

Engineer, and Mr. MacDONALD, the contractor, have gone to Quebec to sign the new contract with the Provincial Government. The price is fixed at \$28,000 per mile including steel rails and iron bridges. The original contract with the company was for \$33,000 per mile. The saving arises from the cheapness of labour, the fall in the price of material, and from the fact that the contractors will be paid in cash. This prompt and sagacious action is very creditable to the Provincial Government as insuring the fate of one of our most important lines of railway.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARRISON.

The biography of this distinguished gentleman will be found in the two columns surrounding his portrait, in another part of this issue.

GUIBORD'S STONE COFFIN.

Our artist has sketched this sarcophagus in the yards of Mr. Reid, the sculptor. There are two stones, each 7 1/2 feet long, 2 1/2 feet wide and 2 feet thick. The stones are both hollowed in the shape of the coffin. One will be laid over the other and both will then be cemented and bolted with powerful iron bars. The whole will weigh in the neighborhood of ten tons, and at least ten horses will be required to draw it. The burial is expected to take place on the 18th November, the anniversary of Guibord's death.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND.

We have frequently, in late numbers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, called attention to the new Icelandic colony to Manitoba. To day we present a view of the capital of Iceland. It is a Bishop's see, the seat of the Icelandic Society and has an observatory and library. Its population is not much above 1,000.

FRANCO-AMERICAN MONUMENT IN N. Y. HARBOR.

The Revolutionary relations of the French and Americans are well known. Without the French, the American colonies could never have achieved their independence. At Yorktown, Cornwallis surrendered as much to Rochambeau, as he did to Washington. This friendly feeling has never died out, spite of American sympathy for Germany in the late war. The Centennial is bringing it into new life. It is proposed in Paris to form a Franco-American Society which shall subscribe to a commemorative monument such as appears in our illustration. It is intended to place it on some conspicuous island in New York harbor where it may serve both as a beacon to outgoing and incoming ships, and an emblem of Liberty scattering her light over the world.

THE CAT-O-NINE TAILS REVIVED.

At noon, on the 26th ult., an Italian musician named Calabria, sentenced to imprisonment for rape on the person of the wife of a certain Molinari, was condemned to receive twenty lashes on his bare back. Our picture fully represents the manner in which he was strung up and the mode in which the flogging was administered. In Ontario, this species of punishment was revived with good results some time ago. In Montreal it had fallen into desuetude since 1844, when a man was publicly flogged in old Jacques Cartier Square. Considering the alarming increase of wife-beaters and other rascals who make unprotected females the victims of their brutal passions, it may be a matter of wisdom to resuscitate this most effective instrument of castigation.

SKETCHES ON BURLINGTON BAY.

We publish a number of pretty sketches illustrating the Burlington Bay Canal, the Club House with yacht in front, the ferry and lighthouse on Burlington Beach.

PETERBORO, ONTARIO.

Our sketch represents a portion of the town of Peterboro, with the new Baptist Church, now building, in sight, and a view of some of the finest residences. We have, in previous numbers, published other illustrations of this thriving town, one of the most prosperous and promising in Ontario.

ALLANDALE, ONT.

This is a view of the Great Western Railway Station, at Allandale. The station is opposite the beautiful town of Barrie, and sixty-three miles from Toronto.

THE NEW BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTREAL.

This is the latest addition to the structures erected for public worship by the Baptist community of Montreal. In design it is novel and very attractive, and must rank among the first churches of even this city of churches. The work has been rapidly gone through, an indication of the zeal and numerical strength of the Baptist congregation in our midst.

BANK DIRECTORS' LIABILITIES.

A new item of information, called "directors liabilities" is now required, by the late Act, in the monthly statement of banks. The information is more for ornament than use, bearing no resemblance whatever to the necessary and proper "double liability" of shareholders. It derives its whole attractiveness from the word "liability." Notwithstanding all this sound, it is only an empty vessel. If it was only a

grudge between politics and bankers, hurting nobody else, it might be allowed to pass.

From a superficial view of the question, that which the legislature seems to have taken, one would probably say "if the information does no good it will do no harm." Those who take this view mistake the tendency of the measure altogether. The truth is, it will do no good but much harm. It has a decided tendency in this direction. In questions of this kind it is impossible to determine the exact injury or benefit arising from a given act. All we can do is to point out its tendency. If a river is running south, however slow or sluggish the current is, it cannot be shown, either by actual phenomena or abstract reasoning, to be running in the opposite or any other direction. The affirmation is just as true of the slowest current as of the most headlong cataract.

