From the New York Literary World.

Webster's Orthography.

This literary calamity, by a deliberate vote of our state legislature, has been thrust upon the common schools of New York; and, aside from questions involving party politics, we do not remember a more alarming exhibition of legislative power. A body of men, elected from political considerations to perform political duties, and who, if not absolutely uneducated, are, as a whole, very far from being well educated, undertake to decide a question on which scholars alone are entitled to give an opinion! They might as well have presumed to decide on the relative merits of cold water and calomel in chronic disease. But the whole affair is a politician's job. The chief thing in the case to be regretted, is, that Webster's ridiculism should, by a combination of circumstances quite foreign to its demerits, be that, to a certain extent, branded on the minds of the rising generation. We take leave to hope, however, that the teachers of the common schools will understand *their* duty better than the legislators did *theirs*; and while making some use of the dictionary forced upon them, will have good sense enough to dodge its orthography.

We cannot better present the whole case than by transferring to our columns the brief, able, and well-reasoned report of Mr. Beekman, submitted by him to the Senate, on the 7th of July. The important portion of it, contributed by A. L. Gould, is from a pen which has done service in this cause before: our readers will recognize in his argument the grounds taken by him already in the articles of the Webstorian controversy some months ago in our pages, signed Q.

"IN SENATE, July 7, 1851.

"Report of minority of committee on literature in reference to the purchase by School Districts of Webster's Dictionary.

"The chairman of the committee on literature, unable to agree with the other members of that committee in recommending Webster's Dictionary as suitable to be purchased by school districts throughout the State: Reports—That the importance of placing a proper standard of orthography and language in the hands of the million of children at this time attending the common schools of New York, is with difficulty appreciated. First teachings are hard to unlearn, and the spelling and pronunciation acquired at the primary schools are likely to remain fixed for life. The admitted objection to introducing by authority any book as a text book into a system of schools, which owes their excellence to a wholesome rivalry among their various boards of trustees, applies with tenfold force to a dictionary. A recommendation from the Secretary of State, in his capacity of Superintendent of common schools, has sufficient force; and it is eminently proper that in his discretion, he should suggest to the districts the names of books which his leisure and opportunities enable him to criticise. But when the Legislature, by enactment, undertakes to say that the library money shall be expended for the purchase of a certain work, and that unless orders to the contrary are sent to the central department, that book shall be paid for by the State, and its costs kept back out of the library fund due to each district, serious mischief must result.

"One successful application to the State on the part of a publisher will open the way for another, until presently the whole fund will be paid out by authority at Albany, without allowing the smallest choice to local trustees. A premium for importunity is thus offered, which must speedily soon fill the few shelves of the district library with trash as vile as any which the ignorance of rural book-buyers, as alleged by the friends of Webster, could select.

"In the case now presented to the Senate, the work proposed to be sent by authority into the twelve thousand school-houses, is one concerning which men of letters are far from being agreed. The purest writers of English refuse to admit its claims as the standard. By immense exertions a large array of names, not unknown to fame, has been collected in recommendation of the book. These favorable notices, however, relate rather to its convenience as a reference, than to its value as a dictionary. Sir Richard Phillips' Million of Facts is an invaluable vade-mecum, but is far from an English dictionary. Webster packs together a mass of words and phrases in almost every language, and calling the whole, '*An American Dictionary of the English Language*,' we are asked to receive it as the best dictionary extant—as promoting great reforms in orthography, and as shedding new light upon etymology.

"It is assumed that Webster is an acknowledged standard of the language. High authority may be adduced to the contrary, but it may be well to say here, that Webster has published four or five dictionaries, all differing from each other. These successive editions do not advance upon the principle first assumed, namely, that of leaving out all superfluous letters, and introducing a succinctness and terseness of spelling which would commend itself to universal esteem by its convenience and neatness. On the contrary, the Merriam edition, which the State now proposes to buy, retrogrades from the orthography of the edition of 1828 and of 1845. The word *build*, for instance, is spelt in both the former editions *bild*. A pupil in the N. Y. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, lately persisted in spelling upon his slate the word without the u—insisting that he was right, and upon being permitted by his teacher to go to the library, at his earnest request, returned, bearing Webster upon the shoulder, in triumph, to prove himself right. The Merriam edition resumes the u, spelling the word *build*, and therefore does not fulfil the promise on its title page, that it contains the entire corrections and improvements of the second edition, in two volumes royal octavo. In that edition the spelling is '*bild*.' Webster is but a vacillating reformer.

"'Webster,' says an able critic, 'began his career as a lexicographer by spelling words as they are pronounced—"skeptic, ton, iland, steddy, winmen, letter, imagin"—he ended by making a dictionary valuable for its definitions, scientific terms, old and obsolete words, and generally for its etymologies—although these were sometimes fanciful, and sometimes adapted to a specific purpose.'

