

which came near finishing him. As I thought of these, a revulsion of feeling came over me and I determined in a spirit akin to that of the Mohammedan fatalist, that, come what might, I would return to my berth in the shanty and lie quietly there till the dawn of day.

As I turned towards the shanty with this resolve I was struck by the singular appearance it presented. The "smudge" inside was now getting well up to its work, and sending up volumes of thick yellow smoke which oozed out on every side between the logs and from under the broad eaves of the bark roof. There could be very few mosquitoes inside, that was one comfort! I took out my watch, and by the bright light of the campfire, saw that it was five minutes to eleven. Not yet eleven, and I had thought it must be long past midnight. Would this miserable night never end? Wrapping the blanket round my head to escape suffocation, I made but one rush and a jump along the shanty and up into my berth, which I succeeded in attaining without scraping off more than two or three pieces of skin from elbows and shins. Then pushing out some of the moss chinking between the nearest logs I laid my mouth close to the opening, thus drawing a supply of fresh air from the outside.

Why should a backwoodsman choose that unreasonable hour of eleven p.m. out of the twenty four, to do his chopping? Yet, as I lay there, the sound of a distant axe falling in regular time upon some thick pine trunk, came distinctly, though faintly, to my ear. I knew it was a large tree that was being chopped, by the regularity and continuity of the blows. The sound appeared to come from a very great distance, but I could not mistake its cause. Once there came a tremendous rattling among the tin pots and kettles which were piled along by the shanty outside; perhaps it was squirrels or a racoon, or may be a ground hog (sometimes called a "wood-chuck") that was attempting an investigation into their contents. How I longed for my revolver to pepper these restless disturbers of my peace!

"Boo! Boo! Boo-boo!" a loud barking noise apparently close at my ear, startled me all in a moment, followed by repeated "Boo-boos" from every side, in a harsh grating tone, between a bark and a howl. I sat up for a moment in a desperate fright. Were these the wolves come at last? In half a minute I had jumped down and made a rush for the shanty door, then seizing a armful of hemlock branches I flung them on the fire. In a moment the flames sprung up, and grasping my trusty axe, I stood prepared to see what manner of attack the foe might make. After a few seconds employed in keenly peering into the dim forest, expecting momentarily to see half a dozen wolves appear on the scene, the same loud "Boo-boo" burst forth from the boughs almost over my head. At once I knew it to be the cry of the great night owl. A more startling sound to hear in the still darkness can hardly be imagined; and on first learning it, one can hardly believe that it can be produced by any bird. I have heard the hoot of the great Canadian owl many times since then, but I will never cease to remember the desperate fright it gave me on the first occasion of my hearing it.

Again I retired to my couch, but this time feeling thoroughly disgusted with myself, with the bush, and everything else. The moon had just risen and was beginning to shed a pale light across the tops of the trees. A mad project came into my mind to start off and make my way through the bush to the nearest settlement. But a moment's thought showed the impracticability of the idea; there were two swamps that lay between our clearing and the nearest neighbour; one of them broad and deep. It was a matter of difficulty to select a safe crossing place in full daylight; it would be impossible to do so by the faint rays of the moon.

At last, worn out by these succeeding alarms, following a long and arduous day's work, soon after midnight I fell into a troubled, uneasy, slumber. But not for very long. About three o'clock, I was awakened by a feeling of violent suffocation, and had to knock out quite a quantity of moss chinking before I could recover my breath. It was no wonder. On looking down from my perch, I saw that fully one half of the floor was glowing like a red hot coal, sending up a most suffocating heat and smoke. I had made my smudge too well! The last thing before turning in after supper I had poured a quantity of water round it to prevent it spreading and thought the ground was thoroughly soaked. But such was the depth of the decayed vegetation forming the soil that this precaution was of no use. The fire burnt into the ground under the damp surface, and spread round in the manner described. There was nothing for it but to pour on more water, and then take the spade and actually dig out the fire; leaving not a single spark from which it might start again, or else it would continue to spread until the walls of the shanty were reached.

