NEWS ITEMS.

Four hundred women enter the University of London this fall.

It costs $43,200 yearly to run the Fire-Department of the City of Toronto.

Press telegrams from India have been reduced from 4s. 6d. to 1s. a word.

The receipts at the Paris Exposition were 12,653,746 francs and the attendance 16,026,735.

It is stated that Count Schouvaloff returns as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's permanently.

A Berlin despatch reports that measures have been taken to increase the Russian army in time of war by 632 battalions.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot, whilst attending the reception at the Ottawa railway depot, was relieved of $30, by a pick pocket.

John Peyonk, a half-breed living in Arkansas, being refused a chew of tobacco at a house murdered its five inmates.

During the year ending 30th November last, 81,225 immigrants arrived at New York, against 66,111 the previous year.

A Springfield beggar woman accustomed to go a daily round for broken meats, etc. turns out to be keeping a flourishing boarding-house.

It is now estimated that not over $100,000,000 of the bonds of the United States are held abroad, against $900,000,000 in 1872.

Fourteen thousand telephones are already in operation in the United States, and the contractors are getting orders for them at the rate of 1,000 a month.

One of the articles shipped from India to China is salted rats, which are, as is well known, highly appreciated in China as an article of food.

The first shipment of horses from America for the use of the French army has arrived at Havre. The French military inspectors are much pleased with the animals.

"We ought to be at war with Russia not only at the present but nine months ago," says Captain Burnaby, author of the "Ride to Khiva," who is now running for Parliament.

Passanante, when arrested at Palermo ten years ago for posting up revolutionary placards, told the police that he was learning French with the view of going to Paris to shoot Napoleon III.

In the London Divorce Court, Major-General William Charles Robinson Macdonald has obtained a decree of divorce against his wife, on account of her adultry with the late Major Nares.

On the 28th inst., a poll will be held in Prince Co., Prince Edward Island, to determine whether or not the Canada Temperance Act shall be put in force in that county.

A marriage took place in Cavan, Ireland, on October 31st, in which the united ages of the happy couple reached the round number of 150—the groom being 70 years of age, and the blooming object of his affections 80.

Baroness Mary Itulak Artymowska, 26 years of age, and moving in the best Russian society, says the Paris *Estafetta*, has just been banished to Siberia for forgery, fraud and bribery, leaving debts to the amount of 2,000,000 roubles.

Dr. Cumming's Church, once the most crowded in London, is, says the *Enquirer*, now comparatively deserted, the repeated predictions of the approaching end of the world not having established the doctor's credibility as a prophet.

An American lady recently bought the costliest braid or "switch" of hair that was ever made in Paris. It was composed of hair a yard and a quarter in length, snow white, and exceedingly soft and glossy. Its price was $500.

Russia is accumulating vast quantities of medical stores in Bulgaria—more indeed, than the army of occupation could ever require for pacific purposes. Among the items sent about the 9th inst. from Odessa, was a consignment of one thousand pounds weight of quinine.

The National Fund for the relief of the City of Glasgow Bank shareholders now amounts to close on a quarter of a million sterling. Of this sum £145,000 has been raised in Glasgow, about £60,000 in Edinburgh, £12,000 in Paisley, and nearly £8,000 in Greenock.

Mr. Peter A. Tighe, of Memphis, died of yellow fever, and so did the doctor who attended him, the undertaker who laid him out, and the clergyman who officiated at his funeral, so an insurance company which required their certificate has refused to pay over the sum for which his life was insured.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Brett, one of the few English officers who rose from the ranks, has just died. He got his commission as ensign after the battle of the Alma in 1854, and when in 1873 he was retired with full pay wore the Caffre medal, the Crimean medal with three clasps, the Turkish medal and the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

Of 504,000 Muscovite soldiers who, during the recent struggle, poured through Roumania into Turkey, 58,000 were sent back by rail wounded and 62,150 ill, 31,000 sick went home to Odessa by sea, 29,000 are still in hospital, 31,000 laid their bones in Roumania, and 99,000 perished in Bulgaria. Under such circumstances one can scarcely wonder at the advocacy of peace at any price.

London *Court Journal*:—"What will be thought of the United States shipping plum pudding to England, potatoes to Ireland, oatmeal to Scotland, toys to Nuremburg and lager beer to Germany? Yet such are the facts, and they are no more astonishing than the now thrice-told tale of the regular and profitable sale of American cotton in Manchester and American cutlery and hardware in Birmingham."

The depression of trade is beginning to produce very serious results in the northern districts. Nearly half the mills around Ashton-under-Lyne are stopped or running short time, and many people are destitute. Matters are even worse in the black country. At Wolverhampton and other centres of industry many hundreds of people are actually starving, owing to the extremes stagnation in the coal and iron industries.