"No American writers of eminence spell by its rules. Neither Irving, nor Bancroft, nor Bryant, nor Hawthorne prefer his authority. The cheap publications of the Harpers have done more to create Provincialisms, a literary evil from which America has hitherto escaped, than any one who has not given attention to the subject would believe. Should the state of New York add its importunity, we may have ere long, expurgated editions of 'The Wars of Granada,' or of 'Twice-Told Tales,' of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' or the 'Vicar of Wakefield,' done into American prose—the spelling curtailed in the bloomer style to the most utilitarian and hobbling proportions, and a 'crackers-classification,' to use Websterian English, jingling in every line.

"Washington Irving, in reply to a letter of inquiry, addressed to him by the chairman of the committee on literature, says:

"'DEAR SIR,—Several months since, I received from Messrs. G. & C. Merriam, a copy of their quarto edition of Webster's Dictionary. In acknowledging the receipt of it, I expressly informed them that I did not make it my standard of orthography, and gave them my reasons for not doing so, and for considering it an unsafe standard for American writers to adopt. At the same time I observed that the work had so much merit in many respects that I made it quite a vade-mecum.'

"They had the disingenuousness to extract merely the part of my opinion which I have underlined, and to insert it among their puffs and advertisements as if I had given a general and unqualified approbation of the work. I have hitherto suffered this bookseller's trick to pass unnoticed, but your letter obliges me to point it out, and to express my decided opinion that Webster's Dictionary is not a work desirable to be introduced 'by authority' into our schools as a standard of orthography.

"'I am, Sir, with great respect,
"'Your ob't servant,
"'WASHINGTON IRVING.'

"'To Hon. JAMES W. BEEKMAN, Chairman of the Senate Committee of Literature.'

"Mr. Bancroft, the historian, cordially approves the opposition now made to the introduction of any dictionary by authority. He has never been willing to adopt the Websterian mode of spelling.

"'Webster's career,' says Edward S. Gould, in a letter to the chairman of your committee, 'was a mistake, because based on false assumptions. He assumed that the language needed reformation, and that he was able to reform it, the latter blunder being for the greater of the two. He began forty years or more ago on the extreme of his own theory, and his first false step was to mistake the duties of a lexicographer. Whose province is to record, not to legislate; to say what the language is, and not what it should be. Webster assumed the right to make and alter in conformity to his own views, and assuming that superfluous letters were an orthographical evil, and that conformity between the spelling and pronunciation of words was an orthographical desideratum, he almost went to the extent of our contemporaneous photographers. Finding, however, on experiment, that this would not do, that the storm of criticism he had provoked was more than he or his book could bear, he began to modify to suit the critics. He published (in a course of five years) five different dictionaries, all in retreat from his original ground, and stopped modifying only when he stopped breathing; and his literary heir and successor and son-in-law, *Goodrich*, thinks it strange that everybody is not satisfied with these concessions on the part of Webster—as if a shopkeeper were to demand $5 for an article worth $1, and then, after chaffering and finally and gradually falling to $2.50, cite the fact of his taking off half of his first price to prove that $2.50 must be cheap.

"'The present difficulty with Webster's Dictionary, is its *total want of a principle*. To spell words as they are pronounced, and strike out all superfluous letters, although radicalism and folly, is still a principle of action; but to abandon that, and vacillate between that and the previously recognised system, is mere quackery and irremediable nonsense; and its tendency, when at all countenanced, is what we see, a confusion in orthography, such as was not previously known since the establishment of the language by JOHNSON.

"'Webster's rules are both arbitrary and capricious. He changes, for example, *theatre* into *theater*, because, he says, words ending in *re*, adopted from the French, must be transposed to *er*; yet in the derivative he transposes the *er*, that is, the termination back again to make '*theatrical*.' Here the derivative does not control the primitive.

"'Again, he changes *defence* into defense, because the derivative *defensive* requires the *s*—here the derivative controls the primitive.

"'He changes *distil* into *distill*, "because the derivative *distiller*, &c., requires the double *l*." Here again the derivative controls the primitive: but he does not change *forget* into *forgett*, although the derivative forgetting, &c., requires the double *t*, so that here (still again) the derivative does not control the primitive.

"'He strikes the *u* from *mould*, because it is superfluous, but retains it in *court*, where it is equally superfluous. He strikes the *u* from *honour, favour, &c.*, because it is superfluous, but he does not strike the *o* from *serious, courage*, &c., where it is as superfluous. He strikes one *l*, &c., where it is as superfluous. He strikes one *l* from *traveller*, &c., because it is superfluous, yet he spells *excellent, oscillate*, &c., with two *l*'s. He spells *traffic* with one *f*, yet with the inconsistency that marks all his career, he does not strike the second *f* from *proffer*. It is true, he is right in this forbearance; but he is, as everywhere else, inconsistent.

