

**Clean Chimneys, and Stove Pipes.**—We beg to direct the attention of our readers to the very capital article in our columns to-day, by a correspondent, on the subject of the present defective system of sweeping Chimnies in this City; and deem that his excellent suggestions thereon, and also in regard to the ensuring sound and clean stove pipes, well merit consideration, as he speaks well, and to the point, from a close and shrewd observation.

**Not particularly bad for our brother of the "Old Quebec."**—We subjoin a *morceau* from the *Gazette* of last night; and elderly John, we are assured, on the subject of these same appointments, must have written the paragraph with "such a pleasant and chuckling grin on his respected physiognomy as would have tickled the sympathies of a gate-post."

The Kingston papers of the 11th inst. contain no news. The much looked for *Canada Gazette* of that date with a long list of Appointments has not come on. The preliminary step of communicating with some at least of those intended to be placed on the said List appears however to have been taken, and some names have leaked out. It cannot be expected that they will be satisfactory to all; and we shall of course have some "thunder." We beg our correspondents to be merciful, particularly as regards space, considering that we must pay for every type set up, and every bit of paper employed, without mentioning the tear and wear of materials and of our own poor eyes.

We have extracted the following remarks on the birth of a Prince of Wales, and the illness of the Queen Dowager, from the *Novascotian* of the 8th instant; as we conceive its well appreciated and highly gifted Editor has touched—however brief in the present instance—on a subject, which he has handled in his characteristic apposite and pleasing style, and with his usual ability.

**"PRINCE OF WALES.**—That which was the most expected, forms the chief item of British news, the birth of a Prince; the appearance of a male heir to the Throne of the Empire; one who, we trust, at some distant day, trained up by virtuous and patriotic parents, will govern the children of this generation, with the goodness and wisdom which has endeared his youthful mother to her subjects. The occasion was one of much joy, centering at the palace, and diffusing all around. The people—not hardened by political strife into a miserable scorn of sympathy with those placed far beyond their sphere—looked forward anxiously to the event, and set their hearts so strongly on a Prince, after the Princess, that they spoke in anticipation of his Royal Highness's birth, as if it were a matter beyond doubt. The Royal family could not be insensible or uninterested witnesses of these hopes—and Heaven blessed the desires of all, by a little stranger, which, in his infant proportions, promises a manhood of more than usual vigour and beauty. This seems to set at rest, very delightfully, all fears respecting the succession to the throne. On the accession of Victoria, a delicate girl, many of her subjects drew dark pictures of the future. The failing of that branch, and the claims of another, were imagined—with all the dreadful concomitants of national opposition, hatred to a Sovereign, despotism, and perhaps civil war. Providence has been more merciful to the Empire. Victoria, the comparatively little known, and weak girl, went on in wisdom and firmness. She, with great prudence, chooses a virtuous and amiable husband, just as foul tongues, urged by demoniac feelings, endeavoured to blast her happiness by their venom. She appeared happy and hemmed in from her worst enemies, in a domestic circle, exemplary for her domestic virtues. When the hour of maternal danger first came, myriads again trembled for the throne; but "a fair haired daughter of the Isles" was born, to whom the people at once gave cheerful prospective allegiance. Now another trial has happily gone by—a Prince and Princess, bless the Royal Halls, and the young mother is in vigorous health. The occasion is one on which the subjects of the Empire may wisely forget their political divisions, and rejoice, at their respective hearts, that the palace of their beloved Sovereign is the sphere of a happy family—running over with the blessed affections, which Heaven sometimes dispenses on the human family, irrespective of situation.

