

CITY CHIMES.

Garden parties and dinner parties still continue to attract the three hundred. How about mushroom suppers? Not too many people, you understand, and plenty of mushrooms, stewed kidneys and toast. The men are decidedly in favor of these impromptu suppers, especially when the lady has superintended the preparation. A 'a Dinah Sturgis, who believes in looking after things herself, and mushrooms, like other dainties, can never be left to prentice hands.

The "At Home" given by His Lordship Bishop Courtney and Mrs. Courtney at their residence was a most enjoyable gathering, the affability of the host and hostess being most marked, and adding not a little to the enjoyment of the many guests.

There is some talk of a new school being established in Halifax for the purpose of teaching the art of reading and elocution. It is certainly much needed, nine persons out of ten read badly, either too fast or too slow, too high or too low, putting the emphasis in the wrong place, omitting to mark the punctuations, etc., etc. Nothing is more pleasant than to listen to a good reader with an agreeable, well-modulated voice. We hope the promoters of the scheme will meet with such encouragement that they will establish a school in Halifax.

A charming dance was given by the officers of H.M.S. *Canada* on Wednesday evening. The rooms were elegantly decorated with the flags of all nations. The band of the West Riding Regiment played some excellent dance music. Many handsome toilets were noticed, more especially those of Mrs. Kenny, Mrs. J. Morrow, Mrs. Tobin, Miss Seawell, Mrs. Clarkson, Miss Dily and Miss Slayter. Sir John Ross and Prince Dhuleep were among the Military present.

After an exciting and interesting race in the beautiful weather on Monday, the *Esme* succeeded in capturing the Lorne Cup, *Wenonah* second, *St. Kilda* and *Lenore* third and fourth. The *Esme* is owned by Mr. Rudolf of Lunenburg.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE AIR.

The marvellous powers by which birds can guide themselves from the Pole to the Mediterranean, from the White Nile to the Thuringian forests, are the most inscrutable and profoundly interesting of all natural wonders. The scalpel and the crucible of the vivisectionist and the chemist cannot penetrate its secrets, and the evolutionist may fit his pet theories as he will to its mysteries; he will fail to explain it. Tourgenioff, in "The Quail," sets the problem before us, but can give no solution, the small body of the quail, her courage for her brood, her little beating heart, her affection, her innocence, her full, sweet, happy life, harming nothing under the grasses and the dark leaves, and all its loveliness looked on merely as an aim for a gun, as a toothsome morsel for an epicure. Oh, the pity of it! the pity of it! The cruel and senseless waste of love and pain! Desdemona's death was not one-half so painful as the death of the birds with every day that dawns. Tourgenioff, a child even when he saw the quail, never forgot her. If such lessons could be oftener given to boyhood, perhaps hearts less noble than Tourgenioff's might be moved, and the minds less lofty than his be touched to some compassion and to comprehension.

I would have Tourgenioff's "Quail" and Dostoiévsky's poem of "The Eagle" printed and given to every lad who can understand beauty of thought and style. The eagle had been captured in the snare and brought to a prison in Siberia; the prisoners keep it and see in its intense misery the reflection and expression of their own. The spring comes—the late, harsh, Siberian spring. Some among them wish to give it freedom, others demur. Why should a bird be set free when their own lives must drag on under chains until death brings insensibility and a mockery of release? The debate is long, and for a while the more selfish prevail. They suffer; let the eagle suffer with them. But at last the nobler and more generous among them have their way. The eagle is unchained. For a few moments, bewildered and incredulous, he cannot realise his liberty, then slowly he rises and spreads his mighty wings and sails above the parapet of the bastion and passes away, soaring higher and higher in the misty air until he is lost from sight against the clouds. The men to whom freedom can never come watch him with aching eyes—giving to him that which death alone can give to them.

All the highest parts of genius—its sympathy, its tenderness, its comprehension, its passion of pity and of freedom—are embodied in these two bird stories of the two great Russian writers; and whoever could read either without emotion would indeed be cursed with that *recherche de cœur* which modern education has done so much to create. Tourgenioff and Dostoiévsky would feel the heart beats of that murdered quail, the overwhelming misery of the imprisoned eagle, because they were men of that evident genius which is universal comprehension, but some echo of this comprehension, some fibres of it, may be aroused in all who study and love nature—not with the cold inquisitiveness of so-called naturalists, but with the warmth of sympathy and the reverence of pantheism. It is not the naturalist, capable of killing every rare specimen that he spies by mere or brake, who loves birds, but the poet who listens to the sad evening cry of the agate, like Shelley, or who translates the thrush's strong March lyric into human verse, like Austin, or who can chant the glorious rapture of the seagull's flight, like Swinburne, who loves both birds and nature. To be awakened in the soft gray of earliest dawn by the *laus Deo* of the merle, and Hail to thee, O day! of the nightingale, thrilling, shouting, echoing through the leaves beneath our chamber windows, is one of the sweetest and the purest joys of life.—*Ouida, in the Cosmopolitan.*

COMMERCIAL.