A LONG TRAIN.—On the Northern Central Railroad of Pennsylvania, lately, engine No. 4 drew from Clarke's Ferry to Sunbury, a distance of thirty-one miles, a train consisting of 183 empty freight cars, one loaded eight-wheeler, two cabooses and a dead engine. It was up-grade work, but the trip was made at the rate of ten miles an hour. The train was 6,200 feet long, or 920 feet more than a mile, and, it is claimed, was the longest ever drawn by a single engine.

Lieut. Fitzgerald, slain in the rush on Ali Musjid, is not the first of his race who has perished in the blood-stained defiles of Afghanistan. His grandfather, Major Swayne, was killed in the retreat from Cabul; his great-uncle, Capt. Swayne, fell in the Khyber pass; his father, Major Fitzgerald, died of Cholera in India; and his uncle by marriage, Dr. Marshall, lost his life in saving the sick from an hospital burned by the mutineers.

A SPEECH NINE MONTHS LONG.—The litigation in connection with the failure of the Tipperary Bank was recently resumed before the Irish Lord Chancellor. This case has been in progress for thirty years, and it was stated that one witness was under examination for four and a half years, and that one counsel's speech lasted nine months. A conversation took place between the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Sergeant Sherloch, and the case was again adjourned.

While the Duke of Edinburgh was in Eastern waters an exciting incident occurred one night under the following circumstances. The officer of the watch on board one of the Turkish men-of-war was surprised by hearing a splash under the bows, and on going to the forcastle, to his dismay, he beheld the crew of a Russian torpedo boat in the act of fastening one of those infernal machines to his vessel. It was a critical moment. Nevertheless, the Turkish officer was equal to the occasion. Observing that one of the bower anchors was directly over the torpedo boat, with admirable presence of mind he let go. The result can be easily imagined. The anchor weighed some five tons, and fairly fell on to the boat, which with its crew went down fully forty fathoms deep.

THE 101ST REGIMENT.—The *Lancet* brings a serious charge against the authorities who were responsible for selecting the Black Watch and the 101st Regiment for duty in Cyprus. Both these regiments, as is well known, have suffered heavily from malarious fever in Cyprus, and the *Lancet* contends that their liability to attacks of fever ought to have been perfectly well known to the General Staff; and that being so, they should never have been sent to Cyprus without inquiry as to its suitableness from a sanitary point of view. The 101st is still suffering severely at Halifax from Cyprus fever, and the 42nd has a heavy list of men ineffective from sickness. The *Lancet* states that neither the principal medical officer at Malta nor the Director General at home was consulted. These officers knew that the 42nd had suffered heavily from fever in the Ashantee war, and had acquired a susceptibility to malarious fever which it will take years to shake off. The 101st was exposed to the same risks from its service in India; and no one acquainted with their condition would have sent either of the regiments to Cyprus. The *Lancet* speaks of the "notoriously hostile" feeling of the Duke of Cambridge towards the Medical Department, and suggests that in future he should condescend to take counsel with the responsible medical authorities on questions regarding the lives, the health, and the general fitness of the men of any corps for special service.

Europe promises to distance America in big sensations. Glasgow can claim the distinction of having and the biggest bank swindle, and Brussels the biggest bank swindler, while Paris has scored the biggest bang in exhibitions and in balloons, and is now engaged in the biggest lottery the world has known. It is managed by the Government, and the prizes consist of articles purchased at the Exhibition. Commencing with one million tickets at a franc each, the gambling fever increased with such rapidity over the whole body politic that a single ticket of the twelfth million cannot be purchased at the price of issue. The export trade has been enormous, and in England the tickets command a premium of 100 per cent. The net value for distribution among the subscribers to this gigantic raffle is nine and a half millions of francs. The prizes range from blocks of marble to tins of meat, and in value from one to one hundred thousand francs. As many of the lots may prove white elephants on the hands of the winners, an exchange agency for prizes is proposed. Of course, the gambling spirit of the French people, manifested by the rapidity with which twelve million tickets have been sold, has been regularly denounced; nevertheless, even the plodding French peasant has bought a chance, and hopes for a lucky turn of the wheel which may make him richer than all the labor of a life time.

Professor Fuller, electrician, of Washington, is of opinion that the time has come when the gas companys should contemplate as a certainty the substitution of the electric light for gas in household illumination. There is no reason, he thinks, why they should be in a panic. There is a great future before them if they know how to meet it. "Let them," he says, "at once combine and offer rewards, say of $50,000, $20,000, and $15,000, for the first, second, and third best inventions in gas stoves, in which all the products of combustion are carried off by the chimney, and the best adapted to all the uses of the modern house from the parlor to the kitchen. Then let the builders offer similar rewards or prizes for the best models of houses adapted to the economical use of gas fuel, and the thousands and thousands of American inventors, with their heads brimming full of brain, only waiting for proper inducements, will soon furnish all that is required in this direction. Then we shall see a new era in domestic industry." The Professor admits that this will be a crushing blow to the anthracite coal men, but in view of their odious tactics in combining for the purpose of making an artificial scarcity, they are actually a worse-hated class than gas men themselves.

