

The "accumulated dust of centuries" in the old world cathedrals may command a certain amount of respect as a mark of hoary age, but in a new country and a modern public building it can scarcely be regarded as equally attractive. The Post Office, Halifax, has, it seems, made a lasting impression on one or two visitors during the Carnival as "the very dirtiest ever seen." Can we disclaim this distinction? Not two days since a lady descending the stairway left what appeared as a swept line through the dust as she came down, and raised a cloud at the same time around her. Her dress being a light one her disgust may be imagined on discovering its appearance ruined for the day.

A circumstance which has an important bearing on the supply of alcohols in the animal economy has been pointed out by Draper in his book on physiology. He points out that digestive or fermentative changes of milk, as well as of starch or of saccharine substances, when carried on at the temperature of the body, result in the formation of alcohol. It might be rather a shock to the feelings of a mother to recognize that the gambols of her babe, due to high spirits and health, are literally due to alcoholic spirits. But it is a fact, nevertheless. As, therefore, some form of alcohol is a necessary ingredient of the body, it is of the greatest importance for everyone to hold correct notions concerning its value.

The name of Sir Provo W. P. Wallis, Senior Admiral of the Fleet, has been so frequently brought before the public of this Province, which boasts of him as a native, that it is unnecessary in mentioning it to go into any explanatory details of his career. As an instance of longevity his age alone would attract attention, the gallant old officer being, we believe, in his 100th year. But the circumstance which leads to our recalling him to mind to-day is that Monday last, the 12th instant, was the 70th anniversary of his promotion to the rank of Captain. The full biblical allowance of three score years and ten has elapsed since Sir Provo attained a rank in the Navy equivalent to that of Colonel in the Army. There is another officer whose date of Post Rank is only five years later, in 1824. He is Sir William Fanshawe Martin, Bart., Retired Admiral of the Fleet, and we believe he is also the next in age to Sir Provo Wallis.

"Over 7,000 persons," say the *Toronto Globe*, "have been treated for hydrophobia at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, and only 71 have died. M. Pasteur, however, thinks there is no reason why there should be any hydrophobia at all. He believes that simple police regulations would stamp out hydrophobia in the British Islands, since the disease is invariably caused by the bite of an animal affected with it." The *Globe* is evidently not quite posted as to M. Pasteur and his methods. As a matter of statistics over 160 persons treated by M. Pasteur have died, and he himself created more fictitious hydrophobia than ever really existed. It is sufficiently well known that real cases of rabies are rare, but the facility of resorting to M. Pasteur's nostrum caused every one bitten by a frightened dog to believe himself on the high road to hydrophobia. It is moreover more than doubtful whether some of the real cases were not actually induced by M. Pasteur's inoculations.

For the first time we suppose in the history of the naval and military operations of Great Britain has an organization for "mobilizing" proved a distinguished success. The single word "Mobilize," telegraphed on Thursday [week] to the divisional officers of the navy throughout the kingdom, sufficed to put the whole machine in motion, and the actual work of commissioning the vessels, which began at about half-past seven on that morning, appears to have been got through both quickly and smoothly. The total amount of work done has been enormous. Sailors, stokers, and marines, and their officers, had each to be told off to their own special ports of rendezvous; crews had to be marched on board, ships provisioned, stores provided, and steam got up. The difficult task of finding which pieces in the mighty puzzle fitted on to which was cleverly managed. Each man, when he marched on board his ship, carried with him a card, "on which was printed the number of his mess, his place for sleeping and stowing his kit, his station in case of fire, action, or exercise aloft, the boat he is to row in, the gun he is to fight, his position in a landing party, and the numbers of the rifle and cutlass he is to carry."

An interesting report regarding the development of the musical sense in horses has just been made by a committee of German zoologists and botanists. The report says:—"The investigations as to the musical sense of horses have shown that that sense is very poorly developed in these animals. It has been proved beyond doubt that horses have no notion whatever of keeping time to music, and that at circuses they do not dance according to the tune, but that the musicians have to keep time according to the steps of the animals. Other investigations show that horses do not understand the military trumpet signals. It is only the rider or the animal's instinct of imitation which induces horses to make the moves required by the signal, but no horse without a rider, however carefully trained, takes the slightest notice of a trumpet signal, and the same observation has been made on a large number of cavalry horses without riders." It is difficult to dispute the finding of a thoroughly scientific investigation, yet this dictum does not accord with some personal experiences. We have always been impressed with the idea that horses instinctively time their paces to music. It has always appeared to us that trained troopers have a considerable knowledge of the meaning of trumpet-calls with which they are familiar, and it is within our observation that the horses of a cavalry corps after a few days on the march would come into camp regularly on the trumpet sound for "oats."

