

form) it has an important rôle assigned it, both in the annals of colonization and in the military history of the great struggle that closed in 1760. It had its governors under the French régime. In 1602 it stood a siege by a British squadron under Commodore Williams, but the fortifications were too strong and the defenders too numerous and too obstinate in their resistance, and the assault was a failure. The operations were continued in succeeding years, until the Peace of Ryswick, when Placentia was still left in the hands of the French. In 1713 the island was declared to be a British possession, the French fishermen still, however, retaining certain privileges which are to this day a subject of controversy and unpleasantness. The Bay of Placentia is the largest on the island. It is fifty-five miles wide at the entrance, near Cape St. Mary, and has a depth of ninety miles. Its fisheries of cod, herring, salmon, etc., are most productive, and the scenery is extremely picturesque. The town itself, at the head of a splendid harbour, was formally founded in 1660 under a grant from Louis XIV, though the name was already a familiar one. It is built on a beach of coarse gravel, and two considerable arms of the sea penetrate for some distance inland, thus giving the scenery of the neighbourhood a peculiar charm. In population it is a mere village.

DRYING CODFISH ON THE SEASHORE, NEWFOUNDLAND.—The codfishery in Newfoundland waters has been famous from time immemorial. The *modus operandi* has often been described. When the boat, laden with the day's catch, reaches the platform—a structure erected at the water's edge and supported, as it projects into the sea, on stout poles, the fish are flung to the floor of the stage with a sort of fork called a "pew." The "cut throat" then seizes his victim and, with one stroke, slits the abdomen and passes the fish to the "header" who, first taking out the liver (used for cod liver oil), wrenches off the head, removes the viscera (used for manure) and passes the cod to the "splitter." The "salter" then takes his turn and, after a certain time, the fish is taken to the "flake" and spread out to dry. It is this stage in the curing process that is depicted in our engraving, which may be accepted as thoroughly characteristic of Newfoundland's principal industry.

QUIDI VIDI GUT, FISHERMEN'S SHANTIES AND DRYING STAGES.—Of Quidi Vidi we had some illustrations about a year ago. The scene in this engraving shows one of the processes in the curing of the codfish and the apparatus in use.

ARCTIC ICE IN ST. JOHN'S HARBOUR, NEWFOUNDLAND.—The arctic current that makes its way through Davis Strait sweeps past the eastern coast of Newfoundland, bearing on its bosom those icebergs which are such a terror to the mariner. It is to the intermingling of this chilly current with the warm waters of the gulf stream that the vapours which constitute the famous and unwelcome Newfoundland fogs are due. These fogs are not unhealthy and they prevail for only a portion of the year. Like our own climate, that of Newfoundland is often misrepresented, its rigours being absurdly exaggerated. The robust appearance and cheerful, enterprising temper of the people show that, in the main, it is neither depressing nor insalubrious. The icebergs most abound in spring and early summer. As the wind varies they are driven hither and thither on the surface of the sea and sometimes intrude into the harbour of St. John, as in our engraving.

CANYON OF THE COLUMBIA, B.C.—The scene in our engraving is one with which tourists have in recent years become familiar. The fame of this great canyon is now as widespread as that of the remarkable river courses of the Western States, which for a long time had a monopoly of interest in this class of scenery. The Columbia canyon has been depicted again and again by pen and pencil. Our engraving gives a fair general idea of its natural features.

GEN. GRANT AND THE DUKE'S SON.

A story has been "going the rounds" for some years past, and was reproduced in *Notes and Queries*, to the effect that Gen. U. S. Grant, when in this country, dined with the late Duke of Wellington, and in the course of conversation said: "I understand, my lord, your father was a military man."

We believe that the germ of this obviously apocryphal tale is as follows: "When Gen. Grant was dining with the late Duke and talking of his father's career, he several times asked him what was the largest number of troops he had ever commanded on any one occasion. The Duke used to say: 'I felt sure that whatever number I named the General would claim to have had a much larger army under his command. So I did not answer his question.'—*Murray's Magazine*."

A new method for preparing iodoform has lately been discovered by a German chemist. Fifty parts by weight of potassium iodide, six parts of acetone, and two parts of caustic soda are dissolved in from one to two litres of cold water, and to this a dilute solution of sodium hypochlorite is added gradually. Each drop of the hypochlorite solution causes the formation and precipitation of iodoform, which continues until all the iodine is combined. The yield is said to be almost equal to theory. As the reaction is not influenced by the presence of even large quantities of neutral alkali salts, solutions of varec soda, which is free from sulphates and sulphites, may be used as the source of iodine when working on a large scale.—*Industries*.



