

## LETTERS FROM BERMUDA.

## LETTER XLI.

HAMILTON, April, 18—.

DEAR — Since my last letter we were out paying some farewell visits. We took a carriage and drove round by Pagot Sand Hills. This is a wild and lonely spot. The drifting sand has gradually increased its deposits and elevated the land over twelve feet, covering up cedar trees, &c. It has buried three or four small houses (huts). This sand has advanced over cultivated land at least eighty-nine yards in thirty years. It is a singular fact that the desert of Sahara was once an inland sea. "That pathless desert dusk with horrid shades."

At the foot of these hills, along the shore, runs a charming stretch of sandy beach, on which we found, shining like a crystal gem, the "sea-bottle," a transparent globule like a bright, greenish bottle. We brought one home, but it was dried up and spoiled next morning. They hold eight ounces of water. It is a species of sea-weed, probably one of the *Caulerpa*. There were pretty little sea kittens or cow-pilots, about the size of large frogs, but in form resembling a cat. They are decorated with brilliant stripes of green, yellow and red. We found millions of *rice shells* here, with which flowers, bouquets, and ornaments, such as earrings, brooches, bracelets, &c., are made by the Bermudians. Also there were great varieties of coral, rose coral, brain coral, branch coral, and sea mushrooms of coral about the shore. We drove home just as the sun was setting in a radiant glow of red gold, while rose-tinted clouds floated away all over the blue dome of heaven.

"Now, in his palace of the West,  
Sinking to slumber, the bright Day  
Like a tired monarch fanned to rest,  
Mid the cool airs of evening lay;  
While round his couch's golden rim,  
The gaudy clouds like courtiers crept,  
Struggling each other's light to dim  
And catch his last smile ere he slept."

I intended this letter to be my last, but I find I must write one more. I quite forgot that in your last letter you requested me to tell you what I learned from our travelled friends concerning the famous Coliseum. This wondrous building was commenced in A.D. 72, on the site of Nero's lake and garden. Its form is elliptical, it covers six acres in superficial area. The height of the outward wall is 157 feet. The arena in the centre measures nearly 300 feet in length and 200 in breadth. The seating places are arranged in tiers, beginning at the wall surrounding the arena, and the last row reaches the outer wall. There are four stories or tiers of seats, which would contain 100,000 spectators. The places for cages of wild beasts were under the arena, out of which they were brought to devour the Christian martyrs. Thousands of the early Christians were put to death in this terrible manner, as we remember with shuddering horror. The gladiatorial contests continued for four centuries, till the Emperor Honorius abolished them. Trojan's games, to celebrate a victory, lasted 123 days, when 10,000 gladiators fought and many of them were killed.

"I see before me now, the gladiator lie.  
He leans upon his hand,  
His manly brow consents to death,  
But conquers agony.  
And his drooped head sinks gradually low.  
He reck'd not for the life he lost, nor prize,  
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,  
There were his barbarians still at play,  
There was their Dacian mother—he their sire,  
Butchered to make a Roman holiday."  
—Dacian.

I shall leave the Coliseum for a moment to ask what of our modern gladiators? Pagan Rome was cruel,

but what of the gladiatorial combats where the prize ring has superseded the arena? Are not prize fights equally revolting? In pugilistic encounters, of course, the fists only are used, but I think even the ancient Romans would be astonished to behold in a Christian country in modern times such a spectacle as two fine, strong young men (without any ill-feeling towards one another) standing up to beat, bruise, pummel and pound each other, out of all semblance to humanity, for a sum of money. The newspapers encourage the sport ( ) by taking pains to chronicle every round of the fight, who drew first blood, who got the first fall, etc. If these contests are contrary to law, the glorification or publication of them (*c'est le meme chose*) ought to be contrary to law also. The press, "which is the safety valve of all parties, ought to be the mentor as well as the censor of public morals. *Verbum sat sapienti.*" Concerning the Press.

As I said before, poetry being the short-hand of thought, I shall express what I wish to say more readily by the following extracts:

"Here should the Press the people's right maintain,  
Unmoved by influence, unbribed by gain,  
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,  
Pledged to Religion, Liberty and Law.

But mightiest of the mighty means,  
On which the arm of progress leans,  
Man's noblest mission to advance,  
His woe assuage, his woe enhance,  
His rights enforce, his wrongs redress—  
Mightiest of mighty is the Press."

Have you ever read Cowper's apostrophe to the Press:

"By thee, religion, liberty and laws,  
Exert their influence and advance their cause,  
By thee, worse plagues than Pharaoh's land befall,  
Diffused, make earth the vestibule of Hell.  
Thou fountain, of which drink the good and wise,  
Thou ever babbling spring of endless lies,  
Like Eden's dread probationary tree,  
Knowledge of good and evil is from thee!"

Did charity prevail the Press would prove  
A vehicle of virtue, truth and love."

Now let us return to the Coliseum, which, with silent but awful utterance, majestic in its ruin, reminds us of the 12,000 enslaved, miserable Jews who built it, and of the countless, martyred Christians who perished in its arena? The venerable Bede tells in one of his works this strange prophecy of the Pilgrims of the eighth century: "While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand. When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall. When Rome falls, the world."

The Vatican was the next place visited. It is believed that this palace was built by Constantine the Great on the site of the gardens of Nero; it has been much enlarged since its first erection and its present circumference is over seventy thousand feet; it contains more than 12,000 apartments. The statue of Constantine stands at the foot of the Scala Regia, or great staircase. A painting over the staircase door represents Charlemagne signing the donation of the Vatican.

