

THE FREE LANCE.

The Water Department are having great fun suing householders for waste of water. The revenue is looking up in consequence. But what will it be when the milkmen are hauled up?

The straight line is the shortest in morals as well as in geometry.

Every other man you meet wears a new ulster. When you learn the price and hint at its cheapness, he looks solemn and deigns to call your attention to the fact that he paid "wholesale price" for it.

A good story.
An Englishman in a French restaurant got along very well till he reached the mushrooms. The French word for it he could not manage, so he took pencil and paper and drew a large fungus.

"I understand, *parfaitement*," said the waiter. And he returned a moment after with a huge umbrella.

The revival of the volunteer movement throughout the country, which is the source of such general satisfaction, shows conclusively that the present management of the Militia Department is of much a-Vail.

Venno predicts snow in January. And will there be rain in April?

Since the appointment of M. Letellier de St. Just to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Quebec, M. Cauchon wears his famous velvet cap over the left ear instead of the right, and the oscillations of that big tassel are bodeful of coming wrath.

The President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners can easily be spared to go to Sydney for the next three months. The port will take care of itself during that time.

Senator Fabre is the coming man. His proud motto is, *Ego fortunæ mea faber*.

The Cabinet vacancy is said to be an apple of discord in the Quebec Ministerial ranks. Has M. Cauchon lost his cunning? What he doesn't know about splitting pippins is not worth learning. William Tell was a baby to him.

An effectual way of cutting short election contestations is to do as the judges did in Bonaventure—disqualify both petitioner and respondent.

Alderman Stephens is under Bouds never to Forget the letter "S."

Venno has some terrible revelations in store about next Summer. But he considerably forbears for the present.

Members of the Quebec Legislature compelled to stay over during the holidays, complain that they had a "dry" Christmas. That was because they had not received their sessional allowance.

The Conservative Club of this city has made a beginning. Its house is not yet built, but its arms are engraved. I saw them in the *Witness*. A shield surmounted by a liberty cap, supported by crossed snowshoes and moccasins, emblems of Canada's progress (through the snow) and a legend with these words, *Tuque Blue*, which, being interpreted, means *Thou art a Blue*.

It may be some comfort to distressed Canadian exhibitors, whose goods are still lying on the floor of the Centennial buildings, at Fairmount Park, to learn that the glass cases which contained these goods have been all safely returned to Ottawa. The thanks of the whole country are due to the secretary, M. Perrault, for this prompt attention to the public property.

She handed him her album, gilt-edged, cream-leaved, and asked him to write her some verses. He blushed, hemmed and suddenly remembered that he must hurry off down town. Next evening he came back, but the album was not produced. He managed, however, to sidle up to it, and turned the leaves absently, when, of course, she couldn't do otherwise than ask him again to indite something. He seized a pen, and in a fit of inspiration, dashed down these *improvisations*, obtained from a friend an hour before, and carefully learned by rote:

The albums of ladies are much like their hearts—
In this couplet I purpose to show it—
It is vain to resist their seductions and arts,
You are caught before you half know it.
It is therefore the best to acknowledge this state,
And gracefully bow to the same,
Depose in their hearts the links of your fate,
And inscribe in their albums your name.

Such genius deserves its reward. I hope before long to write an epithalamium.

LACLEDÉ

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE SCHILLER STATUE IN VIENNA.—Although Schiller was not an Austrian, his genius is appreciated by the refined Viennese and they have just erected a statue to his memory, a sketch of which appears on another page. The Emperor Francis Joseph was present at the ceremony. The monument occupies the centre of our drawing; the general public are on the right and left; in the background are grouped students

bearing flags, and in the foreground is the Kaiser with his suite. The monument is of bronze, and the poet is represented standing in the attitude of reverie. The pedestal is marble, bearing four figures which symbolize the four ages of life.