But I had bothered the mosquitoes that night, there could be no doubt of that! It was now becoming broad daylight, so I thankfully turned in to make up an hour or two of good solid sleep before beginning my day's work. About six I was aroused by a hollow roaring kind of sound proceeding apparently from the ground; but on investigation I found it came from a hollow tree a few yards distant. This had taken fire inside and the flames were roaring up like a furnace; in a few minutes the tree fell over and left nothing but a charred stump. I was puzzled at first to account for this, as the tree stood quite apart from our campfire. But I afterwards recollected that when we first came on to the ground a fortnight previously, one of our party had set first to the grass near here and the fire

had subsequently run over the ground. It must have caught one of the roots of that tree, and remained smouldering underneath all the time till it burst into flame as I had seen.

When my friends joined me, later in the morning, they brought with them two big burly fellows who had settled a few miles west to give us a day's help with logging up. I immediately begged these to fell the huge hemlock which had given me so much anxiety during the night. They lost no time in doing so, but, skilled choppers and backwoodsmen as they were, it was with the utmost difficulty they managed to draw it sufficiently to one side to bring it down clear of the shanty.

That evening when I returned to our quarters at the road side tavern (how snug and comfortable its rude accommodation seemed in comparison) I was the object of some curiosity on the part of the loafers round, who appeared to look upon me in a new light as a man who had seen strange sights and who was becoming initiated in bushcraft. But of their queries I took little note for every faculty of my nature was speedily concentrated on one square meal which our good hostess had ready on the table; which if memory serves me right, began with pancakes and cranberry sauce, continued with pork and eggs, and terminated in huge yellow chunks of cornbread with a relish of strawberries and cream. If a cup of wholesome black tea had accompanied it in place of the villainous green decoction which was served out to us, my memories of the supper I made on that occasion would be those of unqualified satisfaction.

Often since that day I have spent nights out in the bush alone, and the terrors of my first experience now afford me nothing but amusement in the retrospect. Still, on the whole, I cannot recommend the practice to folk of feeble nerves.

C. B.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE OPENING OF THE S. E. T. & K. RR. took place on Thursday, the 22nd ult. and was attended by a number of railway men and merchants from various parts of the country and of the United States. A full description of the affair and also of the Banquet given to the Hon. Mr. Robertson the same evening at Sherbrooke appears on our front page.

COMING HOME FROM CHURCH.—Just such a scene as may be witnessed any fine Sunday, in a village near the city. The young gallant, who deserted his native village, and forsook the plough, for the brilliant position of dry-goods clerk in the noisy town, has hired a dashing equipage at the livery stable, and gone forth to astonish the natives of his parish. After divine service he invites the village belle, an *ancienne connaissance* to a ride in his jaunty conveyance. The old folks look askant, but dare not refuse. So away they go, and the ancient family nag is put on his mettle to keep up with the young people, and their stylish racer. They don't care to trust my fine gentleman out of their sight with the girl, and well as the artist rendered the various sentiments of the two contending parties, the young lady, object of all the excitement, seems to enjoy the ride, caring little for ought else but the fun of the thing.

THE FASHION PLATE, which is copied from the latest number of one of the best English authorities, is explained on the page on which it appears.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.—All lovers of art will appreciate the copy of this magnificent steel engraving which we issue this week. The subject is a fruitful and suggestive one, and the painter, Mr. H. Larpent Roberts, has thoroughly succeeded in doing it justice. The pictorial setting-forth of the lessons of the parable are admirable, and the illustration, apart from its value as a work of art, possesses much practical utility.

THE HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Election business continues to be the principal home topic of the week. In Addington, Mr. SHIBLEY, the unseated member, has been re-elected by a majority of nearly three hundred and fifty votes; and in Montreal Centre Mr. RYAN has been unseated. The writs for West Northumberland and Lincoln have been issued, nomination day being fixed in both cases for the 10th inst. The Governor General returned to the capital on Tuesday. It is stated that serious charges have been made against the Custom-House authorities at Montreal, and that in all probability an investigation will be ordered. An important meeting was to have been held at Ottawa on Wednesday, at which representatives of the local Governments of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were to discuss the subject of immigration and devise some system of joint action. It is likely that some important measures will be brought up at the next session of the Dominion Parliament; and that the constitution of the Senate and the reorganization of the Civil Service will be taken into consideration. The result of the LEPINE trial has caused great excitement in the Province of Quebec, and it is stated that if an amnesty be not granted, the French members of the Cabinet will have to resign. On Monday last a large and influential meeting of about 3,000 people was held in Quebec, to protest against the condemnation of LEPINE, and to demand that amnesty should be granted immediately. The meeting was presided over by J. P. RHEAUME.