The Hon. Senator Pelletier has recovered from his recent illness.

A State concert was given at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, on the 5th inst.

The Quebec *Morning Chronicle* congratulates Mr. S. E. Dawson on his Laval degree of *Docteur ès Lettres*.

We are happy to learn that the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, Sheriff of Montreal, who has been ill for some time, continues to improve.

It is said that Mr. Brock, president of the *Empire Printing Company*, will succeed the Hon. John Macdonald in the Senate of the Dominion.

The nomination of Mr. Peter McLaren, of Perth, as Senator, in succession to the late Mr. Turner, has been published in the *Official Gazette*.

Sir John A. Macdonald made one of his most felicitous speeches in replying to the toast of his health at the banquet of the Liberal-Conservative Workingmen's Association, Ottawa, on the evening of the 5th inst.

Mr. Adam Huuspeeth, M.P., slipped at the main gate of the Parliament grounds recently and broke his arm. He was attended by Sir James Grant. Hon. G. E. Foster also fell in the same place and had to be taken home. Both gentlemen are doing well.

Lieut. the Hon. Ferdinand C. Stanley, the third son of the Governor-General, who is a lieutenant in the Fourth Battalion, Royal Lancashire Regiment of Militia, has just successfully passed his examination at Aldershot for a commission in the line.

Dr. J. P. Girdwood gave the second lecture of the Somerville course at the Natural History Rooms, his subject being "Tea and Coffee." The lecture was illustrated by oxy-hydrogen views of the leaves of tea and other plants used as substitutes.

Much sympathy has been expressed, especially in skating circles, with Louis Rubenstein in the family bereavement that has overtaken him just in the hour of his triumph. The intended reception has, consequently, been modified in conformity with the melancholy circumstances.

Of the seven graduates of the Royal Military college, who for distinguished excellence at the Royal Engineers' school at Chatham have just been sent on a professional tour through Europe by the home military authorities, four, Lieutenants Panet, Joly de Lotbinière, Girouard and Farwell, are from the Province of Quebec, and three of them are French-Canadians. Quebec is honoured in the deserts of her sons.

The Hon. Joseph Martin, member for Portage la Prairie in the Manitoba Assembly, and Attorney General of the Province, is a native of Milton, Ont., and a member of the Bar of Ontario and Manitoba. Mr. Alphonse Fortunat Martin, who is a member of the same Assembly, is a native of Rimouski, P.Q., and a brother to the member for Rimouski in the Quebec Assembly. These gentlemen are opponents on the school and language question.

Rosa Bonheur is robustly and compactly built, although quite short, her peculiarly mannish dress having the effect of heightening her stature. She walks with her shoulders thrown well back, swings her arms as she moves along, and carries her head proudly, almost defiantly. Her cheeks are still pink, her face is full of health, and her short, thick hair is beginning to show more silver than brown. Between her and Buffalo Bill an animated friendship has sprung up. The secret of their sympathy is not hard to explain. They both love animals. He has conquered the secret of training them, and she can paint them.

Mr. W. Blackburn Harte, whose initialed daily column of *pot pourri* in the *Toronto Mail* last year attracted some attention, is at present an attaché of the *New York Tribune*. An article from his pen on Canadian authors will appear in an early number of the *New England Magazine*, of Boston. Mr. H. Blackburn Harte, an artistic brother of the journalist, and a resident of Toronto, is busily engaged in collecting materials for an article on Canadian painters and etchers. The article will be luxuriantly illustrated, and will be the joint work of the brothers. All information and material should be forwarded to Mr. H. B. Harte, 154 Wilton avenue, Toronto.

An impromptu dance, given at Riverview, Ottawa, is said to have been among the most enjoyable events of the season. Amongst those invited were Sir John and Lady Macdonald, the Hon. E. Stanley, Lady Alice Stanley, Sir A., Miss Caron, Mrs. and Miss Cawthra, Miss Arthur, Toronto; Miss Oliver, Quebec; Hon. A. Stanley, Mr. Streetfield, Mr. Winfield, Mr. Hawke, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Sparks, Mr. S. Fleming, Col. Prior, M.P., Mr. Daly, M.P., Mr. Roville, Mr. McDowell, M.P., Mr. Barron, M.P., Mr. Fisher, M.P., Miss Murphy, Montreal; Mrs. Wilmans, Mr. Wilnot, Newcastle; Mr. and Mrs. Skead, Mr. Barnard, M.P., and Mrs. Barnard, Lady Middleton, Miss Mackintosh, Miss Maude Mackintosh, Miss Ada Hart, Miss Dawson, Montreal; Mr. W. A. Allan, together with many others. The string band of the Guards furnished music.

