

her down in a privy room and tries to compose her, but it won't no go. 'Josef,' she says, 'you're a talkin' about goin' unto the Counsel; don't you do it, don't do it, Josef; it'll bring a cuss upon us hif you mixes yourself hup with that wicked lot.'

"Look here, hold gal," I says, 'you're a goin' it too strong; it ain't the counsellors' faults; they can't help it; they ain't got no money to benlarge and himprove the prison.' Betsy turns on me as quick as lightning, and says she: 'Wot's that new buildin' as they're a goin' to put hup close to the Court 'Ouse.' 'Oh,' says I, 'rather sheepish, 'that's the New City Hall.' 'And wot's it goin' to cost?' says she. 'Well,' I says, 'I don't hexactly know, but it'll cost a pot of money you may take your davy about that.' 'And wot will be the good of it w'en it's done?' says she. 'W'y,' says I, 'it'll be a hornament to the city, and be a proper sort of place for the City Fathers to meet in.' 'City Fathers!' she says werry scornful like; 'pretty sort of fathers they must be to let a lot of poor miserable little children go to rack and ruin like this without stretchin' out a 'and to 'elp them, and a spendin' thousands and thousands on all these selfish vanities.'

"You see I was rayther took aback, but I says: 'Hold gal, you don't understand Perlickle Economy.' 'No,' says she, 'I don't and I don't want to, but I do hunderstand right and wrong, and how these fathers, as you calls them, can look at their own pooty darlin' children without thinkin' of the innocent bodies and souls that they've got to hanswer for, I don't hunderstand neither. Let's go 'ome, Josef, hout of this wicked, wicked town. London's bad enough, goodness knows, but it ain't so bad as this place; they have got some hexense there, where there's so many poor wretches to look hafter; but in a country like this, where there ain't hardly any poor, and work for everybody and lots of rich people, such things didn't ought to be, and somethin' bad will come of it.' Well, I saw it was no use arguin' with the old woman, so I puts her into a sleigh and brings her 'ome, and she's a layin' down now to compose 'erself."

I confess I was somewhat affected with Mr. Sprouts' eloquence, homely and peculiarly expressed though it was, and I felt that a matter that could so forcibly and unfavourably impress a vulgar and uneducated woman like "Betsy," was one of which a rich and thriving city such as Montreal had certainly no reason to be proud. After a few moments' silence I said: "It certainly does seem a great disgrace and scandal that such a state of things should exist, but do you think it can be avoided?"

"Well," replied Mr. Sprouts, "I'm ashamed to say that till the last art 'our or so I haven't thought anything about it. You see, like most other people wot goes into pottericks, I've done it more for the sake of gettin' my name before the public and prays of makin' money by it; and I'm rayther ashamed to say that I never thought about the responsibilities of the thing until the old woman pitched into me; but since I've been a lookin' at it serious, I feels that there's some things a goin' on in this city that's a little bit too bad to be winked at. Now, besides this here matter of the jail it does seem mighty queer to make a man pay four or five hundred dollars for the privilege of suppressin' the public with good 'olesome meat, while any leatin' rowdy 'most is allowed to pison his feller creeters with bad whisky by payin' a trumpery little license fee; and if I gets into the Counsel I means to try if I can't hatter some of these things."

I left my friend with a fervent aspiration that his good resolutions might not evaporate under the peculiar and deteriorating atmosphere of the City Hall, and also with the conviction that if he wanted to get there he had better not allow his virtuous resolutions to become too pure.

#### THE DESECRATION OF QUEBEC.

Alluding to the proposed local improvements in Quebec, the New York Tribune says:—

