

oh! they spread out their lovely fins and hunt the shrimps. Each fin has a margin of the most resplendent colours. Reader, you can't imagine how resplendent the colours are till you see them, and as the fish in numbers are swimming about the appearance is that of many gorgeous butterflies dancing a merry dance in a noon-day tropical sun. Well might this fish be called a 'butterfly fish.' He is very like a butterfly, first because he sits almost motionless for hours together, like a butterfly on a flower, and when disturbed he spreads his lovely wings and soars away, not into mid-air, but into mid-water. Come, come, my Winchester friends, some of you, do give us a few pretty Latin verses, or some neatly turned Greek lambics about the butterfly fish.

"As the very opposite to the butterfly fish commend me to the turtle. Deep down under many feet of water the poor old turtle is taking a deep sleep. He has a ridiculous look about him. He is dreaming, I am sure he is, or why did he just open one eye slowly and give a kind of a yawn. Poor old turtle: 'Wake up, my boy, here's the Lord Mayor's cook coming with a sharp knife; the pot's a boiling, and I fancy I see the inscription on your shell—'soup-to-morrow.' The conger eels have taken advantage of your sleepiness, you lazy old turtle, for I see four or five of them under your shell. I tap the glass, 'Hi! hi! wake up, old man; here is Mr. Lord with a nice basket of sea grass for your dinner, and some bits of fish for your cousins, the hawk's bill turtles.' But the old turtle said to me, 'How the d—can I possibly keep awake in this cursed cold water; my toes are cold; bring me a blanket, a glass of hot grog, and a pipe.' 'Never mind, my shell-backed friend,' I said, 'Lord will bring a steam pipe into your tank in a day or so to warm you, and then you must wake up, and be a little more civil to the visitors, instead of lying there like a fat hog in a sty. If you don't wake up you will be made into soup for the directors' dinner; so you had better mind.'

"Sea-horses—*Hippocampus*. Funny little fellows in a pretty Aquarium all to themselves; curious horse-like heads and little fins which shake like horse's ears. They have also a long fin on their backs, not unlike a horse's mane, and they make it quiver every now and then so that the fin seems to vibrate. But why hold on so with your tails, my pretty little fellows? You can swim if you like, I know. See, there's one of you is eating a sandhopper, catching him with his trumpet-shaped mouth. Brave little sea-horse! you shall be first favourite for Neptune next Derby!

"Again, the Dog-fish. Pray, 'Mr. Piked Dog,' what is the use of the spine in your back fin? and why, 'Mr. Spotted Dog,' are you spotted, and why do you keep moving the valve over your nostril so quickly? If I were a merman I would get a pack of you 'Sea-Dogs' together. I would ride a Hippocampus, and we would have some fine sport hunting the herrings and the pilchards. What sport we would have!

"I could write more, but space forbids. I must conclude by congratulating the directors of the Brighton Aquarium upon the great advance they have already made, even in this short time. To our energetic friend Henry Lee they all (with myself and Mr. Bartlett of the Zoological Gardens) acknowledge that they owe very much. Lee so kindly came forward at a critical moment when Lord was ill, and worked hard and well for his friend, the company, and the public; and I am sure he must feel gratified at the present condition of the Aquarium.

Still much remains to be done to develop this great marine laboratory, which promises not only to be a place of amusement and instruction, but also to serve as a key which will in time unlock many of the secrets of fish life, of the utmost commercial and national importance, that now remain hidden in the vast abyss of the ocean. Rest assured that, as far as I can, I shall do all I possibly am able to assist the directors and our little band of 'Practical Natural History' friends to make the Brighton Aquarium what it fairly promises to be—one of the most important of British institutions—the inauguration of a new era of knowledge and commercial prosperity.

Home Items.

The small-pox is disappearing from Yarmouth, N. S. Endeavours are being made to induce Father Burke to visit Quebec.

Hon. T. J. McAlpine, a distinguished American engineer, has been associated with Samuel Keefer and C. S. Gizowski to report on the Welland Canal improvements.