**THE QUEEN DOWAGER.**—In sad contrast to Buckingham Palace, is the residence of the Queen Dowager. While health and happiness, and youthful beauty, and splendid parade, and magnificent earthly prospects, mark the one sphere—the other has the closing of life's scenery, the couch of the dying, the soul turned from human gaiety and greatness, and fixed on the narrow house wherein is no respect of persons, and, happily, on that better world, before which earth's best scenes fade into nothingness. What a picture of human life do these Royal incidents present. The baby Prince, just entered on a path of greatly varied enjoyment and importance, the centre of hopes and joys to millions—and the Dowager Queen, hovering on the brink of the grave, the gay tale of life told, and its solemn conclusion arrived. Happily, the latter scene also, claims the deep respect and sympathy of the English people. Amiability and virtue and religion, were the high characteristics of William the Fourth's consort; and she sinks below the horizon, reminding, not of a meteor, but of that luminary whose setting and rising prefigure the Christian's death and resurrection."

### QUEBEC THE STORE HOUSE OF CANADA LETTER II.

**To the Editor of the Quebec Argus.**  
Sir,—The inland navigation, intersecting the whole of this vast continent shows, that the St. Lawrence is naturally the grand outlet to the Ocean. Our neighbours are fully sensible of this fact, and have strained every nerve, (to such a degree, that they had to rest awhile to recruit their strength; or in other words, their credit has frequently been so doubtful that, their public works have often been at a stand, until they were able to raise fresh loans in England,) in order to divert the carrying trade from its natural channel—the St. Lawrence. These monies were all along borrowed upon state

securities, and people holding such lands are well aware of the evils arising upon the liabilities of the different States, separately and collectively; and of the present depreciation of those guaranties. Such monies would have been more safely and profitably invested in this country, and could have been as easily obtained. When our neighbours became fully aware of the increasing carrying trade with the West, by the St. Lawrence, they bestirred themselves to further endeavours to draw the trade through their own territory; but such has been the bounty of nature to us, that they cannot succeed. Since the Welland Canal has gone into operation, the stock in the Erie Canal has gradually diminished; and while the stock of the former is yearly becoming a profitable investment for capital, and is eagerly sought after, the stock of the latter, and even the whole work is threatened to be of no use, comparatively speaking. So impressed are the American Stock jobbers with this belief, that it is considered that "the non-completion of the Erie canal, as threatened by the repudiators in the State of New York, will inevitably cause the loss of all the money thus far laid out on that work, and much of the trade of the interior will be diverted to Canada. It is a fact within our knowledge, that the facilities of a trade with Canada are very great, even at the present moment."

This is the language of the best informed regarding those works; and there is every reason to believe that even the proposed enlargement would not be of any avail, in diverting the carrying trade from the St. Lawrence. Notwithstanding, the Americans do not mean to lose a participation in the profits of our own exclusive carrying trade. But were we half as alive, on this side of the lines, to the advancement and prosperity of this country, as they are to theirs, we should not allow them to show us the example of enterprise, and how to profit thereby—on our own waters. This last year, there was built at Oswego, a Steam Boat, propelled by the Ericson screw, and owned by Americans, for the purpose of navigating the Lakes through the Welland Canal. She has made several trips, and found to answer the purposes of a sea-going boat also. By this means of conveyance produce can be transmitted with much more despatch, and consequently, much cheaper. It is, however, to be hoped, that many of those Boats, owned by British or Colonial capitalists, will soon be built to do the whole carrying trade of the St. Lawrence. It is a very great matter to us who they are owned by, in the event of a Quebec Forwarding Company building a sufficient number of craft to receive produce of Kingston, for direct transmission to this port. Any person, who has travelled up the country, must have observed the almost urgent necessity which exists, for further conveyance on this route. Sometimes, for months together, thousands of barrels of flour will be piled up out of doors, with no other covering but boards and some spare tarpaulins—at such places as Prescott, Brockville, Kingston, and so forth along the route. The produce which creates this trade is yearly increasing, and the object of sending it by this route, daily more obvious. Supposing that the Lachine Canal was widened, as intended, boats could come direct from the Western States to Quebec; and if the Cornwall Canal was but completed, there would be but little obstruction from this to the Upper Lakes.

