

An imaginative correspondent of the *Empire* has been writing on the tides of the Maritime Provinces. The subject is easily made a little sensational by the traditions of those of the Bay of Fundy, but the narrator professes to endeavor to strip the subject of current exaggeration. Perhaps he partially accomplishes his object, but incidentally mentioning Halifax, either his observation or information have failed him, as he commits himself to the assertion that "the tide rises sixteen feet in Halifax harbor." As a matter of fact the average rise is about six feet, and it probably, save under very exceptional influences, varies more or less between five and seven feet.

We very cordially welcome the first numbers of a new weekly journal, the *Amherst Weekly Press*. It comes to us well-printed and in good form, and its initial editorial, announcing its advent on the field of journalism, is at once modest and manly. Not the least of its recommendations is its declaration that "In politics the Press will take an independent position, not allying itself with either of the political parties of the day." It is precisely of more such unbiassed journalism that the country stands in need, and to which we wish a successful career. In such papers the public stands a chance of enlightenment on political questions undistorted by the rancor of party spirit and misrepresentation.

The following is almost equal to *Cæsar's veni, vidi, vici*, or to one or two famous despatches announcing British victories in the simple statement of them, with a brief return of killed and wounded on both sides:—"In the Calcutta High Court recently, Mr. Justice Norris delivered what is probably the shortest summing up made by an Indian judge. It was a case in which two native prisoners were accused of robbing the complainant on the Maidan by what is known as the 'bead trick.' On the case for the prosecution being closed, the accused said they had nothing to say, and his lordship, in delivering the charge, said:—'Gentlemen of the jury—The prisoners have nothing to say, and I have nothing to say; what have you got to say?' And the jury said they were 'guilty.'" A great deal of useless verbiage might be avoided if the example of Mr Justice Norris were more generally followed.

The objections of the Knights of Labor and other labor organizations to the technical education of youth, on the ground that it will create a large number of embryo workmen who will become competitors in the labor market at reduced wages, is, it seems to us, neither sound nor far-seeing. If their objections should prevail we should probably see in Canada what has taken place in the United States—a short supply of native workmen necessitating an influx of foreign workers to supply the deficit. This happened recently in the glass industry in the States when a large importation of Belgian workmen took place. One American labor-organ expresses regret at the situation, and is not blind to the fact that it is due to the narrow policy pursued by the glass-blowers assembly of the Knights of Labor. Another consideration which sects, cliques and combines of all sorts are apt to entirely ignore, is the great advantage of technical training to the whole youth of a country.

Georgia has achieved an unenviable pre-eminence among the rowdy States of the Union, and seems to be but little removed from a condition of the lowest barbarism. As an exchange describes some recent occurrences:—"They lynched a man, nominally because he hit another man with a stone which he threw from a railway train, really because he was a negro. A vile white man in South Carolina, who shot a man because he expostulated with him for persecuting his servant girl, was set free by the jury; had he been a negro he would have been hanged, or, as in a case a month ago in Missouri, burned to death. The people of Georgia may object to being accused of barbarism because this was done by a number of irresponsible people; but as long as a community allows such conduct to go unpunished the crime is theirs, and as long as they call a gang of brutal ruffians guided, doubtless, by drunken passion, 'a posse of citizens,' they may be held to approve of the whole proceeding." Later a citizen was deliberately shot down in the streets of Warrenton. The continuance of such a state of lawlessness is a dark blot on the escutcheon of the United States. We presume a higher state of civilization will some day come to pass, but the menacing race-feuds between black and white seem not unlikely to delay it indefinitely.

The *Halifax Herald* said recently that Mr. Laurier admitted that reciprocity would ruin Canadian manufactures. The *Chronicle* asserts that what Mr. Laurier said was that "very likely some small tariff-bolstered industries not indigenous to the country, and which could not exist without high protection, would go to the wall; but he showed that many large manufacturing industries would be benefitted by unrestricted reciprocity." Without going into this argument we will merely remark with reference to it that our reminiscences of reciprocity in manufactures point to the wholesale slaughter of Canadian manufactures when brought under unprotected competition with the superior riches and facilities of the United States, and that we desire to see our own firmly established before they are subjected to this rivalry. But what we wish to remark is that the term indigenous seems to us a somewhat vague generality, and scarcely applicable to manufactures at all. The raw material which enables a manufacture to be born and to exist may be indigenous, but we can scarcely see how any manufacture can strictly be called indigenous. We do not make this observation in any spirit of captiousness or verbal smartness, but we should like to see a definition, and some instances given, of what our contemporary would consider indigenous manufactures.

