

It is worthy of notice that a woman's branch of the Imperial Federation League, under the title of "The Britannia Roll," has been formed in England. Among those who were among the earliest members enrolled are Lady Aberdeen, Lady Brooke, Lady Cowan, and Miss Varly Smith. The Clerk of the Roll, Miss Constance Milman, earnestly invites all women to do their utmost to secure the permanent unity of the Britannic empire by becoming members of "The Britannia Roll," and giving it their active support.

By the draft agreement between Britain and Portugal, recently signed, the recurring irritating disputes between the two countries in South Africa should be put an end to. By the agreement, we understand Portugal gains a solid block of territory, comprising about 50,000 square miles, on the north of the Zambesi, while Britain obtains a narrow strip by way of rectification of the frontier in Manicaland. Portugal thus comes well out of a controversy that has been unreasonably prolonged. The Cortes will be wise if it promptly ratifies the agreement, for in the event of another abortive attempt at settlement Britain would not likely take any more trouble in the matter, but any collision that Portugal might provoke would be settled by force of arms, when the latter would certainly get the worst of it.

In the Manipur despatches the name of the chief disturber of the peace was spelt in so many different ways that we were at a loss to tell which one was correct. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has the following information from a correspondent, which we give, hoping our readers will find it effectual in clearing off the mists that have surrounded both the spelling and the meaning of that particular Indian word:—"That odd title, the Senaputty or Senapati, which has become so familiar to us of late, means a General or Commander of an Army. It comes, according to a correspondent learned in the tongues, from *senā*, an army, and *pātī*, a master or protector. The variation Senapoti is a mistake, it seems. The Viceroy spells the name wrong throughout his despatch. To read some of the accounts it would be thought that Senaputty, instead of a title, was the man's name."

Duelling and beer-drinking, as practised in the German Universities, have received the commendation of Emperor William. This sentiment is of course, shocking, but then allowance must be made for the eccentricities of the Emperor, who, to judge by the events of the few years of his reign, has a taste for variety, and enjoys posing in striking positions. That this last attitude is anything but creditable to him goes without saying, for as a King he gives new life to the by no means elevating practices he approves, and to which he gives his royal sanction. It is true, students' duels are not much more dangerous than football, but the Emperor's encouragement of the practice means that they will be carried to a greater extent in after life. As for guzzling beer, the wisdom of it may well be questioned, even if the morality be passed over. The objects the Emperor wishes to promote, that all Germans, and especially all Germans of the classes from which officers come, should be trained in the virtues of courage, obedience and discipline—which latter means, probably, when distinguished from obedience, the habit of self-control—are laudable, but how they are going to be achieved by fostering either duelling or beer-drinking in company, we fail to see.

As an example of business enterprise and prosperity Halifaxians need only look at the several banking institutions of the city. If there is any truth in the general statement that our business men are slow and sleepy, it cannot at least be applied to the bankers. In support of this fact we give the following list of banks and their agencies:—

The Bank of Nova Scotia, head office, Halifax, Thomas Fyscho, cashier, has branches in Amherst, Annapolis, Bridgetown, Digby, Kentville, Liverpool, New Glasgow, North Sydney, Oxford, Pictou, Stellarton, Westville, and Yarmouth, N. S.; in Campbellton, Chatham, Fredericton, Moncton, Newcastle, St. Andrews, St. John, St. Stephen, Sussex, and Woodstock, N. B.; in Charlottetown and Summerside, P. E. Island; in Montreal, P. Q.; in Minneapolis, U. S., and in Kingston, Jamaica.

The People's Bank, head office, Halifax, John Knight, cashier, has just opened a branch at the north end, with M. Henry Richey in charge, which promises to fill a long-felt want, and add not a little to the prosperity of the bank. Its agencies in the Province are as follows:—Lunenburg, Mahone Bay and Wolfville, N. S., North Sydney, C. B., Edmunston, Shediac and Woodstock, N. B.

The Merchants' Bank, head office, Halifax, D. H. Duncan, cashier, has branches in Antigonish, Bridgewater, Guysboro, Londonderry, Lunenburg, Maitland (Hants Co.), Pictou, Port Hawkesbury, Sydney, Truro, and Weymouth, N. S.; in Bathurst, Dorchester, Fredericton, Kingston, (Kent Co.), Moncton, Newcastle, Sackville, and Woodstock, N. B.; and in Charlottetown and Summerside, P. E. Island.

The Halifax Banking Company, head office, Halifax, W. L. Pitcaithly, cashier, has branches in Amherst, Antigonish, Barrington, Bridgewater, Canning, Lockport, Lunenburg, New Glasgow, Parrsboro, Windsor, and Springhill, N. S.; in Peticodiac, Sackville and St. John, N. B.

The Union Bank, head office, Halifax, E. L. Thorne, cashier, has branches in North Sydney, Annapolis, and New Glasgow.