The present mode of transhipment, is a very material part of the cost of forwarding; and according as this cost is diminished, in the same ratio is the route by the St. Lawrence preferred. There have been heavy complaints, at many of the ports on the Upper Lakes, from a want of craft to transport produce when required; while, at the same time, there is no want of craft to forward produce from our American neighbours. The produce of the Upper country is very rapidly increasing—and just, as an instance, I may mention, "that at the port of Chatham, (Western District) alone, this year, there has been exported 70,000 bushels of Wheat, and 1000 hogsheads of Tobacco, grown in that immediate vicinity." The quantity of Wheat and Flour conveyed from the Upper to the Lower Provinces, in the same year in which it is raised, is very inconsiderable in comparison with what is actually produced. This arises altogether from the want of conveyance. During the winter, the farmer disposes of his grain, and generally speaking, in barter or store pay. All those goods so disposed of in the Upper country are furnished by the Montreal merchants—and no inconsiderable quantity finds its way to the other side of line 45.

If a Quebec Forwarding Company were to go into operation, it would be a private as well as a public good. A direct intercourse would create an intimacy with the business of the Upper country—the merchants of Quebec would find an outlet for their imports (which is at present altogether enjoyed by the merchants of Montreal,) by establishing branches of their business there; and by receiving produce in return therefor, would be the means of commencing and laying the foundation of a Quebec Forwarding Company.

Every person must be aware, that a great portion of the wheat manufactured in the Upper Province is American wheat, and that this very business is the main stay of the carrying trade. Attempts have been making to divert this source of profit from Canada, to the States, by the people of the Upper Province themselves; but virtually speaking, at the instigation of people who had their all at stake, on the other side of the Border. The Upper Canadians are, generally, pretty much alive to their own interest; but they have been for some time calling out for a protection to their agriculture, by imposing a duty on all American wheat, imported into the Province, which would have the effect of destroying the manufacturing business and the carrying trade, which are the life and vigor of this country. If we want to destroy this trade, let us impose a duty on American wheat. It is time enough to do this when we can have raised sufficient to pay our imports—keep ourselves, and lay past a two years' store. The Timber trade is not to be relied on.

It must be evident to all, that people, who are the foremost in the ranks of "Free Trade and no Monopolies" in the old country, are the first to call out (when they have any thing at stake in this Province)

protect our Agriculture and Commerce; Colonial produce is protected at home.

You will hear from me again.  
I am, &c.  
MERCATOR.  
Quebec, 17th Decr. 1841.

### For the Quebec Argus.

Sir,—I perceive the Corporation are turning their laudable and praiseworthy endeavours, to check the calamitous destruction of property by fire in this place. They propose to have Chimnies effectually swept, once in every two months; but, if they mean by this word "effectually," no more than pulling a bundle of thorns two or three times up the Chimnies, I am much afraid we shall not derive much benefit from the operation; because, it is well known, that the humidity of the atmosphere, rain, and snow, causes the soot, in its ascent, to adhere to the sides of the Chimnies, until it accumulates many inches in thickness, and these thorns cannot then remove it. An instance of the uselessness of this mode of sweeping Chimnies occurred in my house. A fire happened in one of my Chimnies, which had been swept about a week previous; and it threatened at one time the destruction of my house, and probably much valuable property adjoining; until I had recourse to firing a gun up the Chimney, which I repeated, probably, more than twenty times, and each discharge brought down hard masses of soot, some more than half a foot in thickness, and which had probably been in the Chimney half a century, and which thorns could never remove. The next morning my man carried out seventeen large pails of this matter. I would humbly recommend that this fallacious practice of sweeping should be discontinued; and in its room that proper *scrapers* and *brushes*, on the plan pursued in England, should be used; and then we would be quite sure to have clean Chimnies. Again, it is notorious that the majority of the fires happening here, are caused by dirty and defective stove pipes; I suggest that the Inspectors, or others having authority, should make it their particular business to see, not only that the pipes are placed the required distance from any wood work, but that they are sound; and to insure clean pipes, it should be the duty of the chimney sweepers to clean them also.

I would further suggest, that to induce the proper and regular cleaning of the chimnies and pipes, a fine of, say, £5, should be incurred by any person, or persons, whose Chimnies should take fire, and that this fine should be rigidly enforced.

