

**The Farmer's Complaint.**

There be one thing as never gets  
No better nor before,  
I've puzzled at it as I sets  
This fifty year and more.

Why is it when we farmun chaps  
Gets up a decent crop,  
They snaps the good from out our laps  
By lettin' prices drop?

I doant know why; I didn't know,  
Nor never can I tell  
Whenever smartish prices go  
I nothun has to sell.

**Free Hotel Ads.**

**THE QUEEN'S.** The leading hotel in the Dominion, with handsome Passenger Elevator. Homely Passengers go up by the back stairs.

**ROSSIN HOUSE.** The Palace hotel of Canada. New Passenger Elevator. Old Passengers walk up.

**WALKER HOUSE.** Runners. Elevator for everybody, viz., Anti-Dunkin cordial.

**The Potato Bug in Britain.**

GRIP has obtained, at considerable expense, copies of the various Orders in Council, Precautionary Directions, Descriptive Circulars, &c., published by authority in Britain on this subject, in which it will be seen that the remarkable knowledge of North America, usually manifested by old country writers and statesmen, is fully extended to its animal kingdom.

**OFFICIAL REPORT 1.**

London, July 1st, 1877.

It having come to the knowledge of her Majesty's Government that Her Majesty's North American Dominions has been attacked by a description of ferocious wild animal, called the Colorado "Beetle," from its large and solid head, with which it is said, it can break through an ordinary panel door at a blow, her Majesty's Government have directed despatches to be forwarded to Lord DUFFERIN. (He was some time since appointed Governor General of these Dominions, with instructions to reside as near the chief towns as safety will permit, to amuse, mollify, and restrain the savage tendencies of the Canadians, and in especial to gently attempt the conversion from cannibal tendencies and the practice of *suttce* of two aboriginal tribes called, one Orange, (from Orang-otang); the other Green (from their residence in forests). He has been requested to summon what military force he possesses, and to attempt to capture one of the Colorado Beetles. The regular troops at Halifax, with the assistance of sailors from the fleet, and if necessary, some of the siege pieces lately sent to Quebec, will assist in the operations. When captured, the beast or beasts to be kept safely, and their habits reported on. The commissioners do not know what means of safe-keeping to propose, but would suggest that if by means of launches and steam-cranes one specimen could be got on board an iron clad, moored in the harbour, the beast could be perhaps deprived of its fins or other means of natation, be let loose on deck, and the vessel abandoned to its use. It might be fed from another iron-clad, approaching with proper precaution, care being taken to keep the crew at quarters, and the eighty tons loaded while near the creature.

Her Majesty's Government have directed these despatches to the capital city of her North American Dominions, called Niagara Falls, Vancouver Island, and have demanded an immediate reply, having also mentioned to Lord DUFFERIN, privately, that he need not insert any jocose references in his despatches on this serious matter.

**OFFICIAL REPORT 2.**

London, August 1st, 1877.

Her Majesty's Government having, as stated in the foregoing, three months back sent despatches to above purport, have received information that the officer charged with said despatches has returned, and states that, having proceeded to the locality in question, he was informed by English-speaking savages that no such city remained. These savages were not natives of Vancouver, but of the land to the south. Their jargon was barbarous. In reply to the despatch bearer, they said as follows, taken down by the photographer attached to the expedition:—

"Gol-darned! Snakes Alive! All Possessed! Wa'al! I Guess! Thar's no sich city hyar neow! Yew didn't hear as the Coloraders had rubbed it eout, did yew? It's so, stranger. Yes! Kinder kerflummoxed, air yew? Look sorter skeered! Say, pass that thar forty-rod to the Britisher. Takes it in nateral; reglar spine-stiffener that thar. Yes, the Coloraders has got 'em! Yew've heerd on 'em—called Tater Bug, from

warts big as taters, jist like, stickin' out all over the riptyles. Did hyar as how the Earl of DUFFERIN had got clar off, but cut back to save the Count-ess from bein' swallered by an infant Colorader as had got her partly in. No use; guess *he* never come back. Darned fool; deown our way we don't take no account of sich losses; fact if they don't go so we divorces 'em right smart putty often. But neow, yew make tracks; mind, that thar ship o' yours arn't safe if the Coloraders come swimmin' off. *We're* safe; wont touch us; wont come near us; we chaws too constant. Give the Britisher a chaw! Yes, Sirree!"

Hearing this, which concurred with the statements made to him in England, and agreed with the objects of his journey, the messenger made further inquiry on shore, cautiously approaching the same. Was answered roughly that no such town now existed. He considered this confirmatory, and returned. Her Majesty's Government are thus compelled to believe, with extreme regret, that a great disaster has befallen her North American Possessions, and that measures should at once be taken to ascertain its full extent. Her Majesty's Government observes with extreme horror that its cablegrams to Canada are still answered, which proves that the Beetle has seized the wires, and is simulating messages. It is extremely puzzling to notice that these messages are couched in an apparently Scottish vernacular, and signed by a Beetle calling himself MACKENZIE, evidently, from the despatches sent, though an ignorant, yet a shrewd and extremely malign animal.

Her Majesty's Government do not wish to spread needless alarm among the inhabitants of the British Islands, but they would be unworthy of the high trust reposed in them did they not state that, in their opinion, there is too much reason to believe that the principal cities and probably the greater portion of the rural districts of Canada have been overrun by this dreadful visitation, and there is little doubt the inhabitants have been sacrificed by the hideous swarms of terrible reptiles which Providence has, for some inscrutable purpose, permitted to infest America. It is the intention of Government at once to summon Parliament to meet and consider this most momentous question.

In the mean time, that no effort on its part may be wanting, it has given orders that, (as there is really no knowing how soon these Islands may be attacked, whether by these ferocious and cunning beasts possessing themselves of the vessels of the N. A. Squadron, and the merchant ships of Quebec, and crossing to our shores; or even if so terrible a creature may not be capable of accomplishing the ocean voyage merely by swimming) that the standing army be at once largely recruited, that all regiments be placed on their full strength, that the militia be called out, that every available ship of war be placed in commission, and the whole land and naval forces formed into a complete cordon for the preservation of the British Islands. It has also, in view of the fact that the cause of terror is altogether new in the experience of nations, organized a commission of the most eminent chemists of the day, to report whether chemical means, of asphyxiation or other, may not be available. It has placed before this commission, as worthy of consideration, the statement of the American savages that their safety from the Beetle was due to their use of tobacco, and requested to know if, were the people of these Islands placed under a system of tobacco using, the threatened danger might be averted, in which case these Islands, Her Majesty's Government consider, might at once be placed in care of a Compulsory Chewing Department, the regulations of which could be enforced by martial law, if necessary, on the inhabitants of all ages and both sexes. Other notices will be issued immediately in successive bulletins, as news is received.

**Thistle-tops.****I.****A PICTURED BELLE.**

Your mouth is round as your eyes,  
Hand as fine as your hair,  
Elbow and waist of a size,  
Figure and face both rare:

Smile as bright as your ring,  
Sense and heart are combined;  
But where is the light, worthless thing,  
That scientists call the mind?

**II.****THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.**

Dick is short as can be:  
"But tall women," says he,  
"Like tall houses we see,  
Have a top story wretchedly small."  
"Man is tall as a tree;  
But short men," replies she,  
"Like short houses we see,  
Have no upper story at all."

ANTI-DUNKIN HIBERNIAN MOTTO.—My wages is my Pat-rye-money.