We regret exceedingly to note the increasing number of detective agencies throughout Canada. Montreal alone boasts far too large a number of these spies. We do not deny that there is certain work which such agencies perform ably and well; but we honestly believe that they do much to foster crime, and to encourage both public and private distrust. Above all, we consider that half the value of a detective agency is lost when the business, which should be carried on in the quietest manner, is perpetually paraded before the public.

The inefficiency of many filters now in use has led an English doctor to experiment with other modes of purifying drinking water. He has found that alum, which has long been known as a clarifying agent, can also be used so that it will destroy all germ life. A small quantity of powdered alum is added to the water, the mixture is well shaken and allowed to stand for twenty-four hours, at the end of which time the water will be found entirely free from microbes of any kind. Sulphate of iron, chalk-powder and sulphuric acid are all used successfully as purifying agents, and as but a small quantity of the acid or powder is needed, the taste of the water is not appreciably affected.

It has never been claimed that the journalistic brethren of the pen were a well-dressed body of men, yet it is with surprise that we read of members of the famous Institute of Journalists at Edinburgh who were recently bidden to a ball by the Provost and Baillie of that ancient city. Not only was "Dancing" delicately intimated in the corner of the invitation card, but also a line was added enjoining that the guests should wear shoes! We wonder if it can be the custom of the Scotch Scribes to go bare-footed all the year around, for ourselves, even with the burden of bills due us which yet remain unpaid, we still consider foot-covering of some sort a necessity of life, and we feel that a society for providing shoes to needy Scotch Journalists should at once be started.

A great deal of needless anxiety is being shown by the inhabitants of many countries lest the cholera germs may be imported from Hamburg along with more desirable merchandise. Experience teaches however, that the only importable articles which are at all liable to assist in spreading the plague are linen, clothes, rags, fruit, fresh vegetables, butter and cheese. In former cholera panics the disease has been spread abroad by these agencies, but never by the importation of such ordinary merchandise as books, tobacco, leather goods, etc. Merchants who were familiar with these facts have continued their trade with the plague-stricken city without imperiling the public health and without adding to the commercial distress which is now greatly felt in the famous German Port.

Philologists who favor the simplification of spelling are now greatly encouraged by the action of the Government of the United States in adopting simplicity and uniformity in the spelling of geographical names. Chemists are also adopting the sound-method of spelling, greatly to the advantage of students. France, Germany and Spain are adopting a uniform method of spelling, the whole movement being due to the Council of the Royal Geographical Society of England, who in 1885 commenced their efforts to obtain Continental uniformity in the spelling of all Geographical names. Although we are not fully convinced of the benefit of simplifying the spelling of the ordinary words of our language, yet we note with great pleasure that the efforts to give a uniform spelling to the Geographical and chemical terms have been successful.

If "imitation be the sincerest flattery" then our Canadian cheese-makers have reason to appreciate the compliment which the manufacturers of American cheese have just made them. It appears that the demand in England for Canadian cheese is very good, while the American cheese meet with but a poor reception. The astute manufacturers across the line have therefore been in the habit of duplicating the Canadian cheese in shape and size and then shipping them to England *via* Montreal. A cheese, purporting to be of Canadian make, was recently bought in England. A small bottle was concealed in the interior, giving the name and address of a factoryman of Wisconsin, who was desirous to know the price which the cheese would bring in the British market. The attention of the Government should be given at once to the matter, and the apparently indiscriminate shipping of cheese at Montreal should be at once looked into.

Mr. Astley Cooper, the English reviewer, seems to find that the time hangs so heavily upon his hands that it is necessary to adopt a new method of putting it to flight. Mr. Cooper suggests that an "Anglo-Saxon Olympiad" should be established. He would follow Greek precedent in the scheme and would aim at introducing at the annual festival of English-speaking people, the athletic competitions, the classic games, and the intellectual exercises for which the Greeks were famous. Mr. Cooper has no doubt that all the inhabitants of America, the French Canadians, the Germans of New York State, the Creoles of Louisiana, and the countless thousands of emigrants will flock together under the binding title of Anglo-Saxons and cultivate "national" and "continental unity." In this age there is no need for so artificial a society—the people, ourselves included, are quite peaceably inclined—and for the most part we are quite too busy to engage in the perhaps improving but for us impracticable festival. Mr. Cooper will have hard work to find enough converts to get up even a fair-sized Olympiad of indifferent quality.

