

An unusual number of newspapers have been reduced in size, changed proprietorship, or suspended publication during the year just passed, indicating that it has not been one of prosperity, notwithstanding the fact that the actual increase in the number printed has exceeded any previous year since the establishment of the Directory. Circulations have materially decreased. With the exception of two Sunday School papers, no periodical issued west of New York city sustains a claim to a regular issue of forty thousand copies. The number of newspapers commencing publication during the year has averaged within a fraction of six each working day, but owing to suspensions and consolidations the actual increase has been less than one-third of the number established.

In Canada the following tables will be read with interest.

	Newfoundland	British Columbia	Manitoba	Prince Edward Island	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Quebec	Ontario	
Daily.	56	1	55	1	10	14	29	1	
Tri-Weekly.	20	1	19	1	6	10	1	1	
Semi-Weekly.	14	5	9	2	1	3	2	2	
Weekly.	330	5	325	2	21	40	225	0	
Bi-Weekly.	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	
Semi-Monthly.	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Monthly.	48	0	48	0	4	19	21	0	
Bi-Monthly.	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
Quarterly.	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Total.	478	14	404	6	32	90	281	2	

From these tables it will be seen that the old-fashioned tri-weeklies are dying out, while the strength of the weekly press is strikingly evinced from the fact that it is over three-fourths of the total of all Canadian papers.

At a banquet given to celebrate the anniversary of the death of General Hoche, M. Gambetta made the principal speech. He said: The Republicans, forgetting old hostilities, joined hands with their former opponents as friends whom they previously misunderstood. They desired the dissolution of the Assembly in the interests of continued progress. The Republicans had abandoned none of their principles. They must advance step by step, aiming for the realization of the principles of the Revolution.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at New York to sell \$1,000,000 gold coin on each Thursday during the month of July. The total amount to be sold is \$5,000,000.

In the House of Lords last week the Canada Copyright Bill passed a second reading.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE "VICTORIA" RIFLES, MONTREAL.

At the time of the "Trent affair" in 1861, when the loyalty of every "Britisher" was excited and our Canadian youth were inspired with virtuous ambition, and glowed with uncommon zeal for the dear mother country, the Victoria Rifles, better and more familiarly known as the Vics, sprang into existence in the month of December and the corps was thus officered; W. Osborne Smith Lt.-Col., Majors Heward and Houghton, with the following Captains of companies in their numerical order, viz: Johnson, Nivin, Ogilvie, Henderson, Crawford and McGrath.

From 1861, till 1874, the Vics, a generous emulation firing their blood, acquired a proficiency in drill, a steadiness on the march, and a precision in the platoon exercises, which rendered the corps highly popular, and attracted to its ranks most of the best athletes, gymnasts, pliant and nimble cricketers and oarsmen in Montreal.

In December 1864, after the St. Albans Raid, the corps went for the first time upon active service to Windsor, Ontario, a detachment only, in company with detachments from other volunteer corps of the city, under the command of Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, Captain W. H. Hutton of the Vics, acting as Adjutant of the administrative battalion.

In June 1866 came the first Fenian Raid, when the company under command of Captain Bacon, now Lieut.-Col. and Brigade Major went post haste to St. John's, P. Q., and the remaining five companies the next day to Hemmingford, from whence they removed to Huntingdon where they remained under command of Lt. Col. Heward for nearly three weeks and returned to Montreal.

On the Queen's Birthday 1870, while the Vics, under the command of Major (now Lt.-Col.) Bethune and other volunteer corps were waiting at the Drill Shed preparatory for a field day at Logan's Farm, news came that the Fenians were crossing the border. The review was abandoned for severer duties. On the same afternoon Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith then D. A. G. took with him a company of the Vics with other companies selected from sister corps bound for the frontier, all of whom were left at St. John's with the exception of the Vics who went to Eccles Hill, under the command of Captain (now Brevet Major) John Crawford, and took part in the skirmish at that place. The day of the Eccles Hill "brush with the enemy" the whole of the remaining companies left Montreal for the border remaining at St. John's for a few hours, which place they left before day break for Stanbridge for the purpose of joining their comrades at Eccles Hill in which they were disappointed, for soon after leaving Stanbridge they were met by an orderly with instructions to return to Stanbridge, which they did, and removed thence to St. John's where they remained until the "Fenian affair" had ended, when they returned to the City of Montreal and have since devoted themselves to peaceful occupations. In March last a few of them essayed at the Theatre Royal the play of Plot and Passion, the performance of which was followed by that of the bayonet exercise which was most rapturously applauded, and which forms the subject of our illustration. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

A LESSON FOR THE TIMES.