The tendency of an economic law is like the current of a river. Its operation may be slow or fast, but its tendency is as real in one case as the other. Why are the tendencies of economic questions sometimes misunderstood? At particular places, one may not be able to determine which way a river is running, by mere observation of its surface. The formation of the banks, a breeze blowing up the stream or a tributary entering at right or obtuse angles, may change its apparent course.

If navigators drew their conclusions exclusively from isolated cases like this it is obvious they would fall into many ridiculous errors. To avoid such errors, however, they explore farther up or down which is the only way to remove doubt about the course of the river.

The tendencies of economic questions are mistaken in a similar way. The conclusions of abstract reasoning blow up the stream; and self interest and rivalry enter at various angles. The longer we confine our explorations to this spot alone the more we confirm ourselves in error.

The data of truth must be sought below and beyond the disturbing causes by which error is produced.

What I propose to show in the course of the following remarks is that the information required in the monthly statement of banks, called "directors' liabilities" is not necessary, is void of any utility and tends to injure banking directly and the whole country indirectly. To the abstract reasoning of politicians I will oppose the actual phenomena or facts of the case. Where abstract reasoning is correct its conclusions agree with actual phenomena. They do not agree in this case.

Within my memory several banks have failed and suspended in this country, for which various reasons were assigned, among which, however, I have not once heard it said, or seen it stated, that directors' liabilities, caused or even materially contributed towards such a result in a single instance. If it was a common thing for directors to overdraw their accounts to a dangerous extent it would be a common complaint. That it is not so every one who has paid the least attention to the subject knows. We have a right to infer from this fact that bank failure from this cause is one of the rarest occurrences, and it is not surprising when we consider the ordeal through which a man passes in reaching the position. Bank shareholders are perhaps the most fault-finding and exacting class of men any one could undertake to serve, and it may be safely affirmed that no one is chosen a director without having his position as a creditor of the bank critically considered. Thus his candidature is accepted by a class of men qualified, above all men, to render correct judgment, in this particular case. Who are more interested than they, and who better qualified to judge? Such men may err, but where they err, human nature provides no remedy.

The fact of a directors' liabilities is anticipated in his election. He is not unfrequently chosen on account of being a good customer in addition to being a discreet person. The man who is a good safe customer, while an ordinary shareholder, is one of the fittest conceivable persons for a director, and banks which act on this principle are invariably the safest and most successful. Such men are not preferred because they are expected to need little accommodation, but because they are known to be safe, and need large accommodation.

Lending is the business of a bank, and being a director should not deprive a person of the privileges of the most favoured creditor. As a director treat a man as a director, and as a creditor treat him as a creditor. In the abstract reasoning of politicians, all the above actual phenomena have been left out, which accounts for the unsoundness of their conclusion, and accounting for this, it proves the first part of my proposition; namely, that the information called "directors' liabilities" is unnecessary. As shown by Adam Smith, all true economic laws are based in human nature; and that for which human nature provides remedy, in such cases, is well provided for. All the characteristics ascribed to bank shareholders, in the choice of directors, are based in human nature. Men are so plainly and obviously disposed to act in the manner required that any legal compulsion is superfluous. Legislation never makes a man succeed in business. It is the love of money, pure and simple, with the means of gratification it affords, which leads to the accumulation of wealth in nearly every case.

Reasoning abstractly it is, doubtless, thought that directors have greater facilities for worming themselves into the affections of managers than other persons. If a director is a man of undoubted credit he does not need to do this. If he is one of the opposite class, even as a direc-

tor he will find obstacles in his way. A manager naturally feels the necessity of guarding against anything like favouritism. This might endanger his position quite as much as strict fairness. A needy speculative director is seldom an influential man on the board, and solid men are likely to side with a manager who tries to keep such a person in his proper place.

Hence it happens that when a bank fails, it is not some of the directors who have wormed themselves into the manager's affections, to a dangerous extent, but some body else. There is always more danger of outsiders than of directors; seeing that directors are obliged to have the confidence of a majority of the shareholders while an outsider has only to manipulate the manager. A director passes a severer ordeal than any ordinary borrower, and having passed this ordeal, he does not need to be kept rigidly on the same footing. He carries an extra and special testimonial of character and capacity. Directors have reasons for carefulness which ordinary creditors haven't. They are liable for twice the amount of their stock, while their reputations for honesty and ability are staked on the success of the institution over which they preside. It is through managers and cashiers that failures usually occur. It may be true that directors look too little after officials and details. A really good manager may become a very indifferent one in this way. Supervision both assists and stimulates him. Want of supervision begets carelessness while it increases his work and responsibility.

