

GETTING INTO SOCIETY.

IT IS A STRUGGLE THAT DEVELOPS HUMAN NECESSITIES.

Wealth Does Not Always Command Social Position—Some Aspirants Hang On to the Skirts of Those Already In—Friends Are Passed By.

I doubt whether there is any other single cause which produces so much unhappiness as the ambition to get into society. In this struggle we see developed all the meanness of which human nature is capable...

Every community naturally divides itself up into different classes of society. New York has its four hundred, and every little town must imitate the great city in having its select society also...

It is not always wealth that commands social position; neither is it always good looks, or even good character or good manners. Certainly ability or intellectual strength in any direction has little or nothing to do with it...

Let us suppose the case of a person from some other city or town who comes with a family of grown up daughters, homely or otherwise...

The manner in which the determined aspirant for social recognition hangs on to the skirts of some person who has the entrée to the inner circle would be highly ludicrous were it not so pitiable. No amount of snubbing can repel the determined invader...

It would seem that a person engaged in this troublesome quest for fashionable society would sometimes feel a little remorse at her conduct, and a sense of shame and humiliation. But it does not appear that such thoughts ever trouble individuals of this kind...

I have no desire to say anything against any class of society, from the highest to the humblest, but no one can look otherwise than with contempt on the struggle which some make, to win, what is not worth the trouble or humiliation they have to undergo to attain it.

If a man or a woman possesses qualifications which command respect, and attract attention, they will never have a lack of good company, no matter in what community they may live. If their qualifications are such as to make them unworthy of social recognition, even if they do succeed in getting into society, they will always be looked upon as intruders and parvenus...

What This "Observer" Saw. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS.—In your issue of the 27th ult. you mention a Policeman of St. John having seen something of the nature of a meteor.

Now, I will tell you my experience on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 23. At about a quarter to four o'clock I was walking down our main street, facing the north west, the sun shining brightly in a clear western sky, but overhead what we very often have in winter, a sort of haze;

when suddenly, out of the haze there shot a brilliant steel-blue ball of about ten or twelve inches in diameter, followed by a string of smaller balls, precisely like the trail of a rocket, but much larger. It disappeared behind the houses, and probably dropped into the river. I have seen several meteors but never one so large or distinct as this was. OBSERVER, Annapolis Royal.

WE MAY NOT FORGET HIM.

The Tribute of Pastor Felix to the Memory of a Brother Poet. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS: A prominent literateur and poet of Canada writes—"You have, no doubt, seen an announcement of Sangster's death. Two lines in an obscure corner of a daily sheet, with not a word as to his works, in the sum of fame for a creditable pioneer of Canadian literature. His later days were very far from having that passionate peace that we all hope for when we are old."

A movement of surprise and a pang of regret come together. I have looked elsewhere for an announcement of the sad fact, and I this morning looked confidently to certain quarters, but in vain. Yet I have no doubt but that the report is well founded; nor can I think it is one upon which the press and the literary people of Canada will be content with silence. Scott wrote sympathetically,—

Call it not vain: they do not err, Who say, that when the Poet dies, Mute Nature mourns her worshipper. And celebrates his obsequies; Who say that still, and cavern lone, For the departed bard make moan: That mountains weep in crystal rills; That flowers in tears of balm distill; Through his loved groves that breeze sigh, And oaks, in deeper groan, reply; And rivers teach their rushing wave To murmur dirges round his grave.

And Sangster was a true child and poet of nature. No votary among us was more evidently endowed, and filled with the desire of song from his birth. His was the rhythmic voice of the Canadian wilderness, and from him I first learned those "wood-notes wild" that are peculiar to the land of mighty rivers and of giant hills...

That boxing and prize fighting are no more naturally related to the quiet parlor game and the gambling play is very clearly contended by James W. Clarke in the February number of "Donaboe" Magazine. The value of boxing as an exercise, as a promoter of true manliness, and as a valuable resource for the honest citizen in case of emergency is pointed out, and the propositions are all such as can be accepted by those who know little and care less of the triumphs of the professional slugger.

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The "Review of Reviews," has more than doubled its circulation in the last two years, and is just such a publication as fills the want of all who want to keep abreast of the times and have but limited opportunity for study. The character sketch for January was Lord Aberdeen, and an excellent one it was. In the February number Grant Allan had a carefully considered and comprehensive sketch of Prof. John Tyndall.

So, with all the humiliation that is felt by the cherishes of poetic labors, when one with such exceptional gifts goes from among us, without a prompt and generous tribute from the press of our land; we cannot doubt but that the meditative labors of the earnest and thoughtful will eventually atone, and that our poet,—whose very name, "happy omened," as much as that of Bloomfield's, "bespeaks continuance of his fame,"—will not be left without suitable memorials. PASTOR FELIX, Cherryfield, Me., Jan. 29.