Our front page cartoon sufficiently explains itself. In times of financial stringency retrenchment is brought home to every family. If every married couple came to the compromise embodied in the dialogue which we reproduce under our picture, the effects of the hard times would be less distressingly felt.

THE PROPHET'S BIRTH DAY.

A scene of oriental grandeur and superstition. The picture is worth studying as illustrative of quaint costumes and peculiar rites. The buildings are Byzantine, but the river view with the gondolas is akin to Venetian.

VOLUNTEERS UNDER CANVASS.

We publish a very effective series of sketches depicting the different phases of military life in the camp and under the tent. The Niagara camp is reported to us as having been flatteringly successful, having received commendation from the Minister of Militia, and General Selby Smyth.

A STEAMBOAT ON THE SEINE.

The Grand Prix de Paris is the Derby of Frenchmen, and pretty much the same scenes are enacted at the one as at the other. Our sketch represents a river steamboat crowded with excursionists, making off to the race ground.

THE GREAT KAISER BELL.

Religion made to do duty with the spoils of an enemy. This great bell, intended for the Dom of Cologne, and named after Kaiser Wilhelm, is cast from French canon captured in the late war.

WOODS' LIFE-PRESERVING PILLOWS.

We publish to day three sketches of this ingenious invention, which is thus fully described by our contemporary the *Star*:

The Life-buoy consists of a bolster and pillow stuffed with cork and joined by strong tapes as shoulder straps, while other tapes secure the two buoys at their lower ends. The adjusting is the work of a moment. The idea is an excellent one in many respects. 1st. It is always handy; not hidden away in some locker, or literally shelved, but forming part and parcel of the furniture of every day use. 2nd. It occupies no additional room. Ship mattresses are usually six feet long. With this arrangement they are made five foot, the other twelve inches being filled with the life-buoy, which, as we have said, forms both bolster and pillow, or a double bolster. 3rd. When affixed, the wearer has the full use of his arms for rowing, swimming, &c. 4th. The shape and material of the buoys render them excellent as preservers from injury by contact with wreckage, &c., the chest and back being well protected. Three of the crew of the *Sarmation* at once offered to go in with it for our inspection, and they were not long about it. In a trice they had the buoys over their heads and the tape tied round their waist, and in a second they were in the river as comfortable as possible. All were fully clad with the exception of coats. Two of them could swim, the other could not swim a stroke, but it made no difference. Though they jumped in from a great height the buoyancy of the apparatus was such that they did not wet their hair, indeed their shoulders were fully four inches out of the

water. They laid back, stood upright, laid on their sides, in fact, affected at will any position they choose. In salt water the buoyancy would be considerably greater. The man who could not swim had no difficulty in making headway by simply striking out with his hands and feet. The trial lasted about a quarter of an hour and was in every respect a most satisfactory exhibition. The inventor is Mr. Arthur Woods, Superintendent of the Victualling Department of the Montreal Ocean Steamship Co. The apparatus is being furnished to all the cabins, and steerage passengers will be supplied with it and bed, knife, fork and spoon, plate, mug, etc., for six shillings, or \$1.50. The Pillows can be adapted and used as seats for skiffs, jolly boats, &c., and are most invaluable to ladies when boating on our river or lakes.

THE PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM OF MONTREAL.

