

FOUR

THE ST. JOHN STAR is published by THE SUN PRINTING COMPANY, (LTD.) at St. John, New Brunswick, every afternoon (except Sunday) at \$100 a year.

TELEPHONE:—
BUSINESS OFFICE, 2.
EDITORIAL and NEWS DEPT., 11B.

ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 2, 1903.

SEEDING SNAKES.

During that interesting little conversation after the Conservative convention, if Dr. Macrae had been permitted to complete his question of "What do you mean?" and if Mr. Powell had vouchsafed a satisfactory explanation of his reason for the use of the term "serpent," the public might have received inside information of the workings of the ring. Some say that in addition to "serpent," Mr. Powell hissed out "viper-r-r-r" in true melodramatic style. But whatever may have been the real expression, the people are left to guess at the intended meaning. Turning as usual to the Scriptures for our edification, several references to serpents are found. Dr. Macrae in Mr. Powell's mind may thus be the tempter, the one who by enticing promises leads the party on to an act of foolishness which results in absolute discord after such act has been committed. There may be some truth in this application. Later in the history of Israel a conservative leader named Moses—whose surname may have been Powell—was in some straits because of a sickness that afflicted his people. He found a cure in the shape of a brazen serpent, and such sufferers as looked upon it were immediately healed. Perhaps Dr. Macrae is in Mr. Powell's mind a healer of all political diseases—and those who look up to him, placing absolute trust in his virtues, will find life's pathway smooth and pleasant. But it will be remembered that after the serpent incident the people turned away from Moses. In these later days the prototype of the great Hebrew general is afraid of similar desertion?

Leaving the Bible, Fenimore Cooper is an authority on snakes, but his opinion of them is so very uncomplimentary as to obviate the possibility of Mr. Powell ever intending such a meaning as is attached to the word in the Leather-stocking tales. Perhaps it is useless, in the absence of definite technical knowledge, to pursue the subject further. The simplest method of reaching an explanation is by calling upon someone with a thorough understanding of ophidian characteristics. Gordon Leavitt or Billy Macintosh the champion bugbears of St. John may be able to furnish the hidden key to Mr. Powell's outburst.

AN IMPORTANT RAILROAD.

During the present month there will be opened for European freight and traffic a railroad, the importance of which is hardly realized in America. This new line is the Tehuantepec National Railway, running from Puerto Mexico on the Atlantic to Salina Cruz on the Pacific coast. The distance between these two ports is 125 miles, but owing to the nature of the country the railroad has been compelled to follow a route involving a total mileage of 190 miles. Yet with the single exception of the Panama railway it is the shortest transcontinental route. It will also afford by far the shortest transport from Europe to Australia, and to central points in Asia and will no doubt become an important rival of the Panama Canal. The construction of this route has been going on intermittently for the past fifty years. Various companies and contractors have undertaken the work and full-fledged the credit of bringing the line to a successful completion rests with the Mexican government assisted by Pearson and Son, Ltd., of England. Almost \$50,000,000 has been expended on the track and terminals and a working capital of \$7,000,000 has been provided. In addition to this the harbor works will require a further expenditure of \$15,000,000. The equipment of the new railroad is thoroughly modern, the track is of standard gauge, the bridges are of steel and masonry and the surface of the roadbed will be kept in good condition by means of an oil sprinkler devised to be especially efficient for use in warm climates. At both terminals steamships will lie alongside the rails and thereby no extra handling of freight will be necessary. Elaborate precautions have been taken to facilitate the transfer of through freight and to guard against damage. The warehouses have a capacity of 150,000 tons cargo and it is believed that freight will be transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific region within two days. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is some 600 miles further north than Panama and the climate is said to be no warmer than that of Southern Texas. This route will of course be almost wholly a sea route and because of the very short railway haul it will very materially reduce rates on goods shipped from Europe to Asia or Australia as compared with those going via New York or other more northern ports and it will also be able to quote lower rates than those of the water routes around the cape. Arrangements have been made for steamship connections from Salina Cruz to all ports as far north as Victoria and Vancouver, as to the far east.

