JOKE ON A MARRIED DON JUAN.

"A GUILTY CONSCIENCE NEEDS NO ACCUSER."

[*From the St. Louis Democrat.*]

A well known citizen, not for his fine *physique* and Don Juanic proclivities, was recently made the victim of a practical joke, which came near leading to serious results. A particular friend of he gallant and good looking gentleman — who, by the way, is blessed with an estimable wife, and has no excuse for paying attentions to the better halves of his neighbors—met him on the street, and with a countenance expressive of mingled alarm and sympathy, thus addressed him:

"My dear friend, what is this I hear? Is it true that Smith is about to apply for a divorce from his wife?"

"The deuce you say. What ground does he put it on?"

"Loving not wisely, but two or three well, I believe."

"Ah! is that so? Anybody in particular suspected?"

"Suspected! Why, yes; not only suspected, but they say he has the proof positive."

"Who is the guilty wretch? I should like to know."

"Don't you know, really?"

"How should I know? It isn't surely Jones, nor Brown, nor Johnston is it?"

"And Nathan said unto David, 'Thou art the man!'"

"Me! Ha! ha! A good joke isn't it?"

"You'll find it isn't much of a joke when you see the petition. The lawyer has drawn it up, they say, and put in all the particulars of your trip to Denver or some other place, with the lady where you stopped at the American House, and were registered as man and ——."

"Hush! for goodness sake don't talk so loud. Who is the lawyer? I'll go and kick him all over the Court House."

"I don't know his name; but they say he has given your name, age, occupation, and personal appearance to a dot."

"Confound the fellow; why the deuce does he put me in, when there are at least a dozen others, to my certain knowledge, that might have been mentioned just as well?"

"Perhaps they were more sly about it than you."

"Thunder and blazes! it will ruin me! Why, you know I am a leading member of our church, and besides, my business will suffer. The infernal fool! I'll just go and see Smith, and if he don't drop it, I'll kick him all over town. And then the papers will get hold of it, and I'll never hear the last of it."

"Can't you manage to keep it out of the papers? Threaten them with a libel suit, like Hutch."

"Yes, and they'd just laugh at me, I know what I'll do; I'll go and see the reporters beg them for God's sake to keep my name out."

"A good idea. Good morning."

The gentleman lost no time in hunting up the Court reporters, and, laying the facts before them, it worked so powerfully upon their sympathies that they promised to omit his name in their reports of the filing of the bill for divorce. Having accomplished this he felt somewhat easier, but still was not satisfied. He called upon Smith, and taking him into a corner, said:

"My dear friend, this is unfortunate. Is there no way to fix things up?"

"Fix what up?"

"This little affair between you and your wife. I pledge you my words, so far as I am concerned, you are altogether wrong."

"My wife! What do you mean?"

"Why, the divorce, you know."

"Divorce! Do you mean to say that my wife is going to get a divorce from me?"

"No; but you are going to divorce from her."

"Not if I know myself! Why, she is the best woman in the world; you ought to know that, as you have known her longer than I have, and I am sure she thinks a good deal of you."

"Does she? Yes, well, of course—and you are not going to apply for a divorce? Not got the petition drawn up?"

"Never thought of such a thing. You must be crazy to imagine that we have had any difficulty."

"So I am, so I am. I was told though, that there was a divorce in the wind. I might have known better; confound that fellow Snooks, he's been playing one of his practical jokes on me. I've a notion to go and kick him all over town. My dear fellow, it's all a mistake; say nothing about it never was so glad of anything in my life, because you know I have always been your friend and well wisher."

"Of course you have. Come and see us this afternoon. Mary will be glad to see you."

In the meantime, the reporters were anxiously watching for the divorce suit, but of course it was not filed. One of them met the married Adonis, and asked him about it, and received the above explanation; and that accounts for the appearance of this item.

The Woodbridge *Enterprise* says:—Saturday last, the 30th January, Mr. John Robinson of the Township of York, met with a sad accident which resulted in his death on Tuesday the 3rd inst. It appears that on the day in question, Robinson and his son were in the bush cutting logs, and after they sawed off the butt out of a large pine tree, the end of the tree to which it belonged swung round and crushed Robinson between it and a stump which stood near the spot Drs. Wilkinson and Stevenson were promptly in attendance but could do nothing to save the poor fellow's life. Robinson was an honest, industrious and steady man. He leaves a wife and one child to mourn his loss.

Mr. Kendrick's team, which was stolen at New Dublin, on election day, has been recovered. The horses and sleigh were found the next day in the bush, where they had become fastened among the trees. A young man in the neighbourhood is suspected of having taken the team to drive home with and after reaching his home turning the horses round starting them. The horses evidently took a wood road, after following it some distance attempted to turn back when they became fastened. They were nearly frozen when found and will suffer considerably in consequence. *Brockville Recorder.*

Captain General Jovellar has declared the Island of Cuba in a state of siege. One out of ten of the volunteers is to be enrolled for active service, and all males between 20 and 45 for the militia.

