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russels Patterns,  
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FOR THE RUSH,

ainter

y will be Busy.

ow, and May day

r tenants.

d Decorative Painter.

CKVILLE.

ical and literary is now boom-

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entertained a large party of

g some ardent snow-shoes

nd his parents a flying visit

visiting Mrs. H. A. Allison.

mon, has been visiting

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AMEL FIRST.

with an Application

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religion into our daily

a little uncommon.

great many accidents

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last column.

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VOL. II., NO. 97.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1890.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

## WEEKS AHEAD OF TIME.

### THE OPERA "DOROTHY" BEFORE THE PUBLIC IN LEHT.

It Was Not Due Until Easter, But It Has  
Got There Just the Same and Has Created  
A Genuine Sensation - What "Progress"  
Has Been Able to Learn About It.

There is trial, tribulation and a confusion  
of tongues among the members of the  
"brave little band" who have been re-  
hearing the opera of Dorothy for produc-  
tion immediately after Easter. There ap-  
pears to have been trouble from the outset,  
about one thing or another, and as fast as  
one difficulty was surmounted another rose  
to take its place.

The project was started by a few enter-  
prising young ladies with sweet voices and  
a high dramatic talent which eminently  
fitted them for the undertaking. They were  
full of faith, and that faith has enabled  
them to surmount many obstacles which  
might have discouraged young ladies of  
less courage and zeal. It should be ex-  
plained, however, that while the credit of  
the management appears to be due to the  
ladies, the legal and responsible managers  
have been two gentlemen, who do not ap-  
pear to have had much to say about the  
matter.

The most formidable obstacle encoun-  
tered up to last week was the question of  
the right to produce the opera. This  
question seems to have been overlooked at  
the outset. It was only after the work was  
well advanced and a certain amount of  
money had been spent that it was found  
that somebody outside of the company had  
something to say about Dorothy.

That somebody was a certain Mr. Duff,  
who resides in New York and reaches his  
octopus arms all over America to gather  
in the royalties due him as owner of the  
proprietary rights. None of the company  
had seen Mr. Duff, but all of them had  
heard of him, and that was enough. There  
was an impression that Mr. Duff was not  
asleep as to what was going on in St. John,  
and that at the proper moment he would  
appear in company with either the sheriff  
or the chief of police. Under these cir-  
cumstances it was considered no less politic  
than honest to consult him.

A letter was written him, explaining the  
circumstances, the humble aspirations of  
the amateurs, etc., and asking him what he  
would take. He did not emulate Artemus  
Ward by answering "whiskey," and indeed  
did not answer at all.

In the meantime the forty voices were  
being attuned to cheerful notes, under the  
conductors of Mr. R. Percy Strand,  
organist of Trinity church, and forty hearts  
were filled with glad anticipation. Some  
of the company, while admitting Mr.  
Strand's ability as a musician, got the im-  
pression that conducting was not his strong  
point. He was too gentle with his class,  
and did not shout and gesticulate suffi-  
ciently to satisfy some of their tastes. The  
human race, having been governed and mis-  
governed for centuries, likes to be ruled  
over, and young ladies dearly love to be  
"bossed" by a man, if he goes about it in  
the right way.

There is said to have been a feeling  
among some of the company, which may  
or may not have been due to parochial  
preference, that Mr. James Ford, the  
new organist of Stone church, was the  
right kind of a man to take Mr. Strand's  
place. Whether they thought Mr. Ford  
would be more force than Mr. Strand is  
not stated, and whether financial considera-  
tion entered into the matter is also a mat-  
ter on which PROGRESS does not presume  
to offer an opinion. The preference, how-  
ever, seems to have gained strength from  
week to week.

Mr. Strand, apparently, was not aware  
of this fact. He attended the rehearsals,  
as usual, and said "please" as mildly and  
as frequently as if he were instructing a  
favorite drawing-room pupil.

In the meantime another letter was sent  
to silent, but vigilant Mr. Duff. He paid  
no attention to it, and then the company  
threatened to make a very bold stroke in-  
deed. They proposed to produce Dorothy,  
whether Mr. Duff liked it or not. Before  
taking such a rash step they decided to  
consult a lawyer.

The legal luminary informed them that  
while Mr. Duff could undoubtedly prose-  
cute every one of them, yet the cases would  
have to be dealt with by a St. John jury,  
and there would be only nominal damages.

