

Literature and Art.

SPECIAL NOTICE:—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or consultations for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care GRIP Office.

Olive Logan predicts a boom in the lecture business. She doubtless bases her prediction on the high price of eggs.

Mrs. Florence J. Duncan's "Barn Beautiful," a dramatization of her own successful book, "Ye Last Sweet Thing in Corners," is shortly to be played at the Vice-Regal Theatre, Ottawa, under the patronage of the Princess Louise.

Rev. Hilary Bygrave, the new pastor of the Unitarian Society, is a decided acquisition to the intellectual force of this city. His sermons and lectures are characterized by great beauty of expression and depth of thought. Our Unitarian friends, indeed, are usually happy in having clever men in their pulpits.

Straws, of Louisville, Ky., is the latest addition to our exchange list. It is a weekly, made up after the style of *Punch*. It is full of humor, pictorial and otherwise, and typographically it is—well, superb is the only word that will do it anything like justice. We hope to imbibe much pleasure through our *Straws*.

The Oyster.

Is a gregarious animal, and always keeps his bones on the outside.

Although not absolutely given to intemperance, yet he gets tight pretty often.

His favourite drink is bitters; but he never stands treat, he is so close.

His disposition is soft and credulous, and he frequently gets sold.

Although it is sometimes difficult to draw him out, a child with ordinary capacity can easily take him in. An oyster has only one joint, and that serves as a hinge for his hall door.

When two of them go into business they never keep a joint account, as the scarcity of these articles render the trouble unnecessary.

Talking of partnership, they would both be sleeping partners, as they are always in bed.

In selecting a mate he has not very much choice left him. He must take his neighbor, and she may be his grandmother for all he knows. I never had the pleasure of witnessing an oyster courtship, although I have heard of "an oyster crossed in love," and seen fellows with about the same intelligence and conversational powers as the oyster trying on the same dodge. However, in imagination I can see him gazing with open-mouthed admiration at his fair companion, as she gracefully reclines on her glossy shell in full ball dress, and detect the faint but tell-tale blush that mantles to her eloquent and expressive features, as she softly closes her shell, and shyly hides herself from his impassioned glance. Sentiment in an oyster!

(I feel dimly conscious that there is a deep and mysterious joke somehow connected with the above sentence, but do not consider myself equal to the task of working it out.)

There is certainly nothing dry or formal about a courtship like the above.

His religious principles are not generally known, but he is supposed to be a hard-shell Baptist, and a believer in total immersion.

The young oysters keep close to their parents, and they present the appearance of a very united family. So strong is the bond of union existing between them, that if you remove one the others will invariably follow.

You will never find any philopotas in oysters, but Siamese Twins is a common occurrence.



Lighthouse Service.

TENDERS will be received by this Department at Ottawa, up to the 5th MARCH next, for the supply of 100,000 Gallons, Imperial Measure, per annum, more or less, for one or three years, at the option of the Department, of the best quality of Double-Distilled Standard White Extra-Refined PETROLEUM OIL, deliverable at Goderich, Montreal, Hamilton, Quebec, St. John, N. B., Halifax, N. S., in such quantities and at such times as the Department may desire.

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WM. SMITH,
Deputy Minister of Marine, &c.

Department of Marine, &c.,
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Pearls are sometimes found abiding to the shell, or enclosed in the body. This is supposed to be the result of disease. Probably it is the oyster's way of having corns, but it certainly looks rather miserly, gathering wealth all his life and making no use of it. Now it strikes me that if mothers-in-law would only take that kind of sickness, married men would be much happier. What visions of future wealth they would indulge in. How anxious they would be to get the old lady to live with them. Supposing several fellows had married into the same family, what lively times they would have until it was decided who was to have her. Then with what alacrity he would *hoyster* into a wagon and drive her home, inwardly calling her his darling old "mother of pearl."

But let us turn away from this sickening exhibition of human avarice, and go back to the placid and contented oyster. Whenever you see him begin to open his shell without any apparent cause, you may conclude that he is bad; but if you are undecided you can consult your olfactories; if that does not convince you, you can taste him—and then doubt will vanish like mist before the morning sun, and your taste for oysters will probably vanish as suddenly.

The young oyster leads a happy though sedentary life. He has no desire to travel or seek amusement abroad, but is content to pass his days in bed. I am therefore of opinion that laziness and want of ambition are his distinguishing characteristics. If he makes too much noise, his mother can never come around and spank him with the back of a brush; she can only call through the partition and tell him to "shut up."

There is never much clamour about an oyster, although it would not be surprising if there was, considering he often has a clam for a neighbor. As a rule he is very well behaved and never uses profane language, "By Valve" (bi-valve) being the worst that can be laid to his charge on that score. He is never troubled with rheumatism, for reasons that are sufficiently apparent. Suppose the hinge of your hall door were afflicted with rheumatism, what would you do? Why, treat it with silent contempt. If you have a barrel full you can feed them by pouring over them a mixture of salt water and bran or oatmeal. Those on top fare pretty well, but in my humble opinion it is hardly fair to those underneath. How would you like to have your soup or coffee poured over a score of fellows before you got it? It seems to me that there is room for improvement in the way of feeding them. Why not do so with a spoon or feeding bottle. The idea is worthy of consideration. Like the cat, the oyster is very much attached to his home; but unlike the cat, he never returns after he has once been removed from it.

He has a vulgar habit of smacking his lips when eating, but he is not alone in that respect.

They say that you can hear them opening with a little "click" when the tide commences to rise. This suggests a train of thought. Why not tame an oyster, and thus always have at hand the means of ascertaining when the tide turns. The subject is fraught with interest.

I have studied the oyster a good deal and thoroughly understand his feelings, apparent as well as real. Often have I fooled around his apparent feeling in the almost vain attempt to get at his real ones, and got at my own instead. (In connection with this, I may here state that the phenomena of an oyster knife gliding swiftly over the shell and unobtrusively entering one's left thumb, is not sufficiently rare to excite surprise, but is quite painful enough to justify unparliamentary language.)

It ought to be pleasant to hear something on the subject more than "Fresh oysters, 15c. a plate." Our sensual appetites have been pampered quite long enough; it is high time our intellectual ones had a treat.

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