The revolution in Yucatan is gaining strength. The Indians have been raiding and burning the towns and murdering several people.

LABOURERS IN PARLIAMENT.

Two working-men have been elected to Parliament already, and probably others will be returned before the canvass closes. This is an anomaly in English history. For a number of years the philosophical reformers have stoutly contended for a representation of all classes in Parliament, and our readers will recall John Stuart Mill's words on this head. But strangely enough the working-men have never shown any special ambition to push members of their own class up into public life. One reason of this reluctance is unquestionably the snobbishness of Englishmen, especially of the middle and lower classes. Equality with them is merely an idea, and the men who profess democracy in the loudest terms throw off their caps and go down on their knees in presence of a live lord. Then, too, the cost of an election to Parliament is so great that no working-man can afford to enter the lists, and, as members of Parliament are not paid for their services, only rich men can sit in that body. This practically closes its doors to the representatives of the laboring class, except as the election and other expenses are defrayed by the electors, who are generally too poor themselves to incur the charge.

There is still another reason for this reluctance on the part of the working-men to elevate members of their own order to official positions of trust and honor. It is the recognition of the superior fitness of men of special education and training for such posts. In this country, where most of the offices are really in the hands of men who work for a living and live by their work, it is seldom that a working-man is sent to Congress, or even to a State Legislature. Most of the men in political life are lawyers. Some of them are merchants, manufactures, physicians, clergymen, contractors, and generals. If a man rises from the bench to a Senatorship, like Vice-President Wilson, it is only through a long apprenticeship in study and public affairs, and rather in spite of his handicraft than through its means; and the bench becomes picturesque in proportion to the distance it is left behind. Lincoln split rails, but it was when he was a very young man, and most of his supporters hastened to forget his use of the beetle and wedges. The people generally have an instinctive recognization of the advantages of special training for special pursuits, and are unwilling to trust interests of great importance in the hands of men of even the best intelligence and intentions who lack the skill and knowledge and address which education for public life in the schools and in public affairs alone can give. And this is one reason why the legal profession actually rules the country. The people prefer to trust their interests in the hands of a lawyer who is supposed to know all the tricks of the trade and to be able to cope with men of his own class on their own ground, to leaving them with men of their class who might be circumvented and would be no match for wily and accomplished opponents in a real encounter. This instinct is a healthy and conservative one, and its existence shows that after all the uneducated masses appreciate some of the advantages of culture, and when intrusted with power are not inclined to wrest it from the hands to which it naturally belongs. They may be mistaken in their men, but they naturally prefer a gentleman to a boor, and a man who knows more than they do to one of their own order.—*Graphic.*

A valuable fictile compound, especially adapted to the manufacture of decorative articles, has just come into use in England. In its production, glass of any kind is ground to powder and mixed with the same weight of sand or ground flints, and the mixture thus formed is placed in a suitable furnace and fused. When cold, it is first reduced to powder, and afterward pressed into moulds, in a dry or dampened state, by adding water or any glutinous liquid. Or the compound may be formed of equal parts of fused and of powdered glass and sand, mixed with two or more parts of clay, covered with liquid, then moulded and baked. The blocks or moulded pieces, small or large, are finally placed in a potter's or similar kiln, and baked in the same way as pottery ware. When cold they are fit to use, and form a beautiful and useful material which may be polished, painted, glazed, or decorated, in the same manner as any other fictile ware.

London claims to possess the largest clock in the world. It has four dial plates, twenty-two and one-half feet wide, which are worked for eight and one-half days. The hands weigh each about two hundred pounds, and at thirty seconds, or half a minute, the ponderous minute-hand moves seven inches on the circumference of the dials. The whole of the mechanism of the clock weighs nearly four tons; but motion is given to the whole by the action of a small spring, weighing one-sixth of an ounce! The pendulum weighs six hundred pounds; but so accurate are all the adjustments that when it is required to regulate the clock, the addition or removal of a piece of metal weighing one ounce will accelerate or retard it at the rate of a second per day.

There is great destitution and suffering from poverty in New York. The police stations and charitable institutions are unable to accommodate the great number of applicants.

When a lover dotes on his darling, a refusal acts as an anti-*dote*.

In some cases authorship is but another name for *pen*-ury.

The truly brave have as calm a judgment in the midst of danger as out of it.

The best way to humble a proud man is to take no notice of him.

Take away my first letter, take away my second letter, take away all my letters, and I am still the same. The postman.

