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Capital and lower-case keyboard alike—easily mastered.  
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**Geo. H. McKay.**  
**BUTTERICK PATTERNS**

few days at Petticoat returned yesterday to his lodgings at the Centre.  
Misses Minnie and Lizzie Buckley are both at home for the Xmas holidays.  
Miss Burpee, of Sheffield, is visiting Mrs. A. Dunn.  
On Xmas day the ladies of the Presbyterian church presented their organist, Mrs. Wathen, with a handsome hanging lamp, accompanied by an address.  
Miss Ruby Dunn, who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. Allen, at Dalhousie Junction, returned home last week.  
Mr. Horace Costes and Mr. James Law passed through here on Saturday en route to St. John, the same day, has gone as far as St. John, some- times more attractive for young men.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1893.

## OUT OF WORK IN OMAHA.

CANADIAN POSITIONS ARE GIVEN TO AMERICANS.

Going Back Home—Visiting the Charity Lodging Houses—What a Large Railway Firm Will do—Plans for Temporary Relief—Writing Home for Money.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 19.—Since I wrote you last every day brings some new tale of suffering and want to my notice. Some how a man does not have to hunt after suffering Canadians, I mean a certain class, for just as soon as it becomes known that you are interested in them, and substantially so, they do not hesitate in hunting you up, but the better class are the hardest to deal with. They hold off and very often starve, rather than beg or accept charity. I have had the pleasure of interviewing several prominent gentlemen (formerly Canadians), in this state in my time, and they are doing all in their power, for any deserving case I have mentioned. Of course we are at times imposed on by tramps of the first water, but they do not linger long. I made a trip through certain charitable institutions, in the city, a few evenings ago, and I can only give them praise.

Certainly Omaha people are being taxed to their utmost this Christmas. In one of the most charitable institutions, I found stretched, without bedding, or care of any kind excepting their every day rage, two hundred men, seeking to numb the miseries of destitution with snatches of sleep, hungry, homeless, without work, money or friends in fact without everything excepting appetites. One man who looked more wretched than the rest, it possible, on seeing me walked or rather jumped through the network of human bodies, and appealed to me in this manner, "Say pard, I am nearly dying of starvation, and misery, but I have never begged anything as yet. Tonight I feel I must ask a favour of you, can you give me a chew." I assured my "pard" I was very sorry but as I did not carry chewing, I gave him a cigar and he actually ate it. I do not mean to say he swallowed it, but he certainly did not expectorate as I notice is customary. I engaged this man in conversation and found he hailed from Woodstock N. B. He had sailed out of St. John for several years, but got the Columbian fever, and took his way to the White City. His is only the experience of thousands, after the fair.

Continuing my way through the hall, I found in the rear of a thin partition, one hundred and twenty-eight men, reclining on the floor, while thirty or forty more were sitting around in cramped positions in chairs. I noticed particularly one white haired old man, occupied a chair and was vainly trying to woo the god of sleep. His chin sank on his breast, tears were in his eyes, but his was only one of the many living pictures of despair.

From a recent edition of the Omaha Bee, I cut the following:  
The wolf of poverty with a double row of teeth at the door of Rescue Hall, which affords the starving and sleepless unemployed their only resting place. Unless relief comes quickly the Christmas carols of these men will be cries for bread and they will be turned upon the streets with no place to lay their weary head at night.

A register is kept at this institution and it contains the name, age, address, nativity, previous occupation and religion of all applicants. I notice the unemployed come from Chicago and the east, and sad indeed is their plight.  
I understand from a friend that the Union Pacific railways with headquarters in this city intend letting out 300 clerks next week. I am sorry to say they are mostly Canadians or Englishmen. God only knows what they will do should it come to pass. I have already over fifty names in my note book of Canadians that are here and stranded. Many and many a time do I wonder what will become of them. It is only natural that American boys should be retained and foreigners discarded, in fact several occurrences of late, show that Americans will be given positions even if a foreigner has to give way for him. This is a dismal sort of letter, Mr. Editor, but you know, hard unvarnished facts, are seldom bright, still I have a bright item and I must let you have it. Here it is: I saw or rather said good bye to seven Canadians on Monday last, all headed for home. I expect they are there by this time. They were mostly labouring men, no particular trade, but all had good homes in Canada, and mothers, whose hearts yearned for them. Of course it was hard for the boys to go home empty handed, two of them, had sweethearts that they had come out here to make a home for, but like many others found that "you must do other's or they'll do you," and not having the "least conscience" for that game gave it up.