HOW DRYDEN AND POPE WERE PAID.

Dryden published his works by subscription. At first he had difficulty in obtaining money for his manuscripts. He offered his "Troilus and Cressida" to Tonson for £50, but the bookseller could not raise the money. Dryden then applied to Laval, another bookseller, for a portion of the copy money, and the two booksellers published the work conjointly. Dryden, like his fellows, prepared plays for the stage, which were more remunerative than his poems and translations published as books.

Dryden's "Translation of Virgil" was one of his most successful enterprises. It was published by subscription, and Dryden received about £1,200 for the translation. He was less successful with his "Fables," which contained about twelve thousand lines. The work included "Alexander's Feast," one of the noblest odes in our language. Tonson gave him 250 guineas for it, and offered to make up the amount to £300 when a second edition was called for. Dryden dedicated the book to the beautiful Duchess of Ormonde, and received for his incense a present of £500—a donation worthy of that noble house. The book, however, went off slowly; fifteen years elapsed before a second edition was called for, and the poet was by that time in his grave. Tonson paid the agreed surplus to Lady Sylvester, daughter of one of Lady Dryden's daughters, for the benefit of his widow, then in a state of lunacy.

Pope was much more successful than Dryden. As the success of Tonson had been founded on the reputation of Dryden, that of Lintot, was established by his connection with Pope. Three thousand copies of the "Rape of the Lock" were sold in four days, while a new edition was in the press. Pope was even more fortunate with his translations from the Greek. Lintot published for him, by subscription, the translation of Homer's "Iliad," by which Pope realized the sum of £5,320. The translation of the "Odyssey" was not so successful, yet it realized £2,885, the largest sums earned at that time for this description of literary work, and perhaps not since exceeded. "I find subscribing," said Pope, "much superior to writing, and there is a literary epigram I more especially delight in, after the manner of *rondeaux*, which begins and ends in the same words 'Received: A. Pope.' These epigrams end smartly, and are each of them tagged with two guineas."

Dr. Conyers Middleton's "Life of Cicero" was equally successful. It was originally published in two volumes, quarto, and was subscribed for by 3,000 persons. Middleton realized sufficient profit from his work to enable him to purchase the estate of Hildersham, about six miles from Cambridge, where he chiefly resided during the remainder of his life, a thoroughly beneficial result of the fruits of literature.—*Murray's Magazine*.

HOW "CESAR BIROTTEAU" WAS WRITTEN.

Balzac's method of working was eccentric. When he had well considered the subject upon which he proposed to write he would cover some twenty or forty pages with ideas and phrases. These he would send to the printer, who returned proof sheets pasted upon large sheets of paper. The work was then corrected. On the second reading the forty pages grew to a hundred, and so on, while on the proof sheets new lines would start from the beginning, middle or end of a phrase; and if the margins were insufficient other sheets were added, until at last the work was satisfactorily completed. A specimen of Balzac's "proof" has the appearance of a geographical map with its rivers, tributaries and lakes; or perhaps it even more closely resembles a complicated railway system in which the lines cross and recross each other in a manner that would almost bewilder Bradshaw.

The most graphic description of this realist at work is to be found in an article in the *Figaro* of Dec. 15, 1837, called "The Misfortunes and Adventures of César Birotteau Before his Birth." It would appear that *Figaro* promised the book for Dec. 15, and Balzac only began it on Nov. 17. The printing press was prepared. Balzac immediately sent in 200 sheets, "scribbled" in five nights of fever. "Every one knows how he writes," says *Figaro*, "It was an outline, a chaos, an apocalypse, a Hindu poem. * * * The time was short; no one could make head or tail of the writing, but it was transposed as nearly as possible into familiar signs. The author sent back the first two proofs pasted on enormous placards. It was frightful. From each sign, from each printed word, shot a pen-stroke, gliding like a skyrocket and bursting at the extremity of a luminous fire of phrases, epithets, substantives, underlined, crossed, intermingled, erased and superposed. Its appearance was simply dazzling. * * * The office was far from gay. The typesetters beat their breasts, the presses groaned, the proofreaders tore their hair." The proofs were sent back seven consecutive times; and then a "few symptoms of excellent French" appeared, and there was observed a certain connection between the phrases; but the day—the 15th of December—was fast approaching, and it was felt that the book would never appear. But Balzac and *Figaro* kept their word with the public, and "César Birotteau" saw the light on the day agreed upon. It was composed, written and corrected fifteen times by the author in twenty days. In a letter in which he speaks of an attack of neuralgia he says: "I wrote 'César Birotteau' with my feet in mustard; I am now writing 'Les Paysans' with my head in opium,—*Belgravia*."