Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1887.

BEHRING'S SEA SEIZURES.

Mr. Henry W. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institute, who has spent several seasons among the islands of Behring's Sea, and claims to be an authority on all questions relating to Alaska and its cession to the United States, recently contributed to the New York *Tribune* two statements of the alleged rights of the latter country in that sea which have been questioned by the British Government. The position taken by him is substantially as follows:

1. That when the Emperor of Russia by the ukase of 1821 declared the absolute dominion of the Russian Crown over all Russian-American territory and seas and bays, including the Kamschatkan or Behring Sea, no protest was made against this assertion of authority by Russia and none has ever been made since by any civilized power until last year.

2. That the claim made by the United States about this period related to the North Pacific Ocean only, and that the United States never, in all the correspondence between the years 1822 and 1824, made the slightest reference to or asked for any rights or privileges in the Behring Sea.

Mr. Elliott claims, therefore, that the United States Government is entitled to claim exclusive sovereignty over the waters of Behring Sea.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* has since examined the official records at the capital, and these, he claims, are wholly at variance with the assertions of Mr. Elliott. Among other papers examined by him was a translation of the ukase of 1821, published in the "British and Foreign State Papers," vol. IX, p. 472. In this it is distinctly set out that "the pursuits of commerce, whaling, and fishery, and all other industry on all islands, ports and gulfs, including the whole of the north-west coast of America, beginning from Behring Strait (the northern boundary of Behring Sea) to the fifty-first degree of northern latitude, also from the Aleutian Islands to the eastern coast of Siberia, as well as along the Kurile Islands, from Behring Strait to the south cape of the Island of Urup, is exclusively granted to Russian subjects," and foreign vessels are interdicted from approaching within 100 Italian miles of the coasts and islands named under penalty of confiscation. With this document before him Mr. John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State, wrote to Mr. Poletica, the Russian Minister, on Feb. 25th, 1822, as follows:

"I am directed by the President of the United States to inform you that he has seen with surprise in this edict the assertion of a territorial claim on the part of Russia, extending to the fifty-first degree of north latitude on this continent, and a regulation interdicting to all commercial vessels other than Russian, upon the penalty of seizure and confiscation, the approach upon the high seas within 100 Italian miles of the shores to which the claim is made to apply."

Mr. Adams added:

"To exclude the vessels of our citizens from the shores beyond the ordinary distance to which the territorial jurisdiction extends has excited still greater surprise." And he closed by asking for an explanation. In reply Mr. Poletica wrote on February 28th, as follows:

"The Russian possessions in the Pacific Ocean extend on the north-west coast of America from Behring Strait to the fifty-first degree of north latitude and on the opposite side of Asia to the islands adjacent from the same strait to the forty-fifth degree. The extent of the sea of which these possessions form the limit comprehends all the conditions which are ordinarily attached to shut seas (*mers fermees*), and the Russian government might consequently judge itself authorized to exercise upon this sea the right of sovereignty, and especially that of entirely interdicting the entrance of foreigners. But it preferred only asserting its essential right without taking any advantage of localities."

This was virtually a claim to dominion over the whole of the waters lying between the Aleutian islands and the Sea of Ohkotsk. In his reply Mr. Adams remarked that it was sufficient to say that the distance from shore to shore in latitude 51° north was not less than 90° of longitude, or 4,000 miles. He concluded by saying that the president was persuaded that the citizens of the United States would remain unmolested in their lawful commerce and that no effect would be given to an interdiction manifestly incompatible with their rights. This controversy was ended by a convention signed at St. Petersburg, April 17, 1824, in which it was agreed that in no part of the great ocean, commonly called the Pacific ocean or South sea, should the respective citizens or subjects of the high contracting powers be disturbed or restrained, either in navigation or fishing or resorting to the coast for the purpose of trading with the natives. Great Britain concluded a similar treaty in 1825. This treaty of 1824 remained substantially in force until the cession of Alaska to the United States by Russia. These facts effectually dispose of Mr. Elliott's assertion that Russia's claim was never protested against by the United States. The *Times'* correspondent also points out that his description of Behring Sea as a "land-locked sea," with a "firm line pelagic boundary," is absurd, in view of the fact that the Aleutian Islands end at a point about 900 miles from the Asiatic coast of Russia. Moreover, even if it could have been claimed as such by Russia in 1821 by virtue of her possession of the land on both sides, that condition ceased when she parted with her territory on one side, just as Great Britain gave up her claim to territorial jurisdiction over the Bay of Fundy where the United States owned a headland on the other side from her possessions. The Sea of Okhotsk, up to the year 1868 when Russia sold the Kurile Islands to Japan, might far more properly have been considered a landlocked sea, and yet in 1867 Mr. Seward protested against American whaling vessels being ordered away from the shore near Okhotsk city by a Russian armed steamer. The Russian minister, however, made no claim that the sea was a closed one, but raised the question of the three-mile limit, and subsequently, in reply to another remonstrance from Mr. Seward, stating that American whalers had fished in those bays for seventeen years without obstruction, the Russian ambrsador transmitted a copy of a report from the Russian minister of marine, in which it was admitted that no trace could be found in his department of instructions given to Russian cruisers to take restrictive measures touching the whale fisheries in the sea of Okhotsk. Thus ended the controversy.