Upon the dissolution in February, 1822, of a charitable association in this city called the Female Benevolent Society, the orphan children then under their charge were consigned to the care of the Protestant Congregations of Montreal, whereupon a meeting of ladies was called, and on the 16th day of December of the same year a new Society was formed, under the name of "The Society of the Montreal Protestant Orphan Asylum," and a Constitution and By-Laws agreed upon for its future government. The first building occupied as an Asylum was situated in St. Lewis Street, and a matron, Miss Langhorne (Mrs. Hill), was engaged to take charge of the children. The Society pursued the quiet and even tenor of its way until the summer of 1832, when it pleased the Almighty to afflict this country with its first and most awful visitation of Asiatic Cholera. The ladies cheerfully came forward and offered to receive the orphans from the several Protestant Congregations of the city. Generous friends also appeared, and provided them with the necessary means to meet this unexpected event. The erection of a suitable building for the use of the Charity having long been a cherished object with the Ladies, they applied for and obtained, in 1843, an Act of Incorporation from the Provincial Legislature (7 Vic., c. 52), hoping at some future day to obtain means for realising the same. In the spring of 1848, the foundations of the Asylum were laid, and notwithstanding a period of great commercial distress, thanks to the indefatigable exertions of their many friends, the building rapidly progressed towards completion. On the 4th June 1849, the building being sufficiently finished to permit the taking possession thereof, the monthly meeting was held therein. A legacy of £100 was this year received from the Executrix of the late Honorable Chief Justice Reid, which was, with her permission carried to the Building Fund. At the Annual Meeting in 1857, it was announced and received with feelings of humble joy and gratitude that the debt on the building had been paid, the halls finished, the front door (the gift of the Honorable P. McGill), completed, and the Institution fairly launched on its sea of usefulness, without other care than that of providing the necessary means for its annual maintenance. The funds from which these blessings were derived, came chiefly from the proceeds of a charity Bazaar held in the October previous. The generous support of the public, on this occasion produced the large sum of £253 6s. 3d., all expenses paid. The Corporation was in 1856, enabled to add another lot of land to their premises, for the purpose of affording more room for healthy exercise, and for the benefits to be derived from the cultivation thereof. The vendor, Hugh Taylor, Esq., generously remitted on the purchase-money the sum of £100, and made the terms of payment for the balance suitable to the means of the Society. The Asylum is at present in the most flourishing condition and is accomplishing a world of good. The officials connected with it deserve much praise for their self sacrificing efforts.

THE MONTREAL ST. PATRICK'S ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The foundation stone of this Institution was laid in the autumn of 1849, and the house was opened for the reception of orphan children, speaking the English language, on the 21st November 1851.

The first cost of the building, exclusive of subsequent additions and improvements, amounted to eighteen thousand two hundred and fifty two dollars (\$18,252.) This outlay was covered by a grant of two thousand dollars from the Provincial Government, a bequest of four thousand dollars from the late Bartholomew O'Brien and by public subscriptions. In less than two years after the opening of the Asylum there remained no debt upon the building.

The double affliction of famine, and Typhus Fever, caused thousands of the people of Ireland to emigrate to these shores in the black year of 1847. Seeking a fair opportunity to build by their own industry a new home for their little ones, they unhappily only found a grave, leaving crowds of helpless orphans, many of whom could not even lip their own name, to be provided for by christian charity. This was the sad necessity that suggested the founding of the St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum.

The number of inmates, actually receiving the aid of the Institution, has varied since its opening between two hundred and two hundred and forty a year.

The yearly cost for support, exclusive of extraordinary repairs, amounts to an average of nine thousand dollars, or about forty one dollars a year for each individual. This amount is derived from an annual grant of six hundred and forty dollars (\$640) by the Local Legislature,

from voluntary offerings, and the proceeds of a few bequests left to the Institution by charitable Irishmen.

There is nearly an equal number of boys and girls in the Asylum. The orphan boys attend the school of the Christian Brothers, and compete successfully, in their respective classes, with the boys of the city. The little girls are taught in the Asylum by the excellent Sisters of the Grey Nunnery who bestow on them the most motherly care.

The children are now rarely given to be adopted into families. That system was tried, and did not work well. Since several years the children are kept in the Institution till they are capable of earning wages, or of being apprenticed. This change of system has worked most satisfactorily in the interest of the children and in that of the Institution.

