

ing benzoic acid 0.025; watery extract with benzoic acid and common salt 0.015; with 0.11 not accounted for. Upon placing a piece of ambergris in my mouth, I find it has no taste whatever, and when crushed between the teeth it is exactly like wax honeycomb. Having placed a small quantity upon the end of a spatula, and applied a light, I find it melts instantly, and gives out a strong perfume which some would call disagreeable. It reminds me strongly of burning gum benzoin. When melted and placed upon a glass, it is the colour and consistency of light glue. Ambergris is much used in perfumery, and also for burning purposes. M. Dewhurst says, a "great quantity of it is constantly bought by the pilgrims who travel to Mecca, who probably offer it there for the purpose of incense, in the same way that frankincense is used by the clergy in the performance of the sacred ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church." I understand from Dr. Piesse that the tincture is not often used as a scent by itself, but when a tincture of it is added to any other scent it increases the perfume to a most extraordinary degree. Dr. Piesse showed me a remarkable fact about this tincture of ambergris. When held up to the light, lovely bands and shades of a beautiful green are seen in the fluid. This is a sure test for the presence of ambergris. Ambergris is a valuable product. The technologist gives its value at £32 a pound, but the price varies from 10s. to 50s. per ounce. Dewhurst says that it is found in lumps varying from one pound to twenty or thirty pounds in weight, so, taking the average of 30s. the ounce, a good size lump of ambergris would be a considerable haul to the lucky finder. Dr. Piesse tells me the present price is 26s. per ounce, and that it is getting more and more scarce every year. He thinks the reason is that the sperm whales are being killed down too much.—*Frank Buckland, in Land and Water.*

THE WOLFE AND MONTCALM MONUMENT.

Canada is singularly rich in historical monuments considering its comparatively brief record under the regime of civilization. But nothing can be more exceptional than its tributes to the conqueror and the conquered—to Wolfe and Montcalm—the heroes of the two races who so gallantly settled the question of governmental supremacy in the bloody battle of the Plains of Abraham, on the ever memorable thirteenth of September, 1759. The anniversary has but recently passed, and we did not notice that any special attention was paid to it, for the great majority of the Canadian people—French and English, native and adopted—do not indulge in the celebration of days consecrated to "bitter memories" by their neighbours. The facts of history are permitted to take their appropriate place, as a matter of course, but the heroes of history, on whichever side they may have made their names distinguished, are held in honour, and their memory perpetuated, by Canadians.

Nothing can give a more complete illustration of this than the respect in which the memories of Wolfe and Montcalm are held. Associated as they were, though antagonistic, in the great battle that decided the political future of the country; both falling in the same contest, and each laying down his life for the cause he believed to be just, it was fitting that the people who sprung from the two races of which these men were noble representatives, should perpetuate their memory by a common tribute. Many of our readers will, doubtless, remember the celebration which took place on the Plains of Abraham on the 13th Sept., 1859, the centenary anniversary of the battle. At that celebration the present Premier of Quebec delivered a most eloquent oration, in which ample justice, if not very high panegyric, was impartially meted out to both; and as another anniversary of the same event has but recently passed, we place among our illustrations this week a picture of the obelisk which stands in front of what is familiarly known as the "Governor's Garden," in the city of Quebec. The names of the two heroes were affixed to the sarcophagus on which the obelisk rests, on the 13th Sept., 1834, the monument having been previously erected during the Government of the Earl of Dalhousie. This is the first and most imposing tribute to the memory of the contending Generals, though Lord Aylmer caused an inscription to be placed in the Ursuline Convent in memory of Montcalm; and, in 1835, just before his departure for England, he also had erected a monument on the Plains of Abraham to mark the very spot where Wolfe died. Montcalm was buried in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent, and the remains of Wolfe were carried to England and deposited in the family vault at Greenwich.

THE SINGLE SCULL RACE AT HALIFAX.

