

**A Word
in Season.**

Montreal employers evincing a disposition to frown upon employees who belong to the militia, should emulate the good example now being given by some of the London banks and insurance offices. Realizing the value of a drilled nation, several of these institutions are offering a bonus of fifteen to twenty-five dollars yearly to those of their officials who join the colours of a volunteer regiment. This is as it ought to be in Canada, and selfish corporations and citizens ought to look at this matter in the right light.

**Much Ado
About Nothing.**

The blunderheads at New York who charged the commander of the British cruiser *Psyche* with discourtesy and a direct offence against the etiquette of the service to which he belongs, must be much mortified upon discovering the mistake into which they floundered by their haste and want of thought. When interviewed upon his return to Bermuda, Captain Pelly made no complaint against those who charged him with transgressing against modern usage upon entering the port of New York. He is admitted by the American interviewer to have been "very courteous" when explaining that he "fired a salute of twenty-one guns as a salute to the American flag, to which he got no reply."

The treatment of this most estimable of commanders seems to have been marked by circumstances of peculiar atrocity. His salute was not acknowledged. Perfectly shocking! We hope the British Consul at New York will see that Captain Pelly's wrongs are redressed.

**Bank
Methods.**

New York and Boston papers are indulging in much caustic criticism of the First National Bank, and the lesson of the heavy defalcation from which it recently suffered are not likely to be forgotten. It seems that the methods of book-keeping at the bank in question, prior to the levanting of Alford, were far from modern, and New York bankers do not hesitate to say that if the First National had adopted a system of checking and counterchecking, such as the majority of them have now in operation, such a robbery would have been impossible.

The Bank is getting more censure than sympathy, for another reason than its apparently weak and faulty book-keeping. Although having the custody of a very large amount of money, Alford was not required to give any bonds. Had some one of the leading guarantee companies been interested in the fugitive teller, the Bank would not be in such deep mourning.

However, everybody is much wiser now, and the methods of the First National will probably be changed for a system of checking and counter-checking, calculated to foil the felonious little plan of any imitator of Alford.

**Spanish
Surgery and
Consumption.**

Only those who have had to endure the mental suffering caused by watching the gradual decay or diminution from consumption of the body of some loved one, can fully understand the eagerness with which the victims of lung disease, longing for relief from hectic fever and distressing cough, will devour the following statement now being circulated in several European countries: "Professor Molle, Demonstrator of Surgery at Madrid, is said to have cured a hopeless case of consumption in the lungs of a lady by opening the chest and lung itself, and cleansing out the tuberculous cavities."

We hope this Spanish surgeon can produce the most undoubted testimony to the truth of what is claimed for his wonderful operation.

At the same time, it becomes a matter of the most serious nature if the desire for fame may lead doctors to excite vain hopes among a class of sufferers whose condition always calls for pity from those who sympathize with human suffering.

**A
Crop of Lies.**

When we do not wish to make the charge of lying in the grossest form we sometimes use the word untruth as a softened expression of our want of belief. Of the crop reports circulated last summer, we may at least say they were false. Even after the welcome rain improved the conditions, we were told that several counties were as bare as the cupboard to which Old Mother Hubbard repaired in search of a bone for her dog. When asked about crop prospects, the cheerful liars replied, like the little boy when asked by a companion for the apple core, "there ain't goin' to be no" crops. The outlook was pictured as dismal in the extreme. Yet the *New York Commercial Bulletin* now publishes a report from Chicago of a car famine, "which threatens to result in a general blockade," and the movement of grain is said to be "extraordinarily heavy." The worst of the congestion is west of the Mississippi, but it is somewhat felt around Chicago, and as the traffic moves East, all the available storage track east of the Mississippi River are likely to be in demand.

Comment is almost useless. Can it be possible that the universal admiration expressed for George Washington's inability to pervert the truth is based upon the belief that all his countrymen can and do?