The local labor organizations in Boston are instituting searching enquiries into the starvation rates of pay and cruel treatment by ready made clothing contractors of their female employées. If one half of what is alleged be true there is an urgent demand for legislation in the direction of protecting the unfortunate victims of a grasping, sordid, and heartless tyranny, and ample scope for the prompt and active exercise of philanthropy. The treatment described and the foul and wretched surroundings of the helpless victims of a base greed are as shocking as, or worse than, the old time practices in England, which called forth Hood's pathetic "Song of the Shirt." It is to be earnestly hoped that the investigation will bring forth practical results.

The *Halifax Herald* had last Saturday a long quotation from the *Herald* of Boston, describing how in December, 1884, a Mr. George Steele, and others, set to work to get up an agitation on the Fishery and bait question, in which a great deal of buncombe was talked about the tyranny of Canada. Some \$7,200 was subscribed, and a lucky gentleman was deputed to Washington to keep the pot boiling, which was no doubt effectively done by him and the other managers of the affair to their own profit and comfort, as it is stated that the amount named was only "a first assessment." The incident is perhaps worth mentioning, as it may very likely form a precedent for a like agitation at the close of the period—next February—when the *modus vivendi* expires. No doubt we shall about that time hear a fresh outburst of denunciation of the iniquities of Canada.

In close sequence to the death of Dr. Rand, Nova Scotia has suddenly lost another citizen eminently distinguished for erudition. The Rev. David Honeyman, D.C.L., was suddenly seized with a fit of apoplexy on the afternoon of the 17th inst., and died in a few minutes. Dr. Honeyman, though not actually a native of Nova Scotia, had been identified with the Province for nearly 40 years, rendering it service by the fullness of his knowledge of its geology. In this specialty he was unapproached, but he was a man of letters in other branches of literature, had been Professor of Hebrew in the Free Church College of this city, was a sound naturalist as well as geologist, and was planning a new series of Zoological Papers to appear in the *Presbyterian Witness* at the time of his sudden demise. Widely known in Nova Scotia, his scientific status was perhaps even better recognized abroad, where he was a member of many of the leading Natural Scientific Societies of Great Britain, France and the United States. The deceased Professor, who was of a most genial disposition, had reached the ripe age of 76, but was apparently so hearty and cheerful that his sudden death was a painful surprise to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. His widow and family have our sincere sympathy in their sudden bereavement.

The recent death of Lady Holland accentuates the gap between the oldest and the youngest living generations. The Holland House coterie is a curious and conspicuous feature in the domestic history of the century. Readers of Macaulay's *Essays* will be able to estimate the peculiar intellectual and political influences of Holland House, where habitually gathered together such literary and intellectual lights as Brougham, Mackintosh, Rogers, Sydney Smith, Macaulay, and a host of other luminaries. It was in every sense a lordly mansion, exalted by the distinction of its *habitués* above the commonplace of mere ordinary society haunts, and above all, redolent of the traditions and genius of the house of Fox. In a different way—that of the more ephemeral social distinction of men (and women) of fashion—the only other house in Kensington which might aspire to the old idea of the "salon," was Lady Blessington's, where such men as Count D'Orsay and Louis Napoleon were somewhat of lions. Gore House was very charming in its lighter way, but bore no comparison to the brilliant solidity of the home of the Foxes. "The 'salon' as an institution flourished," says an English paper, "at a period when it was only in the drawing room that common ground could be found for the assembling of the wits. London, under the present dispensation, is too large for the geniuses to find each other out, and too highly organized to make private congresses of the *litterati* necessary."

It is matter of sufficient notoriety that by far the greater amount of shooting performed by the Militia of Canada is confined to the various cliques of comparatively crack shots throughout the country. This accounts for about a dozen quotations from the Blue Book reports of staff and other responsible officers, given by the *New York Herald* in its article on the Canadian Militia, all expressive of the opinion that the average shooting and knowledge of the proper use of arms is very poor. To these are added remarks as to the bad state in which, in many instances, the arms are kept, striking samples of which gross neglect were indeed observable at a recent Nova Scotia camp. In the face of the reports of our own staff—officers denial or palliative of these facts would be useless. Regarding the horsing of Cavalry and Field Artillery, the *Herald* goes on to remark that "it is scarcely conceivable that animals which, for fifty-one weeks out of the year are employed in the hum-drum service of a contractor, a hackman or a coal dealer, should, for the fifty-second week, develop the qualities of a troop or battery horse," and that even the "much-boasted Montreal Field Battery takes its horses for the guns from the Fire brigade," of which Col. Stevenson is chairman. That Cavalry should be horsed with unpractised animals is of course a serious disadvantage. For the purposes of annual drill, however, the Battery horses work fairly enough, all things considered, and even the Cavalry in many instances do better than might be expected. The *Herald's* remarks, however, are not without weight, and their point would tell under the requirements of any continued period of service. We shall probably conclude our comments on the *Herald's* article next week.