"'The sum of the matter is, that Webster was a vain, weak, plodding Yankee, ambitious to be an American Johnson, without one substantial qualification for the undertaking; and the American public have ignored his pretensions. One publisher of note has adopted Webster's orthography, because he publishes Webster's dictionary, and one newspaper editor of note has done the same thing; but beyond these two establishments, neither of whom can claim any authority as umpires in a literary question, Webster's orthography is as unpopular as it is abominable, and I hardly know how our Legislature could do a greater wrong to popular education than by inflicting Webster's radicalism on the rising generation.'

"William Cullen Bryant, whose name stands foremost among American poets, in his Journal of June 20th, (*N. Y. Evening Post*,) says, that 'so far is Webster's Dictionary from meeting with the general acceptance of scholars and the community, that of those who in different parts of our country and of the world, employ our common language, that noble vehicle of thought which we call English, with a moderate degree of attention to its purity, there are not ten in a hundred who "accept" Webster's Dictionary as a standard of language; nay, the majority of them have in fact no acquaintance with it.'

"Against such authority is opposed a list of names eminent in law, in politics, and in theology, as well as in literature; men whose good nature, as in the case of Washington Irving, led them to return a courteous acknowledgment for an elegantly bound literary present. We have names such as Brougham, Daniel Webster, Thomas H. Benton, Fillmore, Polk, and Zachary Taylor, a certificate signed by 104 members of Congress 'that they rejoice at this fair to become the standard dictionary to be used by the numerous millions of people who are to inhabit the United States.' We have a complimentary letter from the well known and estimable Thomas Dick, of Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, and finally paraded in capitals, there is the gracious assertion of the *London Times*, that Webster's is 'the best and most useful dictionary of the English language ever published.'

"To meet this testimony, it has been shown that men whose pursuits lead them to estimate lexicons at their true value, take views very unfavorable to Webster; and it is not unreasonable to say that while Presidents of the United States and Members of Congress are excellent judges of politics, clergymen equally good critics in matters ecclesiastical, and newspaper writers competent admirers of convenient encyclopædias, neither of these classes are authority on a matter of literature.

"It has been urged in the report, by the Senator from the 27th (Mr. Miller) in favor of the dictionary, that 'there is no one point to which the attention of the guardians of our schools should be directed with a more watchful and earnest attention, than to the training of all the pupils to a competent and correct acquaintance with our mother tongue. Special care needs to be bestowed on this subject, in consideration of the fact that the multitude of foreigners, with their children, whom we welcome to our shores, are all to learn to speak and write the English language; and since many of these are accustomed to another language at home, and often to a mixed and mongrel dialect, we ought, as far as possible, in the district schools in which they are educated, to give them a standard, and to accustom them to its use.'

"Precisely because Webster is not a standard of English diction ought we to withhold him from the children of the foreigner, who, recognising on every page words and phrases of his own, will not fail to add others, and to hasten the corruption of our tongue; as, for instance, there are French phrases like ci-devant, comme-il-faut, neuvaines; Italian ones, like cicisbeo, ritornando, staccato; Spanish, such as Ranchero, Hidalgo, Donna; Dutch, as Domine; Scotch, as ingle, cannie, and so on.

"For all these reasons the undersigned reports that, in his judgment, the introduction of Webster's Dictionary, in the manner proposed by the bill now before the Legislature, into the school districts of the State, would be unwise, because Webster's Dictionary is neither an English dictionary, nor a standard of orthography.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"JAMES W. BEEKMAN,
"*Chairman of the Committee on Literature.*"

* In the course of the discussion in the Senate, growing out of this appropriation, Mr. Beekman delivered himself of a popular remonstrance in a slang lingo made up from Merriam's Springfield Edition of Webster, of 1850.

"Despite the cadevant cicisbeo of Webster, I consider this bill a cerule cento, a chaology, a chevoet, mere chat potatoes. It ought not to be enrolled a chiffy. Such a churne should not be made by sayconsamore conatus. It is not comme il faut that a commensal compagnation, a Senatus consultum, coming from this concomynted concameration, should chat so crescous a claudiction in schools. I regret the book as likely to be as orethistic as a circumlocution simius, or a cock paddle in hummuns, or a chad in cully.

"Note.—The following is the *translation* as furnished us afterwards by Senator B.:—

"Despite the old fashioned dangles about Webster, I consider this bill a blue patchwork, a chaos, a mince-meat, mere small potatoes. It ought not to be meddled with a single moment. Such a noise should not be made by any effort however earnest. It is not proper that this agreement around a table—this decree coming from this vaulted chamber, should produce an awkward assemblage in schools. I regret this book as likely to be an energetic jar mischief as a migratory bee bag, or a scrap fish in a bath room, or a shad in a cool spot."]