"It is reported that Quebec is about to pull down its ramparts, throw its citadel into the river, remove the gates which still picturesquely obstruct its precipitous streets, and obliterate the last traces of the martial grandeur which make it to-day one of the most attractive cities in America. The time to be sure has long passed away when the frowning fortifications could be expected to menace anybody. The guns have been rusting quietly this many a year behind the parapets. The solitary piece of ordnance which beams twice a day from the corner of the citadel serves only to mark the true time for the shippers in the river below. The esplanade no longer gleams with red coats and bayonets, but nursemaids and perambulators fill it of a morning, and spongy young people seek it at sunset to whisper soft nonsense in the face of that magnificent prospect which is perhaps unrivalled on this side of the Rocky Mountains. Since the garrison has been withdrawn the pomp and circumstance have faded. The fortress has grown shabby. The parade ground is not over clean. The volunteers, who do duty by turns in manning the citadel, strew the historic structure with tomato cans and broken bottles. The store-houses look dismal and out of repair. The sally-ports are choked with rubbish, and the casemates are rather untidy tenements. But even in its neglect the fortress of Quebec is a monument of American history which every intelligent traveller must look upon with interest. The tourist who lands at the wretched little wharf and climbs the rocky road to the Upper Town, past ridiculous old gables, and under stone archways, and beneath the quaint facade of the ancient Church of Notre Dame, with the guns staring at him through the embrasures, can easily fancy that he has gone back a century or so in the history of the world, and people these queer streets with the forms of Champlain and his companions, of Frontenac, and Iberville, and DeVaudreuil. For the possession of these ramparts, Wolfe and Montcalm and Montgomery laid down their lives. The closing scene of the French domination in Canada was enacted just outside the walls; and one of the most gallant enterprises of the American Revolution came to a disastrous end on the slope of the steep bank just out of the range of these guns."

"Well, if Quebec will sacrifice all these associations for the sake of a few modern houses, that is her affair, not ours. She may pull down the walls and put in the place of them brand new desirable residences with all the modern improvements. She may build herself a lecture-room, and a confectioner's shop, and a dry goods palace, and a la-er beer brewery, and get to be in a little while as prosaic as Hamilton and Toronto. But when she becomes fine and fashionable we shall go no more to see her, and there will be nothing but her commerce, such as it is, to remind the world that Quebec still exists. The

Patriarch in 'Little Dorrit,' was a most venerable old gentleman while he wore long gray locks and a broad-brimmed hat; but as soon as his hair was cut and his head uncovered, everybody found out that he was a hard-featured and vulgar old scoundrel. So Quebec may discover, when she has modernized her dress and swept away her antiquities, that mankind will look upon her as a mean and unimprovable little place after all."

**THEATRE ROYAL.**—On Friday evening of last week Miss Sallie Holman took her first benefit this season, and we were pleased to notice that the house was crowded. The opera was "Fra Diavolo," the best in the Holman repertoire, and was finely rendered. This week Miss Kate Fisher has appeared as "Mazepa," very ably supported by her trained horse "Wonder." The attention during the week has been fair.

**MECHANICS' HALL.**—We are very glad to learn that the University Literary Society have secured the services of that eminent scientist, Professor Pepper, who will lecture at Mechanics' Hall on Monday, 13th, Thursday, 16th, and Saturday, 18th; the subjects being "Optical phenomena, and illusions," "Fire," and "Polarized light." The lectures are illustrated by numerous chemical experiments, and have always proved highly entertaining as well as very instructive.

#### Notes and Comments.

While Sir Bartle Frere is conducting the East African expedition with the double object of putting an end to the infamous Zanzibar slave trade, and of effecting a junction with Livingstone for the purpose of examining the basin of the Victoria Nyanza, a second expedition is shortly to be despatched, also for exploratory purposes, to the West Coast of the continent. The definite establishment of the source of the Congo river will form the object of this expedition, which will, however, start, not from the mouth of the river, but from San Paolo de Loanda, a little lower down the coast, thereby avoiding the hostile tribes who infest the country above the Falls. The expenses of this latter expedition will be defrayed by a private person, and each officer will be equipped with instruments by the Geographical Society. Thanks to undertakings such as these we may shortly expect to have some certain light thrown on the geography of interior Africa.