The transit across the English Channel is supposed to be the *sick transit* alluded to in the well known Latin quotation.

The letters of Junius are an unappropriated cenotaph, which like the pyramids of Egypt, derives much of its importance from the mystery which involved the hand that reared it.

The man who confines himself to the drink best for him is well-supplied.

Punch tells us how to make money, thus: Get a situation in the Mint.

Why are jokes like nuts? Because the dryer they are the better they crack.

A person of uncultivated mind has no resource but in the society of others.

With capricious people nothing is certain; their worst humor follows their best.

Hear how a man speaks to the poor when unobserved, if you would learn his character.

Do good for your own satisfaction, and have no care of what may follow.

RIDING ON THE LOCOMOTIVE.

Mr. B. Taylor, gives this description of the sensations: Put your foot in the stirrup and swing yourself aboard. The engineer's little cabin is a regular hot-box for an elephant. It is a princely way of making a royal progress. The engineer bids you take that cushioned seat by the right hand window. You hear the gurgle of the engine's feverish pulse, and the hiss of a whole community of tea kettles. There is his steam clock with its finger on the figure. There is his time clock. One says sixty pounds of steam; the other forty miles an hour. A little bell on the wall before him strikes. That was the conductor. He said, "Pull out," and he pulls. The brazen bell, like a goblet wrong side up, spills out a great clangor. The whistle gives two sharp quick notes; the driver swings back the lever. The engine's slender arms begins to feel slowly in her cylindrical pockets for something they never find, and never tire of feeling for. Great unwashed fleeces are counted slowly out from the smoke stack. The furnace doors open and shut faster and faster.—The faces of the clock dials shine in the bursts of light like newly washed school children's faces that are polished off with a crash towel. The lever is swung a little further down; the search for things gets lively; fleeces are getting plentier. The coal goes into the furnace and out at the chimney like the beat of a great black artery. There is a brisk breeze that makes your hair stream like a comet's. The locomotive is alive with reverse power. It has a sentient tremor as it hugs the track and hurls itself along sixty feet for every tick of the clock, as if you should walk twenty paces while your heart beats once! First you get the idea, and next the exhilaration of power in motion.

PRESENTATION TO A TEACHER.—The pupils of School Section No. 5, Fitzroy, presented their teacher, Miss Frances Shore, with a beautiful workbox and an album, as a token of their esteem, a few days ago. We understand that Miss Shore has left the "field" in which she has labored for some time past, to enter on new duties. We wish her every success in her new sphere. It must be gratifying to her to know that she has the good wishes of so many, not alone her pupils, but all her acquaintances as well.

The articles were forwarded to Miss Shore in her new Western home, and she acknowledged the receipt of them as follows:

To the Pupils of S. S. No. 5, Fitzroy.

MY DEAR PUPILS.—It is with feelings of extreme pleasure I now address you, to thank you for the beautiful presents I received; and I say it was extremely gratifying to me as your teacher, to know that I was so highly esteemed while amongst you; and, although I should have remembered you without such tokens, yet they will always recall to memory the days I spent among my pupils in Fitzroy. In conclusion I need only add that I ever strove to do my duty faithfully and conscientiously while with you, and my efforts to impart instruction were ably seconded by many of you, taking an interest in your studies, not merely to please your teacher, but from a real desire to improve. Hoping you will still continue to give your whole attention to your present teacher, and assist him in his work, you will thus derive the whole benefit from this source, and be a credit to him, your parents, and yourselves. I am, ever yours sincerely. FRANCES SHORE.

Miss Shore's absence forms quite a blank in the circle of Fitzroy, as she was universally esteemed.

French experiments show that steam raised to about five hundred degrees Fahrenheit, is capable of taking up a considerable quantity of water, and acting upon this knowledge, different kinds of oak, elm, pine, and walnut have been submitted—in pieces about eight inches long and half an inch square—to a current of steam at seven and one-half pounds pressure to the square inch, which was afterward raised to the temperature above named. The wood was thus exposed for two hours. It was weighed before being exposed to the steam, and afterward placed in closely stopped bottles until it became cool, when it was again weighed, and showed a considerable loss of weight, which increased with the increase in the temperature of the steam. For elm and oak the decrease was one-half; for ash and walnut, two-fifths; and for pine, one-third. The woods also underwent a change of color as the heat was rising from four hundred to five hundred degrees. The walnut became very dark, exhibiting also a kind of tar formed in the wood by the process.

