

CHAMPAGNE.

We are glad to see that our City Fathers have a proper regard for the good things of this life and a due regard for the rotundity of their valuable persons. We know the tremendous sacrifices of tissue occasioned by the exhausting labors of "our devoted, humble and obedient servants." We freely confess the necessity for stimulants to increase their powers of endurance when sitting in Council or in Committee. No more man unsustained by artificial means could sit among them for an hour without being weakened bodily, disordered mentally and debased spiritually. Their language is so refined, their demeanor is so polite, their treatment of each other is so gentlemanly, that the atmosphere of the Council Chamber is positively oppressive. Taking all these into consideration every one will agree with us in saying that refreshments of some kind are of great service. We do not object to refreshments, but we do grumble that a delicious beverage like champagne should be wasted upon a collection of persons whose imaginations never soar higher than whiskey unless when the City pays for the treat. Nectar and ambrosia is the food of the gods; champagne is for those who can pay for it; but whiskey—common whiskey is essentially the fittest, the cheapest and most suitable for our corporation sponges. We do not object to a basket of champagne being thrown to them once a year for the novelty of the thing; but, we must protest against its being indulged in so often at the expense of the citizens. It is a luxury to be enjoyed only on rare occasions, more especially by persons whose minds are intoxicated at the very thought of it. "The glorious vintage of Champagne" is too costly to be wasted in this way.

Out of the Frying-Pan into the Fire.

—It has been customary for people in difficulties heretofore to get "out of the frying-pan into the fire;" but the Yankees, who believe in reversing the order of things, have, according to the telegraphic intelligence, got "out of the fire (at Fredericksburg) into (the) Frying Pan." When they will get back into the fire is a question yet to be solved, as they are not much in favor of allowing General Lee or "Stonewall" Jackson "to cook their goose."

The Modern Proteus.

—Protestant Billy, the candidate for the Mayoralty, has without doubt, mistaken his vocation. He ought to be in the ring. As a pantomimist he stands unrivalled. His grimaces are only equalled by his effrontery, and for making the great unwashed roar his equal has not been seen since Grimaldi passed away. At a public meeting he is not only useful but highly ornamental. His whiskers are unapproachable, and if the occasion requires, he can officiate as chairman, secretary, orator and general resolution proposer and seconder. The rate-payers of Toronto should not again consign this "modern Proteus" to oblivion. We shall never look upon his like again, but it is to be feared that if he gets into the Mayor's chair, "ducks and drakes" will be made of the Corporation finances.

MAYORALTY RACES.

LATEST "TIPS" FROM TRAINING QUARTERS.

1.—The Irish Thorough-Bred *Mayor, Jno. G. Bowes*, aged. Is in excellent condition, and is very creditable to the Corporation "Crib." Having made such good time at the previous Mayoralty Races, his backers anticipate a good haul if he wins this race. His colors are pea-green tinged slightly with orange. The notorious Alec Manning will be his jockey. Betting even.

2.—The Clear Grit pony *Wm. Henderson*, 5 years. Never having been entered for hurdle races, "sports" shake their heads significantly, and think that unless he is well handled he will shy at the poll. The jockey selected is Gordon Brown. We can't approve of this choice, as on several former occasions this rider has been thrown. Betting 3 to 2 against. Colors tartan.

3.—The old chestnut *Orange Billy*, aged. This animal is subject to very severe training, yet being a "blood" horse, he stands it well. Colors orange, jockey Matt Cameron. This jockey, it may be remarked, won the North Ontario Plate and his reputation has kept betting slightly in favor of Billy. In answer to numerous correspondents we beg to say that the fastest time ever made by Billy was in his celebrated 3,000 heat on the road to Europe. Betting 3 to 2.

4.—The *Registry Pony, Sam*, 3 years old, lively and mettlesome. Has made good time at private trials. His backers think he will fully sustain the reputation he won at former civic races. Jockey Capt. Prince, colors orange and green. The races commence on Monday morning at the City Race Course.

