

In another note we refer to Inaudi, the mathematical phenomenon. It is but fair to state that his system of multiplying is not unique, as it has been practised for the past ten years in the Halifax School for the Blind, where the keenness of the pupils in arithmetic has often been commented upon by the press.

Unhappy Argentine can at least claim to be worth her salt. The 20,000 acres of *salinas* or salt beds on the Rio Negro, 22 miles from the sea coast, are now found to contain sheets of solid salt of from two to four inches in thickness. The salt district extends far inland to the foot of the Andes Mountains. Hitherto English salt has been imported into the Republic.

The wheel of fortune has turned. Long ago in 1832 Mr. A. Tennyson ventured to publish a song, beginning with the words—"There is no land like England," and of all his verse the critics declared this to be the most twaddling. Since its reappearance in the drama of "The Fouesters" it is spoken of as his best work, as the representative poem of its age, as the mature conception of manhood. Lord Tennyson can afford to smile.

It is very trying for Halifaxians to read in Montreal and other papers that "another case of yellow fever has developed in Halifax." The *Atlas* unfortunately did introduce this disease among the military, and a few cases were sent to the military hospital, but we seriously object to having it noised abroad that we are fever-stricken. It is far from being the case, and press correspondents should beware of conveying a false impression.

Among some recent English inventions is an oyster-cage, which it might not be unprofitable to introduce in our own Provinces. The cage, which lies on the bottom below the water, or is attached to floats above, is filled with trays in which are placed the luscious bivalves. Perfect security from water enemies is given by the gratings, and the difficulties of oyster fishing are much simplified by the ease with which the cage may be brought to the surface and the trays removed.

The question of Home Rule for India is agitating the British House of Commons. It is proposed to give more power to the native councils and to authorize the councils to hold a regular debate on the budget speech. Many difficulties stand in the light of these propositions, which are intended to pave the way for the whole system of colonial government. Of the 221 million native inhabitants but a million are fitted to use their franchise intelligently. The people of the five Provinces have little in common with one another, and without the abolishment of caste, a consummation hardly to be hoped for within the next half-dozen generations, the ballot would inevitably be a failure.

Lord Salisbury at Home, and Sir Evelyn Baung in Egypt, have together scored a diplomatic victory over the Khedive and that crafty potentate, the Sultan of Turkey. The Khedive persisted in officially defining the boundaries of Egypt so as to exclude Sinai Peninsula and part of the Red Sea territory. The *Arman* or official statement, after a week of strained diplomatic controversy, in which both France and Italy took part, has been suppressed. By his submission the Khedive has practically acknowledged his subjectiveness to the British authorities. It is not improbable that the skillful manoeuvring of the iron-clad men-of-war may have caused the Khedive's change of mind.

Judging from the Halifax Easter markets the proverbial Canadian hen has been doing a lively business during the past month. "Two dozen fresh eggs for a quarter" has been a very common window advertisement, creating a warm sensation about the cockles of our housekeepers' hearts. Two dozen fresh eggs for a quarter! and what does this mean? Simply that our farmers' good wives no longer hold parleys with the egg-buyers for the American market, and find it more profitable to barter their fresh eggs with the local shopkeepers for the one hundred and one necessities of the household. But while the farmers' wives suffer from a restricted market and the American breakfaster has to pay a duty upon his eggs, the public, especially in cities like Halifax, luxuriate in fresh eggs at moderate prices. Verily it is an ill wind that blows no one good.

Just at this season of twittering birds the *Irish Times* carefully records the folk-lore connected with the appearance of the feathered warblers. The robin, or "God-bird," as the peasants lovingly name it, is believed to have plucked a thorn from the Saviour's crown, which wounded its breast and caused the scarlet stain to appear. The noisy wren is ever in ill-repute for betraying the Lord by chattering in a clump of frieze near which he was concealed. The blackbird and thrush are wandering souls expiating the sins committed in the mortal body. The mag-pie, wag-tail and stone-chat are held in bad repute as being subjects of His Satanic Majesty. According to their number, crows are symbolic of good or ill-luck. The tender, low notes of the linnet and yellow-hammer are reminders of the sad souls still in Purgatory, while the bitter sounds the note of departure when the purged soul mounts to the perfect state. As the noisy English sparrows which frequent our streets are on excellent terms with the fairies, it will be as well not to disturb them. Our Acadian and Indian folk-lore is full of bird and animal tradition. Will not some student act the part of the patriot in collecting and preserving our many beautiful legends.