The *Danbury News* Man says: "One of the most annoying complaints in the range of medical knowledge is a cold in the head. The man with a cold in his head is a mournful fabric to contemplate. He loses his interest in everything but a stove and a handkerchief, and were he called upon to give an expression, it would be found that his idea of heaven was a place where stove foundries and cotton mills were about equally divided. His eyes are watery, his skin drawn tight to his flesh, his nose is swollen, of a fiery red, and sorer than a strange dog. What he mostly fears is the draft, but in spite of his most active endeavors he is sure to get into it; and he is hardly able to conceal his surprise at the pressure of business the family is subjected to, which keeps the door open about two-thirds of the time, and establishes an uninterrupted current of air about his legs. Screwed up back of the stove, with his nose like a beacon shining above it, he patiently holds his handkerchief to the blaze, and finally slips into a mental calculation as to which will first lose its moisture—his cotton or his blood. There he sits all day, with the handkerchief as a flag of truce, tendered by the fire in his head to the fire in the stove, and at night he goes scudding through a cold hall, sneezing at every leap. Long after every one else is asleep, he starts up with a terrific sneeze, and finds that his feet are sticking out below the quilts, and that the handkerchief which he meant to have carefully located for just this emergency, is nowhere to be found.

A new company is announced as having been organized with a capital of £380,000 to lay a cable from Great Britain to Halifax via the Azores Islands. Messages are to be transmitted at the rate of one shilling per word.

☞A stingy man who pretended to be very fond of his horse, but kept him nearly starved, said to a friend, "You don't know how much we all think of that horse. I shall have him stuffed, so as to preserve him when he dies." "You'd better stuff him now," retorted the friend, "so as to preserve him living."

ONIONS FROM SEED.

To grow a good c[rop] of onions from seed requires consi[der]able care. The seed must be got in e[ar]ly, so that it can have the benefit of t[he] cool, wet weather of Spring. The soil [m]ust be rich, clean, and in good conditio[n] every way. The onion makes its grow[th] early, before hot weather, and in this [se]ction if the buds are not well formed, [and] pretty well secured, [by the] July, it may be co[n]sidered a failure. This shows the necess[ity] of early planting, and a rich soi[l] that will induce rapid growth. The [va]rieties usually grown in this country for a [ge]neral crop are the large red, a large, flat [dull]ish red onion, bulbing well and prod[uc]ing a good crop, thought to be a little [co]arse, but a very good onion, and a few [ye]ars ago about the only kind grow[n] in this section. The large yellow, ve[ry] much like the large red, except in [co]lor. It was formerly called yell[ow] Dutch. The Wethersfield red has s[om]ewhat superseded the large red. It [is] bright in color, some earlier, and every[wh]ere a good sort. The Danvers yellow [is] an excellent onion, smooth, pretty [ea]rly, and grow[s] ing bulbs readily. [The] white, foreign onion, white Portugal, [is] now somewhat extensively grown on ac[co]unt of its color. It does not usually bul[b] so readily as the others, though we hav[e] seen excellent crops under favourable [ci]rcumstances. It has always been con[si]dered next to impossible to grow onio[ns] from seed in the South, the hot [we]ather checking their growth before bul[bs] are formed. The usual method in [the] South is to grow from.

Coughing in church is the subject of an article in the New [Y]ork *Tablet* and in the course thereof the following story is told of a priest who is greatly annoyed at the interruption of a heavy volley of coughs the Father said: "My friends, I know that in this weather colds abound, and therefore it is difficult for you to refrain from coughing. Still it is impossible for me to preach and for you to cough at the same time. Let us come to a mutual agreement, so that you may cough and I may preach without disturbing each other. I will speak for say five or ten minutes at a time; when I raise my handkerchief there will be an interval allowed for coughing. As soon as I let it fall I will resume my sermon and you your silence."

The *Tablet* adds: "The plan succeeded admirably. Every interval was filled with a lusty chorus but for the rest the sermon was delivered without interruption. Our pastors and congregations might try the same plan with mutual benefit."

A New South Wales pape[r] recommends the following method with stumps: "In the Autumn bore a hole 1 or 1½ inch in diameter, according to the girt of the stump, vertically in the centre of the latter, and 18 inches deep. Put in 1 or 1½ ounce of saltpeter; fill the hole with water, and plug up close. In the ensuing Spring take out the plug, and pour in half a gill of kerosene oil, and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away, without blazing, to the very extremities of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes. The stump must be in a fresh sappy state when the saltpeter is put in, or it will not permeate the fibers thoroughly, which is essential to the success of the experiment."

The revenue in Newfoundland for the last financial year was $807,000, In 1872 the revenue was £177,342. The progress of the country does not therefore seem to be very rapid. The principal exports are cod-fish, seal-oil, cod-oil, seal-skins, herring, and salmon. The majority of the new Government amounts to one individual, and if he should any day take a glass too much it is clear that a serious dead-lock in legislation might result. Mr. Mackenzie had better suggest to the Newfoundlanders that Canada would be glad to "take them in" as well as British Columbia.