Considerable danger is apprehended from the influx of German socialists to the United States, many of whom are daily arriving at New York and other ports. This immigration will probably result in a protest being forwarded to the German Government that the deportation of German socialists, as of all other persons hostile to civilization and law is an unfriendly act. While Bismarck has been the means of enacting stringent laws against this class of German subjects, he has, at the same time, sought to improve the condition of the labouring classes. At the present time he is advocating the creation of working-men's cities on the plan of Mulhouse in Alsace. The mode of living prevailing there is superior to that of most European labouring men. The large buildings contain cheap apartments on the French flat principle. A general system of warming and lighting is introduced, and there are large kitchens where the inmates can either buy cooked food or take their provisions to be cooked. Libraries reading-rooms, and baths are also provided at minimum prices. To the general fund, which Bismarck is raising for the adoption of this system in other cities, the national subscription of two and a half millions, presented to the Emperor William as a testimonial of affection after the last attack on his life, will be added.

A NAIL GUN.—The *New Zealand Times* says: "One of the most simple, and at the same time most ingenious implement on view at the Wellington Industrial Exhibition is an invention of a young man in this city, a Mr. F. Falkner. It is called a 'nail gun' and is used for nailing down flooring boards. We have seen the implement in use, and so far as we are able to judge it is quicker in its work and insures greater cleanliness than hand nailing could do. The apparatus is not unlike a gun in shape, and is about the same length. It is kept in position with the foot and knee, and the nail to be driven is placed (point down) in an aperture at the top of the concern. It slides down to the bottom, and then the operator draws up a rod, and by one downward stroke of this the nail is cleanly driven into the boards beneath. A practiced hand, by this simple contrivance, could do the work of half a dozen men. We believe that Mr. Falkner is now improving upon his invention, and is making a 'nail gun' which will be self-feeding. We have no doubt that when the implement comes to be generally known it will be brought into general use.

HOW WE DIE.—A statistician in England, in studying a generation of a million of people from the birth to death, finds that one-fourth of them die before they reach five years; less than one-twenty-eighth between five and ten years; in the next five years the mortality is lower than at any period; in the next five years an increase, especially among women—the influence of dangerous occupations begins to be seen in the death rate. Eight times as many men as women die violent deaths. This is perceptible for twenty years. Consumption is prevalent, and accounts for one-half of the deaths from twenty to forty-five. From thirty-five the wear and tear of the system are seen. At forty-five the million is lessened to four hundred and twenty-one thousand one hundred and fifteen—the death rate increasing rapidly. About one-sixth of the million is left at seventy-five, at eighty-five only thirty-eight thousand five hundred and sixty-five are left, and at one hundred two hundred and two are left. At fifty-three, men and women surviving are about equal in number, and from fifty-five onward the women exceed the men.

According to American socialists, Germany Austria, and Italy are destined for a terrible baptism of blood. Indeed, three countries only are expected from the universal ruin that is at hand. France is to be spared because she settled forever the question of Communism on the streets of Paris seven years ago. The United States will escape on account of the entire freedom accorded to every one. Great Britain is to go unscathed because her trades unions and labor organizations remove the necessity of resorting to extreme measures in the struggle between capital and labor. It is consoling to find that Canadians are to be spared socialistic troubles. Internationalists and socialists, however, multiply in the United States, and during the recent hard times threats of disturbances were made in many of the large cities. It is gratifying, therefore, to be assured that the American workingman will rest as contented with his two dollars a day as does the French peasant on his forty sous.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., DECEMBER 14, 1878.

Business Depression.

The news from England regarding the position and prospects of trade continues to be of a gloomy character. The failure of the Glasgow bank gave a great shock to confidence which has been further shaken by the recent suspension of the Caledonian bank, and of a bank in the West of England. Earl Beaconsfield, on the opening of Parliament, in his speech in the debate on the address, spoke confidently, that the worst had been reached, and that matters would begin to improve, and drew a happy augury from the admitted improvement of business in the Unitid States which would react upon England. But facts do not seem to bear out his hopeful statements.

The manufactured iron trade in Scotland, and in Lancashire and York is reported as being increasingly depressed, and what is true of iron is true of cotton, and other industries. The English farmers, are at present, in a peculiarly depressed state of mind; some of them are throwing up their farms in despair. The free importation of cattle and dead meat, and wheat, and cheese, and apples from the United States especially, is telling against them. They are crying out agaianst free trade which is like a jug with the handle all on one side, and are asking for protection. The present hard times are making converts to what was once thought to be an entirely exploded principle. If the United States and other foreign countries who freely import their products, bar by protective tariffs our manufactures from entering their markets, let England impose a retaliatory tariff, is now the argument of some.

Times are, indeed, so bad in England, that some fear that the depression will be permanent, and that she has entered upon her decline. But the first glimpse of sunshine will dissipate the hypochondriac vapors befogging the brains of such gloomy thinkers. The condition of trade in England is now depressed beyond a doubt, but it is true, that within the last ten years the volume of her commerce, her staple industries, and her realized wealth have increased greatly compared to what they were in the preceding decade. In short, however, dull and depressed business matters may be, England is only suffering from a temporary prostration; though to those who under go and go under it, it is as bad as if it were to be permanent.