HON. LUC LETELLIER DE ST. JUST.—Although this honorable gentleman has already appeared in our Canadian Portrait Gallery, we have much pleasure in repeating his picture to-day, in connection with his recent appointment to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Province of Quebec. The nomination is one which has been received with satisfaction on all sides—by his friends, as the reward of long and faithful service in the interests of his country and party; by his opponents, as a tribute to private worth, political honesty, and earnest endeavor to be just towards all. The new Lieutenant-Governor is the son of François Letellier, Esq., of St. Valier, Bellechasse County, and the daughter of the late Charles Casgrain, Seigneur of River Onelle, at which place he was born on the 12th May, 1820. He was educated at Ste. Anne College, and early in life embraced the notarial profession. He entered public life so early as 1851, when he entered the Canada Assembly as member for Kamouraska, but from 1852 till 1860 in success at the polls forced him into a temporary retirement. He emerged from it, however, in 1860 when he entered the Legislative Council of Canada as the representative of the Division of Granville and retained the seat till Confederation. From May, 1863, till March, 1864, he was a member of the Executive Council and Minister of Agriculture. In 1867, he was called to the Senate of the Dominion by Royal Proclamation and was recognized as the Leader of the Opposition in that House till November, 1874, when he was sworn of the Privy Council, and appointed once more to the Department of Agriculture, an office which he filled with universal approval until his recent nomination to the post of Lieutenant-Governor.

BEAUTIES OF THE PRESENT TIME AND OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—Generalised abstract rules for the lines of beauty have often been attempted by painters and sculptors, but never with complete success. Although the main proportions of the human form appear to be strictly, and even geometrically, defined, the finer touches of nature—such as the colour of the hair and eyes, the complexion, the pose of the neck on the shoulders, the shape of hands and feet, and many more—seem to defy rigid classification. The statues of Venus and Antinous merely give the outlines of beautiful forms: the rays of the soul lighting up the frame of clay are wanting; and no degree of human art has ever succeeded to reproduce with brush or chisel the human features. Moreover, the national and the individual taste for different styles of beauty vary with the character of the time. Influenced by the progress of civilisation, by the mode of life, and by the fashion in dress, an absolute standard of criticism cannot be established. All a generation can do is to place its members individually in circumstances best adapted to develop the latent germs of personal charms. And to whom more than to the scions of the English aristocracy are better opportunities offered in this respect? Born in affluence, tenderly nursed through a happy childhood, kept from sordid cares, the mind harmoniously developed, surrounded by works of art, nature's task of perfecting her work can indeed be called comparatively easy. How can it fail that English women of the higher classes stand prominent for loveliness of face and form? Theirs is not the inanimate beauty of the East, which strikes the eye on first beholding, and wanes quickly, but the lasting intellectual grace, which ennobles even irregular features, and leaves an impression never to be forgotten.

TO THE NORTH POLE IN BALLOONS.—This engraving is from a fancy sketch by Mr. Francis Morell, of Wimeroux, Pas-de-Calais, France. Mr. Morell, who is an English boy of fifteen, writes thus to the *London Graphic*:—"I think if the *Alet* had been supplied with nine or ten balloons, and the requisites (which are very simple) for making hydrogen gas, her crews would, for many reasons, have had a better chance of reaching their destination. Ten miles an hour is a slow pace for a balloon in a gentle breeze, so that, supposing they travelled ten hours a day, their pace would have been accelerated to a hundred miles a day; instead of the one mile so painfully accomplished. Thus, if the wind were favourable, the Pole could be reached in a few days; if unfavorable, they could wait until it suited. The sledges would serve for cars, and could be covered in and provided with windows, so that fires might be lighted without endangering the gas reservoir. If any harm came to the balloon, the car could be cut away from it and used as a sledge; but it would be preferable for several balloons to travel together, so as to assist each other in emergencies either of want of food or fuel. The cars could also carry as much food, &c., as the sledges did during the late expedition; and from six to eight men in each. I believe that M. Giffard, the French engineer, has been able to make impermeable balloons, which retain their gas for more than a twelvemonth."

THE FRENCH COAT IS REVIVED. There are Louis XV. and Louis XVI. coats, with pans and tails, having pockets across the back of them, and opened over a waistcoat or vest, all covered with embroidery. The bodice, which fits the figure closely, fails to resemble in cut a man's coat—for a very natural reason.

THE FAMOUS "S"

They were two athletes, an old hand and a young 'un—
Who for quite three years gave sport to all the town,
Sometimes led the back of George's spring on,
And sometimes George led the old man down.

The people saw and hooted or applauded
The force of every fall or scratch or welt,
But never to either of the men they lauded
Could they award the champion's honored belt.

