

BARRINGTON AND ITS PEOPLE.

As a summer resort Barrington, N. S., is at once a pleasant and comparatively secluded village, and in its vicinity are exceptional boating and bathing facilities. But now that the mercury is beginning to approach the freezing point, it is not as a summer resort that we propose speaking of the locality.

Barrington is noted for its hardy and enterprising fishermen, to whom the dangers of the deep appear to have no terrors; and yet there is scarcely a family residing along the Barrington shore who does not number one or more of its members as lost at sea. In addition to the men employed in the shore or bank fisheries in Nova Scotian boats and smacks, hundreds of Barrington folk annually cross to Gloucester, Mass., and aid in manning the fishing fleet of that enterprising town. These return in the autumn, bringing home the profits of their summer's toil to the wives and little ones left behind.

In ordinarily good years the Barrington fishermen have been enabled to support their families in comparative comfort, and in many instances have laid away a snug sum in the Savings' Bank against a rainy day.

Owing to the low price and comparative scarcity of fish this year, the fishermen find themselves in straitened circumstances, and as the Gloucester men are likewise returning home with empty pockets, the outlook for the winter is far from bright. From an agricultural standpoint, Barrington can not be considered a favored district. True, many of those who devote themselves exclusively to this pursuit are, compared with the fishermen, in comparatively easy circumstances, but the natural disadvantages with which they have to contend, are such as farmers residing in other parts of the province would consider insuperable.

The root crops are generally good, and the pasturage excellent, but cattle raising in a district where hay sells at from \$16.00 to \$18.00 per ton, is manifestly not a paying speculation.

The country is admirably adapted for sheep grazing, and the enumerable islands along the coast would afford excellent runs for "Lesters" and other hardy breeds. But as fishing has absorbed the attention of the inhabitants no systematic effort to utilize these natural pastures has yet been made.

For many years and especially during the time ship building was brisk, lumbering was carried on in the back country, more particularly on the Upper Clyde, but since the advent of iron vessels, both the ship-building and lumbering industries have been abandoned.

Mineral deposits have been reported as having been discovered in and about Barrington, but the holders are for the most part without capital, and unable to develop their properties.

Gold, manganese, and a crude oil have been discovered, but as yet Barrington has reaped no benefit from these finds. The people residing along the Barrington coast are both frugal and industrious, and with fair opportunities are capable of maintaining themselves in comparative comfort. At present the fishery difficulty with the United States, the low price of fish in the West Indian market, and the decadence of the ship-building industry, all tend to prevent their receiving a fair remuneration for their honest and industrious toil.

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

The question is frequently asked, as to whether the proprietors and editors of newspapers have any warrant for the publication of purely personal matters, without the consent of the person or persons referred to. It may be said in reply, that so long as the published matter is not libellous, journalists have the same right to use their papers as individuals have to use their tongues; but such newspapers should be governed by the same principles as gentlemen follow in their own conduct. Newspaper proprietors may claim that the publication of sensational matter pays; but this, after all, is but a flimsy excuse, for if carried to its logical conclusion, it is right to do anything good, bad, or indifferent, so long as it pays. Public opinion is fast awakening to the evils of newspaper espionage, and ere long would-be respectable journals will have to shut out from their columns much of the silly and demoralizing matter with which they are wont to surfeit their readers. The *Forum* for August contains an able article on this question, from the pen of Mr. J. B. Bishop, of the *New York Evening Post*, from which we cull the following striking examples of the extent to which the evil has grown in that city:—

It was only about a year ago that an eminent and public-spirited gentleman was stricken with a fatal illness on the eve of his proposed wedding. He was a man of large wealth, who had given of it freely for public and private charities and purposes. Yet, when it was announced that he was dying, what happened? The newspapers began to give all their energies to discovering how much money he was going to bestow upon his intended bride. One of them devoted over a column in one day to the results of a searching investigation upon this point. Everybody in any way related to the dying man was hunted down and questioned. All members of his family, his lawyer, his business associates, were asked for their knowledge about it, and if they denied having knowledge, were requested to give a guess. Then, to crown all, persons in no way interested in the man or his honorable life were cited as authorities on the probable size of the bequest. All this was published, together with descriptions of the lady's personal appearance and a sketch of her history, during the very hours in which the man was dying.