We Canadians are a loyal people and are not lacking in honor and respect to our gracious Queen. Still, it is not a little amusing to turn over the pages of the English illustrated papers and study the methods of catering to the general curiosity regarding the movements of the Royal Family. We find pictures of the Queen's arrival at Hyeres, of the personages to welcome her, of the rooms to be placed at her disposal, and of the very bed on which the limbs of royalty are to repose; but surely the climax of the ridiculous is reached when a full page picture is devoted to the donkey to be driven by Her Majesty. The sounding name of this honored quadruped is *Mdlle. Mignon Hee-haw*, and she, though but of slight proportions, is to drag about the averderpoisy representative of the House of Guelf.

The case of John Bull versus the progressive spirit which introduced the telephone in Great Britain, is remarkably illustrative of the conservatism of the Old World. According to British law, the telephone is synonymous with the telegraph, and, until a few years since, both services were under the control of the Post Office Department. As little use was being made of the telephone, several private companies obtained license to put up wires, etc. The result of this was that the financial returns of the telegraph offices were seriously interfered with by the upstart American invention. The House of Commons, before whom the complaint has been laid, has therefore decreed that no more telephone licenses shall be issued, and that the P. O. Department shall purchase a controlling interest in each telephone company now extant—a bit of brilliant legislation which fairly scintillates with coming quarrels over this high-handed interference with the freedom of the business community.

"La Nature" enthuses over the performances of Inaudi, the lightning calculator. His mental work has been tested by the French Academy of Science and pronounced genuine. Inaudi is an illiterate young fellow, twenty-five years of age, yet his mathematical prowess is astonishing to the wise men of the century. His achievements consist of adding together in an instant several numbers of from eight to ten figures each—of subtracting numbers well up in the billions—of at once giving the sixth or seventh unit of any number—of solving mathematical problems of all varieties with a perfect ease—and of answering correctly such random questions as to what day the 11th of Jan., 1787, fell on. His skill in multiplying large numbers arises from the ingenious method of multiplying from left to right, a method which will be found both exact and speedy. After an hour's mental effort Inaudi will, if desired, repeat every number in the order which it has been given him during the examination.

The return of spring has brought with it a revival in business and a more hopeful, confident feeling throughout the Province. The winter of 1891 and 1892 will long be remembered in business circles throughout Nova Scotia. A stringent money market was followed closely by many failures, and these in turn alarmed the banks and caused even first-class paper to be eyed askance if not refused, while ordinary business paper went a-begging. Then followed more failures, more screwing of customers on the part of the banks, until a temporary financial stringency threatened to result in a financial panic. This disaster has fortunately been averted, and now with the bright spring weather reports come to us of a revival of business and a general awakening from the lethargic state of the winter. The banks too realize that a change has taken place, and now, having more money than they can well dispose of, they are prepared to accept business paper upon its merits, and the financial current no longer runs through the slough of despair. Had the stringency of the money market which has marked the past winter occurred in the month of October, with the whole winter before the business community, many a business wreck would have been thrown upon the shore; but now with the opening spring upon us, when all classes of the community can obtain remunerative work, business men take heart, enterprise seeks an outlet, banks become reasonable, and an era of prosperity opens up before the people. God bless the spring!

A very amusing incident ament that News Octopus, the Associated Press, has recently come to light in an American journal. It seems that the *New York Herald* published in full the Presidential Message of 1887 on the morning of the day it was sent to the Senate, and at last the mystery of the *Herald's* possession of that Message is solved. A rumor, quite without foundation, reached the agent of the Associated Press that the Message was already set up in type at the *Herald* office. As the Message was to be marketed only through the Associated Press its agent at once rushed to the *Herald* office to expostulate with the managing editor. This wideawake newspaper man, seeing his advantage, affirmed that nothing would change the *Herald's* course of action, and by his high and mighty demeanor aroused the agent to a state of exasperation. He departed to consult with the other members of the Associated Press as to the best way out of this unfortunate difficulty. Was it best to publish the Message at once, and by so doing break faith with the President, or was it more advisable to allow the *Herald* to achieve "a beat" with its supposedly stolen matter. Meanwhile the managing editor with a quiet chuckle, reserved space and workers for the Presidential Message, which, he judged, would arrive before long. Sure enough, at 1 o'clock that night the Message was wired to all subscribing papers, when the *Herald* only, being prepared to make use of the valuable matter, coming as it did without a word of announcement, at so late an hour, had space to set it up. This, perhaps, is the most long-headed newspaper deal on record.

K. D. C. Restores the Stomach to Healthy Action.
K. D. C. Acts Like Magic on the Stomach.

K. D. C. The Greatest Cure of the Age.
K. D. C. The Dyspeptic's Hope.