At last they both gave up and took to juggling—
An easier though a scarce less risky game—
And for that purpose they began a smuggling
Variation on variation of portentous name.

George got ahead in this quaint non-nomenclature,
'Twas Pittsburgh, Boston, Troy and Baltimore,
And for a while it seemed 'twas not in nature
That God could conjure all this hidden lore.

But one bright morning he made a great discovery—
A stroke of genius, neither more nor less—
Certain to rout poor George beyond recovery—
It bore the title of the letter "S."

What was it? No one knew. But all the city
Went forth to see this movement of fun,
Even though some felt 'twould be a shocking pity
If by this means poor George were undone.

George at first was puzzled, but recalling
The sleight and power of his good right hand,
He gave the wisp of battle all appalling
And braved the monster with his magic wand.

The game goes on, while all the boys are yelling
Around the jugglers and the famous "S,"
But what the end will be is past the telling
For Godlike says it's "none of my business."

THE PALYOCRYSTIC SEA.

O come, my love, O come with me:
O come and sail on that cold, cold sea,
The Pa

Le
O
Cry

Tie Sea:
For every zephyr there that blows
Will give you such a jolly red nose.

When life is dark with storms of jaw
From a stout and savage mother-in-law,
We'll pack her off to that cold, cold sea,
The Pa

Le
O
Cry

Tie Sea:
And there forever she'll look so nice,
So calm and quiet in the polar ice.

O Hewitt, come and sail with me
Upon the Palyocryptic Sea—
The Pa

Le
O
Cry

Tie Sea:
For epistolary gum there freezes so fast
You can't blow it open with a dynamite blast.

O Hayes and Tilden come with me
And sail upon that i see sea
The Pa

Le
O
Cry

Tie Sea:
We'll start you together, cheek by jowl,
And President's he who captures the Pole.

Let all who would find out the Pole
Be wise and study the mole, mole, mole,
For the Pa

Le
O
Cry

Tie Sea:
Through McClellan and Newton must be
found,

By tunnelling northward under ground.

PRENTICE MULFORD.

RULES OF TABLE ETIQUETTE.—1. Do not keep others waiting for you either at the beginning or close of the meal.

2. Do not sip soup from the tip, but from the side of the spoon.

3. Be careful not to drop or spill anything on the table-cloth.

4. Keep your plate clean; do not heap all sorts of food on at once.

5. In passing your plate to be reheaped, retain the knife and fork.

6. When asked for a dish, do not shove but hand it.

7. While drinking do not look around.

8. Instruct the servant to hand the cup at the left side, so that it may be received by the right hand.

9. Do not drink your tea or coffee without first removing the teaspoon from the cup to the saucer.

10. Use the knife for cutting only; never put it to the lips or mouth.

11. Break your bread into small pieces and rest them on your plate while spreading.

12. Do not eat too fast; besides giving one the appearance of greed, it is not healthy.

13. If you find anything unpleasant in your food, put it aside as quietly as possible, without drawing the attention of others to it.

14. Do not open the lips or make any unnecessary noise in chewing.

15. Do not touch the head.

16. Do not rest the elbows on the table.

17. Be thoughtful of and attentive to the wants of those about you.

18. Converse on pleasant subjects with those sitting near you.

19. Do not say anything not intended for all present to hear.

20. Leave your plate with the knife and fork laid parallel, the handles pointing to the right.

LITERARY.

LECKY, the historian, is one of the shyest of men.

WILLIAM MORRIS'S new poem, the "Story of Sigurd the Volsung," is said to be his greatest achievement.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI having ceased to be himself by becoming the Earl of Beaconsfield, a life of him in two volumes will be issued at once.

TRANSLATIONS OF "Enoch Arden," by Adolf Stradtman, the biographer of Heine, and the "Ancient Mariner," by Ferdinand Freiligrath, appear as Christmas books in Germany.

ANOTHER important first edition has turned up in Germany, in the shape of the first print of Marlowe's "Edward II., a tragedy, 1594," the year after the author's death in a tavern brawl.

CHARLES KINGSLEY wrote his "Saint's Tragedy" as a marriage gift to his young bride, Miss Greenfell. "Alton Locke" was the only book of which he had a fair copy made. For many years all his writing was done by his wife, from his dictation, while he paced up and down the room.