While upon the topic of African exploration, it is amusing to note the defiant attitude of unbelief with which many persons, even yet when proofs of the correctness of Mr. Stanley's story are abundant, meet any allusion to the exploits of the *Herald's* African commissioner. The apostle of this anti-Stanley party is, of course, the now famous Lewis H. Noy, the quondam friend and fellow-traveller of Livingstone's discoverer, who has been unceasing in his denunciations of Stanley, ever since that gentleman's arrival in England. In a recent letter to the New York *Sun*, Mr. Noy indulges in some pretty strong language with reference to Mr. Stanley. Some of his expressions were, in fact, so very high-flavoured that the editor refused to publish them, substituting dashes in their stead, and explaining in a foot-note, that the language, being libellous, was omitted. In this communication Mr. Noy announces his intention of beginning at an early date his lectures on the "Reminiscences of My Life and Travels with Henry Stanley in Asia Minor." He then continues:—"When a foreigner and impostor like Stanley comes to this country claiming to be an American-born citizen, and the discoverer of Dr. Livingstone, it is my duty as an American, and a duty that I owe to my country, to tell what I know about the man and expose the fraud. I can prove that this great African explorer and *Herald* correspondent is not, as he claims to be, an American-born citizen, but a Welshman, and that he never left Wales or put his foot on the American shore until after he was fifteen years of age. And furthermore, I know him to be a first-class extemporaneous speaker, and a would-be liar, and will challenge him to meet me in any public hall or church in New York city to prove the contrary, or to disprove anything that I have previously published in the columns of the *Sun*. I do not appear before the public as a literary man or professional lecturer, but to tell a plain and simple story of my life and travels with Henry Stanley. Truth is mighty and will prevail." Without entering into the question of Mr. Stanley's nationality, the only thing the writer professes to be able to prove, and which in no way affects the substantiality of the traveller's account of his meeting with Livingstone, we may observe that Mr. Noy, by the use of language of a high-toned and libellous character, is certainly doing nothing to advance his own assertions, while he stands out in most unfavourable contrast to Stanley, whose mild and dignified bearing is the subject of almost universal approbation.

Mr. Bass, M. P. for Derby, has recently expressed his opinions—and very sound opinions they are—on the subject of the prevention of railway accidents. In acknowledging the receipt of a circular issued by the Society for the Prevention of Railway Accidents he says:—"I have to thank you for a circular recommending legislation for the prevention of railway accidents. I cordially approve of the objects of your society; but I venture to suggest that no legislation would so surely promote your object as the making of railway companies responsible for killing and wounding their servants by bad or imperfect management. At present the companies may kill and wound *à libito* with impunity. Last year they killed 347 and wounded 365 of their men.—Faithfully yours, M. T. Bass."

Mr. Richardson, who has recently returned from British Columbia where he was engaged on the Geological Survey, speaks in high terms of the mineral resources of the country. Vancouver Island he pronounces "the England of Canada," so far as coal measures are concerned. According to the Ottawa *Citizen* a mountain of iron has been discovered in Queen Charlotte Sound. In his late trip from Barclay Sound, Mr. Richardson discovered many valuable fossils among hornblende and other rock, a circumstance unknown to science before. At Howe Lake there are immense deposits of lime stone, and blocks of marble of 30 cubic feet, without a crack or blemish, were found. Mr. Richardson thinks that instead of our seams of anthracite coal at Queen Charlotte Island there exists but one seam, as to the value of which he has not yet expressed an opinion.

#### News of the Week.

**THE DOMINION.**—The small-pox has appeared in Yarmouth, N.S., and orders have been given there to close the day and Sabbath schools, the churches, and other places of public resort. The news of Sir George Cartier's health was satisfactory at latest accounts; he was to proceed to the South of France immediately after Christmas. The Corporation of Yorkville has been fined \$5,000 for neglecting to keep a bridge in repair. A speeded despatch from Fort Garry states that the epizootic has affected the horses of the stage line between that place and Moorehead. The Toronto municipal elections resulted in a victory for the Conservative party. Mon. deLesse, the Belgian Minister, has had an interview with the Lieut. Governor and members of the Government of Ontario, regarding the advantages afforded to any of his countrymen who might emigrate to Canada. He received assurance that every encouragement would be given to the Belgian subjects settling in Ontario. H. E. the Governor-General and the Countess of Dufferin arrived in Quebec on Tuesday, and on Thursday attended the ball given by the Directors of the Quebec Skating Club. On Monday their Excellencies held a Drawing-Room in Montreal.

**UNITED STATES.**—Two will shortly be put on trial. The dead-lock in the Louisiana legislature continues. It is reported in London that President Grant has notified Spain that she must either conclude peace with the Cubans on a basis of abolition of slavery, or else sell Cuba to the United States. A number of promotions in the U. S. Army have been made. Stokes has been found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged on the 25th of February. His counsel intend applying for a stay of proceedings. There have been heavy snow storms in Missouri and Kansas. Seven hundred Italian emigrants arrived in New York during the first three days of this month. All of them were destitute. The Fifth Avenue Theatre was destroyed by fire on the evening of New Year's Day. Minister Washburne has returned to France. Senator Sumner's health is calculated to inspire apprehensions. He suffers greatly from nervous prostration, and is under constant medical treatment. A Boston special says that the number of lives lost by the sinking of the ship "Peruvian" is 29. The cargo, consisting of costly products from the East Indies, was valued at nearly a million. A *Herald* Washington despatch states that Secretary Boutwell does not intend to resign until March 1, when, along with the whole Cabinet, will tender his resignation to the President.