Coming nearer home, the universal complaint is that business was never more depressed than it is at present. The prediction that the winter would likely be a hard one commercially, may unhappily turn out to be too true, The certain signs of hard times—shuttered windows, and the suspension of well-known business firms, are to be seen, or have been seen, in our midst, but, in such cases it is to be hoped, that the difficulties are only temporary.

Sugar Frauds.

"You rogue" said old Sir John Falstaff to the drawer, "there is lime in this sack too." Sir John had been moralising on the unreliability of men in general, and had called for a possit of sherris sack to cheer up his melancholy, and finding that his favorite tipple had been adulterated, vented his discontent against the human race. Adulteration is certainly a very ancient practice. It would seem as if nothing that is manufactured to be worn, eaten or drank, is exactly what it is represented to be. Look at the sugars as they come from the refineries, so pure and white and tempting in appearance, yet ten to one, they owe their fine color to the muriate of tin, or some other villianous adulterating compound, such as sulphuric acid or the bisulphate of lime, and a great part of their bulk to starch or flour.

Startling revelations have lately been made in the United States, of enormous frauds committed by some of the large sugar refinery firms. It is a question which in one aspect at least, is of as much interest to the people of Canada as of the United States. The sugar frauds as they are called, have two aspects, one as they affect the revenue of the United States, the other as they affect the health of all, who, either in Canada or the United States use the adulterated refined sugars. By collusion with Custom House officials, sugar refiners have first, been enabled to defraud the revenue of millions of dollars annually, by false and lower classification of sugars entered by them and secondly, they have been enabled to obtain drawbacks in excess or exports of refined sugars by the use of poisonous adulterations to raise the grade, and of glucose, starch, or flour of trifling value comparatively to reduce the volume of pure sugar in the refined article. The discrepancy between the amounts of duties on sugars that were collected, and the amounts which, under the tariff ought to have been collected in 1876 and 1877 reached $12,808,259. "The pensive public," the patient people of the United States have had to endure much flagitious fleecing from the hands of rascally "rings." The vice of dishonesty being so deeply engrained in the nature of so many of the inhabitants of that country, it is difficult to see how such frauds can be prevented, when such evil citizens see that an advantage can be taken of their much loved country by robbing its revenue and even by imperilling the lives of the people, they do not hesitate to make a good thing for themselves. The honor credit and wellbeing of the nation do not weigh for a moment against their selfish interests.

The remedy proposed to put a atop to the frauds upon the revenue, is to place a uniform specific duty of 2 cents per pound upon all grades of imported sugars up to a certain standard, (No. 16 D. S.) and to establish a uniform specific draw back, based on duty, paid regardless of grade and of cargo identity, upon all refined sugar exported from the United States, which are the actual product of sugar refineries in the country.

The people of Canada are not, probably much interested in the sugar frauds, as they affect the United States revenue; but they are certainly interested in the villianous adulterations practiced by some of the large sugar refineries of the United States. An investigation was held in New York, last September, 16th and 17th, by a ways and means committee, of which Mr. Fernando Wood was chairman, into the alledged sugar frauds, which Mr. T. A. Haremeyer, a noted refiner, declared "were all bosh." Mr. Booth, of the well-known firm of Booth & Edgar, sugar refiners, gave testimony before it on the topics of sugars and syrups:—

"Do you ask me whether I believe that the refiners adulterate their sugars? Do you ask me whether I know how they do it? I tell you, Yes, I do. I know that they adulterate their sugars and I know how they do it. You may blindfold me as I stand here now and I will go with you into the houses of one of the largest refineries in the neighborhood of New York and put your hand on the place where the job is done. I know what I am talking about, and I know that it is not bosh. I have had men come to me week after week, offering me this and that adulteration and saying, "Others use it, I sell carload after carload of it to this concern and that concern. They are all using it in large quantities." My position as a refiner has been such that I have been engaged to know just about what was going on in regard to this glucose business, and I think we shall all hear more about it by and by. Then as to fraud, there is not a man in this room who knows anything about this business who does not know that frauds *are* committed. A man came into our office the other day and said, speaking about these frauds, "It is not good to do this but they all do it.' I understand there is a regular tariff over there in Brooklyn under which the thing is done, and I am told that there is evidence of it."

After such a statement made under oath, by a respectable member of the trade there is no room for doubting that many of the American refineries adulterate their sugars.

A large proportion of the refined sugars and the syrups used in Canada is imported from New York.

It is too bad that the health of the people should be imperilled by using constantly, a mixture, of the lowest grade sugar, doctored with a mixture of tin, to give it a fine color, and of glucose or starch, under the delusion that it is the finest refined sugar. These adulterations are an argument for the imposition of protective duties on sugars coming from the United States, for direct trade between Canada and the West Indias, and for the establishment of refineries, under strict government supervision. They are also an argument in favor of the farmers turning their attention to the cultivation of beets, and the establishment of beet root sugar factories. Better, the coarsest, raw, or honest beet sugar, than the superfine refined of many New York refiners.

