

SMALL-POX exists in several districts of the Province of Ontario.

THE SUPREME COURT having decided that liquor cannot be sold in Boston within four hundred feet of a school house, one hundred and fifty dealers in that city have been suddenly compelled to close their shops.

IN A SUIT for breach of promise of marriage in Toronto, the plaintiff secured a verdict for two thousand dollars, and in one tried in Brooklyn, New York, a verdict for seventy-five thousand dollars, the full amount claimed, was given the lady.

MR. W. C. ANDERSON, a young man at Lachine, Quebec, has been left seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and his cousin, Michael Nott Anderson, who is supposed to live somewhere in Canada, has been left about nine million dollars, by the death of an uncle abroad.

THE WARREN LINE of steamers, running out of Boston, has adopted a system of ventilation on their cattle ships which has proved very successful. Of nearly eight thousand sheep and over three thousand head of cattle carried to Liverpool in six trips, only nine cattle were lost on passage.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, heir to the throne of the British Empire, will visit Canada in the spring of 1884, and be present in Montreal at the opening of the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the first time that body shall ever have met off the British Islands.

THE AMENDMENT to the constitution of Iowa, adopted by the popular vote of the State last June, which prohibited the making or selling of liquor, has been declared invalid by the Supreme Court, upon what grounds we have not seen stated. It is a pity if the people cannot get rid of a business that they do not want among them at all.

THE TRIAL of ANARCHISTS in Lyons, France, resulted in Prince Krapotkin, the Russian Nihilist, being sentenced to five years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of two thousand francs, about three hundred and sixty dollars. Many others were convicted with the prince of having incited to anarchy, and were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and led off amid the despairing shrieks of their female relatives.

MR. ALEXANDER McLEOD, who amassed a large fortune chiefly in the wholesale grocery and liquor trade, died lately in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and besides liberal portions to friends and relatives, he willed large amounts to many religious and benevolent objects, the residue, that is expected to amount to one or two hundred thousand dollars, to go to Dalhousie College in that city, on condition that it continue to be an unsectarian institution.

A LIBEL SUIT of a peculiar sort has been tried in Victoria, British Columbia. The publisher of a local paper testified that the author of a libel against one of the Provincial Judges, Mr. Gray, was Mr. Hett, Attorney-General of the Province. The Chief-Justice referred to the publisher and the author of the libel as scoundrels and fined the publisher two hundred and fifty dollars and costs. The conduct of the Attorney-General is generally condemned, but it is not known what proceedings will be taken in his case.

MAYOR PALMER, of Boston, is trying heroically to break up the practice of smoking in the City Hall, and has given orders that any one found thus offending in the building shall be ejected.

THE CHINESE still superstitiously resist the building of telegraph lines.

AN INHERITANCE.

An inheritance used to be thought to consist exclusively of material possessions. Houses, lands, titles, stocks, falling by the course of nature from parent to child, were said to constitute his inheritance, and much of the consideration and esteem in which the youth was held depended upon the amount and value of the property thus left to him. Of late, however, partly through the increasing intelligence of the community, and still more through the discoveries of science, another and deeper meaning has come to be attached to the word. It is now fully recognized that more subtle and enduring things than wealth are handed down from one generation to another. Qualities of mind and heart, capacities of various kinds, feelings, desires, habits of thought, tendencies to action are more truly a man's inheritance than silver or gold. The elements that combine to form character are transmitted in their germs to each individual, and it is in these that his chief inheritance consists.

Now, a good inheritance is a good thing, and yet it has its dangers. When young people get to rely upon it to do the work that properly belongs to them to do, it may be a great snare. This is seen repeatedly in the case of inherited wealth. Property that has been assiduously gathered together by labor and frugality, ability and success, passes into the hands of young people who know nothing of what it stands for. Its presence takes away the incentives to exertion that animated their parents, and, unless these can be supplied from other sources, they are in great danger of living idle and valueless lives. Thus it happens that wealth rarely continues in the same family for several generations. The parents have gained the habit of acquiring, the children soon learn that of spending. The necessities that appealed to the former so urgently, and developed their power to the utmost, are quite unknown to the latter, and the lack of motive is enervating.