A German-American who had recently arrived at the estate of riches attended his first banquet. The wine was particularly vile, and so several gentlemen who were seated near the German were quite satisfied to have him empty the bottles that had been set apart for their common use. Neither the quality nor the quantity of the wine in the least disturbed the Teuton, and after draining the last glass, he looked around jovially and said, "Shentlemen I haf now trunken all your wine, and I safed you the trouble of trinking vat you did not like. I tink you ought to vote me a public tank." They did.

On leaving his study, which is in the rear of the church, the pastor of a church in Brooklyn saw a little boy, a friend of his, talking to a stranger. "What was he saying to you, Dick?" asked the divine as he came up to the youngster. "He just wanted to know whether Dr. Blank was the preacher of this church." "And what did you tell him?" "I told him," responded the lad, with dignity, "that you were the present incumbent."

PEACE OF EUROPE NOT IN DANGER

So Says Kaiser in Pacific Speech at Banquet

Not to be Upset by Evil-disposed Individuals—Germany Will Do Her Share.

STRASBURG. The Kaiser made a markedly pacific speech at a banquet here today. He said: "I rejoice to be able to declare my deepest conviction that the peace of Europe is not in danger. It rests on too solid foundations to be easily upset by the incitements and calumnies of malicious and evil-disposed individuals. In the first place, firm security rests on the consciousness of princes and statesmen, who know and feel that they are responsible to God for the lives and property of the peoples entrusted to their leadership. Moreover it is the wish and desire of the people themselves to live in peace and tranquilly pursue the development of the magnificent achievements of progress and civilization, measuring their strength in peaceful rivalry. Finally, peace is also assured by our power on sea and land, by the German nation in arms, proud of the many discipline and love of honor of her armed forces. Germany is determined to keep them at her level without menace to others, and to develop them as her own interests demand favoring none and injuring none."

COUNTY COURT IS NOT A COLLECTING AGENCY

Judge Forbes Talked to the Collier Co. in the Case Against Frank M. Burns.

In the County Court before Judge Forbes yesterday afternoon the case of The King v. Frank M. Burns, was taken up. Burns, who was charged with stealing from the book firm of P. Collier & Sons, was taken up. Solicitor General McDonald appeared on behalf of the crown and John A. Barry appeared for the prisoner. After the jury had been called the solicitor general moved for trial and Mr. Barry stated that he desired that the prisoner be given an opportunity to make a statement, which Judge Forbes consented to. The prisoner stated that he had been in the employ of the firm of Collier & Sons and had collected the sum of \$7.52, which, however, he did not intend to steal. The firm allowed him to work in Halifax after they knew that he had collected the amount mentioned, and he obtained orders, which would net him as commission money \$19.50, no part of which he had received. The firm now had the orders, having taken them from him in the cell. The judge said that technically he had been guilty of an offense, but he wished Collier & Co. to understand that the county court was not to be used as a collecting agency for them or for anyone else. Burns having stated that the firm after they sent him to work in Halifax had requested him to pay back the money, which he had agreed to do. His honor said that it was most unfair to keep a man in jail for seven weeks awaiting trial under the circumstances of the case, and he advised the prisoner to conduct himself well in the future and if he did so he would never have to appear for sentence. Burns was then discharged.

ST. PAUL'S SERPENT.

There are still to be found in Malta a number of small stones shaped and named like the eyes, tongue, and other parts of serpents. The superstitious among the Maltese connect these with the traditions that St. Paul, when shipwrecked, was cast on their island, and that it was there that while lighting a bundle of sticks for a fire a viper fastened on the Apostle's hand. St. Paul calmly shook the reptile off into the flames, and no harm followed. The natives, therefore, wear these stones as talismans serviceable in warding off dangers from snake bites and the influence of poisons. They are found in "St. Paul's Cave," embedded in clay, and are set in rings and bracelets, and when fast to be in the shape of a tongue, or liver, or heart, are hung round the neck. They are also taken externally, dissolved in wine, which method it attended, according to some people, by more immediate results.

GIFTED THOUGH BLIND.

The following article, which is the work of a blind man, is stated to have been typewritten by himself, on an ordinary machine, without assistance. Interesting copy is often made up from such material as may be found in the life and habits of the blind. But the class delineated is not an intellectual one. The man of whom we read is the man too often seen—a stereotyped figure, deserving our deepest sympathy, but only a medium of admiration. He is a man with a stick, a man who feels the curb, who carries a special watch, who reads laboriously with his fingers; who is, in short, labelled from head to foot with the one grim word that designates his infirmity.