"MAYFAIR" is to be the title of an illustrated journal of politics, literature, and society, which is to appear early next year in London. The staff of the new journal has been formed from among some of the best-known writers on the London daily press. Mr. Edward Luty, the writer of the parliamentary articles in the *World* entitled "Under the Clock," has transferred his services to the *Mayfair*.

TENNYSON'S poem, "Harold," just issued, is in the new line of his dramatic ambition, and may be fairly compared with its immediate predecessor "Queen Mary," although less liberally bedecked with Tennysonian ornamentation. The period of the drama is that directly preceding the Norman conquest, and the action is mostly in England. An idyl of love is woven with the tragedy of ambition in the approved style.

A CHILDLESS old soldier in Germany, a grandson of Schiller, is the last bearer of that illustrious name. Another grandson of the poet, but on the mother's side, who wears the imposing title of Freiherr von Gleichen-Russwurm, has, in order to perpetuate the poet's name in the family, given his oldest son the pseudonym Schiller, and directed that the same thing shall be done to one of the male offspring in all future generations of the house of Gleichen-Russwurm.

DOUGLAS JERROLD worked at a desk without speak upon it, using an inkstand in a marble shell clear of all litter, his little dog at his feet. If a comedy was in progress, he would now and then walk rapidly up and down the room talking wildly to himself. If it were a *Punch* copy, one heard him laugh as he hit upon a shell bit; and then out he would go to the garden, and plucking a hawthorn leaf, stroll thinking down the sidewalk; then in again and vehemently at work, unrolling the thought that had come to him along little blue slips of paper in letters smaller than the type in which they were presently to be set.

GREAT progress has been made in the book trade of Italy during the last forty years. In 1835 there were only 484 printing offices and booksellers' shops, whereas now there are 1,083 book-shops, of whom 151 are publishers. In 1835 only 3,519 works, forming 4,255 volumes, were published, while in 1872 there were 8,798 publications, 430 being devoted to natural sciences and 171 to philology. There were 185 newspapers published in 1835 in the thirty-six states which then composed Italy, 450 in 1845, 721 in 1850, 763 in 1871, while the numbers have now risen to 1,116, of which 384 are daily journals. The province of Milan alone has 138 journals.

ONE of the oldest and most useful of periodical publications is the *London Annual Register*, which now nearly reaches its hundred and fiftieth year. It was founded by a bookseller named Dodsley. He began life as footman to a Miss Lowther, and published his first poetical effusions under the title of "The Muse in Livery." He had the prudence to make a good use of the profits of his poems and of a successful farce, and in process of time became one of the first publishers and booksellers in London. The *Annual Register's* time-honored contemporary, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, to which Dr. Johnson was in his early days so large a contributor, has entirely changed its character. It was killed by *Notes and Queries*.

PERSONAL.

MR. ADAM HOPE, of Hamilton, has been appointed to the vacant Ontario seat in the Senate.

MR. PATRICK POWER, M. P. for Halifax, has been elevated to the Senate, and a lively contest is anticipated for the vacancy.

ROUND THE WORLD.

THE armistice has been prolonged to March 1st.

DURING the coming year the British mails will be carried to New York by the Williams and Gulton line of steamers.

THERE is a division in the Republican majority of the French Chamber of Deputies owing to the vote on the Budget: the Moderates have separated from the Extremists.

THE commercial treaty between England and France is about to expire by limitation, and an effort will be made to give the free trade principles a wider application in the new treaty.

THE political crisis in Denmark has been postponed for a little while by the adjournment of the Folkething or Lower House of Parliament, until the 9th prox., when the final struggle between the Ministry and the Chamber will be commenced.

HYGIENIC.

LARGE quantities of tea are bad for the process of digestion, and tend greatly to weaken the power of the stomach.

BROMIDE of camphor has been found a serviceable remedy in chorea and hysteria, as well as in other nervous affections.

THE medical examiner of a prominent life insurance company says that he always examines with unusual care all applicants who say that they have been gymnasts, and that he is compelled to turn away nearly three-fourths of those who excel in athletic exercises, because they have dangerously strained the organs of the heart.