

ports of Europe, not a single vessel entered the Quarantine limits to report a single case on board. This fact, the Minister of Agriculture remarks, is to some extent owing to the very careful inspection made by Imperial Medical officers before vessels carrying emigrants are allowed to sail from ports of the United Kingdom.

At the Quarantine Station at Partridge Island, St. John, N. B., there was also remarkable immunity from sickness during the last year. From among the very large number of vessels inspected at that point, not a single case of infectious disease requiring medical attention was reported.

At the Halifax, N. S., station only 3 cases of contagious disease (small-pox) occurred. One, that of a child, proved fatal. These three cases were all that were reported from the very numerous steamers and other vessels entering the port of Halifax carrying passengers.

At Pictou, N. S., there was no infectious disease; and from the other Quarantine Stations there was nothing specially to report.

These are facts on which the whole country may be congratulated; but, as Dr. MONTIZAMBERT remarks, this healthy epoch may be followed by a sickly time another year. The fact, however, of the great bulk of the immigrants now coming to Canada being carried with the comforts afforded by the present class of splendid steamships visiting our ports, in the short space of ten or eleven days from the United Kingdom, after the careful inspection they are required to undergo before embarking, will likely save us from a repetition of those terrible scenes we had in those dreadful years after the first potato famine, known as the period of the "Irish Exodus."

THE TANNERIES SCANDAL.

The Quebec Legislature has been prorogued, but before terminating its Sessions, the Committee of Investigation into the Tanneries Land Exchange submitted its final report. As this instrument bears a historical interest, its main features are deserving of record in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. The Committee was of opinion that the evidence, although to a certain degree conflicting and contradictory, establishes the fact that the Tanneries property is worth from \$60,000 to \$100,000 more than the portion of the Leduc Farm, for which it was exchanged. In the next place, the Committee declares its belief that Mr. MIDDLEMISS secured the services of Mr. DANSEREAU, on account of his personal friendship to the ex-Ministers, and his political influence as a journalist, and that Mr. DANSEREAU lent himself to the arrangement to his own personal advantage and that of Mr. MIDDLEMISS, and to the detriment of the Province. The sum of \$48,000 passed from the hands of Mr. MIDDLEMISS to those of Mr. DANSEREAU, and though the parties declare that this was a loan, the Committee is not satisfied that the transaction was such as described by them. Finally the Committee recommends that an action should be at once taken to cause the Tanneries Exchange to be annulled by the Courts.

This report is satisfactory as far as it goes, and because it gives hope that the proceedings for annulment before the Courts will lead to those further revelations which the restricted powers of the Committee could not reach. At the judicial bar, Messrs. DANSEREAU, COTTE and DUVERNAY will not enjoy the immunity which they claimed before the Committee and the House of Assembly, and legal cross-examination will probably unearth the whole mystery of the miserable transaction. But there is a point which the Committee has failed to make in its report. It should have boldly affirmed the principle that no Ministry has the right to dispose of public property by private barter of any kind. This was the initial wrong in the Tanneries exchange, and all

the Ministers were responsible for it, with the single exception of Mr. ROBERTSON who was absent in England. Not only did Messrs. OUMET, ARCHAMBAULT and CHAPLEAU blunder therein, but Messrs. IRVINE, FORTIN and ROSS tacitly consented to it. For this they are all to blame, and the Committee should have fixed that blame. If for nothing else, outside of all charges of fraud, the late Ministry deserved public animadversion for disposing of the property in a private and practically clandestine manner.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