SOUND OF FOOTFALL

upon the pavement is a revelation. In a road where the houses are detached it tells him when he is opposite a dwelling and when an open space. It will keep him at a uniform distance from the curb. If there are no houses at he may slightly deviate, but on familiar ground this will lead him into no danger. Should this divergence lead him straight to a pillar-box or lamp-post he will stop dead at a distance of three or four feet. This may sound a little strained, but the present writer—who has for the past thirteen years been totally blind—can prove it by his own experience. Then there is the watch. All sorts of ingenious time-indicators have from age to age been devised. To these watches have their uses. But the same peculiarity holds good here also. Ask yourself the question—"If I were blind should I care to advertise the fact?" Assuredly not. You would—if you could—avoid anything that distinguished you as such. An infirmity is not a thing of which we are proud. We like to do as our more fortunate fellows do.

My watch is no different to yours, the numerals are there, of course, but I do not need them. The top ring is the finger of the XII; the case hinges is just below the VI; all the rest is a matter of touch. Raised figures altogether strapless and sensitive fingers. We may be one minute out, but never more.

USE TYPEWRITER.

I am writing this article with an ordinary typewriter. That is not in any way extraordinary, for hundreds of blind men and women do the same; too many of them adopt distinctive marks, such as the centre of the centre, the third and ninth they wire horizontally. This, they say, is a guide to assist the typist. It does nothing of the kind. They may learn more quickly to be satisfied with the sets of the best to begin with. In good time overtake and presently pass the finger of wire. Again, there is the question of reading. In crowded thoroughfares it is not an unusual thing to see a blind man reading aloud from an embossed book. Listen to him and you will perhaps humorously wonder how he could feel after being so entertained for an hour or two at a sitting. The poor fellow does his best, but his material is not of the best to begin with. The intellectual blind soon discard the "Moon" system for the more perfect "Braille" system. The former has its value. They whose fingers are too hard for the delicate dotted signs and particularly the "Braille" system, find in looking the simple system of that good man, Dr. Moon. But who can pass on to the "Braille" system? It is full of contractions. We can write as well as read it.

COMMERCIAL SHORTHAND.

We have perfected from it a system of commercial shorthand. We use a little machine that enables us to rapidly set down correspondence or report a speech. We read with ease and fluency. And in this we can even outdo the sighted, for there is a man in this country who can perform a most astounding feat. He will open a Braille book at any given place and read a hand upon each page, the fingers of both begin to move, the right-hand page he will read to you aloud. When he has finished he will lift both hands from the book and tell you what the left-hand page is about. Wonderful, as it may seem, he has been reading two pages at once.

Weak Eyes!

Strong eyes are a blessing, but if your eyes are not strong, and you need assistance, you should go to D. BOYANER, the OPTICIAN, for GLASSES. He always uses the dark room method of examination with modern scientific instruments.

Store Open Till 9 p. m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1903.

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We have just received a line of Box Calf Blucher Out Balmorals running from sizes 11 for a little boy to size 11 for a man with this style of sole.

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ease to accomplish. They can play dominoes or draughts; they can successfully compete with the sighted in chess, whist, cribbage, euchre, nap and all other games of cards. They make excellent musicians, as all the world has discovered. The orator, the preacher, the barrister, the journalist, we number among our ranks. And we are proud of our achievements. We know not the reason of our affliction; there are many mysteries in the world that baffle all human solution. This is one of them. But we know how to accept our lot with manly fortitude. We know how to use to the best advantage the gifts that remain. And some of us have learned not to complain.

BADE FAREWELL TO LEPER HUSBAND

Pathetic Scene Illustrating a Wife's Devotion

Wished to Accompany Him—Husband Pleaded for Her to Return and Care for Their Children.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—A most pathetic scene, illustrating the devotion of a wife and mother to her husband, was enacted here yesterday when Mrs. John Early, the wife of the South Carolina leper, whose terrible affliction was discovered by the Washington health authorities some days ago, visited Early's isolated quarters on the banks of the Potomac to bid him a farewell.