Supervision gives a manager confidence in his work. He feels it is right, because it is examined and tested. Without supervision he cannot have this confidence. However carefully and skilfully the boiler of an engine is made and put together, it requires to be tested, before being used. No engineer would undertake to run the engine if the boiler wasn't tested. So it is with the depositors and customers of a bank; they will cease to patronise it, if they find that too much is left to the manager, and that proper tests are not regularly applied to the business done.

When too much responsibility is laid on a manager human nature affords no guarantee that his work will be well performed. A limitation of duties makes efficiency practicable and supervision makes it desirable and necessary. The real dangers of banking revolve round this point, and the action of directors, in this respect, is of infinitely more consequence than the question of their liabilities. So much for the first part of my proposition, that the measure is unnecessary; the examination of the remaining part, its injurious effects on banking and business, must be reserved for another letter.

W. DEWART.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

A STATISTICIAN estimates that courtships average three tons of coal each.

EVERY husband thinks that he can tame a shrew except the poor fellow that has her.

A DANDY is a chap who would be a lady if he could, but as he can't, does all he can to show the world he's not a man.

SOMEbody advertises for "machine girls." The question is in what particular a machine-girl is better than a hand maid.

A WOMAN is very like a kettle, if you come to think of it. She sings away so pleasantly—then she stops—and when you least expect it she boils over.

WHAT word is that in the English language the first two letters of which signify a man, the first three a woman, the first four a great man, and the whole a great woman?—Heroine.

A MAN made three unsuccessful attempts to blow his brains out, and then his wife said to him, "Don't try it again, John; you haven't got any." That man now goes about saying: he owes his life to that woman.

"How do you keep your wife from finding you out?" asked one old college friend of another, after they had both been married a few months.—"By always being at home at proper hours," was the conclusive reply.

ONE of the sweetest things about a young and budding love is the way in which she will smooth the hair so gently off your brow, and then smile tenderly in your face, and show that about four of her back teeth are gone.

A LADY, whose family was very much in the habit of proposing conundrums, was one evening asked by her husband, in an excited tone: "Why are all these doors left open?" "I give it up," instantly answered the lady.

"You appear in a new role, don't you, old fellow?" was what the impertinent young man remarked as he dug a cockroach out of his fresh bread at the breakfast table. A roseate flush permeated the landlady's pallid cheek.

AN Oriental having brought a blush to a maiden's cheek by the earnestness of his gaze, said to her, "My looks have planted roses in your cheeks; why forbid me to gather them? The law permits him who sows to reap the harvest."

CHAINES Jeanne d'Arc and Jeanne d'Arc belts are the latest fancy additions to the feminine toilet. They encircle the neck or waist at pleasure, or suspend the vinaigrette, fan, Swiss watch, chatelaine, or any other article that a lady may need when shopping or visiting.

A VIRGINIA paper announces the marriage of Miss Jane Lemon to Mr. Ebenezer Sweet; whereupon somebody perpetrates the following:—

How happy the extremes do meet
In Ja. e and Ebenezer;
She's no longer sour but sweet,
And he's a lemon squeezer!

OBSERVATION OF A WOMAN: The foot is the point of departure for the whole toilet. She who can prettily dress her feet is very easy to costume elegantly, but a woman who dreads to expose her feet can never be well attired. The German, who has generally big feet, is always badly dressed. The American has a little foot, so she is elegant. The Russian, who is not pretty, is ravishingly attired, for she has little feet. The Spaniard is elegant, her foot is small, but she dresses it badly. The French woman has a little foot, and her boot is the height of perfection.

BOSTON fashionables have invented the diagonal waltz, which is said to have unusual mathematical beauties. The stage directions are: Begin at the top of the last line forming the letter W, and complete the letter without turning your partner; back and advance diagonally at an angle of about 45 degrees. Meanwhile hug your partner as closely as she will permit, and project your elbow at an acute angle into the stomach of any awkward fellow or anxious mamma who seeks to interfere. The diagonal waltz offers a rare opportunity for a short cut into the affections of any susceptible young woman.

DOMESTIC.

PORRIDGE.—Real Scotch porridge is made thus: Put some water on the fire, when it boils throw in a little salt, then take some coarse oatmeal, sprinkle slowly in with one hand, stir continually with a wooden spoon till sufficiently thick; serve quickly, cut with milk, treacle, or sugar, or butter. The whole time of making should take about half an hour.