It will thus be seen that the United States has not only put itself on record as vigorously opposing any assumption that Behring Sea is a closed sea, but has also done the same with regard to the sea of Okhotsk, which perhaps might properly have been regarded as landlocked. And it was no doubt in view of these facts that the president ordered the release of the British sealing vessels captured by the United States revenue cutter more than three miles from shore in Behring sea.

CANADA AT THE LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION.

The Canadian court is one of the features of the Liverpool Royal Jubilee Exhibition. Mr. John Dyke, resident agent of the Dominion, has utilized much of the material from the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of last year in a manner that has won the commendation of the Marquis of Lorne, Baden Powell, M.P., and other friends of Canada. The *Post* says:

To the business man the Canadian court will prove attractive. An enormous amount of Liverpool capital is invested in railway, mining, and other enterprises in the great Canadian northwest, and the major part of the trade to the St. Lawrence is conducted from the port of Liverpool.

The Canadian court is situated immediately to the right of the royal entrance, through which the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne entered the building. The court is approached through a large entrance arch, in the niches on either side of which are figures, respectively representing a Canadian farmer and a dairymaid.

The arch, on which appear the words "Government Exhibit"—"Dominion of Canada" is surmounted by the royal arms draped with flags.

The attention of the visitor is first attracted by a very fine picture of Her Majesty the Queen, full length, seated in her robes, after the picture painted by Winterhalter by command of Her Majesty. This picture is in possession of the Queen at Windsor Castle. That in the Canadian court is bedded on a ground of royal crimson plush, and is surmounted by the Union Jack and Dominion coat of arms, with the correct quarterings.

To the right and left of this centre are cases containing specimens of grain in the ear, and some remarkable specimens of natural grasses, amongst which are deserving of special notice the pea-vine of the Northwest prairies and some wild hops. Immediately in the front are two handsome grain trophies, octagonal in form, the pillars and canopies of which are festooned with the natural grasses of the Northwest prairie, and cereals in the ear. The terraced shelving contains samples of the different cereals of the various provinces, arranged in bags and glass show bottles. In the centre of the court is a very fine specimen of coal (weighing nearly two tons) from Sir Alexander Galt's Lethbridge mines, on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and in which the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Archibald Forbes, and others whose names are well known, have an interest. The seam from which this block was taken is five feet two inches thick, and contains on surface workings 5,500,000 tons to the square mile. As this field alone covers hundreds of square miles, the fuel supply of Manitoba and the Northwest is secure. A small but unique collection of minerals comprising about eighty specimens is shown. Of special note is a specimen of apatite, or phosphate of lime, of which about 40,000 tons were shipped from Canada last year, the bulk of it to Liverpool. The rapid growth of this trade is shown by the fact that in 1880 there were only 7,500 tons shipped, while in 1885, after a steady annual increase, the export amounted to 24,875 tons, and 1886 shows an export of nearly double this quantity. There are also two gilt obelisks representing the output of gold in the provinces of Nova Scotia, on the Atlantic coast, and British Columbia, on the Pacific coast, during the last twenty-five years.

Continuing, the *Post* says:

There are also nine magnificent paintings of the leading cities in the Dominion, from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on the Atlantic, to Victoria, British Columbia, on the Pacific. The intermediate cities represented are Halifax, Nova Scotia, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, Toronto, the capital of Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

A magnificent set of photographs is shown illustrating the comfort and elegance of the cars of the Canadian Pacific railway. As an indication of the enormous extent of territory intersected by this line, it may be mentioned that on the 7th of this month there were no fewer than 4,211 miles of railway in operation under the one management.

THE QUEBEC LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORSHIP.

It seems to be generally conceded that Hon. Mr. Chapleau has received the offer of the lieutenant-governorship of the province of Quebec. The conservatives of the province are greatly alarmed at the prospect, as Mr. Chapleau in that office would, by the unwritten rule of our constitution, be prevented from taking an active part in the political affairs of the country, and the withdrawal of his master mind from the direction of the machine in Quebec would be very keenly felt. However, it is all a question of what the doctor says; at least, so the strong deputation which went to Ottawa to urge Mr. Chapleau not to accept the position, were told. It would be rather paradoxical for Hon. Mr. Masson to resign the lieutenant-governorship on the ground of ill-health and Mr. Chapleau to accept it for the very same reason.