Which speaks volumes for the jury sys-  
tem and the patriotism of St. John jurors  
when a stranger has a suit in court.

Some of the young ladies thought that a  
light opera in the Institute, followed by an  
amusing farce in the court, would be an  
awfully jolly racket, and were rather in-  
clined to go ahead. This was the beginning  
of sorrow for Mr. Strand.

Mr. Strand objected to being a party to  
proceedings which might end in all hands  
appearing in the police or some other  
court, and said that if such a course were  
followed he must decline to continue as  
conductor. This was more than a month

ago, and according to Mr. Strand and his  
friends, was the only ground for claiming  
that he wanted to get clear of the position  
altogether. In the meantime he continued  
to perform his duties at the weekly rehar-  
sals.

A third letter was then sent to the tacit-  
urn Mr. Duff, and some bright mind con-  
ceived the idea of registering it, so as to  
prove delivery. This stratagem had the  
desired effect. Mr. Duff condescended to  
reply, calmly stating that he had not con-  
sidered the previous letters worth noticing,  
but was quite willing that Dorothy should  
be produced in St. John, on very simple  
conditions. These were, that he should  
receive \$100 for the first night, and \$75  
for each subsequent production. This, for  
the three nights contemplated, would  
make Mr. Duff's bill \$250—a trifle, as he  
viewed it, but from the St. John point of  
view the figures seemed very big and very  
black indeed.

After this epoch in the history of the  
company there is a period in regard to  
which the stories vary. Mr. Strand asserts  
that he continued to conduct in good faith  
without any intention of backing out. Others  
claim that he seemed undecided, as if he  
wanted to take no risks, and that he led  
them to believe that he was rather anxious  
than otherwise to retire. In this crisis  
they consulted Mr. Ford, who expressed  
himself quite willing to take hold and see  
the affair through to the end.

Last week a note was sent to Mr. Strand  
stating that, in view of Mr. Duff's claims,  
the company would not guarantee the re-  
muneration originally intended, and asking  
him, under the circumstances, he wished  
to continue as conductor. He promised to  
give an answer at the next practice.

On Friday evening he went to practice  
as usual. He says that he had decided to  
continue with the company. There had  
been some talk of engaging Mr. Ford as  
piano accompanist and when one of the  
committee said, "Isn't it too bad that the  
expenses are to be so heavy that we can't  
promise you anything. Mr. Ford is willing  
to work for nothing," Mr. Strand, affect-  
ing to believe that this had reference to the  
piano accompaniments only, replied to the  
effect that Mr. Ford was quite welcome to  
do so, and added, "I have decided to go  
on with it." It is claimed that the mem-  
bers of the committee understood him to  
say "I have decided not to go on with it,"  
but that he did not mean that it is shown  
by the fact that he immediately walked over  
to another group and repeated, "I have  
decided to go on with it."

Soon after, apparently by pre-arrange-  
ment, Mr. Ford entered the room. He  
had never met Mr. Strand, and was intro-  
duced to him. "I understand that you  
have decided not to go on with the opera,"  
said Mr. Ford. "I have decided to go on  
with it," was the reply, in tones that left no  
room for any misunderstanding that time.  
There was a slight pause, and the rival ar-  
tists began to talk of Mozart, "Tarbet," the  
musical merits of "Jerusalem," or some-  
thing else that had no connection with the  
future of Dorothy.

Two of the committee retired to the  
rear, consulted and returned to Mr. Strand.  
Then he was asked if he were willing to  
guarantee the financial success of the  
opera. Remembering that the expenses  
would amount to about \$600, and that  
Mr. Duff wanted \$250 more, he declined  
to give any such guarantee.

So the matter stood. Mr. Ford was  
ready to take charge, but Mr. Strand  
was actually in charge, having arranged for  
practice on that evening. He did not pro-  
pose that Mr. Ford should run things  
while he was in the room, and Mr. Ford  
himself had no desire to do so.

A very speedy solution of the problem  
was reached when one of the management  
proclaimed the Dorothy Opera company  
dissolved until further notice, or until  
arrangements could be made with the pub-  
lisher, Duff. The "further notice" was  
very short. They met and reorganized the  
next night.