Canada under the Administration of the Earl of Dufferin.

Mr. George Stewart's, Jr.'s book—"Canada under the Administration of the Earl of Dufferin," is certainly a most seasonable publication. Scarcely had the most popular of all Governors General left the Dominion, which he loved and ruled so well, when this record of his mellifluous eloquence appeared. Without detracting in the least from the merits of the historical labors of the author, it will be at once conceded by all who read the book, that the Earl's speeches are its principal attraction—they are the "raison d'etre" of the book in fact. They are speeches of a peculiar order, and superexcellent of their kind, not the profound utterances of a statesman struggling with a great subject, but the pleasant deliverances of a ruler of an optimist turn of mind, whose position requires of him to be mainly passive in relation to events, and whose aim it is to make the situation in which he finds himself, as pleasant as possible to everybody. But Earl Dufferin, easy and good natured as he appeared to be, though he in one of his speeches, humorously compared himself as Governor General to the humble functionary, who superintends the working of some complicated mass of steam driven machinery, had a very high idea of his position, and could be determined enough when occasion called on him to show his sterner qualities. A number of the speeches he made were mere complimentary affairs, but several are admirable examples, of felicitous and true thought and poetic expression warmed by a fine hearted geniality. No one can read the Earl Dufferin greater efforts, such as, the speech he delivered in Belfast previous to leaving Ireland, and the one he made at the dinner given him by the Canada Club, in London, and others, without feeling that he was a true friend of Canada, that he had a great admiration for the grand features of the country, an unbounded confidence in the energy and capacity of the people to the work out a great destiny, and in their deep love and unswerying allegiance to the throne. He certainly did take a roseate a view of affairs, perhaps he could not keep doing so, standing as he did in broad sunshine, some of his statements would not stand analytic criticism, but the intention was always good, and the effect always pleasing, Every good Canadian is bound in honor to think and speak well of their late Governor General,

Earl Dufferin was an admirable writer of state papers, as his dispatches to the Colonial Secretary in the times of the Pacific Scandal and the Northwest troubles testify. We have no doubt, viewing his varied gifts, his poetic vein, his humor, his clear observation, his narrative powers, his ability to say sharp things pleasantly, that he could, were he to give himself full swing, write a most racy history of Canada, during the years of his administration, and we do believe, if it was written, it would be found that he had given himself a few sly digs.

Mr. Stewart's book contains nearly 700 pages. A great part of his space is devoted to the Earl's speeches, and to describing the events that led up to them and to the surroundings of the occasions on which they delivered, to pourtraying the journeyings of Lord and Lady Dufferin to distant parts of the Dominion, and the popular demonstrations made in their honor. There are several chapters of historical naritives, which give full and interesting accounts of the Pacific Scandal and the Northwest troubles, which are made all the more valuable by copious extracts from documents bearing on these questions. The author endeavours to be impartial and fairly succeeds.

His treatment of the New Brunswick School Law questions is open to objection though, and his language in some places, is very like what a heated partisan would use. The author must have written *currente calamo* in some haste, for there are one or two sentences or paragraphs, which we think he would on calm consideration omit or remodel. But altogether in matter and form, Canada under the administration of the Earl Dufferin is a fine specimen of bookmaking, creditable alike to the writer, the printers and the publishers.

The United States Government experiences as much difficulty in obtaining claimants for the balance of the money paid by Great Britain under the Geneva award as did Diogenes in finding an honest man. A bill has been framed to devise measures for a further division of the spoils, and it will come up before Congress. This bill provides that all persons and corporations claiming a share of the award shall sue for the same in the Court of Claims at any time within one year from the passage of the statue. With commendable generosity, the Government promises to allow interest on the claims after proof is admitted. Nine million dollars of British money still remain in the Treasury awaiting distribution, American ingenuity will have departed if there is any lack of plausible claims.

We were exposed last week to a pitiless storm, that wet our feet and stockings, and indeed our person all over. In fact we took a cracking cold, which brought sore throat and severe symptoms of fever. The good wife asserted her authority, plunged our feet into hot water, wrapped us in hot blankets, and sent our faithful son for a bottle of AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL. It is a splendid medicine—pleasant to take, and did the job. We slept soundly through the night and awoke well the next morning. We know we owe our quick recovery to the Pectoral, and shall not hesitate to recommend it to all who need such a medicine.—*Tehucana (Texas) Presbyterian.*

Fashion.