B. C. DEFENCES.

In the senate last week Hon. Mr. Abbott laid on the table copies of the correspondence between the Imperial and Dominion Governments on the subject of the defences of British Columbia. The principal letter is one from the War office dated November last, stating that a party of Royal Engineers was then at Esquimalt surveying sites for the proposed defence works, covering the whole district within four miles of Signal hill, and asking if the government of Canada will contribute $1,500 towards the expense. Nothing later than this appears among the papers. "C" battery came in for considerable criticism in the house and there was a lot of good natured chaff from Mr. Casey. Mr. Baker strongly urged the government to at once go on with the organization of the battery and, as will be seen by the full report of the discussion which appears in another column, he got satisfactory assurances.

VICTORIA DRILL SHED.

On the vote for drill sheds Mr. Shakespeare made the following observations: I beg to draw the attention of the hon. minister to the unstatisfactory condition of the drill shed at Victoria. It is more like a barn than anything else; and I am satisfied if the same regard is paid to the militia force at Victoria as is paid to the force in other parts of the Dominion, the militia force at Victoria will very soon increase in number. The population of that province, I am happy to say, has increased in the last three or four years very much, and there will be no difficulty getting an increase to the military force of that province when due regard is paid to their comfort and the necessary equipment.

Mr. Baker said on the same subject: I wish to add to the remarks of my hon. colleague that it is highly desirable that the minister should take into consideration in the near future the desirability of building a new drill shed in Victoria, and this being her majesty's jubilee year, I hope this $10,000 is for Victoria.

TWO FIRE-EATERS.

The friendly relations which used to exist between the minister of militia and Mr. Amyot, the fiery little member from Bellechasse, and colonel of the Quebec Voltigeurs, the battalion which garrisoned Calgary during the rebellion, are not as they once were. Last session there were occasional spats between these two gentlemen, and a few days ago they had a lively set to. This time it arose out of an order issued by the militia department to the 9th to suspend drill. It appears that while in Calgary the officers of the 9th were not satisfied to eat the ordinary rations provided for the troops but took their meals at the hotels. At the close of the campaign their little bill under this head amounted to over two thousand dollars which was very properly ruled out by the rebellion claims commission. Owing to this amount not having been paid up to April 1st, the order cancelling the permission to drill was issued by the department and this has made the little commandant very mad. Matters have since been straightened out between the battalion and the department. In the contest in the house the minister came out best, having all the official documents behind him.

THE BEHRING'S SEA SEIZURES.

Additional correspondence relating to the seizure by the United States revenue cutter Corwin in the Behring's sea in 1886 of the Canadian sealing schooners Carolina, Onward and Thornton, was presented to parliament on the 4th inst. It contains a report of the Privy Council under date of May 16th, 1887, which, after setting forth the facts and circumstances of the seizures, proceeds: "The minister further states from information received from the owners of the seized vessels and from the collector of customs at Victoria, B. C., he learned that Jas Ogilvie, an old man and master of the Carolina, was arrested along with the masters and mates of the other seized vessels and brought into court for trial, but that before sentence was pronounced he was suffered to wander away into the woods, where he died from want and exposure; that the other masters and mates, after remaining several months in prison, were released by order of the governor of Alaska and turned adrift literally destitute to find their way as best they could to their homes, 1,500 miles distant and which could be reached only by a long and costly sea voyage; that the owners of the condemned vessels have received no intimation from the United States authorities of the release of the vessels, or the restoration of the valuable cargoes of sealskins and equipments on board, and that they have no information as to the condition their property is in at the present time. The consequent damage to the vessels and cargoes through detention and the heavy costs which will be entailed in bringing them to the home port, the owners consider good ground for claiming consideration from the United States authorities, when the question of reparation is being settled. The committee concurring in the foregoing report of the minister of marine and fisheries advise that your excellency be moved to call the attention of Her Majesty's government again to the grave injustice done by the United States authorities to British subjects peaceably pursuing their lawful occupations on the high seas, and to the great delay which has occurred in enquiring into and redressing the wrongs committed, to the severe, inhospitable and unjustifiable treatment of the officers and crews of the vessels seized, and of the serious loss inflicted upon the owners of the same in order that full and speedy reparation may be made by the United States government."

The seized vessels are now in Ounalaska, but unless they have been properly taken care of they must, during the winter months, have suffered greatly, even if they are still in existence. The skins taken from them are stored in the Alaska Fur company's warehouse at Ounalaska while the guns and ammunition were taken to Sitka and are in the care of the United States marshal. The American government has not communicated with the Canadian government on the subject of the seizures since February 3rd, although all the documents relating to the case left Sitka on January 26th, and must have reached Secretary Bayard the following month. The conduct of the American cutter Corwin and of the American authorities at Sitka is indefensible, and must be amply atoned for. Lord Lansdowne has forwarded a strong dispatch to Sir Henry Holland, urging the imperial authorities to take prompt action. Meantime, Mr. Shakespeare is urging the printing committee to have all the correspondence on this matter, which is very voluminous, the first batch making 250 pages of manuscript, printed, in order that the country may have a permanent record of the unwarranted proceedings of the American authorities.