The closing incident of the Aquatic Carnival at Halifax, which was of general interest to the public, was the single scull race rowed on the 1st Sept., in which Sadler of the Taylor-Winship crew, was the winner, and thus became possessor of the title of champion sculler of the world, in which he succeeds the late James Renforth. We copy the following account of the race:

The sun shone forth brightly over the surface of the waters in the harbour, as they lay calm and unruffled, with scarcely a breath of wind stirring. The course for the champion single scull race was from the stake-boats used as turning points in the great four-oared contest, up to and ending at the stake-boats opposite to the Yacht Club's house, a distance of three nautical miles, and the prize to be awarded to the winner was five hundred dollars. About half past eight o'clock the several competitors made their appearance at the starting point, and formed in the positions which had been drawn by lot for them by their representatives, taking a line from the city side of the course. Harry Kelly of the Renforth crew was No. 1, and pulled in his scull the "James Renforth;" J. H. Sadler of the Taylor-Winship crew, in the "Duke of Beaufort" No. 2; George Brown of the Pryor crew, in a paper scull, No. 3; George Lovett, in the "Shoo Fly" tin scull, No. 4; Robert Bagnall of the Taylor-Winship crew, in "Onsebury" No. 5; and Henry Coulter of the Biglin crew, No. 6. Having all announced themselves ready, the signal was given, and at fifty-five minutes, five seconds past nine, A. M., the boats were off.

A finer start was never before seen, all the men being in perfect line. Coulter was the first to get the advantage, and led slightly, closely followed by Bagnall. Brown was well up to the latter, leading Lovett, while Sadler capped Brown, Kelly being in the run. By the time George's Island was passed, Bagnall was leading, with Sadler in the second position, and Coulter third. Kelly then began to crawl up on

Brown, who was fourth. Dashing along in grand style were the six boats, stretching all across the harbour, with oars throwing aside the spray and flashing in the river, forming such a sight as one is seldom permitted to witness.

When within one mile from the goal Sadler, Brown, Kelly, and Bagnall were having a severe struggle, while Lovett and Coulter were out of the race, the latter being unwell. As they approached nearer and nearer some beautiful action was exhibited. At twenty minutes, eight seconds past ten Sadler crossed the line, having accomplished the distance in twenty-five minutes, three seconds. Brown came in second at 10 20. 13, and Kelly third at 10 20. 45; Bagnall being fourth. The spectators were wild with enthusiasm, declaring it the finest scull race ever rowed in the world. The members of the Yacht Club were frantic in their joy at seeing Brown, a Nova Scotian oarsman, only beaten one length and a half by the Champion of the World, and he and his boat were carried shoulder high amid a storm of applause. On being presented to the Secretary Brown entered a protest against Sadler, contending that he had repeatedly crossed his course thereby giving him his back-wash to contend against, and always steering so as to keep directly in front of him, causing him to row in a zig-zag direction; further, that Taylor had stood upon a passing steamer and directed Sadler by motions of a broom which he held in his hand. The Committee met in the afternoon, and as Brown had appeared before them and decided not to urge his claims, they declared in favour of Sadler.

The following resolution was afterwards adopted:—"The umpires deprecate the system of back-washing and bowing, as being contrary to the system of boat-racing hitherto practised in Halifax harbour, and in a race for the championship of the world such a system should be more particularly condemned."

In the illustration of this race, and other Halifax sketches, our artist has been much assisted by photographs taken by Mr. W. Chase, of that city.

THE BARTON CREW.

The following sketch, from the Halifax Express, is all the information we have of the Barton Crew, who carried off the prize at Longueuil on the 14th instant, and who somewhat hurriedly left Quebec before the competition took place:

"The Barton Crew commenced training about the 1st of April, a month earlier than the Pryor Crew. They first practised at Tangier, to which place they belong; but some six weeks ago they came to Halifax and went into quarters next to the Boston Hotel on Water street, keeping their boats at the Queen's Wharf. Their names, weights, and stations are as follows:

- Edward Monk, bow, 170 lbs.
- Leonard Young, No. 2, 176 lbs.
- Ezra Weeks, No. 3, 170 lbs.
- Edward Tracey, stroke, 164 lbs.
- Average weight, 170 lbs.

