

THY SOUL IS IMMORTAL.

(From the French of Alfred de Musset.)

Frail thing of day who bewallest an hour,
Why weepest so wildly? What makes thee
lament?

Dost think 'tis thy soul sheds such plentiful
shower?

Thy soul is immortal; thy tears are soon spent.

Thou feelest thy heart torn by woman's caprice,
Thou sayest 'tis broken by anguish and pain,
Thou askest of heaven thy soul to release;
Thy soul is immortal. Thou wilt love again.

Regret of an instant disquiets thee sore,
Thou sayest the future is veiled by the past;
O'er yesterday brood not, bright morrow's in
store,

Thy soul is immortal and time will go fast.

Thy body is crushed by the ills of thy heart;
Thy knees bow beneath thee, thou scarcely
canst stand.

Down, down on thy knees then poor fool that
thou art,

Thy soul is immortal and death is at hand.

The coffin will house thee; thy memory, name
Will perish; the sun of thy glory will set;
But not so thy love, so but pure be its flame,
Thy soul is immortal and will not forget.

ARTHUR SCAIFE.

Victoria, B. C.

ELECTRIC MESSAGES WITHOUT WIRES.

The promise of electrical communication between two distinct points without the agency of an intervening wire is being fulfilled with startling rapidity and almost incredible success. The wonderful capacity of the invisible electric energy for leaping across a gulf of air miles in width, and unerringly delivering its message, is almost daily enlarging its functions. Inductive electricity, as it is called, which thus finds the atmospheric air or the ether a sufficient conductor for its purposes, and was a few years since but little more than a theorem of the laboratory and the class-room, has now become a momentous fact in civilization and commerce. It is only four years since it was recorded as a remarkable triumph the feat of telegraphing to and from railway trains in motion by a parallel telegraph line. In this instance, it may be remembered, the electric message jumped across a distance of some 12 feet, without any connecting wire, and this achievement on the Lehigh Valley railway was the theme of considerable jubilation throughout the American continent. Today English electricians at Cardiff and elsewhere are easily transmitting electric messages across a wireless distance of three miles, without any sign of approaching the limits of the electric function in this direction.

A LUCKY DISCOVERER.

Before Watts, the discoverer of the present mode of making shot, had his notable dream—said to be induced by over-indulgence in stimulants—the manufacture of shot was a slow, laborious, and, consequently, costly process. Great bars of lead had to be pounded into sheets of a thickness nearly equal to the diameter of the shots desired. These sheets had then to be cut into little cubes, placed in a revolving barrel, and there rolled, until by constant friction the edges wore off from

the little cubes and they became spheroids. Watts had often racked his brain trying to discover some better and less costly method, but in vain. Finally, after spending an evening with some companions at an ale-house, he went home, went to bed, and fell asleep. His slumbers, however, were disturbed by unwelcome dreams, in one of which he was out with "the boys," and, as they were stumbling home, it began to rain shot—beautiful globules of polished, shining lead—in such great numbers that he and his companions had to seek shelter. In the morning, Watts remembered his curious dream, and it obtruded itself on his mind all day. This led him to speculate as to what shape molten lead would assume in falling through the air, and, finally, to settle the matter, he ascended to the top of the tower of St. Mary Radcliffe, and dropped slowly and regularly a ladleful of molten lead into the moat below. Descending to his surprise and delight, he took from the bottom of the shallow pool several handfuls of the most perfect shot he had ever seen. Watt's fortune was made, for from this exploit emanated the idea of the shot tower, which ever since has been the only means employed in the manufacture of the little missiles which are so important to sportsmen the world over.

REPRESENTATION AT OTTAWA.

The *Times*, we are pleased to notice, endorses our views on the subject of the treatment which has been accorded to this Province by the authorities at Ottawa. We must have true friends of the Province representing us at the Dominion capital, and not slavish supporters of the administration, no matter its party complexion. The opportunity afforded by the death of Mr. Gordon is one that should be availed of for at least one portion of the provincial electorate to set their seals to this principle. Looking at it in this light, the election is of special importance. The Federal Government has neglected and, indeed, has treated with contempt our people and their most important interests. We do not advise the election of a cut and dried member of the Opposition—an out and out follower of Mr. Laurier or Sir Richard Cartwright—because they are in many respects impracticables and hold views which are utterly repulsive to the sentiments of the vast majority of our people.

On the other hand, we must take care not to return a supporter of any railway, landed or other monopoly who, it may be, has in addition to the gratification of his own ambitions, the object of serving a master whose interests are opposed to those of the people. The interests at present at stake are special. Among them may be mentioned the disposition of the Songish Indian Reserve, upon which it is said a certain institution has already set longing eyes and, indeed, has made preliminary arrangements for its acquisition in the event of the present occupants being removed. There are certain explanations under this head which, it would be well to have from any candidate who may present himself. We have too many landed monopolies, we have too much land locked up from uses, and care must be taken that there shall be no more of it. We refer to

this subject specially, as it is of particular importance to this island and to the city of Victoria. Other topics we have week by week enlarged upon, and we trust with some measure of success in the way of stimulating, if not creating, public sentiment.—*Commercial Journal*.

THE new Canadian post cards are much larger than the old ones. The 3-cent letter cards are gummed and perforated, and can be used in place of a letter. For big letters and packages the Government has issued 25 and 50-cent stamps. These stamps are red, and the design is the same as the old bill stamps.

It is very probable that, before long Canadian consular agents will be appointed at the capitals of a number of foreign countries whose trade with the Dominion is of any considerable magnitude, and which there is any prospect of augmenting. This is in effect the announcement recently made in the Dominion Parliament by Finance Minister Foster.

We regret to announce the death of ex-Lieutenant Governor Nelson, which occurred in London, England, on Saturday. The deceased was a genuine British Columbia pioneer, he worked in the mines in the days of old Cariboo, and subsequently became a merchant and capitalist. He sat in both the House of Commons and Senate as a representative of this Province, his last official position being that of Lieutenant Governor, his term of office having only recently expired. He was a man of enterprise and sound common sense and withal was true to the land to which he came on leaving his native country, Ireland.

In the British House of Commons, the Gladstone administration have rather got back on the Americans on the subject of the Monetary Conference. A proposal having been made that the British Government should use its influence to bring about a reassembling of the Monetary Conference, the Premier said it was not for his Government to deprive the United States of the initiative while Sir William Vernon Harcourt stated that the failure of the Conference was due to the absence of all definite proposals, and that the British could not be expected to provide a scheme for the more extensive use of silver.

It will have been observed from the daily papers that Mr. Erastus Wiman has retired from the well-known mercantile agency of Dun, Wiman & Co. It has been stated in some quarters that Mr. Wiman contemplates the establishment of another similar agency, but this we should hardly believe can be the correct reason for the change. One which we have heard mentioned—that would appear to be much more likely—is that the concern find that Mr. Wiman's prominence in political concerns and his continued advocacy of a certain fiscal policy which is far from meeting with general endorsement, has destroyed his usefulness and has materially interfered with the confidence that was formerly reposed in the institution with which his name was associated. Added to this, it is said that Mr. Wiman has other interests which besides those of a public character require more of his attention, and to their conduct it is his intention to devote the balance of his time and energies which are not expended upon Unrestricted Reciprocity and Canadian annexation.