In the same way, even the inheritance of a noble character and an honorable name, priceless blessing though it is, may be so used as to almost nullify its value. Directly the youth comes to rely upon it and to relax personal effort he will begin to sink. There are two factors at work in every character—the inherent tendencies and inclinations received at birth, and the influence constantly brought to bear upon these tendencies. The former is always being shaped by the latter; sometimes developed, sometimes restrained. There are children of worthy parents who turn out utterly different from what might reasonably be expected. The father may have been the soul of integrity, the son, perhaps, cheats his employer or decamps with trust funds. The parents may have been temperate and self-denying, the son falls a victim to sensual pleasures. The mother may be diligent and painstaking, the daughter idle and shiftless. Various things may have contributed to this result, but prominent among them stands the habit of relying on antecedents. The boy growing up in an honorable family, seeing the strictest rectitude and never dreaming of any deviation from it, is, even by this very confidence, sometimes thrown off his guard. He does not believe in the power of temptation, so when it comes it takes him unawares. He lacks the force to battle with it, and it triumphs over him.

This force of individual character is what needs developing above all things in every young person. Whatever his advantages in the way of parentage, birth and circumstances, if he lack personal force, he will prove a failure. He may have virtuous inclinations, good desires, right tendencies, generous impulses, warm feelings, and yet they may amount to nothing for the want of a master hand to direct and control them. "Personal exertion," says a late writer, "is the first, the second, and the third virtue. Nothing great or excellent can be acquired without it. A good name will not come without being sought. All the virtues of which it is composed are the result of untiring application and industry. Nothing can be more fatal to the attainments of a good character than a treacherous confidence in external advantages. These, if not seconded by your own endeavors, will drop you midway, or, perhaps, you will not have started when the diligent traveller will have run the race."

The same thing may be seen in national character. One generation may be lacking

in education, refinement, manners, but sturdily and self-reliant, carving out for themselves a character and a name in spite of all disadvantages. The succeeding one inherits all that the elder had labored to procure, but lacks the force that has procured it. One age is enthused with an idea or a principle—the people work for it, sacrifice for it, if need be, die for it. At length they establish it and hand it down as a proud inheritance to their successors. They in turn possess it, but, unlike their fathers, they are not possessed by it; it is accepted and boasted of, but it is no longer an inspiration, a vital spark, illuminating their powers and developing their energies. We venerate the names and recount the deeds of great men, and suppose that because we hold the views for which they have struggled or the principles for which they have fought, we are therefore on a level with them, when in truth we have no portion of the spirit or the fervor which enabled them to struggle or to fight. It is a favorite saying, that we stand upon the shoulders of a past generation and so we do in material advantages, in intellectual advancement, in correct opinions—in a thousand things to which they have helped to lift us—but, unless we infuse into our higher civilization and our truer knowledge an equally vital force and earnestness—unless we exercise the same will power and put forth the same personal exertion, we can never be worthy of their name, much less have cause to exult ourselves about them. It does not signify so much whereabouts we are upon the ladder of life, but whether we are steadily and resolutely climbing; not so much what we inherit, as whether we are worthy of our inheritance.—*Philadelphia Public Ledger.*

A JAPANESE CURIOSITY

A Japanese lamp, supposed to be twelve hundred years old, in the collection of the Mikado of Japan, is described by Dr. Christopher Dresser in his book on Japan. "In this lamp, the oil is stored in the body of a rat, which sits upon the top of a pole. Half way down the pole and resting on a projecting bracket is a saucer, in the centre of which is a pin that connects it with the bracket on which it rests. In this saucer, and leaning over its side, is a wick. When the saucer is filled with oil and the wick is lit we have a lamp which exhibits no peculiar qualities till most of the oil has been consumed. Then suddenly a stream which suffices to replenish the now nearly exhausted saucer, issues from the mouth of the rat. The saucer being full, no more oil is discharged from the rat's mouth till it is again nearly empty, when the hind creature sitting 'up aloft' yields a further supply, and so on till its store of oil is exhausted. The manner in which this is achieved is simple, although the effect produced is curious, for it is only an application of the principle of the vent-peg or pipet, whereby fluid cannot run from a vessel unless air is admitted to take its place. The peg which rises in the centre of the saucer and attaches it to the support on which it rests terminates in a knob or cap; but the peg is hollow, and is connected with the body of the rat by a tube which runs along the bracket, and then ascends through the stand to the upper portion of the rat's body. The pin which stands in the centre of the saucer, it should be noticed, is perforated immediately below its cap, or about half an inch above the bottom of the saucer. It is obvious, then, that when the oil sinks to a point at which this hole is exposed, air will enter, and thus allow the oil to run out of the rat's mouth; but when this hole is again covered by oil, no further air is admitted, and, therefore, no more oil can run from the rat's mouth."