"Tracey is a cooper by trade, and has figured several times in the annual contests for the championship of our harbour. The others of the crew are fishermen. Mr. Andrew McG. Barton, formerly of Halifax, but latterly engaged in gold mining at Tangier, has had the management of this crew, hence the name, though it is sometimes called the Tangier Crew. Their boat is named the "Tangier," and was built by Mr. E. B. Elliott, the celebrated New York builder. She is of cedar, 40 feet in length, and beautifully modelled."

A GAMBLING DEN AT WIESBADEN.

Of all the German watering-places that boast the double attraction of mineral springs and gambling dens, Wiesbaden stands first on the list. Baden-Baden is better known to us English-speaking peoples, for it is the favourite resort of the upper classes of French and English society, while Wiesbaden, on the other hand, finds more favour with Germans and Russians. But to Wiesbaden, year after year, flows a tide of visitors such as is not to be seen at any other place of fashionable resort, even during the height of the season. Its popularity is due to more causes than one. Its waters, and the mildness of the climate, the latter of which has gained for it the name of the German Nice, are great inducements to the invalid, while the attractions of the roulette and trente et quatre tables, have great weight in deciding the programme of summer tour with the members of that nondescript class, always to be met with at the German spas. Hence it is that Wiesbaden is generally full from the opening of the season on the 1st April until the last day of its close. The two-page illustration produced in this number gives a correct idea of the scenes to be witnessed in the Wiesbaden gambling dens, and of the classes who frequent them, who have been so admirably described by the pens of Thackeray and Bulwer.

IVORY FROM INDIA-RUBBER.

By means of a simple and ingenious process, a beautiful description of artificial ivory is now produced from india-rubber. In the first place two pounds of pure rubber are dissolved in thirty-two pounds of chloroform, and the solution is then saturated with a current of ammonia gas. When the rubber has been completely bleached, the admission of the gas interrupted, the mass is transferred to a vessel provided with a stirrer, in which it is washed with hot water until the bleaching agent has been entirely removed. During this operation the temperature may be increased to 185 degrees Fahrenheit, in order to evaporate the chloroform, which, by conducting it in an apparatus of condensation, may again be made use of. The remaining product forms a kind of froth, which, being pressed out, dried and again treated with a small quantity of chloroform, is finally obtained as a consistent paste. This paste is now mixed with a sufficient quantity of finely pulverized phosphate of lime or carbonate of zinc, until it assumes the appearance of moist flour. In this condition it is pressed in hot moulds, which it leaves sufficiently hard to be turned, planed, filed, or bored. In order to imitate corals, pearls, enamels, hard woods, &c., it is only necessary to mix the paste with the desired colours previously to its being compressed.

A skit in the manner of the *Battle of Dorking* has hit the mark. It is called the *Battle of Berlin*. The dénouement shows us the captivity of the Emperor of Germany in England and the triumphant return of the auxiliary corps that helped to win fame and victory for England in Germany; to wit, "The Australian Contingent." As a *jeu d'esprit* it is equal to the best.

MISCELLANEA.

A private marine belonging to H. M. ship "Bristol," at the Cape of Good Hope, has picked up a diamond upon the bench. It was attached to some spar, and he took it to break off the neck of a bottle. Finding that it cut the glass, he took it to a jeweller, and has been offered £250 for his "prize," but would not part with his good fortune.

RENAMING PLACES IN LORRAINE.—The alteration of the names of places on the Moselle is being carried on in Berlin, and especially for giving German names to the military works about Metz. The forts, barracks, bastions, &c., are receiving names adapted to their new fortune. Fort St. Julien, for example, will be named Fort Moltke. One bastion bears a plate with this inscription:—"Commenced under Emperor Napoleon III. in 1867." Under this will be placed in German—"To menace Prussia, and completed by Germany in 1867, for her own glory and her own safety."

The French have a story that Sir Walter Scott once offered his youngest daughter her choice between a dowry of 100,000 francs or "Quentin Durward." She asked to read the MS., took it surreptitiously to a publisher, found that he would give her 120,000 francs, and dutifully and meekly told her father that she would rather have the MS. than the money. Sir Walter was deeply touched by this mark of filial devotion. The Paris journal which tells the story says that a French girl would never have done such a thing as that. She would simply have taken the 100,000 francs, and—she would have found some way to get possession of the romance also.