SMITH O'BRIEN IN EXILE.—A letter from Van Diemen's Land states that Smith O'Brien has become tutor to a gentleman's family in the Colony that Meagher is about to try the second act of "convict life" by taking to himself a wife, in the shape of Miss Bennett, a farmer's daughter.

MONTREAL, August 9, 1851.

To the Editor of the MONTREAL COURIER:

SIR,—The following, written some time ago, referring, I believe, to the number for June last, will tend rather to confirm what I have said concerning the unfitness of the Editor of the *Agricultural Journal* for his office:—"Remedying remarks," and calling farming stock "animals," &c., not being quite sufficient, perhaps, to establish this important fact:—

Strictures upon the Lower Canada "Agricultural Journal."

The first article is headed "Agricultural College and Model Farm."

One would naturally have expected from this to have seen some mention made of the College, but there is not a single word about it, and yet the Editor says, "We submitted our estimate of the expense of establishing an agricultural *school* and *model farm*," but he does not say to whom—it certainly has not been to his readers.

In his preliminary remarks, he talks of "two ploughs plowing 100 arpents of *land*," as if there were ever arpents of anything else; and he then adds—"*These horses*," doubtless referring to some high spirited specimen of horse-flesh in the profound depths of his own thoughts, but which he deigns not to present to the reader, who is, therefore, utterly at a loss to know what horses he means. Equally bewildered is he again in the same paragraph, when he is told "to feed *stock as green food* in July and August!!"

Before I proceed to examine the learned Editor's budget, I must give your readers two or three specimens of his twaddle; and be it observed here, that not one in twenty of his English readers know what an *arpent* is.

"Thirty *arpents* would remain,—and of this five *arpents* might be put under Indian corn, and five *arpents* under beans—the remaining twenty *arpents* to be sown with oats and peas, ten *arpents* of each. If the soil could be prepared in time, a few *arpents*," &c.,—and just before this, he says, "twenty or thirty *arpents* might be sown of wheat." A little further on, but still in the same interminable paragraph, he talks about "*making repairs* and *erecting a dairy*"—"a dairy to be ready for work in the Spring." We could multiply these specimens *ad lib.*—the following, however, shall be the last.

"As the *farm*, it is" (to be) "presumed, *shall*" (will) "be under the management of a qualified *party*," (meaning *person*,) "we need not lay down any particular system for *them*," (*the* person in charge,) "and we only submit this estimate, to shew that the *farm* may fully pay all expenses connected with its occupation and cultivation as a *farm*."

In the second column of page 163, he says:—

"The produce of the remaining 40 *arpents* employed in *feeding the stock* of *animals*" (!)—and then after a few lines devoted to a description of this produce, he says again, it "is to be *employed* in feeding the stock;" and then he talks of sufficient provender raised upon the farm for all the *stock* and *horses*, with the exception of *hay*, which might be *difficult*!!!

But enough, and more than enough. It is absolutely sickening to read such stuff. No wonder the people in England should look down upon us Colonists as an inferior race, when they see such twaddle as this patronized by the public, and paid for by the Government.

But the bad English, the bad grammar, and the miserable twaddle of the whole publication, which is a perfect disgrace to the Colony, are matters of minor consideration, when compared with the statement of *liabilities* and *assets* of the Society, as drawn up and submitted to us by the Secretary.

In the first place, we are left totally in the dark as to the period over which the amount extends, an omission which, to say the least of it, is somewhat suspicious, but taking for granted, as I have strong grounds for doing, that the first item in the list of *liabilities*! (£583) *has been paid for* printing the *Ag. Journal* from its commencement—and surely no man of business would for a moment imagine that so large an amount would be expended without some prospect of its being repaid. And one would here naturally have expected to have seen some allusion made to the immense amount of money due from the subscribers to the journal, (£1,700,) I believe, according to the Secretary's own account, as rendered to the present publishers for collection. The £112 odd, which is stated to be "*due the Society*," but which the Secretary *facetiously* says "must be *paid as soon as we are in funds*," may be intended to cover so much of this enormous debt of £1,700!!! Admitting that the half of this debt, or even three-quarters of it, is bad, what has become of the remaining quarter, or the balance of it, over £112, say £300?

The next item in the statement of "*liabilities*," or *disbursements*, as I should have called them, is £193 to the Editor—£25 in October, 1850, £75 in the following month, and £93 six months before that; why the last item was not first, we are not told, nor has the learned Secretary deigned to inform his readers why this £193 has been paid to him at all.

There is also an item of £7 19s. for writing, &c. I should have thought this was among the legitimate duties of the Secretary, for the performance of all which he is amply paid.