We learn from the Report of the Department of Agriculture which has been presented to the Senate, that the business of the Patent Office has nearly doubled within the last two years. This effect is, to a great extent, doubtless, due to the liberal law which threw open Canadian patents to foreign inventors, on the condition of manufacturing in this country. The total number of Patents issued during the year was 1,249. For these there were 528 applicants resident in Canada, 43 in England, 665 in the United States, 3 in France, 2 in Germany, 4 in Austria, 2 in Italy, 1 in Switzerland and 1 in Chili. From these facts, it appears that the applicants for Canadian patents living in the United States, were not only more numerous than those living in Canada, but were actually more than half of the whole. We further learn from the Report, that out of the 204 five-year term patents in 1869, 198 have been allowed to expire, the inventions to which they relate thus having become public property. The Model Room of the Patent Office is one of the curiosities of Ottawa. Admission to it is free, and it is daily visited by the public and consulted by engineers and mechanics for the purpose of study. We learn from the Report that the constant addition of Models is beginning to crowd the very considerable space allotted to them. We think it well to copy the following official reference to a publication which is issued from the same office as the ILLUSTRATED NEWS. "The ILLUSTRATED PATENT RECORD in connection with the MECHANICS MAGAZINE continues to be published in a creditable and satisfactory manner, and is found very useful both by the public and inventors. The arrangement which was made for its publication by Mr. Geo. E. Desbarats, of Montreal, has been transferred to the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Co., which assumed the "business of Mr. Desbarats during the year 1874." We may be permitted to say that we are glad to notice this deserved official appreciation of a most useful publication in a formal state document by a Minister of the Crown.

From the verdict of the jury, it appears that twenty-seven inmates are missing from the Beauport Asylum since the fire, seven of whom are known to have perished in the flames. The remainder probably met the same horrible fate. The question arises whether institutions of this kind should be built out in country places, where there is no adequate provision against a conflagration. This Province is erecting a new Lunatic Asylum at Longue Pointe on Montreal Island. It should be required to supply ample defence against a sudden fire.

The twenty-cent pieces are to be withdrawn from circulation. This is a good move, because these Provincial shillings are a nuisance. It is true they are comparatively few, but there are just enough to necessitate the examination of every quarter of a dollar piece received, in order to prevent mistakes. And the odd thing about them is that while they may be palmed off on you by the dozen, you can not pass them on anybody else.

MUSICAL CRITICISM.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR,—Under the above heading, there appeared in your last issue a letter signed "Critique." Why does the writer not sign "Critique," as he objects to foreign expressions? Of which paper is the signatory critique, as it would be beneficial to some of us whom he calls "grandiloquent, gushingly laudatory, and profoundly ignorant" critiques of the Montreal press, *quorum unus*, I will proudly confess to know? We might improve by studying his "puffs," as he calls them. Your readers must first learn from my lips that I am one of those ignoramuses who does not know a dominant seventh from a minor third, but forsooth if you extend the reasoning, is a man not to judge of a picture because he himself does not even know the name of the tints that compose it? We all know the following story, which bears repetition, as it comes *à propos* here:

A young man who could play a little, was, when in society, fond of descanting on music, and whenever the conversation turned on his favourite theme, would ask: "Do you know what is the peculiar feature of the chants or melodies of semi-barbarian nations?"

No one could answer this extraordinary question, when the youth would reply: "That it turned on a diminished third!" This was told with great effect for half a dozen times, until some one ventured to ask that terrible "Why?" He was forced to confess his ignorance, and so do I. After this digression, I may say that I have written some musical criticisms for Montreal papers, that I know others who have done so, and will do my best to answer what appears at first a clever attack upon us, but which will be easily met. In the first place, let not "Critique" premise that because a man writes for a Montreal paper, he is therefore ignorant of every language but plain vernacular English. Not so; there are several among them who know two, three, or more languages, and if they do write, "*Le sabre de mon père*," instead of "The sabre of my father," "*Lieder ohne worte*," instead of "Songs without words," and "*Ah! non giunge*," instead of "Ah! don't mingle," it is not that they want to "air" their knowledge of languages; it is simply because they feel that the power expressed in these words would lose by translation, and they write thus, hoping that there are others who can appreciate their motive, and not traduce it, possibly through spiteful ignorance. With regard to the expression that the performance of an Offenbach overture kept an audience "in a trance of continuous delight," really "Critique" must be, in a way, of the class he dubs "ignorant" if he protests against it. Who can draw larger houses to-day, Offenbach or Beethoven, Lecocq or Mendelssohn? We are confining ourselves to Montreal, although we might extend our limits. Let "*La Grand Duchesse*," or "*La Fille de Madame Angot*," be played here for a single day in one house, and another house attempt to play Beethoven, what would be the result? Would "Critique" attempt it? Yes, Offenbach's music will triumph with the mass, its sparkling notes will keep them in a continuous "trance of delight," whereas daily experience in Montreal records that our citizens are not educated enough to go and listen to strictly classical music. There was once a club here, certainly a first-rate one, which was, as one of the members confessed to the writer, compelled, at the suggestion of those who had brought them here, to introduce some Offenbachian strains into their programme, although they did not wish it mentioned in the notice, as it might hurt them elsewhere. This illustrates forcibly what I say here.