It is reported in the papers that the Princess Louise when she walks abroad, and does shopping carries a cane. Young ladies in Ottawa have already been seen supporting their tottering steps with a piece of malacca. Fashion is a plague, and its infection spreads fast and far, and the all loyal young ladies throughout the Dominion may soon follow the royal example. "See what a deformed thief fashion is," says one of Shakespear's characters, and what a tyrant as well. No costume to wear, or habit to follow, is too preposterous for Fashion to dictate to her votaries. Not that there is anything either preposterous or ugly in ladies carrying a cane. They might as well carry a cane as a parasol in winter weather. And after all, it is but the revival of an old custom, for there is nothing new under the sun. In olden days, ladies, especially ladies of the Manor, and "ladies bountiful" were wont when they walked abroad to carry a cane, but then it was a cane, as was a cane, tall as themselves, and gold headed, as imposing as the troncheon of a beadle, and not unlike the staff that the tall and gorgerously by dressed and powdered flunky, who hangs behind his mistress carriage as it dashes down Picadilly, bears. Now that some young ladies sport unadorned round hats, and ulsters, a short cane will give the finishing touch, to a rather masculine looking costume. But we may be told that, it is no editor's business to meddle with ladie's fashions, very true, and we have only mentioned the latest fashion in order to turn a paragraph.

A correspondent, Mr. Martin Butler writing from Grand Lake, Me., says "that winter with its cold cutting blasts has come, the lakes have commenced to freeze, but no snow has fallen yet. Messrs. Shaw Brothers, the Tanners, have nearly finished the construction of new large hide house, it is covered with sheet iron and made fireproof. Last Sunday, as a man named Charles McPheters of Alexander, was chopping wood, he cut three of his toes off with the axe. A henious outrage was committed on the person of a married woman living at Waute, by two tramps from Calais. When her husband returned home and heard of the brutality, he started in pursuit, armed with a loaded gun, and overtook the villains. They begged so piteously that he would do them no violence, that instead of taking vengence on the spot, he apprehended them, and took them before Justice Druose, who commited them to gaol, in Machias, where they are now lying awaiting their trial, which will come off at January term of the court."

RETURNED FROM ABROAD.—Mr. William Lemont, of Messrs. Lemont & Sons, who left Fredericton for Europe in June, has returned home and received a warm welcome from his friends. In the interest of his business, and with the interest of a traveller, he has visited London, Edinburgh, Paris, and Berlin, and many places of historical and indu-trial note in Germany. He has seen Dresden, where they manufacture the famous china, and then in Prague where they blow the celebrated Bohemian glass, and passed through cities and towns whose name, recall the memory of Luther and the Reformation. We have, no doubt, that the variety store will soon be filled with a quantity of rare and beautiful articles, selected by Mr. Lemont in the course of his business tour.

SOCIAL GATHERING.—The weather may be disagreeable and uncertain; business may be dull, and the prospects gloomy; but the spirits of youth rise above all discouraging circumstances. A social gathering assembled last Thursday evening in the Temperance Hall; there were about thirty couples on the floor who enjoyed the various dances to the excellent music of Bryson's Band. The social gathering was the first of a series of six that have been arranged to come off. The second will be held on Thursday evening, January 2nd, and coming as it will in the midst of the Christmas-New Year's festivities, it will of course be well attended.

"GRAHAM" L. O. L. No. 20.—At the regular meeting of "Graham" L. O. L. No. 20, held in Orange Hall, Queen St., Fredericton, Friday, Dec. 6th, the following officers were duly installed:—

William Wilson, *W. M.* (R. E.) Archie W. Fleming, *D. M.* (R. E.) Wm. Rosborough, *Chap.*; Wm. D. Smith, *Sec.*; Wm. Lipsett, *Trea.*; Wm. Grieves, *D. of C.*; Hewlett Carman, *Foreman of Com.*; Fred J. McCausland, *2nd Com.*; John Dougherty, *3rd Com.*; Wm. H. Anderson, *4th Com.*; Henry Pollock, *5th Com.*; Charles Leese, *Tyler.*

Mr. Leverett Estabrooks, has been appointed a delegate to represent the York County Division Grange, at the meeting of the Dominion Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, which takes place in Toronto on the 17th, inst.

M. Vambery, the distinguished traveller, in a communication to a German journal, expresses his conviction that Shere Ali, having entered upon the mad enterpise of a war with Great Britain, will soon see his country overrun by Turcomans. These warlike horsemen frequently commit raids in Persia, and even threaten the integrity of that kingdom. According to M. Vambery, they will effectually prevent an advance of the Russians to Merv, which the northern Power seeks to secure for strategetic and political purposes. The advance of the Russians to Khiva is treated as a promenade among comparatively peaceful tribes; and this high authority, who has travelled extensively in the region of which he speaks, shows that the conquest of 100,000 Turcoman and Tekke cavalry must be accomplished by the Czar's troops before they can advance further in the direction of India. When England has secured command of the passes through Afghanistan our Indian Empire will be impregnable.