When Mr. Strand retired from the com-  
pany, or rather, when the company retired  
from him, he found himself not quite alone.  
Five gentlemen with resonant bass voices  
proclaimed themselves on his side and  
about five ladies have since declined to  
enter the new company. Some of the cham-  
pions of Mr. Ford assert that Mr. Strand  
requested some of the latter to retire, but  
Mr. Strand denies that he did anything of  
the kind.

Mr. Strand's friends are indignant at the  
method taken to freeze him out. They  
assert that after three months of practice,  
when he had accomplished the hardest part  
of the work, it was most unfair to displace  
him and put him in a false position before  
the public, simply because some of the  
company had a greater personal friendship  
for Mr. Ford.

On Thursday the company sent to Mr.  
Strand to know if he would accept an apol-  
ogy and \$20 for his services. He replied  
that his bill was \$25, and as he had been  
used so unfairly he declined an apology,  
as they offered it. One of yesterday's  
papers, however, says that the apology was  
accepted.

It would appear very plainly that good  
music and perfect harmony are not inter-  
changeable terms.

## HIS HONOR WILL SPEAK.

### SOME THINGS HE MAY SAY WHEN HE OPENS THE HOUSE.

An Explanation of the Mystery of a Black  
Vallie—The Impression which a Sermon  
Gave of the Boy Candidate—Members who  
are to be Congratulated.

His Honor the Governor will have the  
opportunity to deliver a very interesting  
speech from the throne when the legislature  
meets, next Thursday. The old speeches,  
as all know, have been rather dry and for-  
mal affairs, but as this is a progressive age  
it is only right to look for something of the  
bright, breezy and conversational style on  
this occasion.

After the usual and necessary preambles,  
His Honor may proceed with the vital  
topic of the situation in which his advisers  
find themselves, and may rise to the oc-  
casion as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:  
"I have been pleased to summon you  
for the despatch of business on the 13th of  
March, instead of the 6th, as some of you  
expected. Thirteen, as you are aware, is an  
unlucky number, and I have grave  
reasons to suppose that this session will be  
an unlucky one for somebody, but whether  
for the government or opposition it is not  
for me to state. The 13th, it will be re-  
membered, was nomination day, and some-  
of my late advisers from St. John may find  
a grim significance in the commencement  
of the legislative battle two months later.

I am advised that the government never  
was stronger, more stable and better as-  
sured of a perpetual lease of these halls.  
I am also informed from other sources  
that it has barely a working majority, and  
after the first test vote will be compelled to  
surrender to the opposition. I regret to  
announce that on this point it seems im-  
possible to reconcile the opinions of Mr.  
Blair and Mr. Thaddeus Stevens.

I am not able to announce on any reliable  
authority that the value of Mr. Stevens  
will be exchanged for a portfolio before the  
close of the session. As a great deal of  
misconception appears to have arisen in  
regard to that value, I may state officially  
that it is not yellow but black, and that its  
contents are neither dynamite cartridges,  
samples of Moncton mud nor specimens of  
water-works eels preserved in alcohol. They  
have other uses for alcohol in Moncton.  
The value has nothing more pernicious  
than two boiled shirts, two collars, one  
pair of socks, one cuff, a poker deck, two  
corkscrews, Cushing's Manual, a Ready  
Reckoner, a box of domestic cigars for  
friends and one dozen bottles labelled  
"pain-killer."

I am happy to announce a cessation of  
hostilities, and the substitution of an armed  
neutrality, in the war between the citizens  
of St. John and the Pope of Rome. The  
self-sacrificing spirit of Messrs. Alward  
and Stockton in risking defeat by consent-  
ing to make an alliance with the Tories will  
be recommended to your favorable notice.

It is my painful duty to announce a slight  
feeling of disappointment in looking for the  
first time at Mr. McKeown. Having at-  
tentionately read a sermon by Rev. William  
Lawson, I had been led to suppose that  
the term "boy candidate" was purely  
ironical, and that Mr. McKeown was about  
seven feet and a half high, and sixty inches  
around the chest, with a voice which ex-  
ceeded in compass even that of Daniel  
Hanington, and a smile that surpassed in  
sweetness that of William Pugsley. I had  
been led to imagine that he could speak  
fluently in Sanskrit, Russian, Greek, Latin,  
Hebrew, Choctaw and Shemogue French;  
that when he was glad at heart the birds  
trilled sweet melodies, and when he was  
sad the fog spread over the Bay of Fundy.