Applications are to be made to Parliament to incorporate the Acadia S.S. Co., whose boats will run to and from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and United States ports.

The Ottawa Citizen states that the Canadian Pacific Railway has reached a stage which ensures its commencement at an early day. The Board of Directors has been appointed, and names will be made public as soon as necessary preliminaries have been settled.

The *Montreal* learns that an arrangement has been entered into between the authorities of the Dominion and Major Shaw, lately Immigration Agent, for the settlement of a Scotch colony in the Province. One hundred families are to be settled upon free lots the first year, and two hundred the next year.

Last Saturday's *Gazette* contains the official notice of the appointment of the Hon. William Muirhead, of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, to the Senate, in place of the Hon. Mr. Mitchell, resigned; also of the Hon. Alexander Vidal, of Sarnia, in the place of the Hon. Roderick Matheson, deceased.

A meeting was held at Woodstock, Ont., on Friday last, by those interested in constructing a line of railway to connect St. Mary's with Woodstock and Toronto, via the Credit Valley road. It is claimed by the projectors of the road that if constructed it would throw the trade of a large section of the country into Toronto which now seeks the Hamilton market.

Judgment was rendered at Quebec on the 16th instant in the case of the City Bank vs. the Bank of Montreal by their Honours Justices Polette, Taschereau and Dunkin, confirming the judgment obtained by the City Bank against the Bank of Montreal in the Superior Court, to guarantee the City Bank against Sanderson's checks, cashed by the Banque Nationale to the amount of \$95,000. The court was unanimous in favour of the City Bank.

THEY EXCEL.—Doctor Joseph's Sarsaparilla or Vegetable Pills now superiorly sugar-coated cannot be excelled as a Family Medicine for general purposes.

The Pill contains the active properties of Mandrake and Dandelion, as well as compound Extract of Colocynth and Extract of Hyoseyamus. Test them for your own satisfaction. One box contains about 25 Pills, and each Pill is a sufficient dose for an adult in ordinary cases. Try them. 7-1 d

Miscellaneous.

Pullman cars are to be introduced shortly on the Midland Railway of England.

The Shah of Persia is about to visit Europe in April, with a suite of some fifty persons.

It is said that the wife of Père Hyacinthe had all her fortune in the bank of Bowles Brothers, and that both are now penniless.

The project of cutting a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth has been revived. It is said that M. de Lesseps will superintend the work.

A novel kind of exhibition will shortly be held in London, viz., of specimens of all kinds of tobacco pipes, tobacco grinders, &c., made before 1800.

The Irish University Bill has been drawn, and, according to the *Court Journal*, is of a most sweeping character, entirely destroying Trinity College.

A new species of game has made its appearance in Paris—no less than Marmots from Piedmont. The meat is said to be particularly good, and to promote sleep. Oh!

The Dublin grocers and vintners have subscribed a sum of £2,000, in lieu of the Christmas-boxes usually given to their customers, for the relief of the poor in the city.

The Roman Catholics of Munich have organized a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The party were to have set out on the 11th inst., and proposed remaining away for about six weeks.

Her Majesty the Queen has contributed £200, and the Prince of Wales 100 guineas, in aid of the Danish Inundation Fund. The Princess of Wales had previously contributed £100.

A Mr. Smith, a Mormon emissary, has been interviewing President Thiers, and expounding the tenets of his faith. The President was not converted, but was considerably amused.

The highest accounts are given of the Prince Imperial. He is said to be a lad of very great ability and promise, and the professors at Woolwich expect that he will do great things.

The English Old Testament revisers have just brought their fourteenth session to an end. The revision has been continued to the end of Deuteronomy, leaving chapters 32 and 33 for the next meeting.

The ladies of the congregation of a certain fashionable Ritualistic Church in London have formed themselves into a society called "The Phœbes," the members of which are pledged to do the church-cleaning themselves.

Sir Peter Tall, who is well known in this country for his kindness and attention to the Canadian representatives at Wimbledon, has been nominated for the representation of Orkney and Shetland. Mr. Laiding is his opponent.