Mrs. — and her family spoke of the great public works of the ancient pagan emperors—for instance, the reservoir of Sorrento. This *Piscina* has lasted 1700 years, and hundreds of years more will it last. These great aqueducts, which still cross mountains and valleys, bringing pure water to the city, are still untouched by time.

Eighteen hundred years ago the Cloaca of Rome was a marvel, and it is still a marvel; still it bears to the Tiber the impurities (the sewage) of the great city. One of the marked traits of the ancient Romans is their conception of these great works. They built for eternity, or rather for all time. While feeling admiration for the genius and enterprize which designed and erected the wonderful structures of antiquity, can

we forget the cost of those gigantic labours? The groans of slaves, the misery of captives, whose blood and tears bathed every stone in that extraordinary architecture of ancient times—the thousands of enslaved Jews, "the children of those who woreslain, who did eat ashes as bread and mingled their drink with weeping."

"The next letter will be decidedly my last, as we shall soon take our passage for home."  
PLACIDIA.

## Freehold Loan &amp; Savings COMPANY.

## DIVIDEND NO. 71.

NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend of 1 per cent. on the capital stock of the company has been declared for the third half year payable on after the first day of June next, at the office of the company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto. The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st May, inclusive.

Notice is hereby given that the general annual meeting of the company will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June the 17th, at the office of the company for the purpose of receiving the annual report, the election of directors, etc.

By order of the Board,  
S. C. WOOD,  
Managing Director.

Toronto, 15th April, 1905.



## TENDERS FOR COAL.

TENDERS will receive tenders, to be addressed to them at their office in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and marked "Tenders for Coal," up to noon on MONDAY, 7th MAY 1905, for the delivery of coal in the sheds of the institutions named below, on or before the 15th day of July next, except as regards the coal for the London and Hamilton Asylums and Central Prison, as noted.

## Asylum for Insane, Toronto.

Hard Coal—1,100 tons, large egg size, 12½ tons stove size, 75 tons nut size. Soft Coal—450 tons lump, 100 tons hard screenings, 100 tons soft screenings.

## Asylum for Insane, London.

Hard Coal—2,500 tons large egg size, 300 tons egg size, 150 tons stove size, 75 tons chestnut size. Soft Coal—25 tons for grates. Of the above quantities 1,500 tons may not be required till January, 1906.

## Asylum for Insane, Kingston.

Hard Coal—1,000 tons large egg size, 25 tons small egg size, 30 tons chestnut size, 2 tons stove size, 40 tons hard screenings, 40 tons soft screenings, 10 tons soft lump.

## Asylum for Insane, Hamilton.

Hard Coal—2,750 tons small egg size, 174 tons stove size, 24 tons chestnut size. Soft coal—50 tons lump for grates, 12 tons lump, for pump house, 1½ tons small egg size. Of the above quantities 1,500 tons may not be required until January, 1906.

## Asylum for Insane, Mimico.

Hard Coal—1,000 tons large egg size, 100 tons stove size. Soft Coal—15 tons soft lump, 30 cords No. 1 green wood.

## Asylum for Idiots, Orillia.

Hard Coal—2,220 tons large egg size, 25 tons stove size. Soft Coal—50 tons.

## Asylum for Insane, Brockville.

Hard Coal—1,400 tons egg size, 30 tons stove size, 10 tons chestnut size.

## Central Prison, Toronto.

Hard Coal—50 tons nut size, 50 tons egg size. Soft Coal—Select lump, 2,000 tons. The soft coal to be delivered in lots of 100 tons monthly.

## Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Belleville.

Hard Coal—225 tons large egg size, 75 tons small egg size, 15 tons stove size, 31 tons No. 4 size. Soft Coal—For grates, 4 tons.

## Institution for Blind, Brantford.

Hard Coal—425 tons egg size, 125 tons stove size, 25 tons chestnut size.

## Mercer Reformatory.

Hard Coal—500 tons small egg size, 100 tons stove size.

Tenderers are to name the mine or mines from which they propose to supply the coal, and to designate the quality of the same, and if required, will have to produce satisfactory evidence that the coal delivered is true to name.

Delivery is to be effected satisfactory to the authorities of the respective institutions.

Tenders will be received for the whole quantity above specified or for the quantities required in each institution.

An accepted cheque for \$500, payable to the order of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, must be furnished by each tenderer as a guarantee of his bona fides, and two sufficient sureties will be required for the due fulfillment of each contract.

Specifications and forms and conditions of tenders are to be obtained from the Managers of the respective institutions.

The lowest or any tenderer not necessarily accepted.  
R. CHRISTIE,  
T. F. CHAMBERLAIN,  
JAMES NOXON,  
Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto, Ont., 15th May, 1905.

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## RECIPE.

For Making a Delicious Health Drink at Small Cost.

Adams' Root Beer Extract . . . one bottle  
Fleischmann's Yeast . . . . . half a cake  
Sugar . . . . . two pounds  
Lukewarm water . . . . . two gallons

Dissolve the sugar and yeast in the water, add the extract, and bottle; place in a warm place for twenty-four hours until it ferments, then place on ice, when it will open sparkling and delicious.

The root beer can be obtained in all drug and grocery stores in 10 and 25 cent bottles, to make two and five gallons.



The Catholic Almanac for Ontario is now to be had from the Office of the Catholic Register, mailed on receipt of price, 25 cents.