The statement of "assets" is a document of so unique and extraordinary a character, that I must give it in full as it stands in this number of the journal, (June.) It is as follows:—

Received grant of money last Session	£800	0	0
Received by Mr. Evans, Subscription for Journal	125	6	6
Received Donation from Members, and Advertisements	22	15	0
Received on hands last year, (rather a queer item)	2	3	7½
	£951	5	1½
Due Sock'y (!)	£112	7	9½
In addition to this balance, which *ought to be* PAID when we are in funds, we stand pay to Mr. Evans, as Secretary and Editor to this time, May 20, 1851	£124	14	6½
To Mr. Bibeau, Translator	£10	17	6
To Mr. Miller, do	5	17	2
	16	14	8
We arrive at the sum of (!)	£141	2	2½

But by what process of arithmetical calculation, it is utterly beyond my comprehension to determine.

The current year's expenditure is, then, estimated at £200, which, added to the above sum of £141 9s. 2½d., so mysteriously arrived at, makes a "*tolle*" (I like the *lat*'penny, it is indicative of *precision*) of £341 9s. 2½d., which amount, deducted from the anticipated Legislative grant of £800, is stated to leave a balance on hand of £148 9s. 1½d., instead of £256, nearly a *hundred and ten pounds* more.

Now what is to become of all this money? Part of it, I see, is to be expended upon a prize "*treaty*" on agriculture, which "*treaty*" is to contain not less than 15 pages. The Printers ought to correct such bad spelling.

The Editor of the *Agricultural Journal* can hardly expect me, after what I have said, to give him my real name, until he shall have had the courtesy to address me under the one I have assumed.

YOURS, &c.,
A DESPISER OF HUMBUG, AND
A HATER OF TWADDLE.

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☞ VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE solicited from all parts of the Continent of America. If made use of, the person transmitting the information will be liberally remunerated.

THE COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1851.

A modern historian has very pertinently remarked, that of all inventions—the alphabet and the printing press alone excepted—those which abridge distance have done most for the civilization of man. Every additional facility in the means of locomotion, by which cities and countries can in one obvious sense be brought nearer to each other, has a direct and manifest tendency to benefit mankind intellectually as well as physically, inasmuch as it exerts a powerful influence in removing national prejudices, softening down provincial antipathies, and binding together in a firmer union all the otherwise disjointed branches of the great human family. Of all known means of locomotion, which has any certainty in its operations, the Railway is universally conceded to be the most steady and the safest,—that is, the most convenient and comfortable, united to a speed which no mere terestrial vehicle has ever equalled. And when we apply these wonderful facilities of mercantile enterprise, and the advantages they bring even in mountainous countries, to Canada, which is comparatively a dead level throughout its vast surface, where, it may be confidently demanded, can be found a country in the whole world, except the *steppes* of Russia, which offers a more splendid field for Railroad enterprise? And be it observed, Canada does not, like some other countries, offer one or two insulated advantages for Railroad construction, accompanied with drawbacks which go far to neutralize the whole of these promising facilities. In Canada, the whole of the advantages are on the side of the projector, the contractor, the engineer, and the capitalist. European Railroad proprietors, to speak much within bounds, must estimate their expenses by pounds sterling, while the Canadian speculator may easily limit his average mileage outlay to the same number of dollars. In a country, therefore, where the engineering difficulties are so few, and these few so easily overcome, it is strange that so much backwardness should be shewn to a measure having so evident a tendency to render the people wealthy and politically powerful. Nor is it necessary in anticipating the future grandeur of this country, when British spirit shall have shaken off or neutralized the alien incubus which, like *the old man of the sea* in the fairy tale, at present crosses us and disturbs our councils, to limit our views to a Railroad from Quebec to Windsor only. We may reasonably extend our view and our expectation of future enterprise through the maritime Provinces to Halifax and the Gut of Canso; and if we take the great future within the rational range of our vision, we may extend our anticipations of Railroad speculation, and consequent mercantile intercourse, beyond these comparatively narrow limits, and advance towards the great Pacific itself, passing Lake Superior, and to the North of the head-waters of the Missouri, penetrating the intricate passes of the Rocky Mountains, and thus connecting Cape Canso with the Georgian Bay, and thence opening up an easy passage to these far-famed regions—that "gorgeous East, rich in barbaric pearls and gold,"—of which poets and poetical historians speak so grandiloquently, and with so much ornate emphasis. It cannot be denied by any one who looks at a map, and at the same time has a proper sense of European enterprise, that the high road, the natural access of the thousands of Europe to the millions of Asia, is through the forests of Canada, after they have been opened up and rendered pervious by the gigantic resources of science. It is through this country that after-times will, sooner or later, effect a junction between the bold enterprise and resistless skill of the Old World of the North and West, and the stagnant masses of the Old World of the East. But to realize visions of future glory, prosperity, and conquest, the present must be siezed with energy, and improved wisely and judiciously. Are the people of Canada then, her statesmen, her legislators, her merchants, her mechanics, improving their natural advantages, and exerting themselves in their several stations and capacities to obviate all stumbling-blocks on the road of progress, and smoothing the way to questions of more vital importance to the future interest of this promising country?