I trust these suggestions deserve some attention; and that they will meet with it in the proper quarter.

Saint Peter Street,  
Decr. 17, 1841.

### For the Quebec Argus.

**TO THE EDITOR,**  
It is with pleasure I mention of the neat and snug appearance presented by our Police, in their new winter clothing, and which has a decided air about it of respectability and comfort. The substitution of the present great coat, with its ample cape, is certainly an improvement on the old blue uniform; but it strikes me forcibly, (and I have heard the same remark made by many,) that the evident purpose for which the number is placed on a Policeman's collar, is not altogether carried out, or according to what it should be, by many of the men wearing their collars turned down when on duty, so as to prevent their number being seen distinctly—or at all. This number should, at all times, be readily and clearly visible; and if the collar cannot be worn easily or comfortably strait up, with the number distinctly shown, the latter should be transferred to the cap.

A Policeman of the London force, if found to conceal his letter or number in any way, while on duty, would be visited with severe displeasure by his commanding officer, and be liable to dismissal on a repetition of the offence.

Quebec 16th Decr. 1841.

### For the Quebec Argus.

#### CULINARY ANTIQUITIES.

**Salt Cellars.**—A salt cellar, says Dr. Johnson, is so called from *salt* and *cellar*: in this case it ought not to mean a vessel of salt set on the table, but rather a cell underground where salt is stored. Probably the French *salitre* is the real root of the latter half of the word, in which case the word *salt* is a superfluous part of the compound. We have many such tautologous combinations which give both the English and French name. Such are butend, robin-red-hest, wine vinegar. Why has it been esteemed unlucky to overturn a salt-cellar? This superstition derives from Pagan Rome; where the salt-dish was a holy platter, in which the firstlings of the feast were offered to the Gods, and which was usually ornamented with the figure of some divinity. "Sacras factis mensas salinorum apposuit, et simulacris deorum." And again Livy: "Ut salinum patellamque deorum causâ habebant." And Horace: "Paternum splendet mensâ tenui salinum." And Statius: "Exiguu placuerunt farre salina." To overturn altars and images of the Gods, was naturally held ominous.

**Dried Cherries.**—Cherries might be dried on a large scale in ovens, and afforded cheaper than raisins. They form a more delicate dessert dish, and make an excellent pudding.

**Walnut Oil.**—In Switzerland great use is made of the oil of green walnuts, which is preferred to Olive-oil for salads and delicate purposes. The walnuts are gathered while the interior shell is white, soft and pulpy; and are squeezed in adapted presses.

**The Devil's Dinner.**—In *Milton's Paradise Regained*, the devil offers a tempting dinner, which is described in these words:

A table richly spread, in regal mode,  
With dishes piled, and meats of noblest sort  
And savour; beasts of chase, or fowl of game,  
In pastry built, or from the spit, or boiled,

Grise amber-steam'd; all fish from seas or shores,  
Freshet or purling brook, of shell or fin,  
And exquisitest name.

Probably this is a faithful description of some of those cabinet dinners, of which, while Milton was Secretary of State, he partook at the Protector's or elsewhere. It differs from a modern dinner in the order of viands, the fish occurring last. It also differs in the singular circumstance, that the pastry was perfumed with ambergris. No doubt those tall goose-pies, built in standing crust, which last, so long as to smell of the cupboard, were still in vogue; and might well require fumigation, when about to be presented before company.

And what is ambergris? Is it the drug we now call spermaceti, mingled with some aromatic?

**Peacocks.**—Varro, in his third book on agriculture, mentions that Hortensius first set a peacock on his table, *augurali causa*, or, as we might say, at the generals of the clergy. At first this new dish was found fault with, as indicating a taste rather luxurious than severe; but the fashion spread so rapidly, that the eggs of peacocks were bought at immense prices, in order to rear a brood. *Uti ovis eorum denarius veneant quinque, ipse facile quinque-guagena.* Macrobius repeats this anecdote; but he withholds a remark of Galen, that the flesh of the peacock is not easy of digestion; it keeps however better than that of any other fowl. Aldrovandus, in consequence of some strange misunderstanding, asserts in print, that he ate in 1596 part of a peacock which had been cooked in 1592, and was still very good; but it smelt, he says, a little like fennel. Dioscorides recommends to gouty persons the eggs of pea-fowl.