I can say for myself that my position is not so very secure. Six clerks were let out last Monday. I may go next, if I do I shall not tarry in this city for that would be useless. You may see me tramp into your office some morning, a rather tough looking customer but still a Canadian, glad to get home, but while I retain my position

the walk appears rather long. The couple I mentioned in my last letter have decided on writing home for money to return. I sincerely hope they will do so, because chopping kindling and washing windows, is not particularly choice work for an expert accountant, nor is dishwashing and clothes washing very enjoyable to a lady used to the best of everything.  
Well, I suppose I am trespassing again, so thanking you for your former kindness I am.  
A. CANUCK.

## UNANSWERED RIDDLES.

Such Questions as have Worried People for Years.

People nowadays do not take riddles so seriously as did old Homer, who is reported to have died of sheer vexation at being unable to solve the enigma propounded to him by some fishermen whom he had asked if they had caught anything: "What we catch we leave, what we fail to catch we carry away"; the answer to this apparently simple conundrum which baffled the genius of the poet, blind yet bold, being "Fleas." A witicism which, in its harmless vulgarity, might have emanated from a German joker of to-day.

There are we fancy, many riddles knocking about the world to which no answer has as yet been found, or to which the answer has perhaps been lost. In the "Memoirs of Hannah More" a witty saying is quoted to the effect that metaphysical researches put her in mind of the old riddle: "A roomful, and a houseful, but nobody can catch a handful." Is the answer to this riddle extant?

It was to his serious-minded friend, John Newton, that the poet Cowper propounded the following of his own inventing:—  
I am just two and two; I am warm, I am cold,  
And the parent of numbers that cannot be told;  
I am awful, unafraid, a devil, a fiend;  
I am often sold dear, good for nothing when bought;  
An extraordinary boon, and a matter of course,  
And yielded with pleasure—when taken by force.

On another occasion he sought to puzzle the brains of a correspondent with the sphinx-like query, which he recommended him, should he solve it, to propose to the company on the approaching celebration of his nuptials:—  
"What are they which stand at a distance from each other, and meet without ever moving?"

And again he opens a letter with the startling conundrum:  
What is the thing that you will desire designed,  
When you parted to London, and yet left behind?  
The melancholy bard of Olney would almost seem to have rivalled in his riddling propensities the Frenchman who was so addicted to the practice that to his most commonplace remark some enigmatical character would often be attached, so that on his asking a like-spirited acquaintance once for some spinach at dinner, he was met with the bewildered response: "Pardon, monsieur, but this time you have completely puzzled me."

## CHANGED THE SENTIMENT.

A Temperance Idea Introduced into Scott's Lochinvar.

It was at an entertainment given to a boys' club. Under the supervision of some kind ladies the reader was to recite Scott's stirring poem, "Lochinvar."

His consternation was extreme when the minister's wife, who was president of the temperance society, rushed up to him shortly before the reading of that number and requested him to change the sentiment of the following lines:

"And now I come with this lost love of mine,  
To tread but one measure, drink one cup of wine,  
To this version—  
"And now I come with this beautiful maid,  
To tread but one measure, drink one glass of beer."  
The usual self-possession of the reader was gently shaken by this sudden change, and fearing he might forget, he said the lines over and over again. When he at last mounted the platform his mind was quite at rest. With thrilling effect he recited the lines, until he reached the climax by saying—  
"And now I come with this maiden here,  
To tread but one measure, drink one glass of beer."

The shiver that run down his back communicated itself to the audience and congealed them into rows of frozen niceties, and the awful solemnity was only broken by convulsive giggles.

## Edison's Extensive Laboratory.

Mr. Edison has challenged the sceptical to name one substance, organic or inorganic, which is not to be found in his laboratory. Every department of Nature has yielded its tribute to the potent wizard. The bones of birds and animals, feathers, hides, teeth and horns, shining metals, lustrous crystals, variegated minerals, lie scattered in profusion; dainty shells and coral repose amongst mosses and seaweed; fragrant gums and spices recall memories of the fair Babe of Bethlehem. Chalk, resins, salts, and chemicals are heaped about in lavish plenitude. The collection embraces not only raw products, but specimens of nearly every human industry.