The method most approved at present by English engineers, where large castings and metal of great solidity to steel are required, appears to be that known as the Whitworth process, whereby the metal is intensely compressed while in a fluid state. The pressure employed is to be twenty tons per inch, and its effect in producing solidification is such as to shorten the ingot about one and a half inches for every foot of length. This treatment by compression is found especially important where metal is required in large masses and of great ductility, because the larger the mass and the greater the ductility, the larger and more numerous are the air cells—the effect of the pressure being to completely close these cells, thus, of course rendering the metal perfectly solid. By this process mild steel can be made with a strength of forty tons to the inch, and having a ductility equal to that of the best iron. But the more highly carbonized qualities, whose strength ranges from forty eight up to seventy two tons per inch, show a decrease of ductility somewhat in the same ratio as the strength increases.

A bill has been introduced in the Maine Legislature designed to stop gambling upon railroad cars and steamboats, and, punishes offenders by a fine of $100 or by imprisonment for three months, or both. Railroad conductors are given authority to make arrests with power employ necessary aid. Railroad or steamboat companies neglecting to comply with the law will be required to forfeit for each offence $100.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—We have just learnt some particulars of an accident which, in all probability, will prove fatal. It appears that on the 29th of last month, a young man named Thomas Allen, who is in the employ of Mr. Wm. Lough, miller, Cumberland, was in company with one Daniel Lough, and were handling a revolver, which belonged to Allen. In charging one of the chambers the cartridge exploded, the ball lodging under the shoulder blade of Allen. For a time it was believed he was dead. He, however, revived, and was attended to by Drs. Ferguson and Church, who despaired of his life for several days. Though still in a precarious condition hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. It is but right to state that everything is being done by Mr Lough and his family to alleviate the poor fellow's sufferings, which are great.

There is a story of Judge Grier, which everybody delights in, how he set aside the unjust verdict of a jury against an unpopular man, with this remark: "Better the verdict, Mr. Clerk. Better, also, Set aside by the court. I want it to be understood that it takes thirteen men to steal a man's farm in this court.

TORONTO.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, Feb. 11th, 1874.

After routine business,

Dr. Clarke, Norfolk, moved an address asking the Governor General to lay before the Dominion House the desire of this House that Local Legislatures [sh]ould legislate on restriction or prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

Mr. M. C. Cameron moved that the name of Mr. Merrick be added to public Accounts Committee, he asked this as he did not think it fair that there should be seven Government supporters and one independent, and only three opposition on the Committee.

The Attorney General believed that the opposition were fairly represented, and opposed the motion which was lost. Yeas, 31, nays, 36.

Ardagh asked for correspondence respecting the removal of the bar on River Nye County of Simcoe alleging that Cook during the recent election had stated that he had a promise from the Government that it should be removed, and politics capital was made of this.

Hon. Mr. McKellar denied that the Government had ever undertaken public works unless general interest required it.

Discussion on subject continued until six o'clock.

A bill to provide for the inspection of railways was passed through Committee.

Hon. Mr. Rykert said that during his absence he had been charged with altering or falsifying the Proton Committee report. This he denied.

After some discussion the Hon. Mr. McKellar said that after what he had heard, he did not charge the chairman of the Committee with having falsified the report after it was drawn up.

The House adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

Toronto, Feb. 12th.

The Speaker took the chair at 3:10 p.m.

After routine proceedings,

Mr. Lauder moved for copies of all orders in Council passed during the year 1873, relating to the Municipal Loan Fund, and act of last session relating thereto. He would have made a motion earlier, but he trusted to promises made by the Attorney-General that the papers would be brought down. He complained of the delay and condemned the Government for paying monies to municipalities without bringing down the papers.

The Attorney General condemned the querulous complaints of the Opposition. The papers asked for were in print and would be down in a day or two. He shewed that under the act the Government were entitled to pay claims after the first of February.

The motion was then carried.

Hon. Mr. Crooks explained that some alterations had been made in the County of Bruce payment, because it was found that County had no right to the allowance for that portion of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway not in the county.

Mr. Rykert pressed that information be brought down at an early day.

Mr. Boultbee thought the right of the House over the payment of all money was one that ought to be most zealously guarded.

Hon. Mr. Pardee said that when the Government discovered their error in the calculation of the payment to Bruce, they corrected the mistake.

Mr. Rykert moved for the names of railways aided under the aid and subsidy Acts. Carried.

Several other motions of local character were carried when

Mr. William Durham, rose to a point of privilege. He said that during his absence Mr. Cameron had stated or insinuated that he had withdrawn from the contest for the Dominion Parliament, owing to railway influence brought to bear upon him, and also that there was a collision between himself, the Midland Railway and the Government. Both statements he emphatically denied.