We pause here this morning; but we have a few words to say respecting the results of the productive industry of Canada, which we shall take an early opportunity of reverting to.

JENNY LIND.—Can it be really true that this celebrated and deservedly popular queen of song is about to leave America without visiting Montreal, the Capital of these Provinces? It may be true that she would not reap a harvest of such golden promise here as in the larger cities of the Union, but no one has ever imputed the shadow of a mercenary feeling to this kind-hearted and generous-tempered Scandinavian songstress, so that we are unable to conjecture why she should not honor with a visit the most important city, surrounded by the purest air and the most romantic scenery on this side of the American line. Montreal is besides the only city in Canada which has a Hall—supposing that of the Bonsecours Market to be fitted up for her reception—at all capable of holding such an audience as she would undoubtedly command, were she to think of visiting us; and now, that we understand her to have returned to Niagara for a few weeks, we would fain indulge the hope that she may take this city on her way through Lake Champlain to New York, by which route there is a succession of the finest and most romantic scenery to be found.

NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS.—Look out for the discount before the 14th inst. Pay before then and get the benefit of the discount.

The Wizard of the North still continues his mysterious enchantments in the Odd Fellows' Hall to crowded audiences, cheating people with so good a grace, and so much sterling humor, that the good folks say they would much rather be taken in by him than be treated with what the world calls fairness by another—the difference being that the Wizard cheats them into getting full value for their money, and a good deal of fun into the bargain, while the fair dealer, in public opinion, sometimes takes more than the market price. We understand that Signor Francisco will this evening introduce a number of new deceptions, improving upon the manner of the celebrated Herman Boaz, who was the first to make saw dust into deal boards, and cause cucumbers to grow in slices.

The *Church* says, it is known to many of our readers, that the Rev. Dr. Adamson has earnestly sought, and eagerly availed himself of every opportunity which has been afforded him of advocating the claims of St. Ann's Church, Montreal, upon the Christian kindness and sympathy of the Churchmen in this vicinity. It was suggested to him that the Clergy of the Church at Buffalo would be favourably inclined towards the object he had at heart, if he sought their assistance; and so, accompanied only by the Bishop of Toronto's official sanction, and letter of introduction to each of the Clergymen of Buffalo, he departed on his mission, was received with the utmost kindness, hospitality and welcome, and was on last Sunday favoured with an opportunity of addressing the congregations, and receiving collections for the object in each of the Churches in Buffalo.

The Treasurer of the Montreal Protestant Orphan Asylum gratefully acknowledges the very generous donation of Fifty Pounds, towards the Endowment Fund of that Institution, from Mr. Robert Finnie, of Maryville, State of California, by the hands of Mr. William Gunn, of this city.

It is with feelings of far more than ordinary pleasure, that we record the above act of grateful liberality towards that admirable institution, the Montreal Protestant Orphan Asylum. The facts, which deserve to be spread as wide as public intelligence can spread them, are as follows:

During the period of the first cholera, in 1832, a child named Robert Finnie was deprived of both his parents, and was placed, under these circumstances, in the Protestant Orphan Asylum of this city. In this institution he remained till he had attained the age of 12 or 13 years, when he was placed out with Mr. William Gunn, of this city, with a view of becoming an apprentice to the coopering business. This he did, and having served his kind master faithfully for the assigned time, left at the age of 19 for South America, carrying with him, as he has since shown, a grateful recollection of the kindness received in the Orphan Asylum. From South America the wanderer was attracted by the news of the new *El Dorado* to California, and here he seems to have thriven, and to have realized hopes which with too many have proved most delusive. Still the recollection of the early institution in which he was trained did not desert him. If he was now an intelligent mechanic, pushing his way bravely through the obstacles of life, and acquiring the means of independence, to whom, and to what was it all due, but the friends who first took pity on his helpless infancy, and the noble institution which offered him early instruction, and what was still more important, the means of sound moral culture? Doubtless this feeling often crossed his mind in his wanderings, the promptings of a heart sensible of favors, and anxious for an opportunity to repay them. And at length this feeling became more than sentiment; a little circumstance roused it into existence, and it became an act. "I was much pleased on reading," writes the orphan lad to the Secretary of the asylum, "an account of the 29th anniversary of the Orphan Asylum in the *Montreal Herald*, sent me by a friend in Montreal; it is now about 13 years since I left the institution. Enclosed is a draft on New York, which please to present to the Asylum on my behalf towards the 'Endowment Fund.' Perhaps it may lead others to do more." The draft is for Two HUNDRED DOLLARS. Are we wrong in saying such a fact requires no commentary? that it is alike honorable to the donor and the donee, to the orphan lad and to the Asylum? The name of ROBERT FINNIE must stand out in bold relief on the records of the institution, and we trust that his noble example will be followed by others.—*Montreal Witness.*

ST. LEON SPRINGS, August 9, 1851.