LETTER FROM COUN. BRADEN.

To the Editor:—Noticing a letter of Mr. W. A. Robertson's in yesterday's *Times*, I would be obliged if you would put the true facts of the case before the public. Mr. Robertson, with his usual distortion of truth, has twisted my utterances to refer to what they did not. I alluded to an anonymous letter that appeared last year when Mr. Robertson was in the council. The advent of the wonderful production took place during a session of the council, and like a foundling it was handed from one member's desk to another, until it found a resting place with Mr. Humber. The mayor seeing it without signature, enquired of the councillors *seriatim* where it came from, and they all, like little boys at school, denied having anything to do with it, in the style of "Please, sir, I didn't do it, the next boy did," until finally Mr. Robertson said Mr. Hendry might throw some light on it. I contrived to find out that Mr. Robertson was the father of it, and meeting him shortly after in company with Mr. Russell and Mr. Hendry I accused him in the presence of several others, and like all curs when cornered he confessed the authorship. I should have treated the matter with the contempt it deserved, but as at the time Mr. Robertson professed to be my friend and, in fact to my loss (which unfortunately had been the experience of others) was in partnership in certain speculations, and I did think it hard that a man I befriended to the best of my means should turn around and stab me in the back. As to my record I would rather not have been born, than have it compared with his in the remotest degree. He boasts about being a true Scotchman, and if such a man is a type of one, can it be wondered at that the renowned hero Wallace was basely sold to his enemies.

Yours, &c., JOHN BRADEN.

June 10th, 1887.

THE CLERGYMAN'S HORSE AND BUGGY.

To the Editor:—As I do not enjoy the advantage of living in your pretty town the letter of S. Helgesen relative to the horse and buggy bought for Rev. Mr. Head by popular concert and subscription did not reach my eye till yesterday, consequently could not have been earlier noticed.

I am pleased to find that my statement as to the method by which the reverend gentleman obtained his dashing turnout is not disputed. As a matter of fact, S. Helgesen agrees with me on every point, the only difference between us being as to the morality of the transaction by which the reverend individual proposes to put the establishment into his trowsers-pocket and quit the country and district, leaving the public to subscribe funds and procure his successor a horse and buggy or do without clerical ministrations.

Mr. Head has served scarcely ten months since through the liberality of his parishioners he was provided with the horse and buggy—not for his own convenience, but to enable those living in a remote part of the district to hear the Word of God. Now it follows as naturally as the day follows the night that the incoming clergyman, whoever he may be, must go afoot or find his own horse and buggy, unless Mr. Head shall place in some responsible hands the amount popularly subscribed for a specific purpose and from which purpose he may legally, but not morally, divert it. My opinion and that of every one of my neighbors is, that if Mr. Head truly felt an interest in the future of his parishioners he would, without further pressure, apply the sum of $130 towards providing the necessary means of accommodation for his successor.

Should he act differently I must be excused for saying that few laymen can be found who would follow his example.

A Subscriber to the Fund.

Esquimalt District, June 9, 1887.

JUBILEE REJOICINGS.

To the Editor:—In the midst of the patriotic rejoicings of all true Britons at the jubilee celebration of Her Majesty's reign, do not let us forget our American cousins—members of our great English-speaking family. Washington territory has a governor—a most genial gentleman—who, with his family, should be invited to visit us on the august occasion. Several of the enterprising towns on the Sound are incorporated and have mayors. The chief magistrate of each city should also be invited. Just think of it, Mr. Editor! In the whole long history of the mother country Queen Victoria is the only sovereign who has really reigned fifty years, George the Third, although longer on the throne, having had his duties discharged by the Prince Regent for many years before death put an end to his sufferings. Now, as the event we are about to celebrate may not be paralleled in the lifetime of any person now living, let us extend the right hand of fellowship to the officials on the Sound and give them a right royal welcome and an hospitable entertainment on the 21st and 22nd inst.

God Save the Queen.

Col. Eyre, of San Francisco, and Bonanza Flood, are in Chicago with a party of Californians. He said: "Californians have an interest in the Chicago wheat deal; they control the Liverpool market. The Chicago clique," he said, "can keep on buying wheat, but I do not know where they will sell it."

Bosting suits at Jeffree's.

FLEUSS' METHOD OF BREATHING UNDER WATER.

Hitherto, as is well known, when a professional diver went under the water to search for any object, or to assist in other operations, he wore a particular kind of dress, and was supplied with air by a tube connected with a pumping apparatus. All this now is to be given up. A process has been invented for breathing under the water without any of the ordinary appliances. The invention is due to the perseverance and skill of Mr. Fleuss, an officer of the mercantile marine, who at sixteen years of age went to sea as an apprentice, and afterwards served in several ships. On passing the examination for second mate, he joined the Peninsular and Oriental service, and visited most parts of the world. The promotion being somewhat slow, Mr. Fleuss subsequently attached himself to the British India Company, and speedily attained the position of second-officer. This life gave him many opportunities of recognizing the importance of an improved method of diving; and as he was fond of mechanics and scientific studies, he speedily made himself master of the subject. He is still a young man, of twenty-eight years of age. His invention offers a gratifying instance of what may be effected by study, determined perseverance, and independent exertion; and we feel assured that when it becomes fully known, it will be employed for many important purposes. After maturing his invention, and personally demonstrating its validity by going under water at public exhibitions in London, Mr. Fleuss patented the process in England and other countries. What we have therefore to say on the subject is from ascertained facts, and however extraordinary, is beyond the reach of cavil.