Mr. Cameron said the inference pointed strongly to the statements he had made but as Mr. Williams had denied them, he withdrew and apologized.

Mr. Bethune's bill to amend the law respecting the Administration of Estates, was read a second time.

Mr. Ardagh's bill respecting land tax sales was withdrawn:

The bill for the inspection of roadways was read a third time and passed.

Mr. M. C. Cameron enquired when the estimates would be read.

Hon. Mr. Crooks said that he expected them on Monday, as they were in the hands of the printer.

Mr. M. C. Cameron asked when the franchise and ballot bill would be distributed.

The Attorney General expected they would be read to-morrow.

The House then adjourned at 5.55.

Conservatives are so elated over their vote yesterday that they are actually discussing who will form a Ministry when they get into power. No principle was involved in the vote, as a party question would quickly reduce the Opposition to about eighteen. There is great dissatisfaction expressed with the leadership of Mr. M. C. Cameron. It is felt by his followers that he devotes too much time to his profession for the good of his party.

Hon. David Christie is in town, and staying at the Queen's.

The marriage of Sir Edward Kenney's son to Miss Furness, took place at St. Michael's R. C. Cathedral to-day. The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, Bishop of London.

ARTIFICIAL SUGAR.—The old problem of the absurdity of carrying coals to Newcastle seems to have had a sort of practical realization in Louisiana, which, being the great sugar-producing State of the Union, has, nevertheless, it appears, been flooded by syrups and such saccharine products coming from the North, but sold at a much cheaper rate than that which prevails for the native-grown article. We do not know whether patriotism has stimulated the Louisianian "scientists;" but Northern syrups are, we perceive, declared by these gentlemen to be little, if any better, than poison. At all events they are pronounced to be injurious chemically; worthless commercially, and infamous morally. Mr. Pope, a practical chemist, has given his certificate to the effect that the Northern importations known as "sugar drips" and "golden syrups" contain no sugar at all, but are made by employing sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) upon common starch. Mr. Pope says that as some persons may still prefer giving their young ones syrup from the sugar cane, such persons may distinguish the difference between the two by dissolving a teaspoonful of the golden syrup in a wine glass full of rain water, and adding a few grains of tannic acid, which will turn the imported article as black as ink. In the absence of tannic strong tea will answer.

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The Herald,

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Hugh Miller has given us sermons from stones; would that an equally eloquent pen would give us sermons from stars, and enable us to draw wisdom for our daily lives from the radiant host,

Forever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

Mr. Proctor tells us that "there are clusters of suns as glorious as our own, and, if around one of those suns there were worlds circling, the inhabitants of these worlds would never have any night. They would have suns above suns, and suns below, suns setting and rising, and the whole sky would be covered with them. Those people would never have the power as we have of seeing the glories that lie beyond their system, since their ideas must be limited by the splendors around them."

What means the inhabitants—if there are any—of other worlds may have or may have had for gauging the depths of the starry universe, we cannot divine; nor need we hazard the query which naturally arises, whether worlds where there is no night are the abodes of the ransomed. There is a purely practical lesson of far more value than mere speculation to be drawn from the expression, "limited by splendors."

How many men and women of shining natural abilities we see who, but for hereditary rank or wealth, might have made themselves a name and a fame in the earth, might have had opportunities of developing within them that which was noblest. Limited by splendors, they pass the sunny day of their lives, never feeling the heroic joy of achievement, the flush of victory over stubborn circumstance, and the proud triumph of victorious wrestling with adverse fortune. Lapped in comfort or luxury, they let the golden opportunities pass by.

Few are the earnest workers that have not been trained in the school of necessity. Generally, when God determines to make a man great, He makes him poor. Resources in the ore, so to speak, are given him, but he must with his own right arm crush it, separate it, coin it, and stamp upon it the image and superscription of ability and industry before it will circulate current in the marts of the great world.

Doubtless all of us long, at times if not always, for endless sunshine and ceaseless rest, that is not yet our portion. The night of bereavement, of sorrow, of pain, of toil, of disappointment, of poverty comes; but when it is darkest let us look up and we shall see the stars shining serene and radiant above us.

"Darkness shows us worlds of light we never saw by day." Beaming on the midnight of our adversity is the clear light of truths that were hidden from our eyes by the sunlight of our prosperity. Thus by the various ministry of affliction may we be lifted into perpetual light and perennial peace.

Shall any young man upon whom is laid the burden of poverty bemoan his lot? By no means. Let him think while others sleep, read while others riot; and when his time is come "he shall stand forth rich with the spoils of time, and mighty in all the labors and struggles of the mind."