If all Californian hams are as precious as one lately bought by a Swiss innkeeper there will be a rapid increase in the demand. On carving the ham the lucky Swiss found in it a gold nugget the size of a walnut, of the finest gold, and weighing over 100.

The Cavour family is in danger of becoming extinct. The young Marquis Alnardo, nephew of the great Italian Minister, son of Count Gustavo de Cavour, and the only remaining male branch of the family, is seriously attacked with slow consumption.

The Cobden Club are going to call a free trade congress for next summer. When the foreign delegates—many of whom will be literary men—are assembled in London, perhaps it may be possible to make a fresh move in the direction of international copyright.

Alexander Dumas is anxious for the honour of retrieving for France her lost territory. A Berlin theatrical agent recently offered him £200 for the right to represent the *Femine de Claude* at Berlin. The patriotic author wrote back, "The sum is insufficient. I require Alsace."

In right of his descent from heiresses the present Duke of Athole has a shield of more than a thousand quarterings. As a set-off against this accumulation of heiresses combined in the possessor of one Scotch dukedom, it is a curious circumstance that another Scotch duke, Montrose, is the representative of ancestors quite as illustrious—courtiers and cavaliers *par excellence*—not one of whom, from their first appearance in history, found favour with an heiress. Consequently the Graham shield has no quartering.

A Russian inventor has produced a new weapon, the kulomet or hand mitrailleuse. It is of simple construction, and may be used by the soldier on any ground, however hilly, just like a rifle. It is comparatively cheaper and simpler than the breech-loaders used by European armies, and a soldier armed with it can under all circumstances fire three as rapidly as with the needle-gun; in battle it will fire twenty-four shots a minute, while other breech-loaders only fire from twelve to thirteen a minute. Any rifle may be converted into a kulomet, and any cartridges may be used with them.

Mr. Gladstone has replied to a Fenian sympathiser. He is asked:—'Can you, as an Englishman, tell Irishmen, as such, that you have done to them and theirs in the same case that you and yours would be done by? Or can you, as a son of man, tell Him, the Son of Man, that you have dealt, and are still dealing with His, your own fellow man, as he commanded?' His reply, through his secretary, is as follows:—'10, Downing Street, November 30, 1872. Sir,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the 28th inst., and to inform you that he has no difficulty in answering the two questions, with which you conclude, by a clear affirmative. I am, sir, your obedient servant, J. A. Golley.'

A letter from St. Petersburg in the *Independence Belge* gives some information regarding the Russian expedition to Khiva. The troops commanded by Colonel Markosow have penetrated to the steppes of the Turkomans. One division, crossing the Gulf of Balakha to a place near Belek, gained the Tapiatan road, where it was joined by the second division. A numerous body of Turkomans having ventured an attack upon one of the detachments was repulsed with considerable losses, while on the side of the Russians there were only one man killed and two wounded. The army of the Khan is composed of some hundreds of badly armed slaves, and does not appear to counter-balance its numerical weakness by any military enthusiasm. Accordingly, the approach of the Russian troops, which it is felt impossible seriously to oppose, inspires a perfect panic in Khiva. The Prime Minister alone cherishes any illusions regarding the respective powers of the two armies and the results of an encounter. Information regarding the condition of the Russian prisoners at Khiva has reached St. Petersburg. They are said to be treated with sufficient gentleness by the Khan, a young man, twenty-four years of age, who is greatly beloved by his people.

Our Illustrations.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S DRAWING-ROOM.

On Tuesday week, the 14th inst., H. E. the Governor-General and the Countess of Dufferin held their first Drawing-Room at the St. Lawrence Hall. The reception was very well attended, nearly eight hundred people having the honour to be presented to their Excellencies. Our artists contribute this week several sketches in connection with the affair—one page being entirely devoted to the illustration of humorous incidents, which were by no means wanting during the evening.

Biographies of the

HON. OLIVER MOWAT,

and of

JUDGE MACQUEEN

will be found on another page.

YALE, B. C.