Hon. Messrs. THIBAUDEAU, CAUCHON, CARON, PELLETIER, FRECHETTE and AMYOT addressed the meeting, and all pledged themselves to obtain amnesty by all means in their power, and to get the liberty of LEPINE.

The news from the States is as contradictory as ever, consisting mainly of rumours and counter-rumours as to the state of the South. In New Orleans the election took place on Monday, and resulted in a victory for the Conservatives. Advices from south-west Nebraska reveal a terrible state of things in that part of the Territory. Thousands of people are in a starving condition, having subsisted for weeks on a single meal of baked flour and water per day. Ten thousands of people in this State will need aid sufficient to keep them from starvation and cold during the winter.

From England we learn that the Foreign Office has received advices from Fiji, stating that Sir HERCULES ROBINSON has established a Provisional Government in the islands, imposed taxes and framed a tariff based on that of New South Wales. The NANA SAHIB story appears to receive little credence. Colonel MOWBRAY THOMSON, the defender of Cawnpore, fails to identify the person who claims to be NANA SAHIB, though he says there is certainly a likeness. The prisoner states he was arrested by mistake in 1864, and subsequently released, and claims that he has relatives who will recognize him. The cable of the Direct United States Company, which parted, and was lost while being laid by the "Faraday," has been picked up by that vessel in lat. 50 31, long. 24 19, at a depth of 1,871 fathoms. The cable is in perfect condition, and it was spliced with a portion remaining on the "Faraday," and the work of playing out again commenced.

There is nothing of importance to report from France, beyond the election in the Pas de Calais of a Bonapartist as member of the Assembly.

The German Reichstag was opened on the 29th by the Emperor in person. The KULLMAN trial has resulted in the conviction of the prisoner, who was sentenced to fourteen years in the House of Correction, ten years, suspension of his civil rights and police surveillance. VON ARNIM has been released on bail of 100,000 thalers. He will probably remain at Nice for the benefit of his health until the middle of the month, when his trial proper will take place.

The Spanish Government has acceded to Gen. LAZARNA's demand for reinforcements of the army of the North. The General has therefore resumed his command. It is asserted that several leading Carlists have waited on DON CARLOS at Tolosa, and represented the uselessness of continuing the war. The Iberia has intelligence that DON CARLOS intends to hold an important conference on French Territory, and expresses a hope that the French authorities will prevent it.

Trouble appears to be looming up in Eastern Europe in the matter of the Danubian Principalities. The Austrian Government has informed the Porte of its intention to conclude commercial arrangements with his Principalities, and has intimated that it considers discussion of the subject useless. Turkey is endeavouring to secure a stipulation that the Principalities shall obtain the Porte's sanction before concluding any arrangements, but to this Austria declines to agree. Germany and Russia have not only informed the Porte that they approve of the views of Austria, but have followed her example. The Turkish Ambassadors at St. Petersburg, Berlin and Vienna have been instructed that the Treaty of Paris must be maintained. Should it be violated in this case the signatory powers will be appealed to. If, however, Roumania will submit the question to the Porte, a satisfactory compromise is possible.

Advices from Buenos Ayres state that a report has reached there which was not officially confirmed, that a battle took place on the 15th ult. in the Province of Buenos Ayres, near the mouth of Rio Salada, between the Government troops and a body of rebels under MITRE. The result is said to have been uncertain, although the Government forces claim the victory. MITRE's forces retired and effected a junction with those of RIBAS, when both again marched towards the City of Buenos Ayres. The Government troops still retained their original positions about the capital; and a decisive engagement was expected. In Venezuela two provinces have risen in revolt against President GUZMAN BLANCO.

Among the notabilities whose deaths have taken place during the week are Mr. LAIRD, the celebrated Clyde ship-builder; JOHN LILLEY-WHITE, the cricketer; the Old Catholic Bishop HEYKAMP, of Rotterdam; and W. H. REINHART, the American Sculptor.

A UTOPIAN SCHEME.

A writer in the *Queen* says:—It is scarcely to be credited that there has recently been organized in London a great scheme for "eating your cake and having it" at the same time. This scheme, which receives the title of the General Expenditure Assurance Company (Limited), has for its object the return to every buyer of all the money which he lays out in the purchase of goods. So that, sooner or later, every penny expended in the bread and meat which we eat, the beer or wine we drink, the boots and clothes we wear, will return to us, and can be used over again. We shall, by this notable plan, quite literally "eat our cake and have it," or its worth in money.