Sir Robert Duff, the recently appointed Governor of New South Wales, was visiting the Zoological Gardens at Sydney the other day, when his attention was directed to a donkey imported from the Sudan, an attendant assuring Sir Robert that it had cost nearly £100,000. Sir Robert again looked at the donkey—a very ordinary beast—and might have been looking yet if it had not been explained that the donkey was actually the only tangible result of the famous Sudan expedition which was to have accomplished so much.

## NEW YEAR'S IN MANY LANDS.

Many Peculiar Ceremonies are Connected With its Observance.

Ancient and modern civilized peoples, while differing as to the day from which they reckoned the beginning of the civil year have agreed in distinguishing it by special festivities. The Romans dedicated the day and the whole ensuing month to Janus, offered sacrifices to him on twelve altars, and were very careful so to order their conduct on that day that every word and action should be a happy augury of the twelve months of the year.

They exchanged kindly greetings and wishes, and sent to their kinsfolk, friends and acquaintances presents called strenae. These new year's presents became under the Caesars such a source of personal profit to the sovereign, and so onerous to his subjects, that Claudius limited them by a decree. The first christian emperors kept up the custom, though still accompanied by many idolatrous rites. The church condemned it, prohibited christians from joining in the social celebration, and ended by making it a religious festival in memory of the circumcision of Christ.

The bestowal of gifts upon new year's day was not peculiar to the Romans. The druids in England distributed branches of the sacred mistletoe, cut with peculiar ceremonies, as new year's gifts among the people; and the Saxons of the north, according to Bishop Stillingfleet, observed the festival with feasting and sending gifts.

Henry III. of England is said to have extorted new year's gifts from all his immediate followers, and they knew that their refusal meant the loss of all or most of their emoluments. Queen Elizabeth's magnificent wardrobe and jewellery were probably almost wholly supplied by these new year's contributions. Dr. Drake says, that although the Queen made returns to the new year's gifts in plate and other articles, she was extremely careful that the balance should be in her own favor. As late as 1692, as appears from the "Monthly Miscellany" for December of that year, the English nobility were accustomed, "every new year's tide," to send to the king, "a purse with gold in it."

In England, the ringing in the new year from the bellies of churches is now the only open demonstration of joy at the recurrence of the anniversary.

In the city of New York and other American cities the day is made the occasion of social visits by gentlemen, a custom dating back to the settlement of the town by the Dutch, and the practice has become prevalent almost throughout the neighboring republic.

The Jews celebrate their new year's festival (Rosh hashshannah) at the beginning of the month of Tishri (September-October), the first of the civil year corresponding to the seventh of the Mosiac or ecclesiastical. The distinguishing feature of the celebration in the synagogues is the blowing of horns in accordance with Leviticus, XXII, 24.

Among the Chinese the New Year's celebration continued for three days, is the greatest festival of the year. Preparatory to it all accounts are settled and debts paid so far as possible, and tradesmen who cannot pay their debts are generally obliged to give up all their property to their creditors. On New Year's day calls are made upon friends, joyous greetings are exchanged in the streets, paper prayers are offered in the temples, fireworks are burned, gongs are beaten and a general hubbub prevails. At night gambling is practiced to an enormous extent.

New Year's day in New Brunswick, in fact all over Canada is marked more by its out of door sports than its gift giving or by its social call observation, although these latter receive a fair share of attention.

There is in all large cities a series of ice races in the rinks on that day. Where there are ponds or rivers that afford the opportunity a series of horse races are held on that day when old and young for miles around turn out to share in the fun. Snow-shoe contests are another form of sport that is usually indulged in on the first day of January. In few words it is the day chosen as the opening day for winter sports in the dominion. In its general aspect it differs little from Christmas. All the stores and places of business are closed. There are services at the churches, there are feasting and much joy in the homes, yet while Christmas is regarded as a solemn festival the reverse is the case with New Years.

Throughout America, handed down no doubt by our forefathers there is the almost universal custom of "turning a new leaf on New Year's day."