We, the subscribing, having visited these Springs, chiefly on account of the highly favourable report of their beneficial effects in alleviating or removing many complaints, with much pleasure in testifying that, after having (some of us) for several weeks made use of the waters, by bathing and drinking, we have found them highly effectual in the cure of the following complaints, with whom, at our arrival, we were more or less troubled, viz.; dyspepsia or indigestion, rheumatism, nervousness, side pains, and general debility. We, therefore, recommend such as may be suffering under these and kindred complaints, to pay the St. Leon Springs a visit, as we are sure that the use of the waters will not disappoint them. The visitants may rely upon Mr. Campbell's uniform readiness in suggesting the best mode of using the waters, and on his attention and that of the domestics generally, in conducing to their comfort in every way. The stands of liquors are unexceptionable. In fine, to the healthseeking on the De Loup and stirring on its pleasant banks, one of nature's fairest, a visit is unfavorable weather, is made and too pleasant an agreeable variety, while pleasantly passing the time.

Holmes, N. Dumas, Holmes, A. T. Rog, Mains, A. B. Gingras, Mains, J. T. Dallaire, Robert Murray, John Tiffin, Adam Ferrie, Neil McKinnon, Colin Russel, Louis Giard, M. D., T. A. Gibson, F. P. Pentwright, A. Giard, C. G. Lagrec, Edward W. Auld, J. E. Pratt, D. A. DeMatis.

Civilization and Religious Character of the Chinese.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Chinese is their civilization. This has been the condition of these people for ages past, to as high an, perhaps, is possible for men to arrive at without the influence of Christianity. Although in some respects other pagan nations may have surpassed the Chinese, yet in the main they stand unequalled. Witness their system of government. The unity and permanence of so vast an empire age after age, not materially changed by change of dynasty, are evidences of the general wisdom and excellence of this system. The hereditary ranks of China are very few, while there is no bar, save the want of qualifications, to prevent any of its subjects rising to the highest honors and emoluments of office beneath the throne. The degree of security to life and property enjoyed by this people, is probably such as no other heathen nation ever possessed. It is hardly needful to mention Chinese industrial skill, one of the surest tokens of civilization. Their products of the pottery, the spindle and the loom, are known and admired the world over. And next to the pursuit of literature, it is an honor to be an industrious and thriving cultivator of the soil.

Education is highly prized, and encouraged by hopes of the most distinguished rewards. Superiority in literary attainments is the passport to honor and fame. None are excluded from this privileged class, except by deficient pecuniary means, or mental ability. Schools are numerous, and probably few sons of parents who are in circumstances to meet the expense, which is not burthensome, are suffered to grow up without enjoying, in a greater or less degree, their advantages. Yet the peculiarity of the Chinese language renders years of hard toil necessary, under their system of instruction, to become even an intelligent reader, and few females enjoy any advantages from their educational institutions.

The Chinese cannot properly be called a religious people. Confucianism, called by some the state religion, is far more a politico ethical, than a religious system; and though the mass of the people are more or less under the influence both of Taoism and Budhism, yet if you inquire after the one or the other of these classes, as a sect, you will have pointed out simply the priests, monks and nuns, only the professed religionists. There does not appear to be any deep religious principle pervading the Chinese mind, nor any well defined creed. But deep, all pervading superstition is rife, and has a place in every nook and corner of their whole being. Fear, not reverence, dread and not love, are the motive causes of almost every religious observance. In all their religious rights a mixture of all these systems is discernible. One thing is clear—gross idolatry, mostly however unattended with cruel and self-torturing ceremonies, pervades the whole mass of this multitudinous nation, from the highest to the lowest.

To sum up their character in a few words, I would say that the Chinese are in no small degree, a civilized, industrious, worldly scheming, money-loving, social, irreligious, but excessively superstitious, and grossly idolatrous, people.

Amoy, China, March 20, 1851. E. DOTT.

FOR RIDEAU CANAL, BYTOWN AND OTTAWA RIVER.

THE Steamer *CHARLOTTE*, CROWLEY, Master, will leave the Subscribers' Wharf, for the above PORTS, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, at SIX o'clock.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
MACPHERSON, CRANE & CO.,
Canal Basin.
August 13. 411

HAVE YOU SEEN THE WIZARD?

THREE NIGHTS LONGER!
AT THE
ODD FELLOWS' HALL,
Great St. James Street,
MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, August 11, 12, and 13, 1851,
WITH NEW WONDERS,
And his Comical Extravaganza of
PUNCH THE COMIC!

Doors open at 10 minutes before 8; Soiree to commence at HALF-PAST EIGHT.

Tickets at the people's price, viz., 1s. 3d.

The Wizard will serve the ladies with delicious Ice Creams and Confectionary, made as if by a charm.