**My dear Argus,**  
Conceiving the above "Extracts" to be in some degree appropriate to the approaching festivities, I forward them for the amusement, or,—if they choose—instruction of your numerous and respectable readers. In so doing, however, I avail myself of the opportunity afforded me to express a fervent hope that in the midst of the various "gambols" and "lofty flights of fancy" which usually characterize the emphatically styled "merry season" none may be so unhappy as to perpetrate the "ill-omened" accident of overturning "altars and images of the Gods"; and should such an unlucky circumstance unavoidably happen, that they may have the good fortune to escape the signal vengeance which, in similar instance, seems so invariably and pertinaciously to have pursued their less favoured—because more ignorant—Pagan forefathers.

MYTHOLOGOS.  
Quebec, 15th Decr. 1841.

### To Correspondents.

We respectfully decline to insert the communication of AN ELDER OF THE CONGREGATION; as we consider the columns of a Newspaper a very unfit field for the discussion of such grave matters as he therein touches upon.

**NUX VOMICA**—is rather too much of a "killing dose" to administer, in the fashion presently professed by our Correspondent; although, we allow, as a quietus usually applied to the canine species, some purging (we know of) would not be much the worse for a slight "capitulum" of the same medicine in their daily gruel.

The verses to the address of J. K. L. will be disposed of in the manner he points out; at the same time we beg to mention, for his future enlightenment, that we allow no such considerations as he speaks of to influence our admission of articles into our paper. We hope this will be perfectly satisfactory to him as a piece of requisite and useful information.

**BONNET HORGE, A LOVER OF JUSTICE, TOM JENKS, JALAP, and NINE-FOUNDER JACK** (we wonder when this last left "Woolage" Academy,) we have duly received, and set aside for consideration. If filed for insertion, the precise period of their appearance is out of our power to promise; as really we continue to be so highly favoured, in the way of an increasing list of valuable and appreciated Correspondents, that we are puzzled to dispose of their good things in proper course. Even at our present writing, several articles are set up, which have, unavoidably, been crowded out.

By the same token will our fair and esteemed contributor, KATE DASHAWAY, kindly hasten with the "amendment" proposed by her; as her verses have been kept in type these ten days past, awaiting her pleasure.

### BIRTH.

At Montreal, on the 9th instant, the lady of Doctor Walker, of a son.

### MARRIED.

At Buffalo, (State of New York) on Monday, the 6th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Whelan, Mr. Paul Fréchet, Printer, to Miss Sarah M. Quirou, both formerly of Quebec.

### DIED.

At Chamblay, on the 9th instant, Lieutenant M'Neil, 56th Regiment.

At his residence, in London, on the 15th ultimo, Theodore Falgrave, Esq., aged 80 years. For many years a respectable merchant, connected with this country.

THE Subscriber has just received from his Mills, and offers for sale, 500 Quintals of very superior Oatmeal, and 100 Quintals of Pot Barley.

Quebec, 15th Decr. 1841.

### CHRISTMAS CAKES. GEORGE SCOTT.

BEGS respectfully to remind his friends and the public of Quebec, that as usual, he is prepared to supply them with Christmas Buns, Scotch Short Bread, Plum Cakes, Seed Cakes, Pound Cakes, Mince Pies, Tea Cakes, and all kinds of confectionary suitable at this season, &c., &c.

G. S. avails himself of this opportunity respectfully to return thanks for the patronage he has invariably received.

N. B. For sale, Scotch Marmalade, Strawberry, Raspberry and Lemon Syrup, all of superior quality. Quebec, Decr. 18th, 1841.

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