In some of these cases the "new leaf" means refraining from tobacco, liquor, or some other vice, more or less respectable, with the almost invariable result that the new leaf has become terribly smirched before the year has grown out of babyhood and by the time it has reached its zenith the same new leaf is turned again. This is so; the same leaf serves for every year of a man's life.

# MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON & ALLISON'S

Guide to Shoppers in Search of

# New Year's Gifts.

Silk Initial Handkerchiefs, 20c, 33c, 50c, 75c each.  
Lawn Initial Handkerchiefs, per box, 55c, 75c.  
Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, per box, \$1.25; do., per half dozen, \$1, \$1.65, \$2.50.  
Linen Hem-stitched Handkerchiefs, very low prices, half doz. in fancy box.  
Handkerchiefs for boys, Handkerchiefs for girls in boxes; special line of Silk Handkerchiefs for ladies and gentlemen on our show counter, 20, 35, 50, 65c.  
A Lace Handkerchief, a Gauze Handkerchief, Swiss Emb'd Handkerchiefs.  
Irish Hand Emb'd Handkerchiefs, Morocco Shopping Bags.  
Antelope Shopping Bags, the Boston Cloth Bags, Leather and Silk Bags.  
Opera Glass Bags, Chatelaine Bags, Ladies' Fitted Cases, Gents' Fitted Cases.  
Ladies' Fitted Bags, Gents' Fitted Bags, American Portmonies.  
Foreign Portmonies, Card Cases, Hair Brushes in leather cases, Collar Boxes.  
Cuff Boxes, Shaving Cases, Jewel Cases, Manicure Sets, Hand Glasses.  
A very choice stock of Stamped Linen Work, viz: Doylies, Centre pieces.  
Veil Cases, Glove Cases, Handkerchief Cases, Necktie Cases, Tea Cosie Cases.  
Painted Plush Cushions and Saddle Bags to match.  
RIBBONS for XMAS FANCY WORK.  
Boys' Wool and Cashmere Hose, Girl's Wool and Cashmere Hose.  
Ladies' Wool Hose, Ladies' Silk Hose, Ladies' Lisle Hose, Ladies' Cashmere Hose, Ladies' Black and Colored Gaiters.  
FANS, FANS, FANS, FANS—what is more acceptable than a pretty Fan?

Embroidery and Knitting Silks, a Lace Mat, a Pair Emb'd Pillow Shams.  
A pair Irish Open Work Pillow Shams, a dozen Doylies.  
A Sideboard Strip, a Bureau Strip, a Tray Cloth, a dozen Napkins.  
A Damask Cover, a 5 o'clock Tea Cloth, a Fancy Ajour Cloth.  
A Tamask Table Cloth, a dozen Towels.  
Fancy Damask Table Cloth and Napkins to match.  
Irish Cloths and Napkins to match, Irish made Pillow Slips.  
Irish Sheeting, Irish Pillow Linen, a Marsella Quilt, a pair Blankets.  
A Flannel Tea Gown, a Cashmere Dress, a Silk Dress.  
A Lace Dress, a Wool Dress, a Wool Shawl, a Print Dress.  
A Cardigan Jacket, a Wool Cloud, a Wool Toque.  
Yards Grey Flannel, yards Fancy Flannel, yards Shaker Flannel.  
Yards White Cotton, yards White Sheeting, yards Grey Sheeting.  
A pair Boys' Gloves, a pair Girl's Gloves, a pair Ladies' Gloves.  
Ladies' Suede Gloves, Ladies' Fancy Silk Gloves, Ladies' Lined Gloves.  
Boys' Chamois Gloves, Boys' Calf Gloves, Misses' Kid Gloves.  
Ladies' Fancy Silk Dress Fronts, Boys' Collars, Ladies' Collars.  
Slipper Patterns, a Ladies' Umbrella, Fancy Baskets, Scrap Baskets.  
An Eiderdown Quilt, an Eider Cushion, a Wool Quilt, a Fancy Cushion.  
A Fancy Easel, an Oak Easel, an Oak Screen, a Medicine Cabinet.  
A Fancy Stool, an Umbrella Stand, a China Cabinet, an Oak Hat Rack.

# MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON & ALLISON, St. John.

The custom of giving presents on New years has now ceased to be observed in New Brunswick although there are cases where gifts may be sent, but this custom is now altogether left to Christmas and one who sends gifts on New Years is considered as a little behind the times.  
A feeling prevades the people that they have more or less bad times during the year that has fled, and hope rises sanguine that the new year may see "their ship come in," laden with all the "spices of the orient." It is this feeling of renewed hope that makes the new year a day of such general rejoicing. Many instances might be quoted where those almost devoid of food and raiment have rejoiced in the coming of the new year, not because they had any prospect that the time would bring them comfort or opulence, but because they hoped that it would. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," is very true of humanity, and never more so than in connection with the new year.

## MACAULAY AND TENNYSON.

Archdeacon Farrar Spoke of the Two Great Authors.

Arthur Warren describes a visit to Archdeacon Farrar at his home in London.

"I know Browning and Tennyson intimately," said the Archdeacon.  
"And Macaulay?"  
"I met him once, not long before he died. It was at the house of his nephew, my old friend Sir George Trevelyan. I sat next to Macaulay at dinner and listened in a kind of enchantment through the conversation which he had led for an entire evening. There was an undertone of sadness, and his health was failing, but I can never forget the charm, of his discourse nor the simple ease with which he drew upon his marvelous stores of knowledge."

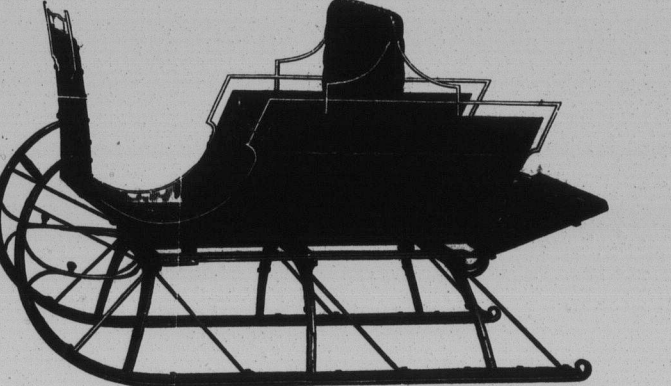
"I was much in contact with Tennyson during many years—forty years, as I remember—for I was a young man when I first came to know him through his kind interest in a book I had written, and in which I had dwelt on the fact of his surpassing all poets in making the sound an echo to the sense." My most delightful recollections of him concern the many times when he read his poems to me, sometimes, too, before he had given them to the world. This was a privilege. I remember that in one of our conversations I told him the story of St. Telemachus; how that Eastern saint and hermit leaped down between the swords of the gladiators and lost his life, and how his noble act of self devotion aroused the Christian world. Tennyson was deeply impressed with the story. He said he would make it the subject of a poem. "But," he added eagerly, "do not tell my intention to any one." He was always averse to letting the world know what he was working on. He wrote the poem on Telemachus, as you know."

## VASE, NOT VAWS.

The later authorities in words have come to the rescue of the public. They say that a straight-forward English pronunciation of the word vase is sufficient and desirable. In such a case it rhymes with case or base. In certain circles the object becomes a vase; if it is a peachblow it is a vase, and it is in Boston it is a vase. The new dictionary makers have smashed one annoying affectation of language.

Your health mothers, fathers,  
and that you may be able  
always to buy trinkets and toys  
for your children.  
But wouldn't that boy like an  
ulster as well as a dozen other  
trinkets—better perhaps—Let  
him say.  
OAK HALL,  
King St., The  
Corner Big  
Germain, Shop.  
St. John.

# The Gladstone Sleigh.



If You Want a Nice Comfortable and Stylish Family Sleigh this Winter do not get any other than a Gladstone. For prices and particulars write to  
**JOHN EDGECOMBE & SONS, Fredericton.**

# BARCAINS IN HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

Messrs. Edgecombe & Sons, of Fredericton, announce that they have the following horses and carriages for sale.  
3 Shetland ponies with carriages, harness, etc., complete; one Sir Charles colt, 4 years old, bay, kind and good; stock of 75 brand new carriages to be sold at 25 per cent less than usual prices, phaetons, Gladstones, Concordas, Piano boxes, Corning top buggies. A 1 different styles of open and closed carriages at 25 per cent less than usual prices.