

"THE FAVORITE"

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THE FAVORITE

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 1873.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

We request intending contributors to take notice that in future Rejected Contributions will not be returned.

Letters requiring a private answer should always contain a stamp for return postage.

No notice will be taken of contributions unaccompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication,) and the Editor will not be responsible for their safe keeping.

CONTRIBUTIONS DECLINED.

Queer Day's Fishing; A Wayward Woman; Christmas Eve on the Snow; Miss March's Christmas Eve; Love in Poetry; Delays are Dangerous: The Wrong Boat; Three Lovers; Poetical Temperance Tale; George Leitrim; The Mysterious Letter; Trial and Triumphs of Elizabeth Ray, School Teacher; Little Mrs. Rivington; Sentenced to Death; The New Teacher; Harris Lockwood; The Backwoods Schoolmaster; Mrs. Power's Lucky Day; Nick Plowshare's Fairy Story; That Emigrant Girl; The Phantom Trapper; A Romance of Poutville; My Cousin Coralle; The Dying Year's Lament; Dawn; Improvisation; Skeletons; He Will Return; Susie; The Merchant's Reward; A Night at St. Aubé's; And Then; Blossom and Blight; Esther's Lovers; The Mystery of Boutwell Hall; Mount Royal Cemetery; Blighted Hopes; Minnie Lee's Valentines; Eva Hillmore's Valentine; A Tom Cat in the Breach; The Fatal Stroke; Only a Farmer; Meta's Broken Faith; How We Spend a Holiday in Newfoundland; Twice Wedded; John Jones and His Bargain; The Clouded Life; My Own Canadian Home; The Lost Atlantic; Gay and Grave Gossip; Lovely Spring; From India to Canada; Resurgam; A Railway Nap and its Consequences; Love or Money; For His Sake; Showed In; The False Heart and the True; Leave Me; Is There Another Shore; Weep Not For Me; Those Old Grey Walls; The Stepmother; Tom Arnold's Charge; Worth, Not Wealth; Miriam's Love; Modern Conveniences; Little Clare; Mirabile Dictu; Up the Saguenay; Ella Loring; Charles Foot; The Heroine of Mount Royal; The Rose of Fernhurst; Photographing Our First-born; Neskeonough Lake; A Midnight Adventure; Jean Douglas; The Restored Lover; Woman's Courage; A Story in a Story; Tried and True; Dr. Solon Sweetbottle; Second Sight; Eclipses; Genevieve Duclos; Our Destiny; Port Royal; Night Thoughts; Mr. Bouncer's Travels; Watching the Dead; Delusions; To Shakespeare; An Adventure; The Wandering Minstrel; Spring; The White Man's Revenge; The Lilacs; A Trip Around the Stove; My First Situation; An Unfortunate Resurrection; Our John; Kitty Merle; History of William Wood; Willersleigh Hall; A Night at Mrs. Manning's; Won and Lost; The Lady of the Falls; Chronicles of Willoughby Centre; Why Did She Doubt Him; Jack Miller the Drover; Ellen Mayford; Recompensed.

These MSS. will be preserved until the Fourth of January next, and if not applied for by that time will be destroyed. Stamps should be sent for return postage.

The Age of Vulgar Giltier; Mrs. Seymore's Curls; To the Absent; By the Waters; Almoite; To a Lover; A Fragment from the Scenes of Life; The Axle of the Heavens; The Correct View; Apostrophe to a Tear; June; A Debtor's Dilemmas; Proved; Wanted Some Beaux; Canadian Rain Storm After Long Drought; The Murderer's Mistake; Yesterday; Carrie's Hat and What Came of It; Leonie Collyer's Error; A Memory Autumn.

These MSS. will be preserved until the Twentieth of December next.

WINTER.

The law of contrasts is predominant in the world. Persons reared in boreal climates sigh for the flushed skies and luxuriant vegetation of tropical latitudes, while those who are natives of the South find delight in the winters of the North. Winter is indeed a beautiful season and whether viewed in a hygienic or a moral sense, is eminently calculated to benefit man.

The only condition required of it is the absence of the saturation in the atmosphere. Where there is dampness, there must be disease and discomfort. Hence the winters of England and of the Middle States are unpleasant and trying. The humidity of the air distends the cells of the lungs, rendering breathing painful. Coldness of the feet is also hard to prevent. Hence bronchial and pulmonary complaints are common, and, indeed, persons of weak chests are absolutely precluded from going abroad at all. In climates, where the cold is intense and where the atmosphere is in consequence very dry, none of these disadvantages are met with. Suitable provision is made in clothing and then the more a weak person goes out into the open air, the better he finds it for his health. When the mercury is far below zero, and the wind is stinging in its sharpness, he bounds along the pavement, like an india-rubber ball, and his spirits are exhilarant. The sports of the season, such as skating, snow-shoeing and curling are calculated to add to the enjoyment of the season. It is remarkable that in St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Montreal and other cities, where the winter is long and severe, there is more social amusement than during any other part of the year. Even the poor, are less miserable than the same class in countries where the cold is less intense, but where rain and mist prevail during the interval from October to March.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for this department should be addressed to the Editor *FAVORITE* and marked "Correspondence."

C. W.—Thanks. The *FAVORITE* is true to its name. We have already sent you the back numbers.

RENT.—The question is still in abeyance. The proposition is to make the water-rate a property, not a personal tax.

SNIDER.—There is a by-law against carrying fire-arms and it has been enforced on more occasions than one. The law is a very proper one.

MONOPOLY.—You are a very innocent man. This country is the very paradise of usurers, speculators and monopolists. And as it grows, it will get worse. The example of the United States is there to prove it.

NUISANCE.—You are perfectly correct. The smell of bad oil in the sleighs of the Passenger Railway Company, at nights, is something nauseating. We think you ought to complain directly to the Corporation.

CONSTANT READER.—We are making ample arrangements for a splendid Christmas number of the *FAVORITE*. The illustrations will be fine. There will be a large variety of stories, suited to the season and poetry will be made a feature. So you may prepare yourself for a treat.

MINNIE.—We are glad you like *THE GITANA*. It is wild and melodramatic and exactly suited to the romantic tastes of such young ladies as yourself. You do not trust Carmen? Well, she is certainly singular and we do not half trust her ourselves, to say the truth. But wait for the sequel and let us hope she will get her deserts.

MARY JANE.—A woman married to a drunken brute is probably without exception the most unfortunate being in existence. Having the delinquent arrested and lodged in jail, is worse than the remedy, for when he comes out, he becomes vindictive and will treat you worse than he did before. Separation is the best course, when it can possibly be done; and few clergymen will oppose when they know the whole case.

W. T. K.—We never pretended to understand Wall. Whitman's poetry, and what is more we never tried to understand it. We do not believe in having to study poetry. It must speak to us like the song of the bird, or the murmur of the wind in the pine tops. Hence Browning, Rossetti and your other Pre-Raphaelites, we let severely alone. We except Swinburne, for, although he is distressingly unintelligible, there is so much rhythm in his lyrics, that they soothe the ear unconsciously.

NEWS NOTES.

New Cabinet in France.

Ice floating heavily before Montreal.

War fever dying out in the United States.

SIR John Duke Coleridge is to be elevated to the peerage.

THE Quebec Legislature met last Wednesday, the 3rd inst.

MR. HUNTINGTON is to have a public dinner on the 23rd prox.

MOST of the members of the government have been elected by acclamation.

INGERSOLL, another of the infamous Tammany Ring, has been sentenced to five years in Sing-Sing.

MR. CUNNINGHAM, M. P. for Marquette, was severely assaulted in the streets of Pembina on his way to Manitoba.

THE Allan steamer "Sarmatian" has been chartered by the British Government to convey troops to the Gold Coast.

A MEETING in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, was lately held in Toronto, when a branch society was formed.

LUMBERMEN from Michigan, U.S., are seeking employment around Ottawa, wages being much higher than in their own country.

THE St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, has adopted the terms of union of the Scotch Church with the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

H. M. S. "Sirius," which left Halifax for England five weeks ago has not yet been heard of; fears are entertained of her safety.

MUCH destitution prevails in Toronto from lack of employment, and the applications for shelter at the police stations are increasing.

THE Carlists report that typhus fever and small-pox prevail to such an extent among the Republican troops that they are unable to make any offensive movement.

GENERAL Sheridan, U. S. A., is reported to have been called to Washington to confer with the authorities in regard to military affairs, in view of a war with Spain.

THE Light-ship recently placed at the entrance to Halifax Harbour proves totally unfit for the position; she suffered considerable damage during the recent gales.

IN the Bazine Court Martial, General Boyer testified that Bismarck had declared himself willing to grant an armistice if the army of Metz would declare in favor of Napoleon.

30,000 French Canadians have returned to Eastern Canada from the United States during the past three weeks, their return being largely due to the stoppage of manufactories.

NUMEROUS applications for employment are made daily at the Ottawa lumbermen's offices, but there is no demand; those who have been engaged are receiving forty per cent. less wages than last year.

A FIRE at Whitby, Ont., on the 26th, ult., destroyed a dwelling-house, piano factory, and the Mechanics' Hall, together with the library, and properties of several societies, who held their meetings in it.

A LETTER from Havana says the feeling there is such that no order from the home government for repatriation in the "Virginius" affair would be observed, and the rest of the prisoners are to be executed.

UNDER a threat of bombarding Cartagena, the North German squadron on Tuesday compelled the insurgents to restore 25,000 pesetas, which had been extorted from the German residents of that city.

A TERRIBLE case of poisoning, by which several persons have already lost their lives, occurred in this city on the 28th. 7 persons died of it; others who partook of the deadly draught are not expected to recover.