It is because some of us have heard Patti, Kellogg, Nilsson, Lucca, Joachim, Ernst, Vieuxtemps, Clara Schumann, Pauer, Hallé, Ries, and twenty others, that we can judge. We have been educated to hear good music, and envy those who have not. Why, to criticize even "Critique," does he really mean to rank Sauret among the first violons of the day? It must be that he has not heard half a dozen others, all superior to him. Why Sauret cannot hold the candle to Mr. Listemann, of the Boston Philharmonic, who so shortly preceded him! We will not attempt to defend the "gush" over the "unpretentious young lady;" it was, we admit, silly, to say the least of it, and was duly protested against by every man with a little common sense. "Critique" seems to have been at great pains to pick out here and there a *lappus calami*, and then to dub us all with some most uncomplimentary epithets. Yet he must know how often our hands are tied; it is not always possible for us to criticize; we must sometimes "puff" against our will; he does know it, and why consequently saddle the wrong horse? Certainly, if our knowledge were to be gauged by the poor salary he twits us with, then, as we are the worst paid men in this city, might we fairly be considered the most ignorant; but it is most certainly not we who seek to make art ridiculous, and many of us feel a fox gnawing at our very heart when we are compelled to "puff" a performance because the paper has a jobbing and advertising interest in it, although it outrages the eye as well as the ear, or because an editor or a proprietor requires tickets for himself, his wife and children, down to the smallest one, to go and listen to it or witness it.

With regard to amateur performances, it is the custom to give them a fair meed of praise as they are proverbially not criticized, much less found fault with, especially as they more fre-

quently than otherwise are given for some charitable purpose, and my experience has been, that were you to compare every amateur singer of this city to a Patti, every pianist or organist to a Thalberg or a Gretton, he would not be satisfied. They, of all people, expect a "puff," and if it is not given to them, some one writes to the papers next day and does so for them. I can put my hand on two such notices at the present moment. The greatest ignoramus would review at least his English before writing one of them wherein it is written that the choir "lacked animation" in singing something like the "Stabat Mater."

To resume, we may not be professional musicians, but we can feel the effects of harmony, appreciate the beauty of melody, and if we were allowed to frankly record our impressions, we should not be so amenable to many of the just animadversions of "Critique."

Your obedient servant,

A NEWSPAPER CRITIC.

HUMOUROUS.

PATRONS of husbandry—Mothers with marriageable daughters.

GILT frames do very well for paintings, but when it comes to "frame of mind" the less gilt the better.

"J. GRAY—Pack with my box five dozen quills." There is nothing remarkable about this sentence; only that it is nearly as short a one as can be constructed, and yet contains the whole alphabet.

"MADAME," said a cross tempered physician to a patient, "if women were admitted to paradise, their tongues would make it a purgatory." "And some physicians, if allowed to practise there," replied the lady, "would soon make it a desert."

A VERMONT girl was left in charge of a drug store for a few moments, and distinguished her brief stewardship by emptying the contents of a vial of sulphuric acid on her head in mistake for "golden hair fluid." She is not attending parties this winter.

A HANDSOME lady entered a dry goods house and inquired for a "bow." The polite clerk threw himself back, and remarked that he was at her service. "Yes, but I want a buff, not a green one," was the reply. The young man went on measuring goods immediately.