The conduct of the children thus placed, as a rule, gives complete satisfaction. Many of them occupy at present in the city, and elsewhere, positions of independence and respectability. Altogether, St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum is a credit to the City and reflects the highest honor on the generous spirits who give all their lives and talent to the help of the poor children.

THE CURSE OF SEWING-MACHINES

"A mother," replying to some strictures in a daily paper upon the bold, even immodest conduct of "the beautifully dressed young girls, who, out of school hours, parade Fifth Avenue, Chestnut, and Beacon streets," remarks, that "the censure probably would not be so severe if it were known how many of these beautiful dresses were cut out and made on the machine by the wearers. Innocence and ignorance are the true apologies for their unseemly behavior." She lays her finger on the main-spring of all the trouble. What but vanity and grossly vulgar subservience to fashion could induce any mother to devote her child's few leisure hours to the construction of elaborate costumes, marvels of shirring, knife-plaiting, etc., etc.? The real martyrs to fashion are, after all, the shabby-genteel, whose souls and bodies must be worn out in toiling after her whims and changes. But leaving the moral view out of the question, there are physical reasons which should forbid the use of the sewing-machine to any but adult women. Even to them it is doubtful whether it has as yet proved more of a curse than a blessing. On an average, quite as much time is now devoted in a family to the more elaborate garments which its use has brought into fashion, as formerly was given to the needle; and the appalling increase of debility and certain diseases among women, is proved to be largely due to its use. It will be of real benefit only when garments can be made by it by steam power, of a quality and finish which will supersede its use in the family altogether. Until then, this "benignant domestic fairy," as it is poetically called, is one to be handled with caution: it has, too, its malignant errand. At least let young girls keep clear of it; and give their leisure time to higher studies than the mysteries of stylish costumes, and they will not long remain "ignorant" of the bad taste shown in heaping shirrs and frills on their delicate young bodies, or in the "unseemly behavior" which no gaudy costumes can excuse.—*"Home and Society;" Scribner for July.*

VARIETIES.

ONE can travel now from the top or bottom of the Alps to the fabled realm of the Sybarites in the Gulf of Taranto, with out change of cars.

It is said that the hurrying to catch trains and boats, of which there is necessarily so much in these days, tends to produce disease of the heart and brain.

If you cut the back legs of your chairs two inches shorter than the front ones, the fatigue of sitting will be greatly relieved and the spine placed in better position.

A WRITER on dress says: "Short and pogy women should not wear belts." Now what is the use of advice like that? What woman ever admitted she was "short and pogy?"

QUEEN VICTORIA recently gave a grand ball at Balmoral Castle to the members of the Royal household. She was in excellent spirits, and danced one reel with evident enjoyment.

MRS. LIZZIE BLACKFORD FEENIX, the heroine of the Russian diamond scandal, takes a daily airing in the Bois de Boulogne in a superb low carriage, driven by a coachman in the picturesque costume of a Russian istrochik. She is still the cynosure of all eyes.

CAPTAIN BOYTON, it appears, had a predecessor in Dardanus, who, at the time of the deluge of Deucalion, swam from Saus to the coast of Troy. Dardanus had his body wrapped up in a dress which was inflated as a leathern bottle, and swam with the aid of one paddle.

A LETTER from Jerusalem mentions the remarkable fact of a great snow storm in that city on the 26th of March, accompanied by lightning and thunder. On the morning of the 27th, the snow was a foot deep in the Holy City and on the hills around it.

Charivari contains this bitter *not* at the expense of Frenchmen: "Prussia is right in renouncing its design to exterminate France. What would foreign nations do without the country that furnishes all their amusements? The pieces of French authors are played in every theatre in the world."

TRAVELLERS report that all kinds of "garden truck" can be raised advantageously on the banks of the Nile. Onions, radishes, beans, cucumbers, cabbages, tomatoes, Indian corn, tobacco, celery, parsley, &c., besides oranges, melons, custard-apples, and other indigenous fruits and vegetables.

A bridge is to be built over the Frith of Forth in Scotland, the height of which will be 150 feet and the number of spans nearly 100. The largest span in the centre is to be 1,370 feet, or nearly one third of a mile in width, and the smaller spans 150. It will cost about \$10,000,000.