Besides these Halifax banking houses the Bank of Montreal has branches at Chatham, Moncton and St. John, N. B., and in Halifax, and the Bank of British North America has branches in St. John and Fredericton, N. B., and in Halifax.

New agencies are constantly being opened where favorable opportunities occur, and the foregoing excellent showing speaks well for the enterprise of the several banks.

An extraordinary case of somnambulism is reported from one of the French rural districts. According to the account which has reached Paris, the patient is a young man whose legs have been completely paralysed for some time. In his usual state he is unable to move without the help of crutches, but when the fit is on him he can walk long distances without the slightest assistance. A few nights ago he got up and started for a neighboring village, followed by some of his relatives, who never lose sight of him when he is in this condition. He arrived without misadventure at the house of a friend, knocked at the door, and asked for refreshment. After having rested for a few moments he returned home, and, as it was still very early in the morning, he sat down on a bench and waited until people began to come out of their houses. He then went to bed, and awoke a few hours afterwards without feeling the least fatigue, though he had walked more than ten miles, nor had he the slightest remembrance of the expedition which he had undertaken. The case is said to be exciting the utmost interest throughout the Department, and to be the subject of universal discussion. This recalls to mind a much more curious story, told at some length by Professor Huxley, in his *Animal Automatism*, of a certain Sergeant F—, of the French Army, who, at the battle of Bazeilles, was wounded by a ball which fractured his left parietal bone. The Sergeant led a dual life. In his normal condition he was as other men, but in his abnormal condition retained alone the sense of touch. Yet this man, while in his abnormal state, would eat, drink, smoke, walk about, dress and undress himself, rise and go to bed at the accustomed hours. If the Sergeant happened to be in a place to which he was accustomed he walked about as usual; but if he were in a new place, or if obstacles were intentionally placed in his way, he would stumble gently against them, stop, and then feeling over the objects with his hands, pass on one side of them. Nevertheless, pins might be run into his body, or strong electric shocks sent through it, without causing the least indication of pain, he ate and drank with validity whatever was offered, and took assafoetida, or vinegar, or quinine, as readily as water.

The honor of a peerage has been bestowed upon Sir George Stephen, whose title will hereafter be Lord Mount Stephen. As a system of reward for deeds of high enterprise or great achievements, such as the building of a Canadian Pacific Railway, is thought to be better than letting virtue perform that office for itself, there can be no cavilling at the selection of Sir George Stephen for the honor of the first peerage that has been bestowed upon a colonist for distinguished services. In this case, however, there is much cry and little wool in the statement that a Canadian has been raised to the peerage. Sir George Stephen, or Lord, or Baron Mount Stephen, was born in Scotland, and so the honor of being the first Canadian peer has not yet been borne by any man. Yet the bestowal of this title is thought to indicate that the Imperial Government desires to draw closer the bonds of union with the Colonies, and it is urged in some quarters that the principle of colonial life peerages as rewards for services should be adopted. Now while the British peerage is an admirable institution, and commands the respect of all, when to ancient lineage is joined nobility of character, and we can see "The white flower of a stainless life" blooming amid the ancestral halls, we cannot but think that the attempt to introduce a titled class in the Colonies will not be productive of any good. In this country to a great extent men, and women too, often raise themselves from the laboring classes to positions of responsibility and usefulness to the country, and while such may be the case with men who, possessed of brains and energy, take a foremost position in the political, scientific or professional life of the country, it by no means follows that their brothers and sisters, far less their cousins and other relations, would be ornaments to the newly-formed aristocracy. True, it is not an unknown thing in the British nobility, for titled ladies who have more pluck than pounds, shillings and pence, to enter the ranks of the bread winners and open dressmaking or millinery establishments, but here it is different. Lord St. John, Baron Halifax, or the Marquis of Montreal, might, probably would, have near relatives in a small way of business, and they again would have relations in domestic service, according to their position in life. There is nothing disgraceful in honest labor, but a titled aristocracy does not fit in with the prevailing state of affairs, and most likely never will. This is a new country, and all that goes with a hereditary nobility is lacking. Canada should be kept free from all the hard and fast lines of caste distinction, such as would inevitably follow the introduction of titles to any extent. While we believe that

"Tis only noble to be good.
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

we will be best fitted to do our duty to this Canada of ours. There is little danger at present of peerages becoming common. One swallow does not make a summer, and one Baron does not make a titled aristocracy. This is a democratic age, and although the weakness of human nature usually comes to the fore when a title is proffered, we think the spirit of the times is against the system. Even the British House of Lords is not any too sure of a prolonged existence, and if people who are much better acquainted with lords than we are find them to be of little use, how would colonists manage to tolerate them? At the same time, we are glad that Sir George Stephen's services have been recognised by the Imperial Government, and trust that he may long enjoy the dignity that has been bestowed upon him.

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