Some time ago we were taken to task by a contemporary for quoting the opinion generously expressed by the *New York Herald* in favor of the *London Times* in the matter of its controversy with Mr. Parnell. We ventured the opinion that after "the hurly burly" was over the *Times* would not be found to be much the worse for the conflict. Late English despatches confirm our prediction. In one of them it is said by a competent observer:—"Meanwhile the leading journal seems to lead as many people as before; its business is as profitable as ever, though its dividends are less, for the obvious reason that a great part of the profits go into the pockets of the lawyers. The thoughtful minority read the paper with less faith than formerly in its infallibility, but there is little to show that its circulation has diminished or its authority as an oracle of the commanding classes weakened."

We cannot but wonder what on earth is the matter with the *Bridgewater Enterprise*, which, in a lengthy editorial in its issue of Aug. 7th, delivers itself in a style of incoherence, composition, and grammar, which suggests the idea that there must have been a Carnival there, from the effects of which the worthy editor may not have quite recovered. This is the grammatical style in which our apparently excited contemporary leads off: "Halifax is just now in the heat of their Summer Carnival, and thousands of people are in the city from all quarters, having been induced to visit Halifax on this occasion by the great amount of advertising done by their papers and the belief created by that source that a good time will be spent during Carnival week in witnessing all the interesting and entertaining events. During the week previous to the Carnival we noticed in the city papers several appeals to the citizens to tidy up their surroundings and among the rest was a request to the citizens to procure a hose and wash down the court house. In *THE CRITIC* of the 2nd inst. the following item appeared: 'Visitors to Halifax during Carnival week should beware of pick-pockets, as they will require all their money for other purposes, as it is never satisfactory to get nothing for your money.' This seems to be a very good piece of advice and should be well taken by all visitors; yet when *THE CRITIC* intimates that they 'will require all their money for other purposes' it must have dawned upon them that the facts of the statement is well borne out by the announcement that hotel rates have been trebled for this week. Many of the visitors will need to fear no depredations being committed on them that will effect a pecuniary loss after the greed of the hotel proprietors has been satisfied." We will conclude this note with the simple remark that our contemporary is hopelessly in error as to the trebling of hotel rates. No tangible change whatever was made by, at least, all the principal ones.

Our friend of the *Enterprise* would seem to be a promising candidate for the lunatic asylum, to judge by the way in which he continues his diatribe. "The amount of gush," he continues, "which many of the Halifax papers indulge in respecting the advantages of their city and the hospitable and enterprising nature of its citizens is really amusing at times. That Halifax has many advantages over other places no one can deny; but that any attempt should be made to lift their own city out of the dirt while they are at the same time flinging it over other places, threatening to completely bury them beneath the debris, and disparage every other industry not within their own borders, seems very injudicious to say the least, and if the leading newspapers of that city have started out with the intention of throttling every industry in the rural districts simply because the dude continues to maintain his say what is injurious to the interests of the people who go to make up the provincial population, and who unfortunately (?) are not citizens of that much lauded city our people will soon become aware of the fact that the Halifaxians, through the columns of their papers are acting the part of traitors." We really must say that this is a "midsummer madness" of rubbish. So far as *THE CRITIC* is concerned, it has always done its best to set before the public, through its *Industrial Notes*, the progress and enterprise of every section of Nova Scotia from which it can obtain material. Nor in any way that the *Enterprise* can point out has it ever in the slightest degree belittled any other locality whatever. Neither have we ever seen anything of the kind in the *Chronicle*, but as that journal is abundantly able, if it care to do so, to vindicate itself, we do not touch upon what refers to it.

The *Bridgewater Enterprise* continues with the subjoined extraordinary charges and statements: "The attack which was made on our lumbering industry by the *Chronicle* and also by *THE CRITIC* has made such an ill-feeling in this section that many of our leading citizens are looking upon these two papers as being prejudicial to our interests. Then regarding them as the mouth pieces of the business fraternity of that city it is often wondered at if the traders and wholesale dealers are willing to endorse the sentiments of those papers as regards the sawdust regulations on the LaHave." We do not remember what the *Chronicle* may have said, though our impression is that there was no more "attack" made by that journal on the "lumbering industry" than by ourselves. But our offence was, we suppose, a remark that the testimony of the excursionists on board the *Halifax* was very decided as to the evil odor of the stuff she stirred up in the LaHave River. We took the pains to say that we were not in a position to pronounce as to whether it was caused by sawdust or mud, and that the sawdust question was still an open one, which we could not pretend to decide. This, we believe, was all we said, and none but a lunatic could have invented such a paragraph on it as that we have quoted. The remainder of the lengthy article is too long for us to devote space to, at least in this issue, but it is a rhodomontade even more wild and extraordinary than what we have given. Perhaps by this time our befogged contemporary has come to his senses,