Hogmanay, hogmanay, hogmanay, is in Scotland the last day of the year. The etymology of the word is said to be doubtful, but the weight of opinion is in favor of the word being a corruption, through Norman-French forms, argui-lan neut, "to the mistletoe! the New Year!"—au, to the; guy (now gui), mistletoe; lan, the year; neu, new. On Hogmanay boys went about begging money. The custom of begging on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days may be derived from the Scotch Hogmanay; it is a nuisance in many of the suburban towns.

THE MAYOR TOOK PRECAUTIONS.

And Poor Ackhurst was not Allowed Sight of His.

HALIFAX, Feb. 8.—Mayor Keele was in hourly fear of bodily harm for several days last week, the object of his terror was a clerk in the board-of-works office whom he and chairman Saul Mosher had appointed six months ago. The ridiculous nature of the appointment was the subject of some talk when it was made, and the mayor's tribulation since is a sort of mild retribution. When poor William Ackhurst was put into the Board of Works office it is true enough some one was speared there who knew a little about book-keeping. Everything was in an almost helpless tangle. The appointment of Ackhurst was not at all calculated to improve matters, however. The unfortunate man's name was then on the books of Mount Hope insane asylum as a patient uncurved of mental trouble, and he was generally known to be feeble-minded, or worse. Yet the influence of an alderman who was interested in Ackhurst was sufficient to secure for him the position of accountant to the board of works. Some time ago it was seen that Ackhurst was becoming worse and it was determined to remove him from the office, notice being given. The example of Prendergast in Chicago furnishes what might have been a line of action for Ackhurst. At least had not the public interfered there is no telling what would have happened. Ackhurst wrote threatening letters to Mayor Keele and chairman Mosher. He demanded work and complained of the dismissal which was impending. His worship became alarmed, and said he had no desire to become famous in any tragic manner. He wanted to be spared a fate like that of the late mayor Harrison of Chicago. Accordingly the police were ordered to keep watch over him. An officer was stationed in front of the mayor's house and another was placed at the wharf where his place of business is situated, and his worship was otherwise shadowed. Orders were given that Ackhurst was not to be allowed an entrance to Mr. Keele's house nor to his office. Ackhurst more than once came to the city hall and poured out the vials of his wrath upon the police, mayor and others. At last the nuisance or the danger, whichever it was, became unbearable and the afflicted man was arrested. He was kept at the police station for a few hours and then taken to the insane asylum. The friends of the lunatic are sympathized with on all sides, and Mayor Keele has been the recipient of not a few congratulations on his escape.

THE HIGHEST WAVES EVER MET WITH IN THE OCEAN are said to be those off the Cape of Good Hope. Under the influence of a northwesterly gale they have been known to exceed forty feet in height.

Mr. Layton, manager K. D. C. Co., New Glasgow, offers a Silver Medal for the best article written by our scholars. Life Scholarship \$30. SNELL'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, TRIN, N. S.

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An interesting article has just been made to the Baedeker Guide Books, in a new volume devoted to the United States, including, also, an excursion to Mexico. It has been prepared by Mr. J. F. Muirhead, a compiler of Baedeker's Guide to Great Britain, and the general manager of the English editions of the Baedeker Guides, and is issued by the Scribners, the Ameri-

can agents of the Baedeker Guides. Mr. Muirhead has spent three years in this country, traversing every section of it and gathering his materials with the utmost care. The volume contains numerous maps and is fully up to date.

Animals Do Talk. The language of the lower animals is not all articulate; it is largely a sign language. The horse does a deal of talking by motions of the head, and by his wondrously expressive looks. He also, upon occasion, talks with the peculiar switches of his tail; and a threat to kick is surely an equine form of speech. The donkey was not far wrong who said of the kicking mule:—"It's just his way of talking."

The intelligent dog is able not only to look volumes, but can express whole sentences by wags of the tail more readily than can the waving flags of the signal corps. All that is necessary is to learn his code. We expect our domestic animals to learn our language and obey our commands; yet with our higher intelligence we fail to learn their language, by means of which we might better understand their wants and dispositions, so as to control them by kindness instead of harsh and arbitrary treatment. Horses in the street say by every look and motion that they are suffering acute torture because of a tight check-rein. Their drivers are often people who would be shocked if they could comprehend their own cruelty. But they do not understand horse language, and some of them do not seem to have horse sense.

The language of animals is a neglected subject. The facilities for its study are within the reach of all, and no previous preparation is required. The study can be pursued without interfering with other occupations, and even a little systematic observation will bring large returns in both pleasure and profit.

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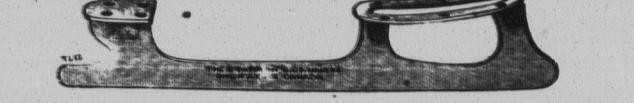
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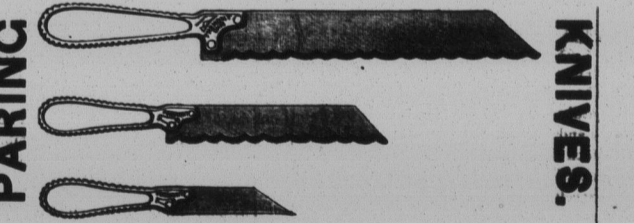
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