Since the trade mark law was enacted by the United States Congress in 1870, about ten thousand trade marks have been issued. It now appears very doubtful whether such a law is in operation. The Circuit Court at Milwaukee has expressed the opinion that no constitutional warrant can be found for a United States trade mark law. The ground taken is that the maker of a trade mark is neither an author nor an inventor, and a trade mark is neither a writing nor a discovery within the meaning and intent of the constitutional clause empowering Congress to pass patent and copyright laws. Another objection taken is that the provision empowering Congress to regulate commerce among the several States does not give it authority to enact a measure of this kind. Judge Harlan, of the Supreme Court, concurred in the opinion held by the Cruit Court. The question, which covers the debateable ground of State rights, will be brought before the highest courts for settlement.

The duel between Gambetta and De Fourtou seems to have been a wretched bit of comedy. The combatants were so far apart that inasmuch as the weather was foggy they could scarcely have seen each other, and there are grounds for the suspicion that the result of the affair of honour was pre-arranged. One of the Paris correspondents says that the conditions of the duel remind him of the Vaudevilie burlesque, in which there is an encounter with sabres at ten paces distance "The real danger," he says, "would have been for the seconds had they been imprudent enough not to be under shelter, for at thirty-five paces the deviation of balls presents the greatest risk." When the affair was happily over, the four seconds shook hands and the duellists raised their hats to each other. The cause of war was Gambetta's exclamation, "That is a lie Monsieur!"

Mysterious Robbery.

A robbery was last Wednesday discovered to have taken place in the office of Messrs. Turnbull & Co., over which hangs a mystery. Some individual or individuals entered the warehouse on Ward street, in broad daylight, in the hours of business, or during the interval between business hours, and passing through the flour supply room and the clerks' room into the private office, and from the vault opening from it, took a box containing New Brunswick, Maritime and People's Bank stock, and New Brunswick Railway, and Springhill Coal, and Joggins mining bonds to the value of $100,000. The robbery was not discovered until after four of Wednesday afternoon. Mr. A. F. Randolph, who, it appears deposited money in the vault on Wednesday morning, is almost positive that the box was not in its place then. As it is said, that the box had not been opened by the Messrs. Turnbull since the 29th ult., the robbery might have taken place any time between that date and the morning when Mr. Randolph noticed that it was not in its place in the vault. The abstraction of the box will not involve Messrs. Turnbull in any loss—as it is impossible that the robber or robbers, who elude discovery—can negotiate them with any advantage to themselves. But for this robbery, who would have supposed that the Messrs. Turnbull were so very warm men. Instead of being objects of sympathy they will rather be envied by many a business man who, in these hard times, has all his available means sunk in ventures.

It is almost worth while recording the changes of sky and temperature of this extraordinary season, for the youngest, if he lives to be the oldest inhabitant, may never see the like again. Here we are almost in the middle of December, and winter is hardly yet upon us. The river though filled with ice, is still flowing. During the week, gentle frost, with bright skies during the day, with brilliant moonlight at night, was succeeded by raw gloom and a snow fall, which was followed by a heavy rain storm on Wednesday; then the weather turned round cold. To-day there was a feeling in the air, as if the frost might give way again. It is to be hoped that there will be a plentiful fall of snow soon, for the sake of the Christmas markets.

A rich treat is in store for the lovers of jolly music in Fredericton. The Fredericton Amateur Minstrel Club who gave last year several successful performances, intend giving a series of entertainments during the winter. The first will take place in the Temperance Hall on Wednesday evening. Besides having improved themselves by constant practice, the Club have associated with themselves the Fredericton Amateur Orchestra, and engaged the services of Fred. Nixon, a famous singer and clog dancer, and can now with confidence offer a first class entertainment.

THE UNIVERSITY.—The examination of the students, by written questions and answers, commenced in the University to-day, Saturday, and will be continued on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The public Oral Examinations will take place on Thursday, beginning at 9 A. M., and the authorities cordially invite all who are interested in the higher education to attend. On that day the Students will present Prof. Foster, who then retires from the classical chair, with a gold chain and a seal as a token of their regard.

It will be seen by the strong worded card in another column that R. Chestnut & Sons are anxious to discover the name of the writer who wrote the communication to the *Morning News*, in which the credit of their firm was wilfully, maliciously and falsely assailed. The proprietors of the *Morning News* having refused to give up the name of their correspondent, Messrs. R. Chestnut & Sons have commenced an action against them.

Mr. Dole, of St. John, who will assume the conduct for the Greek and Latin classes, and all the duties devolving on the classical chair, when the University re-opens after the Christmas holidays, was in Fredericton for several days this week, familiarizing himself with the routine of his prospecting work. We have no doubt but that Mr. Doyle will prove himself to be an acceptable instructor to the students.

PUBLIC LECTURES.—The first lecture of the course under the auspices of the ladies of the W. C. T. U., will be delivered by Prof. Foster, in the City Hall, on Tuesday evening next. From the well-known ability of the lecturer, and the importance of his subject, "A Plea for Higher Culture," a fine effort may be expected.

☞ You can buy the best and cheapest Sewing Machines in Fredericton from Miller Brothers, opposite City Hall. They have all kinds. Call and see them. Sold on easy terms by monthly payments.