By Mr. Fleuss's process any person with sufficient nerve, and who is accustomed to diving, can exist for hours beneath the water without connection with the surface. A special dress with a helmet inclosing the head requires, however, to be employed. The dress has much the outward appearance of that hitherto used. The helmet is entirely closed, for there is no pipe to the air above water, as is customary with ordinary divers. The power of breathing depends on means within the sphere of the helmet and dress. To understand this, we must consider the composition of the air.

As is generally known, the atmosphere we breathe consists one-fifth of oxgen, and the remaining four-fifths of another gas called nitrogen. The mixture of these two gases is a strictly mechanical one; they have not entered into any chemical combination. The oxygen is the supporter of life; the nitrogen merely diluting it, so to speak, to a proper degree, for the purposes of our lungs. In breathing, the oxygen is partially lost by absorption into the system, and the exhaled air contains a large proportion of carbonic acid or—to call it by its modern name—carbon dioxide, a gas which is a poison to animal life. According to Mr. Fleuss' process, a continuous supply of oxygen is procured from the helmet, where it is stowed in a compressed state, the supply being regulated by a valve under the control of the diver. The original nitrogen in the lungs remains unaltered, and can be breathed over again along with a due admixture of the oxygen. The strange thing is the disposal of the deadly carbonic acid. What becomes of it? It is bubbled up through the water! No, for the oxygen and nitrogen would go with it. A well-known chemical action is taken advantage of by causing the carbonic acid which is given off, to be absorbed by caustic soda; the result being the formation of carbonate of soda. The caustic soda is contained in a small tin or ebonite case placed in the body of the dress. It is in solution, and confined in the pores of spongy india-rubber, which is perhaps the only soft material impervious to its corrosive action. A proper arrangement of tubing causes the whole of the exhaled air to pass through this case, which requires emptying and recharging about once a week, supposing that the apparatus is in daily use. To sum up the means by which Mr. Fleuss breathes in a dress hermetically sealed from external air. He takes down a supply of compressed oxygen, dilutes it with the nitrogen—which is naturally present in his lungs and in the diving dress when he puts it on, and which remaining unaltered he can, as we have already shown, breathe over and over again; and by bringing the exhaled carbonic acid in contact with caustic soda, transforms the deadly gas into harmless carbonate of soda. Such is Mr. Fleuss' invention or discovery, which will no doubt astonish every one with its beautiful simplicity, and call forth the usual amount of surprise in such cases, 'that nobody thought of it before.' Possibly many have thought of it before. But it requires an unusual combination of perseverance, energy, chemical knowledge, and mechanical skill, to carry such thoughts to practical trial and ultimate success. Mr. Fleuss not only studied chemistry to carry out his pet idea, but he made his apparatus almost entirely with his own hands. Moreover, he donned his dress, fitted with this home-made apparatus, and descended—the first time he had been under water in his life—in public, and remained under more than one hour. So to the qualities already mentioned, we must certainly add that of indomitable courage.

The advantages of Mr. Fleuss' apparatus over that which it is most certainly destined to supersede, are numerous. There is no doubt too that its use will not be confined to subaqueous work. It might well form a most valuable addition to our fire-escape stations, for it would enable the wearer to enter into the densest smoke without any risk of suffocation. Its use in the rescue of unfortunate miners would also be possible without any fear from the deadly choke-damp. Wells and vats, where the heavy carbonic acid forms a layer beneath which no human being can go without almost instant suffocation, will also be penetrable by the wearer of Fleuss's apparatus; and in these several ways the apparatus will probably help in the saving of many lives. The advantages of the new diving system are mainly these. The diver requires but one attendant, to whom he can signal in case of need. The absence of an air-pipe relieves him of many anxieties as to his safety. He is free to move in every direction; and can creep under wreckage in a manner that the ordinary diver would consider hazardous, if not impossible.

By experiments and tests as to temperature and pulse after immersion for more than an hour, it has been conclusively proved that Mr. Fleuss' system of breathing under water is attended by no inconveniences. Last, and by no means least, the expense of the outfit is estimated at one-half that required by the older method. The absence of pumps and gearing will at once account for the reduction.