BISMARCK'S DESIGNS AGAINST ENGLAND.—A pamphlet has been published in Paris, entitled *Prussia in the East*. It endeavours to demonstrate that England is threatened with more complete ruin than that which France has been subjected to by Germany. This catastrophe, according to the author of the pamphlet, is the necessary realization of Prince Bismarck's plan, who must needs always fear an Anglo-French alliance. France will never be overthrown so long as England remains powerful. The pamphlet seeks to show that Prince Bismarck, in alliance with Russia, would obtain possession of Trieste and Antwerp, while Russia would occupy Hindostan. It is added that a treaty to that effect has been signed between Russia and Germany.

In Indianapolis the question is being discussed whether a court has the right to order chloroform to be administered to a witness in order to get at the truth of evidence given. A woman testified in the police court that she had been assaulted by her husband, who had broken her arm. A physician was called to testify as to the extent of her injuries, but when he attempted to examine her arm she began to yell like a Co-manche. Thereupon the Judge ordered chloroform to be administered, and it was found that the woman had lied, and that her arm was not broken at all. And now the Judge is objugated for his cruelty.

A Cambridge student, in being examined for his degree, was called upon to give an account of the death of Jezebel. He evidently felt sure of his ground, for he prefaced his account by a remark about the importance of adhering as closely as possible to Scripture language. He then proceeded as follows:—"And as he passed through the gate of the city, there looked out upon him two persons appointed for the purpose. And he said unto them, 'Throw her down.' So they threw her down. And he said 'Do it a second time.' And they did it a second time. And he said, 'Do it a third time.' And they did it a third time: and they did it unto seven times; yea, unto seventy times seven. Last of all the woman died also. And they took up of the fragments that were left, seven baskets full."

"HOBSON'S CHOICE."—The meaning of this saying is correctly understood as "This or none;" but we believe its origin is not so widely known. Hobson kept an inn in London called the Bull, situated on Bishopsgate street. He let out horses to hire, and any person applying for one was obliged to take the animal next to the stable door, or go away without one. Hobson was widely known for benevolence, particularly for his kindness to animals. He always put the horse nearest to the door which had rested longest, and thus managed to have their hours of rest according to their labour. He would lose a customer before he would break his rule. So the saying went abroad "Hobson's choice," instead of this or none.

Sacred drama in Barrow is a very grave mistake. They have been imitating the German nonsense that has been over-written about the Barrow amateurs got up "Joseph and his brethren." The amateur actors turned the whole affair into a burlesque, which tickled the auditors immensely, and actually elicited roars of laughter. Through all this the unconscious amateurs gravely and painfully plodded along, until the house was brought down with a ringing cheer and intense merriment at what ought to have been a climax of thrilling solemnity—the meeting of Joseph and his aged father. In truth the ludicrous antics of "Joseph" were too much for human nature to bear, and the sight of the house at this time was something extraordinary. The spectacle of all the motley "brethren," each with his bran-new staff and his house-wife's meal-bag over his shoulder, slowly passing in Indian file before a lively bit of Italian scenery, and dimly chanting "There's no place like home," was truly a sight to remember.

The accounts from all parts of England of the progress of the harvest and the condition of the crops, point to the conclusion that the year 1871 will, on the whole, prove a bountiful year to the farmers. The only crop which is not satisfactory is that of wheat, which, owing to the excessive rain, and the absence of bright sunshine until very late in the season, will be about eight bushels per acre under the yield of last year. Barley is by far the best of the cereal crops, and the yield is estimated at nearly 25 per cent. over the average. This is owing to the favourable seed-bed which it had. The soil was not only baked, by summer droughts, but also pulverised by the winter frosts. The oat crop, taken as a whole, is a good average. The bean crop is most prolific, being nearly equal to the crops of the last three years combined. It is thickly planted, strong and lengthy in stem, and closely podded. The pea crop also is very bulky, and considering the almost total failure of seeds last year, and the large breadth of peas sown, it is probable that a larger crop was never produced in England. The potato crop, too, has been promising, but disease has caused some damage in low and sheltered fields. The turnip crop is everywhere remarkable for luxuriance.