Disability, because of religious belief, is dying out in England, although the death struggle is a severe one. There are still some offices in the gift before of the Crown which are never bestowed upon Roman Catholics, although they are frequently captured by dissenters. The appointment of Lord *Ripon, the Roman Catholic Viceroy of India, aroused the full Protestant* power of the great Anglican Church. The coveted Civic position—Lord Mayor of London—has never before been secured by a Romanist, as "His Worship" is bound by his pledges to attend the services of the Established Church and to appoint a private chaplain. The sooner the prejudice which allowed the distinctions between the two great religious bodies can be done away with, the better for the whole community—disability, because of creed, is only a fading shadow of the church squabbles of two hundred years ago, and is decidedly out of place in this century of freedom and equality.

It is not often that a man remembers, with the intention of paying, the debts incurred perhaps a score of years before, and it is with both interest and pleasure that we read of one of our Provincialists, who, when after years of fruitless work he at last found himself upon a firm financial footing, at once looked up the creditors of his youth. The bills originally were neither many nor large, but the accumulated interest had rolled them up into considerable amount, a board bill alone having reached the sum of $1,800. All of us who are reaching, or have reached, maturity, have our *debts to repay, debts which we too often forget* or deny the existence of. The money-debts should be repaid with strict justice—the debt which each prosperous man owes to the community in which he has amassed his wealth should be paid. The debt which all have incurred to parents for loving care or prudent bringing-up, to the friends of our youth whose pleasure was in giving us pleasure, or in inciting us to higher motives for the coming life-work—all this should be repaid, if not to the past, then to the present generation. Every kind word or benefit received should be repaid with as great care as our friend manifested in discharging the actual money-debt of his youth. And of a truth this old world will be a happier place to live in when we all set about discharging what our consciences tell us is but our just indebtedness.

The patriotism of our British brothers has been greatly aroused of late by the action of the Home Government in selling the old and famous warship, the *Foudroyant*, for the small sum which she would bring as "old material." The people of London were so displeased when the sale of their favorite to the German authorities was announced, that a fund was at once started for the purpose of buying back the vessel before the work of destruction should be begun. This historic craft made her *debut* during the Seven Years War, when she figured as the flagship of Admiral LaGalissonlere. Two years later, Captain Gardner, of the *Monmouth*, wrested her from the French fleet, and henceforward she sailed under the Union Jack. The *Foudroyant* took an active part in the American Revolution, as well as engaging in all varieties of European squabbles. She won more laurels in the battle of *Wshant* in 1778, and boasted a famous line of captains—Rodney, Darley and Howe, among them. The statement that she was at one time the flagship of Lord Nelson is incorrect. It has arisen doubtless from the fact that a ship of the same name was added to the British fleet for the Admiral's use. *The spirit of veneration and respect which* the vessel still commands should be encouraged in the people—there is no keener incentive to patriotism than the sight and actual presence of memorials which belong to a glorious past.

Almost the last of the truly great poets of our century has left us. On all sides deep interest has been shown in the unfavorable reports which have been sent out of the state of Lord Tennyson's health, and the sad tidings of his death are heard with regret by all. Alfred Tennyson, poet-laureate of England, the third son of an English clergyman, was born in Somerby, Lincolnshire, in 1809. He was educated in his early days chiefly by his father, whose taste and scholarship have doubtless had much to do with the development of the genius of the illustrious son. The young man acquitted himself well in his college course at Cambridge, where, with the assistance of his brother Charles, he published his first poems. In 1842 a modest volume, entitled "Poems Chiefly Lyrical," appeared, in which were found many of those early poems which still retain their popularity. After the publication of "In Memoriam" in 1850, it was openly conceded even by Wordsworth, then the wearer of the laurel-wreath, that Alfred Tennyson *was beyond doubt the master-singer of his century. The late works of the* poet, since his ascension to the peerage as Baron Tennyson, have been chiefly in the dramatic line, and although masterly in style, are not so pleasing as those poems which were written in the hey-day of the poet's strength. "The Princess" and the noble lines of "Locksley Hall" will ring on for many years when the dramas are forgotten. It is pleasant to know that the poet's wish was fulfilled in the manner of his death, and that he who had done so much to purify and uplift the minds of his fellow-men was accorded by Providence a gentle falling to sleep in his moon-lit chamber. The noble fearless faith of the man rang out a year or two ago when he sang—

"Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.
For tho' from out our bourne of time and place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar."