



### Unfolding.

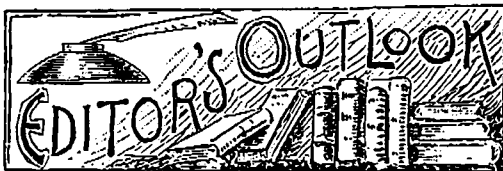
BIRDLINGS in crowded nest confined,  
With scanty plumage, tuneless voice,  
And simple need—suggest not flight,  
Or songs that make the world rejoice.

The rosebush when the spring first thrills,  
Its veins with life, looks dead and cold;  
So slow its latent powers awake,  
Its richest blooming to unfold.

The chrysalis—by some damp wall  
Obscure, where humblest insects creep,  
Who knows the beauty it shall wear,  
When wakened from its shrouded sleep?

The bird, the rose, the butterfly,  
Sweet Patience's object lessons bright;  
First blind, first leafless, first a worm,  
Hope leads to song, perfume and flight.

The bird shall trill its gladness forth,  
With fragrance glow the perfect rose,  
The butterfly mid flowers be gay,  
And patience richest gems disclose.



### General Elections.

THE country is once again in the throes of a general election. Nominations will take place on February 26th, polling on Thursday, March 5th. The reasons for the appeal to the country are given as follows: It is understood that the Dominion Government have, through Her Majesty's Government, made certain proposals to the United States for negotiations looking to an extension of our commerce with that country. These proposals have been submitted to the President for his consideration, and the Canadian Government is of the opinion that if the negotiations are to result in a treaty which must be ratified by the Parliament of Canada, it is expedient that the Government should be able to deal with a Parliament fresh from the people, rather than with a moribund house.

OFFICIAL returns published by the French Government show how prevalent foot and mouth disease is in parts of the continent of Europe. In Hungary 566 infected places were reported, in Sweden and Norway 1,773, in Austria 5,040, and in Wurtemberg 3,621. In Austria 872 communes were affected, and in Wurtemberg 337. As a measure of precaution against the importation into, or passage through France of diseased sheep, the government now requires animals carried through Switzerland to undergo in that country a quarantine of twenty days.

WE again direct the attention of School Teachers to the cash prize offers of \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively to the three who send in the three best stories before March 1st next. The story should not

occupy less than six columns of the ILLUSTRATED, and should be in two parts. We have been instigated to make these offers purely from a desire to encourage teachers in their literary tastes and aspirations. They need not be afraid to send in their stories as they will be judged entirely on their merits without fear, favor or affection. During the long winter evenings there should be ample opportunity to study and write up a story, and if not successful now it will, at least, serve a very useful purpose in helping to foster a taste for literary pursuits.

It is a well-known fact that immigration to the Dominion has been considerably retarded by the exaggerated stories told about the severity of Canadian winters. When we read last month in the daily press of the terrible snowstorms in Great Britain and Europe, the severe frosts by which many people were frozen to death, the stoppage of navigation, and the suspension of railway traffic it made us think that Canada was a paradise in winter compared to these countries. There is no doubt that the climatic conditions in this country have been changing in a marked degree during the past decade, the summers not being so intensely hot, and the winters becoming milder. It would seem as if the old time Canadian winter weather was being transferred to European countries and the effect will be to induce settlers to flock into this country by the thousands.

DURING last year, despite the cessation of government assistance, the arrivals of immigrants at the port of Montreal were 8,589, an increase of 658 over 1889. One gratifying feature was the fact that the immigrants were of a superior class,—the pauper and the old and infirm element being never so absent,—and brought with them a satisfactory amount of hard capital. The total amount of money registered at the Immigration office during the year was \$498,400, an increase of \$72,700 over 1889. Of the total number of immigrants 4,374 were males, 1829 females and 488 children. The nationalities were: English 5,071; Irish 351; Scotch 356; Germans, 595; Scandinavians, 348; French and Belgians, 113; other countries 1741. The destinations were: Quebec province 9,727; Ontario, 2,296; Manitoba, 1,080; North-west, 422; British Columbia, 379; United States, 1,033. Of the number 511 were farmers against 430 in 1889; farm laborers 624, against 437 in 1889. It will be seen that farmers have increased materially, while farm laborers have nearly doubled.

DURING the past month over ninety annual meetings of Farmers' Institutes were held throughout the Province of Ontario. It was determined this year to make the meetings more than usually interesting and attractive and to that end each meeting was addressed by a special deputation consisting of a member of the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College, a leading farmer or stock-raiser, and a leading fruit-grower. Many papers of importance to the farmers generally were also read by members of each Institute and discussed. It is impossible to over-estimate the great benefits resulting from these Institute meetings and it was a gratifying feature that most of them were very largely attended and keen interest was manifested by those present in the proceedings. It is essential nowadays that farmers should keep themselves abreast of the times by a full knowledge of the science of farming, as conditions are constantly changing, and they can materially help themselves in attaining that object by attending the Institute meetings and hearing the opinions of practical and scientific men who make a special study of the subjects upon which they speak. If any of the gentlemen who read papers at these meetings would send them to us we will be glad to give them space in the ILLUSTRATED as the opportunity presents itself.

THE Board of the Ontario Agriculture and Arts Association are taking time by the forelock. At a meeting held in Guelph recently, the following resolution, which speaks for itself, was carried

unanimously: *Whereas*, the International Columbia Exhibition will be held in Chicago in 1893, and as the President of the United States has been authorized to issue a proclamation and to invite foreign nations to furnish exhibits; *be it resolved*, that the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association call the attention of the Provincial Legislature to the necessity of securing the active co-operation of all classes and industries in making known the resources of the Province; and to express the willingness of this board to aid in disseminating such information as will induce breeders to exhibit their herds or parts of them as would be worthy of the Province of Ontario, which as a breeding ground for stock takes a pre-eminent place on the American continent; as well as to call for such an exhibition of the dairy products as would place this great industry in the foreground when brought into competition with the exhibits of other countries; and would further suggest to the Government that they be authorized to arrange for the selection of products of the forests and mines on the same system as that adopted prior to the Centennial Exhibition of 1876; that we may be enabled to convince the people of the European nations of our great resources, as well as of our rapid advancement in prosperity—that by so doing we may secure a large share of the desirable emigrants who are anxious to secure suitable homes on this continent.

It is officially announced that the census will be taken throughout the Dominion on April 6th next. Mr. George Johnson, the Dominion statistician, will have charge of the work. The army required to take the census will be composed of 3000 enumerators, officered by some 200 county commissioners and commanded by 15 census chief officers. Nine schedules have been provided, with columns for the answers to the questions the enumerators will ask. Schedule No. 1 relates to population statistics, number of houses etc.; No. 2 to the return of deaths within the last twelve months; No. 3 to real estate, orchard products etc.; No. 4 to cereals; No. 5 to live stock and animal products, including poultry; No. 6 to industrial establishments; No. 7 to products of the forest; No. 8 to shipping and mining; No. 9 to fisheries. Some desirable and important features will be added to the census this year. The education of the people will be made known, the questions of "Can you read," and "Can you write," being asked. It will also be sought to minimize the danger of overstating the number of the population by fixing a time limit. Persons about whose intentions to return nothing definite can be learned from their own people, will not be counted if they have been absent from Canada for a twelvemonth. This, it is hoped, will remove any objection or suspicion on this score.

THE cattle industry is of such vast importance to the well-being of the farming community that anything tending to injuriously affect it should be jealously watched and circumvented. Considerable discussion has been caused in this country, and in England, by a bill, now before the Imperial Parliament, prohibiting the landing of live cattle at British ports. At the suggestion of a committee of the Imperial Parliament, to whom the bill was referred, the Dominion Government appointed Mr. Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, to hold an enquiry into the mode of shipping cattle from Canadian to European ports, and report the results. The enquiry commenced in Montreal on January 5th, and continued for a number of days during which much evidence was taken. Mr. Plimsoll, the promoter of the bill, was present. The bulk of the evidence went to show that most of the cruelties to which live cattle are subjected in transit existed in Mr. Plimsoll's imagination and there is every reason to believe that no interference will be made with Canada's live stock export trade. The matter was discussed at the annual meetings last month of the Eastern and Western Ontario Dairymen's Association and the Ontario Creameries' Association and resolutions were passed affirming the importance of the live cattle trade to Canada, asserting the fact that there is no cause for apprehension on the part of England that disease exists among Canadian cattle and therefore no occasion to place restrictions on the trade, and expressing the hope that Mr. Plimsoll would remain long enough in Canada to be convinced of these facts.