**GRAND BRITAIN.**—The revenue receipts for Great Britain, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, amounted to seventy-eight millions of dollars, an increase of some over the preceding quarter. It is rumored that a large Russian loan will soon be put on the market. Dean Ramsay, of St. John's Cathedral, Edinburgh, is dead. Mr. Bowles, the insolvent American banker at London, has been admitted to bail on finding two sureties of £1,000 each, and giving his own recognition for £1,000. The British Government declines to support the proposal of the Royal Geographical Society for sending out an Arctic expedition, partially at the public expense. Emperor Napoleon, who has been suffering for some time from stone in the bladder, has undergone two operations for its removal by lithotomy. No apprehension of serious results are entertained by his physicians. There have been violent storms recently at Queensdown, Birmingham, and Southampton.

**FRANCE.**—At Versailles, President Thiers held the usual New Year's reception. The diplomatic body was first received, but no speeches were made; the President only exchanged a few words with each foreign representative. Five hundred and eighty communists, condemned to penal servitude, sailed for New Caledonia. A witness seems to have taken place between Versailles and the Vatican. Several persons belonging to the International Society have been arrested in Paris and the Province. The police found dynamite bombs in the possession of some of the parties. The new census of France shows the population to be 36,241,241, a decrease of 366,331 since 1866. The Commercial Treaty between France and Great Britain has been lately signed by the representatives of the two Governments, and now awaits Parliamentary ratification. France was to pay Germany two hundred million francs of the war indemnity on the 1st January, and will pay seventy-five millions each succeeding month until May next.

**PORTUGAL.**—A session of the Portuguese Cortes was opened on the 2nd instant by the King in person. His Majesty in his speech from the throne said measures had been taken to punish persons who were recently conspired against the government. He also announced that the treasury was in a prosperous condition.

**ITALY.**—The rivers in the valley of the Po are again rising, and inundations are threatened. The Crown Prince Humbert was thrown from his carriage while driving, and received some slight bruises. The German *Chargé d'Affaires* has informed Cardinal Antonini that he had been instructed to take unlimited leave of absence, and he has since closed the Legation and returned to Rome for Berlin.

**RUSSIA.**—The Czarwitsch has almost recovered. The Russian Government has with the greatest frankness communicated to the Government of Great Britain its plans for the campaign in Central Asia, and offered to a few British officers to accompany the troops in their operations. Nine thousand Khivese troops are now besieging the Russian forts on the Embu river. Another force of two thousand men is depredating the Russian fisheries of the mouth of the river Embu, and reinforcements have been sent to the Russian troops in that vicinity.

**GREECE.**—The Greek Government, on recommendation of the Great Powers, has consented to submit the question of the Laurium Mines to arbitration.

**EGYPT.**—A despatch from Zanzibar, dated the 18th ult., says the U. S. steamer "Yankee" arrived on the 10th. The captain of the ship visited the Sultan on the 11th. They were received by the troops and met by the Sultan in front of the palace. Captain Wilson represented to the Sultan the sentiments of the American people in regard to slavery, and requested the abrogation of the clause of treaty with England. The Sultan's reply was received on the 17th. He says:—"Thirty-three years ago I was forbidden by my father to export slaves to Muscat. The slaves now carried there are stolen by the Arabs and tribes from the Persian gulf. I will make efforts in future to prevent the kidnapping of slaves." Sir Bartle Frere left Aden for Zanzibar on the 14th instant. A London despatch states that Egyptian troops have been sent to the rescue of Baker's expedition in Africa, which had been attacked by hostile tribes.

**SOUTH AMERICA.**—There has been a great inundation of the city of Bogota, caused by the overflow of two small rivers that run through it. Much property destroyed and several lives lost. The damage is calculated at \$50,000. President Morales, of Bolivia, after having threatened Congress with dissolution because it did not support his mining projects, and abusing not only members of Congress, but his personal staff, was shot dead by his own nephew, while the latter was being abused by Morales. Congress quietly elected Gen. Patterson as successor of Morales.