I had expected to see him drive up to the  
house of assembly in a golden chariot, with  
outriders in livery, having Mr. Lawson as  
private chaplain, in full canonicals, a  
Twelfth of July procession as a guard of  
honor, and the base ball league as an ad-  
vance guard to force aside the mighty  
throng that would gather to see him pass.

I must congratulate my surveyor-general,  
Mr. Tweedie, on the fact that Mr. Morris-  
sey and Mr. Mike Adams had not cor-  
dial relations with each other when he  
accepted the portfolio. I must also con-  
gratulate the government on the fact that  
the excellent train service on the Northern  
and Western railway enabled Mr. Blair to  
reach Chatham and secure Mr. Tweedie in  
advance of the opposition.

### Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

I must congratulate you on the renewed  
promise of a long and easy life. It is most  
unfortunate that by a provision made in  
the days of our forefathers your number is  
limited by law, as my government desires  
to add several of its friends to your ranks,  
and none of you seem disposed to die  
or resign.

### Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

You will be called upon to deal with a  
variety of measures tending to advance the

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interests of the representatives in the  
various counties, and to pass acts which  
will furnish new fields of battle for the increas-  
ing army of lawyers. If you can find out just  
what the city of St. John wants in the way  
of docks, I would recommend a grant of a  
million dollars in aid of the project. I wish  
you a short session and a merry one. Be  
virtuous and you will be happy.

### DRAW THE LINE.

### Reverence and Decency Do Not Require One to Uncover to a Long Procession.

It seems all very well to pay a proper  
reverence to a funeral cortege, but the idea  
of standing uncovered out of doors is apt  
to have very dangerous results in this cli-  
mate. If, for instance, a procession opens  
ranks to allow the hearse, mourners and  
citizens to pass through, it is customary  
for all to keep hats off until the last man  
has passed. There is no need of this, and  
in the winter season it is as dangerous as  
it is unnecessary. It is quite sufficient to  
pay this mark of respect to the remains and  
the immediate mourners and there the line  
should be drawn. Otherwise, if the pro-  
cession be a long one, many minutes must  
elapse during which the sensitive surfaces  
of unprotected heads are exposed to chill-  
ing currents, almost certain to produce  
colds and perhaps even worse and fatal  
results. People should have the moral  
courage to abolish a custom which can do  
no good and is apt to produce a vast  
amount of harm.

### Bright and Active Boys.

PROGRESS has some bright boys working  
for it in the outside towns of New Brun-  
swick: They work but a short time every  
Saturday morning, and in that period make  
as much as in all the other days of the  
week. Some of them go to school regu-  
larly, and use their holiday to advantage in  
selling PROGRESS and making their little  
cent on every copy. Among those who  
have been longest at this work, and the  
most successful, are Johnnie McCoy, of  
Moncton; George Douglas, of Amherst,  
and Bertie Russell, of Newcastle. If these  
boys go on in the way they have begun,  
they will be successful business men some  
day. The publisher would always be  
happy and prosperous if all his agents were  
as prompt in their payments, and as watch-  
ful of the sales as these three boys.

### Talk On the Street.

The "fourth of March" has come and  
gone and St. John business goes on in the  
same prosperous path as usual. No big  
or little house, so far as is known, failed to  
come to time at the note teller's box, and  
no embarrasments are reported.

T. McAvity & Sons will enlarge their  
retail store this spring, absorbing the  
premises at present occupied by Mrs. Mc-  
Connell as a boot and shoe store.

George H. McKay will open a dry goods  
store at 49 Charlotte street, where Messrs.  
Dowling are now, in a short time.

Messrs. Parker Bros. have now one of  
the handsomest drug stores in the city.  
The painters have been busy there this  
week and the store is much brighter in  
consequences.

### Keep to the Right.

A good many people, probably, are not  
aware of the fact that there is a city by-  
law requiring pedestrians to keep to the  
right in meeting or passing each other.  
The ladies, in particular, seem determined  
to bolt to the left at every possible oppor-  
tunity. Now that the spring is coming,  
with its bad street crossings, etc., it would  
be well to keep the by-law in mind. In  
any American city the size of St. John, a  
person who persisted in dodging to the  
left would not only be looked on as a  
Down-Homer from Wayback, but would  
be well elbowed into the bargain—or the  
gutter.

### Mr. Jones and Mr. Rogers.

Bandmaster Jones has been training the  
choir boys of St. Paul's church, and was at  
peace with the world until Mr. J. N.  
Rogers wrote a letter to PROGRESS on the  
subject. Since then the relations between  
Messrs. Jones and Rogers have been some-  
what strained. Last Sunday, Mr. Rogers  
went to church and took his seat in the  
choir, whereupon Mr. Jones walked out  
and went home. It is reported that he re-  
marked that he would not sit in the body  
of the same church as Mr. Rogers, to say  
nothing of the same choir.

### Gambling on the North Shore.

A correspondent writes that Richibucto  
has one of the best equipped gambling  
saloons on the North Shore. The prop-  
rietor is a strong temperance advocate.  
Each table accommodates six persons, and  
the fee charged is 25 cents an hour for  
each seat. Around these tables gather  
men in all walks of life. Gentlemen from  
the "upper ten," with five letters after their  
names, down to the every-day laborer,  
meet there on a common level to strive for  
the "filthy lucre."

Sign Writing done promptly by Wilkins &  
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## QUIET IN THE WARDS.

### PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEGUN TO GET EXCITED ABOUT ELECTIONS.

The Chesley Boom Is Progressing, But  
Not Overhauling Anything as Yet—A  
New Candidate In Victoria Ward, With  
Excellent Chances of Success.

The suggestive fact that the elections for  
aldermen come on All Fools' Day, this  
year, may or may not have a deterrent  
effect on some who might otherwise be  
ambitious to seek a seat in the council. At  
any rate, there is much less talk of candi-  
dates than one would expect to hear with  
only three weeks for action.

In regard to the mayor's election, Mr.  
Chesley and his friends appear to be try-  
ing to create a boom for themselves. A  
supper was given on Wednesday evening  
to celebrate the opposition victory in the  
local election, and the guests were  
about fifty of the energetic workers who  
took part in the campaign. Mr. Chesley  
occupied the chair, and they had a very  
pleasant time. It is asserted that there  
was not a word in any of the speeches  
about the mayor's election, and that the  
nearest approach to it was the infliction of  
the dock question on the company, by  
some of the aldermanic orators.

All the same, by a singular coincidence,  
there did not appear to be a very large  
sprinkling of the recognized friends of  
Mayor Lockhart there. According to one  
of the papers, "Mr. Chesley responded  
appropriately to a very complimentary  
toast, which had been received with much  
enthusiasm."

Mr. Chesley is understood to have pro-  
nounced views on the right of the North  
End to have "its share" of what is going,  
and to have expressed himself quite strong-  
ly to the effect that the mayor for the next  
term should come from that quarter.

Victoria ward has another candidate.  
A number of the electors have waited on  
Mr. Jas. Seaton, and requested him to offer.  
He has consented, is in the field on his own  
account, and will not form a combination  
with any ticket. Mr. Seaton, who is well  
known to the electors, is a practical man,  
with undoubted honesty of purpose. He  
has a trade, and is not ashamed of it. If he  
goes to the council, it will not be to make  
speeches, but to vote intelligently in the  
interests of the people.

The statement in last week's PROGRESS  
that Ald. Law and Busby would form a  
ticket was doubted by a good many voters  
in the ward, but proves to be the truth.  
The reason is not that Ald. Law likes his  
colleague very much, but that he is not  
inclined to view the candidature of Mr.  
Forrest with favor. All the candidates are  
on the war-path, canvassing with vigor.  
Mr. Forrest is of opinion that his chances  
never were better.

A new man has also come out in Stanley  
ward, in the person of Mr. Arthur W.  
Howe, a well known resident, who ought  
to poll a good vote. Whether this ward  
will have a triangular or square contest  
does not yet appear.

Whether Mr. W. Watson Allen or any  
other new man will offer for Queens ward  
is a problem at present. In the meantime  
Ald. Jack is making a very thorough can-  
vass, and as each day goes by he divides  
the number of voters by the number of days  
remaining between that time and the elec-  
tion. The quotient gives the number of  
voters a new man would have to see it he  
started at once. If one began now, for  
instance, and did not work Sundays, he  
would have to talk to more than 50 men  
every day, in order to overtake the alder-  
man in his canvass.