Early's disposition had been decided upon by the health authorities of Washington and the officials of a leper colony in the south. Through the arrangement affected the unfortunate wife that he wished her to return to her home and care for their children. Early's wife was unaware of her husband's affliction when he left home to come to Washington, arrived here yesterday and was driven to Early's isolated tent.

Arriving at the tent, she approached to within a distance of about twenty feet and conversed with her husband. The scene was most affecting. Mrs. Early expressed a willingness to go with her husband to the leper colony, to care for and comfort him as best she could. Early, keenly sensitive of the fate in store for him, explained to her that he wished her to return to their former home and care for their children and that he would not wish her to sacrifice herself for him. Separated as they were, they bade each other an affectionate farewell and Early retired to his tent to await deportation to Louisiana, while his wife was driven back to the Salvation Army headquarters, where she is being cared for during her stay in Washington.

Early contracted the disease in the Philippines, where he served as a soldier.

FRANCE IS INDIGNANT OVER GERMANY'S ACTION

PARIS, Sept. 2.—The morning newspapers are unanimous in their outcry against the departure of the German Consul for Fez. They see in this "a fresh act of German malice and an insult to the French flag." The recognition of Mutual Haste was imperative.

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34 Wellington Row.
Office hours from 9 a. m. to 12 m. and from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m.
Phone 125.

Tiger Tea Tiger Tea Tiger Tea

MARRIAGES

MACDONALD-SHANKLIN — At the home of the bride's parents, Shanklin, St. John county, by Rev. J. Edward Shanklin, M. A., B. D., brother of the bride, Rev. Lauchlin R. MacDonald, B. A., of Vegreville, Alta., to Annie J. Shanklin of Shanklin, St. John county, N. B.

DEATHS

BLAIR—In this city, on the 1st inst., Hugh Blair, in the 68th year of his age, leaving a wife, two sons and two daughters. (Boston and Newburyport papers please copy.)
Notice of funeral hereafter.
CODY—In this city on the 2nd inst., Walter Cody, leaving a wife and two children, also mother, two brothers and two sisters.
Funeral notice hereafter. Boston papers please copy.

AT IT AGAIN.

THE HAGUE, Sept. 2.—The Netherlands Government has prepared a note in reply to the second communication sent to it by Venezuela. This note will be presented through the German minister at Caracas, Baron Von Seckendorff.

Choice Fall Footwear.

WE announce our readiness—with the best Shoes made and the best Shoe service—to take care of any Fall and Winter Footwear that may confront any man, woman or child.

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New Gymnasium ready for use in September.
Five resident masters for an average attendance of 75 pupils. Situation unexcelled.
The school is managed on what is known as the Home System, i. e., the boarding houses are quite separate from the main school building, and each is in charge of two masters.
Next term begins September 10th.
For illustrated calendar and other information, apply to the Headmaster.

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THE DREYFUS CASE MAY COME UP AGAIN

PARIS, Sept. 2.—A Paris morning paper states that an attempt will be made to make up the Dreyfus case at the forthcoming trial of Louis Gregh, who shot Major Dreyfus at the Canalization of Emile Zola in June last. These births are calling as witnesses Count Esterhazy, Colonel Dupuy de Clam, Major Clenet, and General Mercier, ex-minister of War.

SO NICE FOR THE CHILDREN.

European convention does not trouble the Maori of the far north in the matter of christening his children. Two young Maoris living near Hokitika are just getting old enough to comprehend that their loving parents bestow upon them Christian names—lifelong labels—of the most embarrassing description.

In 1898, the Waimea rebellion occurred, and some Maoris were arrested for treason. While one of the prisoners was in Mount Eden goal, Auckland, awaiting his trial, he heard that his wife had presented him with a son. Not long afterwards the trial took place, and another prisoner, almost simultaneously within the news of his sentence, received the tidings that he was the father of a baby girl. These births occurred opportunely as a means of carrying down to the next generation a reminder of their parents' exploits, to the boy relatives in the name of "Mount Eden," after the goal in which his father was imprisoned, and the girl answers to the extraordinary name of "Hard Labor."

THE DEATH ROLL

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 2.—Thomas Vightman, St. 30 years old, said to be the oldest glass manufacturer in this country. Vice-President of the First National Bank of Pittsburg, Vice-President of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company and largely interested in philanthropic work, died at his home last night on Night street.

Want It?

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