A WONDERFUL TIMBER REGION.

Very far west indeed, in a lovely country which once belonged to England, but which was ceded to the United States in 1846, there grows the finest body of timber in the world. Fir and pine, oak and cedar, of unsurpassed quality, and practically unlimited in quantity, clothe the mountains, overhang the rivers, and shadow the plains of the Puget Sound district, in Washington Territory. On a moderate estimate it is calculated that this region will yield the enormous and unimaginable quantity of one hundred and sixty billion feet of valuable timber. The trees attain a remarkable development, both of height and beauty. The yellow fir is frequently found growing to a height of two hundred and fifty feet; the white

cedar to one hundred feet, with a girth of over sixty feet; and the white oak to seventy feet; whilst ordinary-sized specimens of the sugar pine yield from six thousand to eight thousand feet of lumber each. For long after its discovery the marvellous store of timber remained undisturbed, its primeval quietness unbroken by the sound of the woodman's axe. But in 1851 a saw mill was built on Puget Sound, and thenceforward continually increasing intrusions were made upon the forests, until to-day no less than fifteen such mills are at work upon it. The largest of these has a cutting capacity of two hundred thousand feet per diem. During the year 1881 the export of lumber from Puget Sound amounted to 174,176,700 feet, valued at nearly two million dollars, and it is calculated that since the establishment of the first saw mill about two billion five hundred million feet have been cut. Yet in spite of this great tax upon them we are told that the forest remains, for the most part, in virgin condition, except for a short distance from the banks of the streams and estuaries. It is, of course, too late for regrets, but one cannot help reflecting that the loss of this magnificent region was indeed a serious one to the British Empire.—*Colonist and India.*

TIME TO FELL TREES.

Mr. Edmund HERSHEY, a farmer of exceptional intelligence and practical culture, says observation of the changes in the living productions of the earth has been a continual source of joy to him, though able to comprehend little of the marvellous teaching. His investigations have been especially directed to forestry and wood-craft during a considerable part of his life, cutting, seasoning and working up various kinds of timber in the different months, sometimes to the extent of nearly a thousand cords a year. The chemical laboratories of nature, so minute yet so wonderfully efficient, are not open to him, he simply contemplates results as disclosed to "eyes that are hidden." These, so far as they relate to the subject of our head-line, he condenses as follows in the *Massachusetts Ploughman*:

"For strength, beauty and durability I have found August, September and October the best, and February, March and April the worst months to cut wood. A red maple cut in September will keep in a round log perfectly white and sound until the next August, while one cut in March will begin to blacken and decay by the middle or last of June. This is not copied from any scientific work, but is what I have found to be a fact by many practical tests. Gray birch cut in September will keep in good condition until the next September if left in the woods, cut in four-foot lengths; while if cut in March and left in the same way it will be nearly worthless by the first of August; at least such is the result on my land. White pine, like the red maple, keeps white much longer if cut in September than if cut in March, and is not injured by the worms as much. I have found that wood dried slowly in a cool place is better than that dried quickly in a hot sun, even though cut in summer. May this not, in a measure, account for wood being better cut in autumn, it having the long cold winter to dry in?"

CZAR ALEXANDER III., of Russia, makes a hobby of police and military uniforms. He has changed the costume of the St. Petersburg police three times since his accession, and carefully examines the minutest details of all new styles, sometimes taking hours to decide upon the pattern of a button.

A BRILLIANT meteor was seen in San Francisco at half-past four o'clock on the afternoon of the third instant. It seemed to be falling quite perpendicularly, and is described as far more brilliant than white-hot iron, and throwing off large fiery masses of many colors in profusion.

A SUBTERRANEAN telegraph wire is being laid between Paris and Marseilles. Nearly three hundred workmen are employed on the undertaking, which will cost eight million dollars. The wire is to be connected with the Atlantic and Mediterranean cables.

ACCORDING to the recent German Imperia Budget, Prince Bismarck receives a salary of about thirteen thousand dollars, and the free use of the palace where he resides. About five thousand dollars additional is allowed for repairs, servants, furniture and linen.