In Kings ward there does not appear to  
be any opposition as yet, though the name  
of a certain lawyer has been mentioned.  
He is understood to deny any intention of  
being a candidate.

Mr. Enoch W. Paul has decided not to  
be a candidate in Wellington ward. No  
one else has come forward, and so far as  
can be learned there is not likely to be any  
organized opposition to the present incum-  
bents.

Brooks ward is having a good deal of  
buzzing over the candidates already an-  
nounced as in the field, and there is a pro-  
spect of some fun there election day.

It is possible that there may be some  
fresh political developments if the common  
council, in session as PROGRESS goes to  
press, votes in favor of the Leary dock  
scheme.

### Look at the Book First.

There is a book going the rounds of the  
country purporting to be an account of  
Stanley and his travels. PROGRESS has a  
letter from a subscriber complaining that  
the agent represented the book to be  
written by Stanley recently, and embracing  
his latest explorations. People should not  
be deceived by this. The book is an old  
one redressed and added to, and sent into  
the country at this time when the name of  
Stanley is on every lip, and every one is  
anxious and eager to read about him, and  
his adventures.

To get Paper Hanging done quickly and  
reasonably apply to Wilkins & Sands, 266  
Union street.

## GREAT MINDS DIFFER.

### One Editor Kills the Frenchmen and the Other the Natives.

"It is said," writes a correspondent,  
"that there are two sides to every story,  
and this is certainly quite true as regards  
any story that the Telegraph may help the  
Sun to circulate. Not only does this re-  
mark apply to their editorial articles and  
locals pertaining to politics; it extends even  
to their foreign news. This is a very good  
reason why all lovers of truth and fair play  
should subscribe to both papers, and I  
would suggest that these great morning  
journals of ours be clubbed at an annual  
subscription of say fifty cents.

"Here are two clippings from Tuesday's  
Telegraph and Sun. You pay your  
money and you take your choice":

PARIS, March 3.—A report has been received by the government from the governor of Senegal that 8,000 of the king of Dahomey's troops attacked the French force at Atabo. After a severe fight, the French were repulsed, the natives killing 100. It is reported that the government intends to annex the kingdom of Dahomey to the French possessions in Africa.—Tel. Sun.

### WHO WAS THE LAWYER?

### A Good Deal of Curiosity About the Man that Swallowed a Widow's House.

PROGRESS has had a great many enquiries  
as to the identity of the lawyer referred  
to last week as having devoured a poor  
"widow's house." It may not be flattering  
to the profession, but it is a fact that several  
lawyers who were innocent of the transac-  
tion have been suspected by their fellows,  
as if there were a belief that they might do  
such a thing if they got the chance.

The name of the lawyer was not made  
public, because he is a person who has  
very respectable connections, not only in  
this city but in other parts of the province.  
To expose him, as he should be exposed,  
would cause them both pain and shame for  
an act with which they had nothing to do.

The best advice to all suitors, and es-  
pecially to poor widows, is to be sure of  
your lawyer, and then go ahead.

### A Practical Joke.

A well known plate-glass insurance agent  
thought that April fool's day was upon him  
this week. Among Charlie Macpherson's  
advertising novelties when he struck St. John  
this time was a litho representing Mary  
Anderson looking through a shivered plate  
glass window. When pasted to a window  
the casual observer never failed to sym-  
pathize with the merchant over his appar-  
ently broken window. One of these lithos  
was attached to the large plate-glass in the  
front of McMillan's bookstore and the in-  
surance agent was notified by telephone  
that there had been a smash-up. He  
hastened to the scene, stood off and viewed  
the window, expressed his sympathy, ap-  
praised the damage and unconsciously fur-  
nished plenty of amusement for his audience  
for a time. Then he realized suddenly that  
it was a sell and laughed as heartily as his  
companions.

### A Chance For Poets.

Under the head of "To Our Poets," the  
Salvation Army's official organ says: "We  
are in urgent need of original songs,  
written to the following tunes . . . .  
"God will help you to send one  
right away." Here is a chance for some of our  
local versifiers to immortalize themselves  
and do good at one fell stroke. They have  
been getting pretty rusty of late.

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