The town of Yale occupies a pleasant position on the Fraser River, at the point where the stream becomes navigable to the ocean. The Fraser, as most of our readers already know, is one of the finest rivers in British Columbia, and is equally remarkable for the tortuous course it pursues, its extraordinary resources, and the beauty of the scenery through which it passes. It rises in the glacier region of the Rocky Mountains, and flows 150 miles toward the North-West. It then turns abruptly, and proceeds about 400 miles due south; then starts back, and, reflecting at a right angle, flows north-westwards once more to its terminus in the Straits of Georgia. From Yale down the valley of the river is extremely fertile, while its banks and those of its tributaries are rich in auriferous deposit.

OTTER ISLAND.

This island lies off Otter Head, on the North Shore of Lake Superior, N.N.W. of Michipicoten Island, about half-way between Sault Ste. Marie and Fort William. The scenery along this part of the coast is very beautiful, though of the wild, rugged character so often met with on Lake Superior.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO MONTMORENCI.

During his recent stay in Quebec, His Excellency accepted an invitation from the Stadacona Hunt and Driving Club to join an excursion to Montmorenci. Thursday, the 9th inst., was the day selected for the trip, and at noon the members of the club assembled with their tandems and teams on the Place d'Armes. At half-past twelve the "assembly" was sounded, the traps were got into line, Lord Dufferin with Major Montizambert leading. A large crowd had turned out to witness the procession, which numbered some sixty sleighs. After a cold drive of over two hours along the bleak Beauport Road, the party arrived at the seignorial residence of Geo. Benson Hall, Esq., who had made preparations for their reception and entertainment. Here luncheon was served, after which the host escorted his visitors over the quaint old manorial house. By this time the arrangements for a visit to the Cone were completed. A number of country wood-sleighs were in attendance, and in these the visitors made the descent of the "Corkscrew," the zigzag and tortuous road which leads down the face of the precipice to the foot of the Falls. Here a number of men and boys were drawn up with sleighs and toboggans for the use of those who chose to make the descent of the Cone. His Excellency first proceeded to the top with a guide and inaugurated the slide. The spray from the falls was falling heavily, and those who visited the top were speedily drenched. Accordingly the ladies contented themselves with merely witnessing the sport. After some time spent at the Cone, the ascent of the long hill was made, and on reaching the manor took leave of their host, re-entered their sleighs, and started for home. The city was reached at half-past five, and after taking leave of His Excellency the party dispersed to prepare for the ball at the Skating Rink that night.

The sketches by Mr. Wilkinson show the start from St. Denis Street, the party making their way down Corkscrew Hill.

An account of

THE SAND BLAST

is given on the same page as the illustration.

"OFF PORTLAND."

This illustration represents a portion of the island off Portland, (Eng.) with the Breakwater, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Prince Consort in 1849. The estimated cost was £600,000, but probably this has been far exceeded by "extras." It encloses a roadstead of four miles in extent, embracing an area of 1,500 acres of deep water, sheltered from every wind, and with good holding ground for ships' anchors. Beyond the steep bluffs to the right of the picture—at the summit of which are the Verne Fortifications—is the convict establishment, situated in a part of the island called the Grove, and erected in 1849. The average number of convicts detained here is about 1,500, who are employed in quarrying the freestone with which the island abounds. The maintenance of each of these prisoners costs the rate-payers about thirty-five pounds per annum.

OUR DIGESTIVE ORGANS.—The result of much scientific research and experiment has within the last few years enabled the medical profession to supply to the human system, where impaired or inactive, the power which assimilates our food. This is now known as "Morson's Pepsine," and is prescribed as wine, globules, and lozenges, with full directions. The careful and regular use of this valuable medicine restores the natural functions of the stomach, giving once more strength to the body. There are many imitations, but Morson and Son, the original manufacturers, are practical chemists, and the "Pepsine" prepared by them is warranted, and bears their labels and trade-mark. It is sold by all chemists in bottles 3s., and boxes from 2s. 6d., but purchasers should see the name

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T. MORSON & SON.