The company has its full complement of office bearers—trustees, directors, consulting actuary, auditors, bankers, brokers, and secretary. It

issues a little catechism which states the object of the company, viz., to obtain the return of all money expended from day to day; and it states, as the condition of such return, that it is only necessary "to pay ready money for everything you buy." To the ordinary mind this would seem an efficient way of getting rid of money, not of returning it; but we are assured that, by dealing with the tradespeople appointed by the company, the whole of the money expended will be returned "to us or our descendants." The latter clause at once disposes of any hope of immediate profitable return, and dispels the idea which one was inclined to have, that the possession of five hundred pounds or thereabouts might make one independent for life—a perpetual expenditure being followed in some mysterious way by a perpetual return. If, however, we get over the shock of the possibility that the benefit of our expenditure may be felt only by our descendants, not by ourselves, and make up our minds to benefit posterity—though "posterity has never done anything for us"—we find ourselves further informed as to the mode in which the returns are to be made. For every sum of money which we disburse—from sixpence upwards—we are to receive a small ticket—"a coupon." The coupons are to be kept till they accumulate to the value of £5; then they are to be sent to the company, who, in exchange, will forward an assurance bond. The value of this bond will be paid at one of the half-yearly ballots, now, or at some century or so hence. In this way all money paid out will be refunded. If it is asked how the money is to be obtained by which the bonds are to be redeemed, we learn that "the premiums received by the company from its trade members, which are invested in Government and other sound securities, form in themselves an accumulated fund" for this purpose.

We do not learn how the trade members are to recoup themselves for this payment of premiums. We cannot ascertain how many bonds are to be paid at the half-yearly ballots; there are no means of finding out what is the remotest time at which bonds may be redeemable. Above all, we cannot imagine, if all the money paid out is to be return to the purchasers, how the tradespeople are to be repaid for their work. We see that there is a statement made as to money doubling itself at compound interest in fourteen years. We are told nothing, however, as to the rate of interest at which this takes place, and nothing as to the source from which the interest is to be drawn, if everyone is to have all his expenditure returned to him. Money does not increase by the mere keeping. Nor does any account seem to be taken of the perpetual ballots, which will drawn off a certain sum half-yearly from the "accumulated fund." When we are told that "£5 becomes £10 in fourteen years, £10 becomes £20 in fourteen more years," but find that no reckoning is made for deductions, we have a sensation as if dust were being thrown in our eyes.

People seem sometimes to forget that money is only a medium of exchange, that money represents money's worth, and that no one will give twice over for money the work which the money only once represents. If people could only remember that you "cannot eat your cake and have it," they could not be misled by statements such as those to which we have alluded.

CARRIER PIGEONS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF NEWS.

One of the great secrets of success in conducting a daily paper is the ability to publish information of current events at the earliest possible moment after they transpire. This is becoming more and more essential with each successive stride of modern journalism, and although our English brethren express the opinion that American newspapers pay too much for news, we fear that any material reduction in that item of expenditure cannot be regarded wise as a business measure. The reading public require the news and all the news, and the paper that furnishes it will meet with the readiest sale. Newsless newspapers—mere political broadsides—have long been an institution of the past. Foreign newspaper men, feeling the importance of this and yet being unwilling to continue the enormous expense entailed by a system of complete telegraphic reports, are discussing the advisability of substituting carrier pigeons for the purpose, and, in fact, have to some extent brought them into use—as being both expeditious and cheap. So it seems that after exhausting the resources of modern science to secure the quick transmission of information, we are to take a step backwards into the Middle Ages. It is claimed that for short distances news can be transmitted far more expeditiously and cheaper than by telegraph. In England, it is stated, these birds are being given a trial, numbers of them being sent to correspondents in different cities, whence they are released and sent on their mission as the necessities of the occasion require. They also accompany reporters sent on special work, and we have the authority of a Parisian typographic publication for saying that "it is nothing unusual to see reporters in the tribunals, at examinations and public gatherings, sending their manuscript, sheet by sheet, attached to the wings of pigeons, from the nearest door or window, or from railway trains, or the decks of passenger steamers." While the reporter proceeds on his homeward trip by the comparatively slow means of steam. Here is "enterprise" that has not been dreamed of by the press of this country, or at least not practiced, and we cannot see but that it is an excellent idea.