MACCARONI A L'ITALIENNE.—Take three pints of beef soup, clear, and put one pound of macaroni in it and boil fifteen minutes, with a little salt; then take up the macaroni—which should have absorbed nearly all the liquid—and put it on a flat plate and sprinkle grated cheese over it thickly, and pour over all plentifully a sauce made of tomatoes, well boiled, strained, and seasoned with salt and pepper. Some people prefer to only put the cheese on it.

APPLE JELLY.—Cut your apples in quarters (do not pare or core them), dip each quarter into clear water, and put them in a jar to cook in the oven until quite tender; then strain the juice as usual, and boil with a pound of sugar to a pint of the juice. The most delicious jelly will be the result, with the full, pure flavor of the apple heightened by the cores having been left in, and not spoiled by the objectionable addition of lemon peel and juice.

PICKLED PORK EQUAL TO FRESH.—Let the meat cool thoroughly; cut into pieces four to six inches wide; weigh them, and pack as tight as possible in the barrel, salting very lightly. Cover the meat with brine made as strong as possible. Pour off a gallon of the brine, and mix with it one tablespoonful of saltpetre for every hundred pounds of meat, and return it to the barrel. Let it stand one month; then take out the meat; let it drain twelve hours. Put the brine in an iron kettle, add one quart of treacle or two pounds of sugar, and boil until perfectly clear. When it is cold, return the meat to the barrel, and pour on the brine. Weigh it down, and keep it covered close, and you will have the sweetest meat that you ever tasted.

HOW TO CHOOSE MEAT.—It is always important to know how to choose meat in buying. Ox beef should be of fine grain or fibre, the flesh or lean of a bright red color and firm, the fat white, and distributed throughout the lean; it should not be yellow or semifluid. If the meat is entirely lean it will be tough and its nutritive power is low. Veal is dry if fresh. It should be close grained. If the meat is moist and flabby it is stale. Mutton should be of a clear deep pink tint; firm and with a liberal supply of fat. Fine wether mutton may be recognized by the presence of a small mass of fat on the upper part of the leg. It is more nutritious than ordinary mutton, and the darker its tint the finer its flavor. Pork should be of a pale pink tint, and the fat very firm. If it is soft or if the fat is yellow the meat is bad. If it is semifluid the animal has probably been fed on flesh.

STEWED OYSTERS.—Take half a dozen first class oysters, of medium and of the same size, just removed from the shell. Place in a lined saucepan with the liquor, and pour on a gill and a half of boiling water. Let the vessel stand over the fire a moment only, and skim off the froth rising to the surface entangling certain impurities. Then remove from the fire, and pour the contents from the pan into a heated dish, rejecting the last remaining tablespoonful of liquid containing the scales of shell, grains of sand, etc.; and carefully wipe out the saucepan with a suitable cloth.

Then pour back into the saucepan the contents from the dish, add a lump of the best butter, half as large as one of the oysters, the cracker-dust from half a fresh-water cracker, a little cayenne pepper, a couple of whole grains of allspice, and a little salt, placing the vessel on the fire. Then add a gill of fresh cream, and as soon as the oysters seem just cooked through, before becoming shriveled and hard from the heat, pour for use into a previously warm bowl.

FRIED POTATOES.—A great deal of good material is wasted for want of proper cooking. Food which might have been made delicious with little trouble often comes upon the table coarse and almost uneatable. Of all the vegetables which suffer from ignorant handling, potatoes are the most ill treated. Day after day, people are expected to eat boiled potatoes, watery and half done; baked potatoes, full of imperfections and also watery; mashed potatoes, yellow, "soggy," and tasteless; and fried potatoes, cut thick, swimming in grease, and as detestable to the eye as they are abominable to a well-trained palate.

The real Saratoga potatoes are easily prepared and are delicious for breakfast or lunch. The first thing necessary for their preparation is the purchase of a small appliance of wood and steel which somewhat resembles a carpenter's plane. This article is known to hardware dealers, housekeepers and grocers as a "potato-cutter," a "dried beef cutter," or "cabbage-cutter," as it is used to cut all these things. It costs only 60 cents, and very easily and neatly shaves off the raw potatoes in slices almost as thin as paper. A handful of these slices is thrown into boiling lard, and as soon as they are nicely browned they are to be removed with a skimmer, care being taken to drain off every particle of the hot fat. They should be salted immediately, and kept in a hot dish by the fire until the right quantity has been prepared for the meal. The dish must not be covered, as that would make them fat-soaked. Potatoes cooked in this way look as daintily as they taste, and are very quickly made ready with the aid of the excellent little "cutter."