Is any one drinking to the dregs the cup of sorrow? Bitter though it may be in the mouth, its after-taste is sweet. Among the chief uses of adversity, are that discipline which is designed to fit us for that city where there is neither night nor tears.

☞HOLBROOKS FAMILY LINIMENT.—We are this morning presented with a bottle of Holbrooks Family Liniment. We hear it highly recommended and would recommend all to give it a trial. For sale by druggists and dealers generally.

The experiment of tea growing in California is said to promise success.—The climate of a large part of the tea district of China finds a parallel in that of the Central southern States, and there seems to be no reason why Hyson and Bohea should not come [to] our cotton and old tobacco fields. Experiments for tea [cu]ltivation on a [sm]all scale [ha]ve been made, and the native [pl]ant of the leaf would thus be preserved.

SCHOOLING BY STATUTE.—The Legislature of Illinois has grappled the question of compulsory education, and a bill providing for it has already passed the Lower House. It requires that every child in the State between the ages of nine and fourteen shall be sent to school at least three months of each year, of which at least six weeks shall be consecutive. It further requires that the school Directors shall furnish books, and the Overseer of the Poor shall provide clothes for children whose parents are unable to do so. Parents who fail to send their children to school make themselves liable to a fine of from one dollar to five dollars a week for thirteen weeks.

This is one of the initiatory steps of a policy which is every year becoming more imperative and urgent. We are so accustomed to leaving everything at loose ends and allowing everybody to do just as he pleases, without regard to the rights and interests and safety of the community, that every measure which looks like an infringement upon the traditional freedom of our people excites jealousy and arouses opposition. But the freedom to do some things is incompatible with civilized society. The social state requires the sacrifice of many things which people living in a primative condition may have. Civilized society is made up of restraits. It hinders in some directions that men may have great freedom in others. It prevents license that there may be liberty. The true aim of government is the protection of the whole against the violence, the cupidity, or the vice of any. It is very easy to exclaim, "Are not my children my own? And have I not a right to do what I please with them?" Mutilate their persons or put them to death, and the police will be likely to allow you abundant time to answer your own questions within the walls of the jail. Children do not belong to their parents in any such absolute way as to give the latter a right to deprive them of a single educational privilege within their reach. Children belong to themselves and to the State far more vitally than to their parents, who are merely their natural guardians. They may decide what kind of occupation is best for their boy, and apprentice him to the trade they think most advantageous, or put him up in the business which promises the largest remuneration; but they have no right to bring them up in idleness and leave him to prey upon the community for a livelihood. They may select the kind of education they think best suited to the condition and constitution of their children, and the schools which are best fitted for them; but if they refuse to send them to any school whatever, and leave them to grow up ignorant and vicious, they commit a double crime—they rob and degrade their children and imperil the welfare and order of society. And when the community has provided the best schools for all children, free of expense to all alike, the parents who refuse to send their children to these institutions or any other, and let them grow up in ignorance and vagrancy, ought to be regarded as enemies of society and as robbers of their little ones. A parent who should refuse to feed his children would be looked upon with loathing and rightfully punished. The city and State have provided an educational feast, and if he denies his child the privilege of sitting at the common table or any other, and feeding his mind on articles required for its growth and preparation for a successful and honorable career, there ought to be some law on the statute book to scourge him with its penalties. Society is bound to protect its children against the cruelty, the rapacity, and the criminal neglects of parents, and in their behalf it ought to require that every child should be sent to school somewhere from three to six months in every year.

We have received a copy of the Annual Report of the Registrar-General of the Province of Ontario for the year ending 31st December 1872. The Report shows the registration of 23,367 births, against 24,830 for 1871; of 10,450 marriages against 9,939 for 1871; of 10,745 deaths, against 9,182 for 1871. Of the children born and registered 12,186 were males, 11,159 females, and in 22 cases no sex was returned to the Registrars. The county of Frontenac returned 279 births. Of the 10,450 marriages, 285 were solemnized in this county. Of these 40 were performed by Episcopaliad ministers; 17 by Presbyterians; 86 by Methodists; 69 by Roman Catholics; and the remainder by Ministers of the smaller denominations, 285 deaths during the year were registered in Frontenac. The figures mentioned must not be regarded as absolutely correct, because many people are ignorant of the requirements of the laws, and many who are not, through neglect or otherwise, fail to comply with its provisions. On this point the Registrar General says:

The requirements of the act have been brought under the immediate notice of nearly every family in the Province, and almost all the Division Registars have in accordance with the suggestion of last year's report, had a brief resume of them printed on the back of the assessment schedules. Handbills have been sent to every Postmaster in the Province, setting for the persons who are severally charged with the duty of reporting the births, marriages and deaths that occur within their knowledge, and stating that refusal or neglect to make these reports, or any one of them within the specified time, will subject the person or persons so neglecting or refusing, to a penalty of twenty dollars and costs; and as a further means, the officers administering the Act in different counties have been instructed to strictly enforce its provisions, and to prosecute, all persons who fail to comply therewith. The result is that information has been received from several District Registrars to the effect that the returns for 1873 will be largely in excess of those considered in the present report, and the Registrar-General is confident that the returns for this year will be more complete, and show a very marked improvement over any former year."