In a manner suitable for a popular journal, we have now described this remarkable invention, which, had it been vail at a few months earlier, might have ed to the speedy recovery of the bodies of those who suffered in the Tay Bridge disaster, of whom, up till the time we write, only about one half have been found. What a triumph in art, and what a solacement to the feelings it would be, if by Mr. Fleuss' process a great proportion of the still missing bodies were recovered for burial by friends and relatives!—*Chambers' Journal.*

"FIVE CENTS SHORT, SIR!"

How Henry Ward Beecher was Once Accused of Keeping Five Cents.

Mr. Beecher was once charged with stealing five cents. It was when, one day three or four years ago, he rode uptown in a Bleeker-street bobtail car with his friend, George L. Crane, then a member of the music committee in Plymouth church. The two were out on a search for "talent" to help along the choir. A lady entered the car and took a seat. Mr. Beecher, who was standing muffled in his great coat and slouch hat, handed up her quarter and, receiving an envelope with the change, opened it, put five cents in the box and handed back the rest. The lady counted the change carefully, and looking severely at the Plymouth pastor, said:

"It is five cents short, sir. You have some of the change."

Mr. Beecher flushed scarlet and looked the picture of guilty confession. No one was ever more easily embarrassed in the presence of harshness of judgment or ill-breeding in others. His native politeness and kindness of heart made him excessively sensitive to such exhibitions.

"Possibly, madam," he stammered, "there may be some mistake. I will ask the driver," and stepping to the door he hammered on the glass and made signs to the driver to open. The door was pushed back and a broad Celtic face appeared in the opening with a "Well! What's a-wanting?"

"This lady," said Mr. Beecher, pointing to his severely observant accuser, "complains that she did not receive the right change. There must be some mistake—"

"I don't know nothin' about it," interrupted the Jehu, with a sneer; "if yees want yer change, yees'll have to ride to the end of the line. G'lang!" and the door was closed with a bang that shut off further discussion.

Mr. Beecher stood embarrassed and irresolute before the indignant woman, who still held the change in her extended hand. Mr. Carne, who had been secretly enjoying the scene, came to the rescue of his pastor by suggesting that he should give her five cents. A smile of satisfaction lit up Mr. Beecher's face as he put his hand in his pocket and pulling out a nickle said: "Allow me, madam, to correct the mistake. I am very sorry."

The woman dropped the coin in her pocket-book with a sniff, and turned away without replying. As she did so, a passenger on the opposite side of the car leaned over and whispered something in her ear, of which Mr. Crane heard the one word, "Beecher." The woman gave a sudden and violent start, stole one brief searching glance at the stout stranger and dropped her veil, coloring to the temples. Mr. Beecher finished the trip ignorant of how swiftly he had been avenged. He never referred to the matter afterward, and disliked to have it spoken of.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

ALL LIGHT THERE.

Children are happy counsellors! They are to our hard, practical, everyday lives what the stars are to the heavens, or the flowers and birds to the earth.

What would the world be to us

If the children were no more?

We should dread the desert behind us

Worse than the dark before."

There is a family in this city who are dependent at this moment upon a little child for all the pleasant sunshine of their lives.

A few weeks ago the young wife and mother was stricken down to die.

It was so sudden, so dreadful when the grave family physician called them together in the parlor, and in his solemn professional way intimated to them the truth—there was no hope!

The question arose among them, who would tell her.

Not the doctor! It would be cruel to let the man of science go to their dear one on such an errand.

Not the aged mother, who was to be left childless and alone!

Not the young husband, who was walking the floor with clenched hands and rebellious heart.

Not—there was only one other, and at this moment he looked up from the book he had been playing with unnoticed by them all and asked gravely:—

"Is my mamma doin' to die?"

Then without waiting for an answer he sped from the room and up-stairs as fast as his little feet would carry him.

Friends and neighbors were watching by the sick woman. They wonderingly noticed the pale face of the child as he climbed on the bed and laid his small head on his mother's pillow.

"Mamma," he asked in sweet, caressing tones, "is you 'fraid to die?"

The mother looked at him with swift intelligence. Perhaps she had been thinking of this.

"Who—told—you—Charlie?" she asked, faintly.

"Doctor an' papa an' gramma—everybody," he whispered. "Mamma, dear 'ittle mamma, doan' be 'fraid to die, 'ill you."

"No, Charlie," said the young mother after one supreme pang of grief; "no, mamma won't be afraid."

"Jus' shut your eyes in 'e dark, mamma; keep hold my hand—'an', an' when you open 'em, mamma, it 'ill be all light there."

When the family gathered awe-stricken at the bedside, Charlie held up his little hand.

"Hu-s-h! My mamma doan to sleep. Her won't wake up here any more."

And so it proved. There was no heart-rending farewell, no agony of parting, for when the young mother woke she had passed beyond, and as baby Charley said: "It was all light there."—*Detroit Free Press.*

WITH THE GLADSTONES.