Nor long ago, when passing through the streets of a New England village, we met a friend, who said, "I want to show you something." He unwrapped a small package he had in his hand, and there appeared a little speckled brook trout, perhaps nine inches long. It was plump and pretty, but we had seen trout before, and much larger ones; so we looked up inquiringly. "A cat caught this trout," said our friend; she jumped into Mr. D.—'s pond, seized the fish, and brought it triumphantly into the kitchen. I am going to cook it!" We looked with increased admiration at the trout, thought sympathetically of the poor feline who had lost the coveted thing for which she risked her life, and wished we could employ her as fisher-in-chief for our table.

POVERTY AND DEBT.—Bulwer says that poverty is only an idea, in nine cases out of ten. Some men with ten thousand dollars a year suffer more want of means than others with three hundred. The reason is, the richer man has artificial wants. His income is ten thousand, and he suffers enough from being dunned for unpaid debts to kill a sensitive man. A man who earns a dollar a day, and who does not run in debt, is the happier of the two. Very few people who have never been rich will believe this, but it is true. There are thousands and thousands with princely incomes who never know a moment's peace, because they live beyond their means. There is really more happiness in the world among working people, than among those who are called rich.

THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON.

And so now we come at last to the Capitol, which, with all its defects, is the greatest architectural triumph this country has produced, and which can lack a world-wide reputation only because Americans themselves have not known enough to give such to it. Like all the most famous structures, it was not built in a day, but has grown gradually into its present development; and even unfinished as it is, hugely defective as it is, and with unlimited capacity for additions and improvements, it crowns the city and the landscape with a glory unsurpassed by any secular building in existence. It is not all of white marble, dear reader, but at first you take it to be; and its extent, its strength, its evident costliness, together with its singular external beauty, quite inflate one with joyous patriotism and pride, and in looking at it one feels that our money-loving and money-getting Brother Jonathan has the divine spark of genius hidden somewhere within him, after all.

The first surprise and exultation over, however, a succession of mortifying discoveries dawn upon the visitor, of which the most crushing to me was, that, though splendidly situated upon the ridge commanding the city, the Capitol faced the wrong way! The front is to the east, and those magnificent porticos, with their crowds of Corinthian pillars, their sculptured pediments, bronze doors, and countless sweeping marble steps, the bronze Goddess of Liberty herself,—everything,—turns its back upon the city, the river, and the West, and the whole facade exists for the benefit of the trees that were idiotically planted in the East Capitol grounds just across the street from it, and which have now grown so great that they make a full or three-quarter view of the building impossible, and so beautiful that the threatened cutting of them down is "enough to kill one."

Washington expected and intended that his namesake city should grow up in state and splendor on the hill, instead of down in the marshy, malarial plain. But unfortunately he placed the President's house down there, and of course all society inevitably clustered about it; beside which, the original property owners held the land about the Capitol at such exorbitant rates that for years people were actually forced to purchase elsewhere.

So for a long time the hill was comparatively abandoned, while the plain was peopled. But the marvel of marvels is, why, when the Capitol Extension was planned twenty-five years ago, and men had seen plainly where, contrary to the original expectation, the city had built itself, that occasion was not seized for making the grand facade on the west instead of on the east front, and of placing the statue on the dome facing in the same direction; for now the Goddess of Liberty looks as if, shrugging her shoulders at the hap-hazard city behind her,—nay, at the "great sloven continent" itself,—she were gazing regretfully toward the ocean across which she had floated hither, and were vainly wishing herself safe back in the "tight little island" of respectabilities and proprieties that gave her birth.

RAILROAD STOCKS

Stocks in theory and stocks in fact are two very different things. In theory the railroad stockholder is a capitalist who, having by some means or other—perhaps by an operation on the "street" perhaps, but not probably, by honest industry—accumulated a considerable sum of money, goes to Washington, and by corrupt means secures, in combination with other capitalists, a large land-grant from Congress, then builds his road by means of selling his land, calculates how much the poor farmer ought to be made to pay for transportation, in order to render his stock profitable after it has been thoroughly watered, establishes rates of freight based on the result of this calculation, and then retires from business on the fruits of his fraud. If at any time he needs more money, he makes a new calculation, waters his stock again, and again wrings from the poor farmer his hard-earned substance.

Railroad stocks in fact, however, as many people know to their cost from what has happened in the past few weeks, are quite a different thing. So far from its being true that the dividends they yield are certain and easily made, there is hardly in the world any security which is subject to so many risks of a kind so difficult to calculate. There are, it is true, a good many railroads in the older parts of the country the condition of which is thoroughly known and under management entirely trusted, which yield a certain income upon the capital invested in them; but the income is small, and it is not these roads which even in theory form and support the breed of railroad capitalists. It is the new roads built through the West, with land-grants, by means of bonds, as well as such old roads as find it necessary to extend their business in all directions by the purchase and lease of competing or connecting lines. And these are the roads of which we say that stock in many of them is, and will before a long time, a dangerous investment; so dangerous that those who risk their money in the purchase of them are amply entitled to all the returns they ever can make.