The trade situation has developed but little of a new or interesting character. A fairly active and steady tone has prevailed in all the leading departments. Distributions have been of satisfactory volume, though no special activity has been shown. The customary complaints over slow money are made, but nothing serious can be noted. The agricultural situation is excellent and it seems likely that payments this fall will be well met.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Aug. 23, week.	Prev. 1889	Weeks 1888	Corresponding to Aug. 23, 1887	1886	Failures for the year to date	1889	1888	1887	1886
United States	218	177	157	137	150	7427	6585	6269	6678	6678
Canada	13	24	24	23	26	1055	1131	818	792	792

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Wm. Graves, grocer, Halifax, assigned; Geo. E. Davis, (estate of) hotel, Amherst, succeeded by W. J. Ganong; W. B. Gourley & Co., dry goods, Truro, sold out to A. T. Dalrymple; Chas. Teasdale, livery, Truro, stock advertised for sale by auction; Jas. A. Freeman, general store, Kempt, assigned; G. W. Silver, dry goods, Lunenburg, assigned; Batten & Skinner, general store, Waterville, dissolved, partner commenced individual business; Winthrop Sargent, general store, Barrington, assigned; Hancock Bros., oils and soap, Halifax, dissolved, E. H. Hancock retires, business continued by J. A. Hancock.

DRY GOODS.—In wholesale circles the past week has been a quiet one, and even among our retail stores it has been rather dull—anything but brisk. In woollen fabrics an advance of 5 per cent. is reported in some lines, and, owing to the continued high price of the raw material, it is claimed that further advances will be imperatively necessary. Cotton goods are steady at former rates. It is stated that the shipments of Canadian cotton goods to China have resulted very unsatisfactorily. This is only what might have been expected, when we consider that they had to compete with English goods, which can and do beat us in our own markets in spite of the duty. Remittances are not up to expectations. News of the results of the fall auction sales of fancy dry goods and millinery, which commenced at Montreal on Tuesday last, is looked for with interest by dealers here, as the prices obtained will, to some extent, determine figures for the fall trade throughout Canada.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a good steady trade in all lines of iron and hardware goods, but, in view of the comparatively high cost of heavy goods, purchasers have avoided ordering for future delivery to a considerable extent, although, as the cables are strong and freights seem likely to advance, it is doubtful whether any better terms will be obtained this season. Makers of pig iron have advanced their prices, and warrants are cabled at 47s. Antimony is advancing. Copper has ruled stiffer, and tin steady. London cables tin firm at £90, and Chili bars weak at £42 5s. To close cash buyers pig lead in the old country markets is 3d. lower. The Western Pennsylvania iron trade is gaining in strength, and some manufacturers predict a speedy advance. Already iron has sold a little higher on account of coke. A large amount of business is there in sight and the market is strong for all furnace and mill products.

BREADSTUFFS.—The tone of the flour market has been weak, with a decided tendency to lower quotations. There has been no improvement in regard to business, on account of the continued slow demand, and few sales have been accomplished outside of some small lots on local account. Beerbohm's cable reports:—"Cargoes off coast, wheat steady, corn nil; spot wheat hardening, corn slow, English country markets firm; wheat in Paris, 39s. 9d., French country markets firmer." In Chicago the feeling has been unsettled, and prices were irregular. The market was quiet, and trading inactive. New York reports the market weaker and slightly declining. At Toledo wheat was weaker, and fell off ½c. to ¾c. Oats were unchanged.

PROVISIONS.—The only feature to note in the local provision market was a weakness in pork, which has made a further decline, owing to weak western markets. The demand has been slow and confined to small lots. Business was quiet, and only a few sales were effected. Offerings of Provincial pork have been very light so far, but an increased volume of receipts from Prince Edward Island may be expected very shortly. In the Liverpool provision market lard and bacon were stronger, and each moved up 3d. Pork and tallow were unchanged. In Chicago the market has been fairly active with a large volume of trading. Prices have remained without material change.

BUTTER.—The market remains very quiet without any appreciable change in prices. The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* reports that "in creamery butter a lot of 100 tubs of American, all the way from Texas, is being offered here at 16c. in bond, the quality of which is highly spoken of by those who have bored it. Although not equal to Canadian creamery, its body being less waxy, it is said to be ahead of Eastern Townships." It seems that U. S. dairy butter from Chicago and Boston is taking the place of the product of our Western Provinces in the Newfoundland and the English markets, because it is more carefully made and better put up, and more promptly marketed than the Canadian article. If our producers allow these valuable markets to slip from them they will have only themselves to thank, for they have been amply warned. It is far easier to hold a market by honest dealing than to regain one lost by chicanery.

CHEESE is in a rather curious position. Advices from England and the United States show that buyers are not at all anxious to purchase, and prices there do not advance. Still Canadian holders do not abate their figures, and continue to talk very confidently as to the prospects for the future. While cheese will "keep" better than butter will, and may even improve with