The Glorious Twenty-Eight.

—Now and then an individual has greatness thrust upon him, but it is not often that twenty-eight specimens of the genus *homo* wake on the same morning and find themselves famous. The feelings of the twenty-eight gentlemen nominated at the Riding Academy meeting, may be better imagined than described, when they read their names in the *Globe* of the following morning, and found they were to be Aldermen and Councilmen—willy nilly!

Tompering Justice with Mercy.

—The Police Magistrate with that kindly feeling which characterizes all his actions, set at liberty ten individuals who had imbibed too much while making New Year calls. Some of them were old offenders, but his worship thought, doubtless, they ought to have the privilege of taking an extra drop on the first day of the year, and also took into consideration the vast amount of doubtful liquor dispensed that day.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. T., St. MARK'S.—Money received and articles forwarded. Thanks.

J. VERBANT.—We can give you no information about the present whereabouts of John Brown's soul, but you can rest on the assurance that it is still marching on.

MAJINER.—The Harbour Commission is a very old and honorable society, which confines its operations to scientific investigations of the rise and fall of sea level in the Bay, and the diffusion of knowledge of the same to sea-faring men.

THE ROYAL LYCEUM.

The invasion of the Lyceum during the past week by Mrs. English's Ravel Troupe has brought thunders of applause from appreciative audiences, and we trust a golden shower to manager Linden, who, we must say, has hit the mark just in the nick of time; for the Christmas and New Year holidays must have their fun, never mind from what source it comes. We had fairly made up our mind to give the worthy manager the full swing of our pen for playing miserable stock pieces to still more wretched houses, with a prospect of nothing better to follow, when the engagement of the far-famed Ravels awoke us from our reverie. But we are off the track—proceed. First on the "programme" comes M'lo Zanfretta and her brother Alexandre, both of whom in their evolutions on the tight rope are truly astonishing. M'lo performs with a grace and beauty seldom found among acrobatic artistes. M'lo Josie Dupree, the beautiful little *danseuse*, has created quite a sensation, and brings down the house on every occasion. The operatic duets of Signorina Zanoni and Sig. Montanari were without exception the best we have seen for a long time, although the remembrance of Patti and Mario makes us think of something better. M'lo Zanoni has a voice of superb quality, which seems to issue forth with scarcely any effort, especially in the selections from the "Barber of Seville;" and M. Muller's solos on the violin were excellent, the Hymn of the Sicilian Vespers particularly so. The Flying Globes by Francois Siegrist, and Sig. Cappolo the Courtionist, called forth an extra share of applause. The music by the orchestra was nicely performed under the leadership of M. Muller of the troupe, who presided at the piano-forte. The talented artist of the Lyceum, Mr. Geo. Evans, is busily engaged in producing the new spectacular piece, Paris and London.

FINANCIAL.

The latest plan to raise the wind, is certainly unique in kind: Don't forge a draft, you'll risk your neck, But quietly post-date your cheque.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Mr. C. A. BACKUS, of Toronto Street, is having a busy time disposing of any amount of Christmas and New Year story books, Photographic Albums, superior Encyclopedias, English, American and Canadian Papers and Periodicals, together with a host of other articles too numerous to mention.

Mr. Backus supplies the Canadian edition of the Illustrated London News, at the very low rate of \$7.50 an

Post office officials are requested not to appropriate the papers sent from our office to subscribers or exchange. We know of several post offices where this has been done; if the dishonest practice be continued, we shall expose the delinquents.

THE GRUMBLER

Is published every Saturday Morning, in time for the early trains. Copies may be had at all the News Depot Subscription, \$1; Single copies, 3 cents.

Persons enclosing their cards and \$1 will be favored with a special notice.

Correspondents will bear in mind that their letters must be pre-paid, that communications intended for insertion should be written, and only written on one side of the paper. Subscribers must not register their letters; for obvious reasons it is exceedingly inconvenient to us.

All letters to be addressed "The Grumbler," P. O. Toronto, and not to any publisher or news-dealer in the city.