a searching cross-examination produced, was elicited save what has already appeared as having been produced before the Coroner's Jury. The prosecution was conducted by the Solicitor General. The defence was ably managed by Messrs. Shannon and Blanchard. The Jury, after a very short deliberation, returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*, in accordance with the charge of the learned Chief Justice. The matter still remains shrouded in the darkest mystery. Something may yet transpire to expose the perpetrator of the fatal transaction.—*Recorder*.

PRESENTATION TO DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.—Dr. C. Cogswell, M. D., has presented to Dalhousie College, for use in the Chemistry Class, a beautiful series of instruments, designed for illustrating the phenomena of Endosmosis and Exosmosis, such as Dr. C. used in the important experiments, detailed in his paper "On the Endosmotic actions of Medicines," which was read to the Royal Medical Society of London some years ago. The apparatus is a modification of, and an obvious improvement upon that of Dutrochet, so adjusted as to eliminate some of the sources of error that distinguished observer. It will prove very useful in the illustrations of the Chemical Class.—*Citizen*.

NORTH BRITISH SOCIETY.—This old and honourable association, held its ninety-sixth annual meeting at the Halifax Hotel, when the following gentlemen, were chosen officers for the ensuing year.—John S. Maclean, *President*; John Johnston, *Vice President*; Alex. Stephen, *Secr.*; Assistant do.; John Naylor, *Jr.*, *Assistant do.*; John Watt, *Treasurer*; James S. Macdonald, *Secretary*; Hugh Gray Murray, *Assistant do.*; *Committee of Charity*—James Thomson, Donald Murray, George Exson, Duncan Grant, George Buist. *Chaplain*—Rev. John Martin. *Marshal*—Sergt. Breckin. *Messenger*—John Patterson. *Pipers*—John McKenzie and John Patterson.—*Citizen*.

RELIEF FOR THE WOUNDED SOLDIER IN THE HOSPITALS AROUND RICHMOND.—A lady has just arrived in our city from the Confederate States for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions in aid of the sufferers in the Hospitals around Richmond. She is now en route to Canada; and, having run the blockade to get here, she intends purchasing such articles as will be most useful in the Hospitals and returning with them herself, thus undergoing for the second time the perils of blockade running. Some \$200 have already been subscribed here, and this sum will no doubt be largely increased. Subscriptions will be received during the lady's absence in Canada, by Wilfrid Hall, Esq., Room 34 Halifax Hotel; or at the Office of the *Morning Journal*.

At a special meeting of the City Council, on motion of Ald. Conway, seconded by Ald. Trenaman, the resolution abolishing the salary of the inspectors of weights and measures, and making fees and fines the only emoluments of the officers, passed at a previous meeting, was rescinded. Ald. Roche gave notice of motion for re-consideration. A motion declaring it expedient to advertise for applications from persons willing to undertake to discharge the duties pertaining to the office of sealers of weights and measures, for the fees and fines that might accrue, was lost. Robert Moton and Peter Meagher were appointed clerks of markets.—*Chronicle*.

PERSONAL.

The Editor of the St. John Telegraph opens a brief account of the recent fracas which occurred between our son J. J. Pierce and Mr. Howe of the Colonial Times, as follows:—"The two belligerent Chatham papers, received yesterday," &c. We wish

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