EXTRAORDINARY CRIMES IN FRANCE.—Whether on account of the demoralisation produced by the late war, or from some other cause, a very frightful series of murders has occurred in France at a place not very remote from Paris. In the whole not less than seven murders were committed within a few weeks at Limours, all of them accompanied by robbery, and in some cases by arson. These acts of violence, moreover, were frequently of the most audacious character; waggons even being brought to farm houses to cart away the grain from the stacks. What was remarkable in addition to these circumstances was the difficulty which appeared to be found by the victims of robbery, who escaped murder, in recognizing, or at any rate in describing for the purpose of justice, the criminal parties. It seemed impossible that the gang of men who committed these depredations, and who were evidently inhabitants of the neighbourhood, could have come and gone, and been seen by some residents of the farm houses which they robbed, and all without their indentity having been revealed in any one case. Again, it was considered very extraordinary that depredations of this kind should be permitted by a population so spirited as the French, many of whom are also men who have served in the ranks of the army. The victims of the murders were women as well as men, and the scene of the operations of the gang extended over a distance of sixty miles. It was surmised among other things, as the reason for this reticence on the part of the people of the infested district, that the guilty man must have been, or must have been supposed to be in some connection with persons in authority, and that their circumstance rendered those who knew the criminals afraid to act against them. A postman having been missed from his home, after a long search by the police, was at length found with his own handkerchief tied round his throat in such a manner as to cause strangulation. In his sack was a letter in which he declared his own innocence, but stated that the assassins were known to him, and were Lebœuf, a butcher apprentice, his father-in-law, one Girard of Limours, Guttlemard, called the forester of Bois-Dardot; Froquet of Angervilliers; and a wine seller of the same place. All these men were at once arrested, and a club of Lebœuf's, who is a man of vast strength, was found to be matted with human hair. It is not known whether the Postman was a guilty accomplice, or whether he had stumbled by accident on the knowledge which he thus imparted to the world. It is supposed, however, that he would hardly have made a false statement in such a solemn moment, when burdened with a secret too great for him to bear he had determined to put an end to his own existance. The trial will no doubt create an immense sensation.

THE STATE OF CUBA.—The Captain General of Cuba has issued proclamations respecting the island, which put its condition on a new basis. He first of all sets forth the present state of the country as one of insurrection, and promises security to quiet people. He then declares the whole island to be in a state of siege, and directs that all persons accused of murder are to be tried by court martial, to which he will also hand over such other persons as he conceives have committed offences of great gravity. One volunteer out of every ten is to be called out for active service, and all persons between the ages of twenty and forty-five, not volunteers, are to be enrolled as militia men. Volunteers for a year are to have one hundred dollars of bounty, and are to be exempt from future draft; and no one subject to draft will be allowed to leave the island without giving bonds that he will, if needful, furnish a substitute. Persons above forty-five years of age are to furnish one mobilized soldier for every ten, or to pay $1,000 for each man who is deficient. This plan ought to bring a large force into the field; but whether it will be adequate to the occasion remains to be seen. Hitherto, there have been a great number of so-called victories gained by the Spanish Government, and yet the rebellion maintains itself as strongly as ever.

The Sioux Indians are reported as raiding in every direction, burning ranches, murdering ranchmen, and appropriating stock. They have driven off the beef herders, and intend to do their own issuing.

☞We are requested to announce that the Franktown branch of the Bible Society, will meet in Franktown, on Monday, the 23rd. instant, at half past six, p. m.

It is reported that Mr. Longdon, Governor of Trinidad, has been promoted to be Governor of Demerara, and that Mr. Cairns, of Honduras, will succeed Mr. Longdon in Trinidad. Mr. Rushworth returns to Jamaica as Colonial Secretary.

We understand that Mr. Blake has resigned his position in the Government, and that his resignation has been accepted. Mr. Blake's retirement from the Government is altogether on personal grounds, not political, as he is in entire accord with the Administration on every point of their policy. His resignation will be a matter of deep regret to his colleagues in the ministry and to the country, although his valuable services will still be available in Parliament. Not having a Department, his resignation does not necessitate any further political movements. This event will, we trust, sensibly relieve those of our contemporaries who, since Mr. Blake has been in office without a portfolio, have been so anxious about the safety of the constitution.