Forty-five Turkish families lately returned to the Bulgarian village of Scuffiar. Having been robbed of their cattle by the way, they reached their old homes destitute. Since their return several of their number have been killed; the others have been been set by the Bulgarians to make bricks, and other employers place overseers over them, armed with whips, who keep them early and late at their task. Another batch of refugees arrived at their village from Karabouner with their cattle, induced to return by the promise that the half of the crops which they had sown before their flight, by which the Bulgarians in their absence had harvested, would be returned to them. On their arrival, however, their cattle were taken from them, and the promised half of their crops was refused. They were, therefore, obliged to hire themselves to the Bulgars as hewers of wood and drawers of water—labor for which the Bulgars paid them with their own grain.

Tradition has long pointed out a certain field about a mile from Wedmore Church, in England, as the site of the old palace of King Alfred and the West Saxon kings. This field is called the Court Garden, and there have been many stories of the treasure hidden there. And now the rector, Mr. Sydenham Hervey, has dug up in this place the remains of the palace where, 1,000 years ago, the great peace was signed with the Danes. The walls are massive, the mortar of an ancient character, and the whole appearance of the building speaks its great age. A large quantity of pottery has been found, some Roman and some of early English character. Some of the walls are buried at a depth beneath the surface of the land of six feet to ten feet; others, which are on rock, are but thinly covered with earth.

That the age of miracles has not passed, and that prayer is as efficacious in the nineteenth century as at any other period of the world's existence, if we are to believe the American papers, have both been proved in the person of Mrs. Charles A. Bemis, of Holliston, Mass. For thirty years until the other day, she had been bedridden by a complication of chronic diseases. A week or two ago Dr. Charles Collis, of Boston, called on her and, having repeated several passages of scripture relating to faith, knelt in prayer and then dipped his finger in oil and placed it on the patient's forehead. This done, Mrs. Bemis says she felt like a new woman, all pain having left her, and she has been perfectly well ever since, being able to walk to church and even longer distances without fatigue.

FREE LECTURE ON PHONOGRAPHY.—Dr. Armstrong, of Queen's, who has just finished the short course of instruction, on his system of linear phonography, to the student teachers of the Normal School, intends to give a free lecture on the said system, in the City Hall, on Monday evening. He will make his new method of writing short hand, which has advantages over those now in use, clear to every capacity, and will illustrate it by a series of diagrams. The hall ought to be crowded, and the class which Dr. A. intends to form immediately after the meeting should be well filled. No better opportunity of acquiring a first-rate system of phonography was ever offered.

COURSE OF PUBLIC LECTURES.—The members of the Orange body in this city have made arrangements for the delivery of a course of lectures during the winter season, and a competent committee has been appointed to see that they are properly carried out. The first lecture of the course will be delivered on Thursday evening next in the Orange Hall, by the Rev. W. W. Brewer, subject: "The landmarks of our fathers and modern thought." The Rev. Mr. Read, M. Sproul, W. Wilson, Esqs., E. Willis, M. P. P., and Rev. G. M. Campbell, are among the lecturers named who will follow in the course. The lectures will be of a high order and will suit the taste of all who prefer solid to frivolous entertainment.

REFORM MINSTRELS.—There promises to be no lack of entertainments of one kind or the other, lectures, dances and concerts, and temperance meetings during the winter. The Reform Minstrel Troupe have been rehearsing for a series of performances they intend giving. The date of the first entertainment is not announced, but soon will be, and when it is given we are sure that it will well deserve its name, and be something that is novel, sensational, and amusing.

REFORM CLUB BAND CONCERT.—On Thursday evening, 26th December, the Reform Club Band, and Orchestra, assisted by some of our leading lady and gentlemen singers, will appear in the City Hall, and give a first-class concert. Mr. H. Williamson, leader of the Band, will give one or two solos on the cornet, accompanied by the piano. This, without doubt, will be the best concert of the season.

We understand that Dr. Hamlin of Bangor, is to deliver his lecture on Cyprus, in the City Hall on Friday evening next, in compliance with the request of a number of gentlemen of the City. As the subject, which is of absorbing interest, is in the hands of one so eminently fitted to deal with it, we have, no doubt, but the Doctor will be greeted with a crowded house.

NEW BRUNSWICK RAILWAY.—In the advertisement column will be seen the winter arrangement for running the trains on the New Brunswick Railway, which comes into operation on the 16th of December. Travellers by that line will govern themselves accordingly.

☞ The best and cheapest place to buy Christmas Cards is at McLaughlin's Book Store, Post Office Corner.

There was a great deal of rowdyism on the streets last night and this morning. *Query*—"How many arrests were made?"

Dynamite, though a useful, is a terrible dangerous article, particularly in the hands of the assassin. Three weeks ago, in Upper Silesia a registered letter was sent to a man, with instructions that it should be delivered into his hands only; but the postman gave it to his wife. Being very large and thick, and fastened with tape, it excited her curiosity. On pulling one of the ends of the tape for the purpose of opening the letter, there was a fright