A CELEBRATED anatomist being asked, why with his knowledge of the human frame, he could not cure all the diseases of the body, replied, "Unfortunately, I am like a porter who is acquainted with all the streets of the city, but is ignorant of what is passing in the house."

THE following is the recommendation lately given by a lady to her departed servant:—"The bearer has been in my house a year—minus eleven months. During the time she has shown herself diligent—at the house door; frugal—in work; mindful—of herself; prompt—in excuses; friendly—towards men; faithful—to her lovers; and honest—when everything had vanished."

THE BEST THRASHING MACHINE.—A company of farmers, in America, were discussing the relative merits of rival thrashing machines, when they were astonished by the wife of the one at whose house they were exclaiming emphatically that the best thrashing machine she knew anything about was a broomstick. And the husband looked as though he believed her.

THE newest style of cheap advertising was produced lately at Terre Haute. A child of nine began to cry terribly at the corner of a street till the crowd grew larger and larger. Nothing would he say till it became larger still, when at last he called out quite loudly, so that all might hear, that they might take him home to "19, Avenue Road, at Smith, the bootmaker's, who had recently received a fresh importation of kid shoes from Paris, at from ten to fifteen dollars a pair."

"Jock," said a farmer to one of his workers, one Sunday, after the return of the latter from church, "whaur was the text to day?"—"I dinna ken," answered Jock; "I was ower lang in gaun in."—"What was the end o't them?"—"I dinna ken; I came out afore it was done."—"What did the minister say about the middle o't them?"—"I dinna ken, I am oot afore it was done."—"What did the minister say about the middle o't them?"—"I dinna ken, I am oot afore it was done," replied Jock; "I slept a't the time."

A CERTAIN Bishop in the House of Lords rose to speak, and announced that he should divide what he had to say into twelve parts, when the Duke of Wharton interrupted him, and begged he might be indulged for a few minutes, as he had a story to tell which he could only introduce at that moment. "A drunken fellow was passing by St. Paul's at night, and heard the clock slowly chiming twelve. He counted the strokes, and when it had finished looked towards the clock and said, 'Hang you! Why couldn't you give us all that at once!'" There was an end of the bishop's story.

THE American poet-laureate Smith did this as his second effusion after recovering from the measles and capped books:—"Oh! if my love offended me, and we had words together, to show her I would master her, I'd whip her with a feather! If then she, like a naughty girl, would tyranny declare it, I'd give my love a cross of pearl, and make her always bear it! If still she tried to sulk and sigh, and throw away my posies, I'd catch my darling on the sly, and smother her with roses! But should she clench her dimpled fist, or contradict her betters, I'd manacle her tiny wrists with dainty golden fetters! And if she dared her lips to pout, like many pert young misses, I'd wind my arms her waist about, and punish her with kisses!"

VARIETIES.

MR. GLADSTONE has discontinued his subscription to *Hansard's Debates*. He sent an order to that effect to the publisher on the very day on which the correspondence between him and Earl Granville appeared in the papers. This fact seems to show that he has really determined to retire permanently from the political arena.

A mot of M. Taine is being circulated in Paris. The conversation having turned upon the liberty of higher education. M. Taine expressed himself in favor of that liberty being accorded, though aware the clericals will alone be able to take advantage of it, at all events for the present. "One can burn oneself with petroleum," he said, "but no one has ever been drowned in holy water."

THERE are no less than seven hundred and fifty-four periodicals, either daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, published in Paris alone at the present moment. There are 53 of them addicted altogether to theology, 63 to law—and it must be remembered that the first law journal published in Paris appeared in 1820; before that time there was none; 61 to fashions, 69 to medical subjects, and in 1850 there were but three. A few are the organs of particular classes, as, for instance, the *Whip*, the *coachman's organ*; the *Leather*, that of the shoemakers; the *Gazette des Cordoniers*, treating entirely of dance and dancing.