The following account of a recent visit to Hawarden castle by two Welshmen is given in a Welsh newspaper upon "unimpeachable authority": The visitors were promenading along Hawarden park, when they casually came across Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone and Mr. Herbert, who were proceeding toward a tree in the grounds, the veteran statesman having an ax across his shoulder. They felt inquisitive about the wood-cutting capabilities of the ex-Premier, and so sidled up silently; but Mr. Gladstone saw them and motioned them to come nearer. "You are Welsh?" he queried. "Yes," was the reply. "Liberals?" "Yes," "Home Rulers?" "Yes." "Capital!" remarkod Mr. Gladstone; "Wales is the most enlightened country under heaven in a political and religious sense."

Mrs. Gladstone here interposed. "I think," she observed to one of the lucky and happy two, "I have seen your face somewhere. Were you not at a political meeting at—the other day?" "Yes," said the gentleman addressed, "I had the good fortune to be the chairman." Mrs. Gladstone then informed Mr. Gladstone of the fact. Down went the ax and up came the great Liberal leader to shake hands. Then they returned to fell the tree, and Mrs. Gladstone continued the conversation. "He," referring to Mr. Gladstone, "has excellent health," was her glad remark, "and he is extraordinary cheerful in spirit. He does not for a moment doubt that he will live to again hold the reins of office, and is quite as convinced that he will be able to carry his measure and place it on the statute book of the country."—*London Standard.*

WIT AND HUMOR.

Mem by an Old Maid.—When a husband's dog-matical, and a wife's cat-egorical, there is nothing but worrying and scratching to the end of the chapter.

An old colored preacher, after exhausting himself on an attempt to describe heaven, wound up thus: "I tell you, my brethern, it is a very Kentucky of a place."

"Don't you suppose," said a member of the police force, 'that a policeman knows a rogue when he sees him?" "No doubt," was the reply; "but the trouble is that he does not seize a rogue when he knows him."

A physician noticing a lady reading *Twelfth Night*, said: "When Shakespeare wrote about 'Patience on a Monument,' did he mean doctor's patients?" "No," she replied promptly, "you don't find them on monuments, but under them."

That was a vivid remark of an unmarried lady living in Cambridge, who was being chaffed about her state of single blessedness. "It's nothing to be ashamed of, being an old maid," said she to her tormenter; "but to be an old bachelor like you is a disgrace, in Massachusetts."

An old lady of our acquaintance, having noticed—and admired, as it turned out—a small observatory on a newly-built house of Mr. D—, insists that when she and her "old man" built their new house she is going to have a "purgatory on top, just like Mr. D—'s," or there shall be no house built."

A HUGE OPIUM JOINT.

A Gilded Palace for Votaries of the Seductive Pipe—How the Opium Vice is Catered to in Shanghai.

(Written for Sunday's Colonist.*)*

Nearly everyone is aware that the Chinese are all more or less addicted to the fatal habit of opium smoking. Right here in Victoria we can see the baleful effects of the drug, and the houses for its sale and consumption are many, and although as yet the habit has not taken a strong hold on the white population of our city, still there are some who seek forgetfulness in the horrible drug. The places where opium is sold and smoked here are but filthy hovels, but in Shanghai there is an opium shop which is the largest one in the world. It is called the Nan-gin-tain, and the place is one which helps to make the Celestial regard Shanghai as a city affording somewhat the same opportunities for pleasure, and dissipation, as Paris is esteemed by the Frenchman. This famous opium resort is well worth a visit from the lover of the curious, and the seeker of sights, if he is anxious to see the votaries of the much-abused drug, indulging the appetite which their rulers vainly and long tried to repress.

If a person unacquainted with the nature of the place inside, stood in front of it for five minutes its character would be probably suggested by the appearance and faces of the people who pass in and out in such numbers.

Let us go in and see for ourselves what it is that attracts such throngs of Chinese. They seem to represent all stations of life, from the coolie to the merchant. Each side of the alley way is lined with the stalls of native hucksters vending such articles as fruit, books, trinkets and cheap opium pipes. It is with difficulty that one gets inside through the crowds of people who hang about outside around the door of the celebrated opium shop. Those who have not the requisite number of cash, (of which 1,000 go to a dollar,) to procure the benefitly soothing pipe watch with a horrible wistfulness each of their more affluent fellow-slaves of the drug pass in with nervous hurried step, or totter out, wearing that peculiar dazed expression which comes after the opium smoker's craving has been satisfied, and his evanescent pleasure has passed away. The best time to see the place is in the evening when the lamps are lit. One requires a good strong stomach to stand the sickening fumes with which the air is thickened. The clouds of smoke, the dim light from the numerous colored lamps, the numbers of reclining forms with distorted faces bent over the small flames at which the pipes are lighted, are enough to give the noviee, native or foreign, unaccustomed to such sights, a sickening sensation. But this passes away in a moment. It is wonderful how soon the senses grow used to the surroundings, and then the visitor is able to take in and study the scene at leisure. The interior is a strange one, and will not soon be forgotten. It is such a scene as a Hogarth would delight to depict. You can see at a glance that the place has been got up on an expensive scale. In the centre of the lower room hangs one of the finest Chinese lamps that can be made, and which is said to have alone cost many hundred dollars. The ceiling is of richly-carved wood, while the painted walls are thickly inlaid with the peculiarly marked marble which gives the idea of unfinished landscape sketches. Numerous doors on all sides lead into the apartments devoted to the smokers. In the outside portion of the building stands a counter covered with little boxes of the drug, ready for smoking, which a dozen assistants are kept busy handing out to the servants who wait upon the habitues of the place. An extensive retail trade goes on as well. And here you will be astonished at the number of the customers, men, women and children, who come to purchase opium for consumption elsewhere than on the premises. Behind this counter also are kept the pipes, which are carefully watched and counted, and given out as required. If you ask one of the men engaged in selling the opium, does he not ever take a whiff himself, he will tell you that he does not. This is probably true, as it is one of the rules which the proprietor strictly enforces amongst his employés, that they shall not smoke the drug themselves, from which derive what even a European would consider almost a princely income. The average daily receipts are said to be nearly 100,000 cash, or $100.00

