

Our Society.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1891.

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WE do not wish at present to meddle in the Preeper controversy; when we do so—if ever we do—it will be with a very clear voice and most unmistakable meaning. The general public were pretty well sick of the case, while the decision was yet pending, though many interested on both sides, are still keen enough about it. There are still some who, for the sake of justice, would have Preeper released, and there are many, who, for their own sakes, would strain every nerve to retain him in gaol for the rest of his days. The tale about a confession is perfect folly; no one who knows anything about the internal developments of the case can believe for a moment that Preeper committed the crime for which he is suffering, though some may find it to their interest to say they do, and even to invent tales of confessions to persuade others of what they say.

We welcome new correspondents from Sackville and Arichat, whose letters appear just in time for insertion in last issue. Unfortunately the Windsor and Bridgewater items did not arrive till Friday morning.

Our regular subscribers have had some cause of complaint up till now, as we have been so late going to press that it has been impossible to deliver till Saturday. We have managed to get the last two issues off in good time on Friday morning, and hope to continue this arrangement.

It is in consequence of this improvement that so many contributions have been too late for insertion, and we hope correspondents will realize in the future that we cannot insert anything but short city items after Wednesday night.

Advertisers have complained that some of the news-boys have sold copies without the cover, which we have therefore caused to be stitched on. We should be glad if readers would refuse to buy coverless copies: this is for their own sake as well as ours; the cover is designed to keep the frontispiece clean, and free from finger-marks, and the paper is not complete without it.

Our story this week is from the *Strand Magazine*, of which we heard great things, but only lately received the first four numbers. This enterprising paper started off with a great boom;—nothing less than an etching by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. The reality is somewhat disappointing, especially to those who know that there is no small amount of artistic genius in the Royal Family. We venture to think that the picture in question would not have increased the sale, even of OUR SOCIETY, signed by the modest name of Smith, in spite of the proverb, "A rose by any other etc.," which a certain correspondent is rather fond of quoting.

DO YOU read "OUR SOCIETY,"—If not you are in ignorance of this "A.I." and unaware that "Doughty's Voice Lozenges" are patronized by the leading Speakers and Singers of the day. Signor Tommaco Salvini says: "The other night when my voice would have otherwise failed I was able to accomplish my study to the very last in "Othello," which I owe entirely to your Voice Lozenges." These Lozenges are sold at the

LONDON DRUG STORE, 147 Hollis Street, by J. GODFREY SMITH, Dispensing Chemist.

Agent for Laurances' Axis-Cut Pebble Spectacles, endorsed by the leading Oculists of the day. Also, a New Glass especially adapted to those who read and write by the Electric Light. Orders taken for Cut Flowers and Plants from the Willow Park Nursery. Subscriptions received to the Art Union of London.

NIGHT CLERK ON THE PREMISES.

TELEPHONE CALL 153

OUR SOCIETY STATIONERY The ELEGANTE, SUB-ROSA, FAVORITE GRAY, CANVAS, BLUE SERGE, KING LINEN, IVORY VELLUM and other Fashionable NOTE PAPERS and ENVELOPES. NEW CORRESPONDENCE CARDS. SOCIETY VISITING CARDS. A fresh supply of WHITE INK for Tinted Note Papers just received

KNIGHT & CO., 125 Granville St.

THE fashions of the present are hideous in the extreme and rapidly becoming more so.

Look at any fashion paper, be it English or American, and see what a caricature the female form divine is turned into.

The original shape and beauty of the human body is distorted to such an extent, that the woman who is dressed in the very highest of the fashion, resembles nothing under the sun.

But we may talk and we may write till all is blue, and we would do no good.

Woman would follow the fashion in spite of everything that might be said. And her position in following the fashion is a sound, practical, and one might say, scientific one, and one that can be defended by many strong and unanswerable arguments.

But the chief reason why she elects to do so, is that she has to. She can not help it. Now in a community like Halifax, distant in a way from the centre of civilization, fashionably speaking, one suffers much from the hideousness of the fashions, because of the attempts of many to copy and follow out of their own sweet will those already burlesque like costumes and get ups, by those which are simply a burlesque of a burlesque, something that is awful and wonderful to behold. When the original departs from the lines of beauty the uneducated copy, exaggerate and increase the departure to such an extent that the result not only offends the artistic sense, but brings down ridicule upon the would be fashionable.

A gown made by a genius like Worth can be what it likes—ugly, inartistic, but it will always be beautiful. It will have something indescribable about it that will make it beautiful. But a copy of that gown made by some amateur would be a thing impossible to look at, an awful and never-to-be-forgotten caution. Therefore it would be well for those whose purses do not permit them to have their gowns from artists not to attempt to copy the present outrageous costumes, but select some less startling and less audacious copy to work from.

In every provincial town, we see this exaggeration of exaggerations, but in no place more than in Halifax, and the present fashions increase their tendency and open up a field to the hitherto somewhat cramped amateur dressmaker, in which she can revel.

But let us hope that these fashions will soon have their day, and that we may soon return to some more simple and more artistic style of costume.

THE HEINTZMAN PIANOS

Are fast becoming the favourite Pianos here, as they have been in Western Canada for the past thirty years.

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