At about the same time, a young schoolgirl, a daughter of a prominent and respected merchant, was discovered to have made a secret and most unwise marriage. A reporter spied the marriage notice and at once started

upon the trail. He hunted down the bride and groom, described and interviewed them; and then going to the father's house, confronted the nearly distracted man with the information which he had obtained, saying that a full account of the affair would appear in a certain newspaper on the following day. The father begged to have it suppressed, but the reporter informed him, with brutal insolence, that such things could not be suppressed. Then the father begged to have the account made as little of a "sensation" as possible, saying: "I have always tried to appear honorably before the public, and now this comes upon me with the suddenness of a thunderbolt. You can't imagine what a blow this marriage has been to me!" No, the reporter could not imagine it, neither could the newspaper which had sent him on his detestable errand, for he wrote, and that newspaper published the next morning, in a conspicuous column of its first page, in large type, an impertinent and vulgar account of the affair, with the names in full of all the parties to it, and with clumsy and coarse attempts to give a humorous aspect to the father's grief.

There is scarcely a city in the land in which similar offenses have not been committed. There are many communities in which they are of such regular occurrence that the journals committing them have become a positive terror to respectable citizens; for, to a newspaper possessed with the idea that anybody's business is everybody's business, nothing is sacred.

The treatment of the President and his bride by the press of the United States was so outrageous that it called public attention to the question as to whether the press had the right to consider anybody's business as everybody's business, and the public verdict is that it has not.

FRANCE'S FOREIGN POLICY.

The oration recently delivered at Toulouse by M. de Freycinet, President of the Council, affords some insight into the course which France is likely to pursue in her dealings with foreign nations. The orator's outlines of the foreign policy of France has been most favorably commented on by the Republican Press throughout the country; hence it may be supposed to represent the prevailing sentiment of the French people. With regard to the position of France among the powers of Europe, M. de Freycinet said:—"Our relations with the great powers are established on a footing of mutual consideration." This is indeed a happy expression, and must have a very grateful sound in the ears of a people whose terrible misfortunes in their last war of aggrandizement have endangered, if not destroyed, their claims even to be considered a Great Power. But in the case of some European powers, mutual consideration is only a mild expression for mutual suspicion. On the one hand, France shows not a little anxiety when she learns that a German railway is projected, for purely commercial purposes, from Brussels or Antwerp to Mayence. On the other hand, German newspapers always justify the enormous military strength maintained by Germany, on the ground that her western neighbor is spending vast sums in increasing the efficiency of her forces. Every movement on the part of Russia, too, is watched by the other Powers with an interest closely bordering on anxiety. The stealthy prowling of the Russian Bear causes even the dignified British Lion to change his front. Austria would gladly thwart the designs of Russia in the Balkan peninsula, could she only count on the support of Germany. The latter country is unwilling to break with Russia, for fear of a Franco-Russian alliance. And thus they watch each other, "Letting I dare not wait upon I would, like the poor cat in the adage." This is the article which M. de Freycinet calls "mutual consideration."

But though the peaceful professions of the President of the Council are received with such favor by the French nation at large, they are equally ready to subscribe to his reservation—a most significant reservation in the case of France. A French journal puts it thus:—"It is precisely because France cannot resign its role of Great Power, because she must be ready to defend her interests and her honor, that it is important not to conceal from herself her duties, or from others her strength and her determinations." It was professedly in the defence of her interests and her honor that, after having repudiated the unreasonable demands of Germany, she plunged into the bloody Franco-German war. She is now recovering from the defence of her interests and her honor, and these terms, it is feared, are coming to have their former force and elasticity.

A horrible religious sect has, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, been established in Russia. The chief doctrine held is that it is a sin to let men suffer bodily pain, on which account sick people belonging to the organization are strangled. The existence of the sect was betrayed by a young peasant of the government of Saratof, whose sick wife had been kidnapped from his dwelling during his absence, and would have been put to a violent death but for his timely interposition. Both the mother and the aunt of the sick woman belonged to this sect, and it was they who had intended putting her to the "red death," as this sort of killing is called. Returning home one day the young husband found that his wife had been removed to the house of his mother in an adjacent village. He hurried to the place, and found his wife still alive, but washed, wrapped in white linen, and laid upon a bier. The sick woman had no idea of the purpose for which she had been so laid out, and the husband, being suspicious, determined to watch the development of events. He consoled his wife, and then, hiding himself behind a wide stove, waited the arrival of his relatives. In time he heard some one enter the room, and turn the lock behind him. Looking out from his hiding-place he saw that it was a man dressed in blood-red clothes bearing a large pillow in his hands. A minute later he heard a stifled groan come from the bier. To rush from his place and fell the would-be murderer to the ground was the work of a moment, but the man in red seized his chance and escaped. A few days later no fewer than forty-two members were arrested by the police.