August 11. 409

WANTED,—In a WHOLESALE HARDWARE Establishment in this City, for a period of three or four months, TWO YOUNG MEN, one as ENTERING and INVOICING CLERK, the other as a RECEIVER and SHIPPER. No one need apply for either situation who does not write a good, legible, and expeditious hand. A preference will be given to applicants who have had some experience in the Hardware business. Apply to
JOHN G. DINNING.
August 11. 409

NEW CITY GAS COMPANY OF MONTREAL.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a DIVIDEND of TWO PER CENT. for the half year, ending 1st August, instant, will be PAID to the SHAREHOLDERS, within the COMPANY'S OFFICE, Gabriel Street, Griffintown, on and after MONDAY, the FIRST DAY of SEPTEMBER next.

The Transfer Books will be closed between the 19th instant, and the 1st September.

By order of the Board of Directors,
W. K. FALCONER,
Manager.
August 9. 409

JOHN KER & CO.'S
ESSENCE OF COFFEE,
PREPARED FROM
FULTON'S ORIGINAL CELEBRATED RECIPE,
Acknowledged to be the Finest Article ever Manufactured in Great Britain.

Sold by all respectable Grocers and Druggists in America.

Manufactured and Sold, Wholesale only, by JOHN KER & Co., at their Store, Common Street, Canal Wharf, Montreal.

None Genuine unless Signed
JOHN KER & CO.
August 12. 410

MONTREAL PROVIDENT AND SAVINGS' BANK.

FOURTH DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Trustees will be prepared to Pay, on and after the FIFTEENTH instant, a FOURTH DIVIDEND of TWO SHILLINGS per POUND, upon the Deposits at the time of the Suspension, making in all 10s. per £.

Office OPEN from TEN till THREE o'clock.
JAMES COUTS,
Actuary.
August 8, 1851. 406

☞ TO THE PUBLIC. ☜

BUTCHART'S RESTORATIVE BALSAM.

THIS invaluable Medicine has been sixteen years before the public, and has invariably been attended with unparalleled success—indeed it may be justly considered INFALLIBLE in the cure of Bloody Flux or Dysentery, and all Looseness of the Bowels, in old or young. Its effects are palpable. Within a few minutes after a full dose has been taken complete relief is obtained. This Medicine is the invention of the late Doctor Butchart, Dundee, who, from long experience and extensive practice, has brought it to its present state of perfection in the cure of the above diseases. The ingredients of which this Medicine is composed are most salutary and beneficial to the human system. A single trial will satisfy any one as to the truth of this statement, and we rest with the greatest confidence recommend it to the public as a sure and safe remedy.

To be had only of WM. LYMAN & Co., Montreal, and JOS. ROWLES, Quebec.
Montreal, July 14. 395

BABY LINENS,
CHILDREN'S DRESSES
LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING,
MORNING GOWNS,
NIGHT DRESSES, &c.,
DRESS SHIRTS,
REGATTA SHIRTS,
DRESSING GOWNS,
NIGHT SHIRTS, &c. &c.
JOHN AITKEN & CO.
Montreal Outfitting Establishment,
135, Notre Dame St.

FRENCH WINES.

FRESH IMPORTATIONS.

THE Subscribers return thanks to their friends and the public in general, for the encouragement which they have received since they opened their Store, and beg to inform them that they have yet on hand a quantity of Bordeaux Wine of the best marks, which they will guarantee to contain any alcoholic mixture. Those who will find these Wines the best adapted for Sacramental purposes.

—ALSO—

An excellent assortment of Fancy Dry Goods, including Gentlemen's Hats, Ladies' Bonnets, Parasols, Mantillas, Gloves, &c. &c.

The whole will be Sold at the lowest possible prices.

JOSEPH BONACINA & Co.
No. 4, NOTRE DAME STREET.
July 26, 1851.

THE Subscriber begs to call the attention of Country Merchants Farmers and others visiting Montreal, to his extensive Stock of GROCERIES, WINES, LIQUORS, &c. &c., comprising:—
200 packages Teas, assorted
Sugars, Refined, Crushed, Loaf and Moist
Coffee, Ceylon and Java Java and Rio
Molasses, Tobacco, English Snuff
Labor Saving, Montreal, and brand Washing Soap
Candles, Sperm, Stearine and Adamantine
Blacking, Paste and Liquid
Patent and other Starch
Brushes, assorted, Coppers, Fire Shovels
Black Lead, Sago, Nutmegs, Cloves, &c.
Tobacco Pipes, Arrowroot, Water
Sugar Candy, Pepper, Allspice, Cayenne
Seeds
Button Blue, Saleratus, Playing Cards, Soap
Maccaroni, Mustard, Ginger, Raisins
Sauces, Pickles, Ketchup, assortment of
Boiled and Raw Linseed Oil