The smoking apartments are divided into classes of which there are four. In the cheapest, or number 4, you will find coolies who pay about 110 cash for their smoke; in the next servants and others who indulge to the extent of 120 cash; number 2, small shopkeepers and the like who pay 130 cash, while in number 1, the dearest, the charge is 150 cash. The boxes in each contain very nearly the same quantity of the drug, about one mace. It is the difference in the kind of pipe which principally regulates the price paid by the opium smoker. The best is made of ivory, with the stem often inlaid with stones, and rendered more costly by reason of the elaborate carving, the ordinary cost of a pipe of this kind being $150. The next has a good deal of silver in its composition, and costs somewhat about $30 each. The third is made of bamboo and brass, and is valued at about $15; the fourth is made of a hard wood and is worth only a few dollars. There are in all about 150 pipes, and the entire number are often puffing together. Most of the smokers are in couples, as is the general custom. The smoking rooms are furnished according to class. In the most expensive, the lounge upon which the smoker reclines is of fine velvet, with pillows of the same material. In the center of each is a small stand for the lamp. These rooms contain about fifty such couches. The frames of each are inlaid with mother-o'-pearl, and jade, which add greatly to their value. There is one in particular which would fill a lover of oriental furniture with ravishment, so exquisite is the inlaying. The walls are covered with very tolerable Chinese idea of art. The whole air of these rooms is one of sensuous luxury. There are some two dozen special rooms for the smoker who desires to enjoy his pipe in solitude, or only with one other person, away from the common herd. Here we open the door and are surprised to find many Chinamen, who outside profess to detest the very name of opium. Trusted employes of European houses may here often be caught at the illicit pleasure of the pipe. You will also generally find in the poorest section many shaven crowns, without the queue, and recognize in the tattered yellow and grey robes the forms of the priests from Buddhist or Taoist temples. The great majority of the smokers in the place are men, but there is still a fair percentage of female votaries of the pipe, to be found here. These however, are chiefly of the singing girl, or concubine class, as a decent China-woman, however poor or low, seldom comes here. You may perhaps come across a creature with glassy eyes and loud vacant laugh, whom you think you know, and on looking closer you recognise your man-servant whom you fondly believed to be above the slightest suspicion of opium, while all the time he was an abject slave to seductions of the vice, spending his earnings, and supplementing them by trifling pilferings to supply the noxious fumes. You understand now, how it is that he looked so ill and emaciated of late, his stupidity in carrying out your orders, and the mysterious disappearance of sundry little articles from your drawers at home. Go up to him, and speak, and, see, he does not feel the least abashed at being detected in his enthralling vice, but laughs vacantly at you, and pies his piece of wire once more to turn the viscid drop of opium which he prepares to furnish himself with another transitory pleasurable sensation. You tell him that you require him no more, but the intelligence does not just then affect him in the least, so deeply is he under the spell of the intoxication. Return another day, and you will most likely find him amongst the wretched shivering idiotic crowd who jabber about the door outside.

It is commonly believed that a sleep attended by a mild, but pleasurable delirium, with brief glances of Elysium, follows the smoking of opium. This, however, is the exception and not the rule. The pipe is generally resorted to, to satisfy the craving begotten of previous indulgence. The majority of the smokers have a small pot of tea beside them, from which they sip after they have finished the contents of the little box of opium. Some Chinamen who can afford it smoke two or three such boxes, but the majority of the customers are only able to afford, or are content with only one. There is accommodation for nearly 150 smokers at a time, and there is seldom a vacancy very long. The stream of smokers goes on from early morning till midnight, when the place closes. The clouds of smoke go up incessantly all day. You ask: Do Europeans ever visit the place? They do, but not very often. A white woman of the *demi-monde* class who has learned the vice in the United States occasionally ventures there. If you ask the attendant he will tell you that this is so; also that when an American man-of