

member for Lambton were so stupid that they neither understood common sense nor the English language. He was heartily glad that they had had an opportunity of showing their stupidity and of completely stultifying themselves.

Mr. Hartman said that the member for Toronto would not say that the amendment covered all the grounds of the original motion. And after some remarks by Messrs. Langton and Wilson, Mr. Spence said he would not have spoken but for the remarks of Mr. Hincks that those who voted with Mr. Brown stultified themselves. After that he could not give a silent vote. He was one who sincerely desired the separation of Church and State in this Province; but he held that the members of the Church of England should not have sought to apply to the Imperial Government in a religious question through the House, but should have arranged the matter themselves. Yeas, 13; Nays, 26.

The House then Adjourned.

Pictou, May 9th.

The following letter has been this morning received from Major Welsford of the 97th Regt., and as some of your readers will remember this gallant officer when a youth in Pictou, and as it contains a brief notice of the latest operations of the siege, the Rev. Mr. Elliott, to whom it was addressed, has sent it for publication.

Camp Sebastopol, April 9th, 1855.

MY DEAR ELLIOTT:

We have opened fire again to-day in earnest, though for a long time we have been exchanging compliments from single guns and mortars along the lines. To-day, however, the hubbub has recommenced in earnest, and the roar has been incessant. It is a queer thing to write to you at the commencement of the contest. I cannot tell you much of what has been effected—the papers soon will—and I can at all events answer your kind letter now, or perhaps never, as I am sitting in momentary expectation of a turn out for mischief. I had my turn of 24 hours trench yesterday. Some of our people that have just come up say that our fire was most effective, and that towards evening the Russian fire had almost ceased. This, however, may be a *ruse to bring us on*, as I cannot imagine that the heap of guns they had in position could have been silenced in one day, and indeed from one side or other the fire is kept up pretty smartly now. You see how little we know of each other, or what is going on within a few hundred yards of us, though the next moment we may be ordered out to take part in a most serious affair. The weather has been terrible all day, a regular storm of rain, and most trying to me, who have spend 24 hours in trench, where we cannot show a finger without having a rifle ball at it. Our winter has truly been the most trying one that soldiers ever went through, but now we are at it again with determination. I hope we shall soon bring it to a happy issue, to our own benefit, and that of mankind.

It was high time the aggressive policy of this barbarous nation was put an end to, or shortly all Europe must have succumbed. It is singular that after weeks of fine weather this storm should have come the very day of our opening, and would almost seem providential. The hand of God has been harder than that of war throughout, and we have lost more by pestilence and hardship than by the sword. One side may be punished for their pride, and another for their wickedness. The weather, however, though the source of great misery and suffering, where so many are obliged to be exposed, perhaps saves us from a heavy attack in our rear while we are engaged in front. The Russians on the Belbec are said to be much stronger than we are, and to muster some 120,000 men; but if we can only spoil this place I think we shall make light work of them.

The works that have been carried on this winter by these armies are miles and miles of trenches that have been dug, and will prove some day a curious matter of history. I trust our hardships are nearly over, and that many of us will return to our homes and friends with the satisfaction of having done our duty.

Yours truly,

A. T. WELSFORD, 97th Regt.

During the latter part of the debate in the House of Commons on Friday evening, the speakers were nearly inaudible, in consequence of an animated conversation carried on by some ladies in the gallery appropriated to them. Their voices rose so high that not the reporters' gallery only, but the House itself, was disturbed by them, and more than once the House was convulsed with laughter at the vehemence of the fair disputants.—*Morning Chronicle*.

SCIENCE ANSWERING SIMPLE QUESTIONS?

Why is rain-water soft? Because it is not impregnated with earth and minerals.

Why is it more easy to wash with soft water than with hard? Because soft water unites more freely with soap, and dissolves it instead of decomposing it as hard water does.

Why do wood ashes make hard water soft?

1st. Because the carbonic acid of wood ashes combines with the sulphate of lime in the hard water, and converts it into chalk; 2ndly, wood ashes converts some of the soluble salts of water into insoluble and throws them down as a sediment, by which water remains pure.

Why has rain water such an unpleasant smell when it is collected in a rain water tub or tank? Because it is impregnated with decomposed organic matters washed from roofs, trees, or the cake in which it is collected.

Why does water melt salt? Because very minute particles insinuate themselves into the pores of it.

Why do ladies fan themselves in hot weather? That fresh particles of air may be brought in contact with their face by the action of the fan; and as every fresh particle of air absorbs some heat from the skin, this constant change makes them cool.

Does a fan cool the air? No, it makes the air hotter, by imparting to it the heat of our face; but it cools our face by transferring its heat to the air.

Why is there always a strong draught under the door and through the crevices on each side? Because cold air rushes from the hall to supply the void in the room caused by the escape of warm air up the chimney, &c.

By which means is a room better ventilated—by opening the upper or lower sash? A room is better ventilated by opening the upper sash; because the hot vitiated air, which always ascends towards the ceiling can escape more easily.

By which means is a hot room more easily cooled—by opening the upper or lower sash? A hot house is cooled more quickly by opening the lower sash, because the cool air can enter more freely at the lower part of the building than at the upper.

Why does the wind dry damp linen? Because dry wind, like a dry sponge, imbibes the particles of vapor from the surface of the linen as fast as they are formed.

Which is the hottest place in a church or chapel? The gallery.

Why is the gallery of all public places hotter than the lower parts of the building?

Because the heated air of the building ascends, and all the cool air which can enter through the doors and windows keep to the floor till it has become heated.

Why do plants often grow out of walls and towers? Either because the wind blew the seed thero with the dust; or else because some bird, flying over, dropped seed there, which it had formerly eaten.—*Dr. Brewer's Guide to Science*.

The *Era* sporting paper brings serious charges against the Hon. F. Villiers, the absent member for Rochester. It says that the rate of interest at which Mr. Villiers was accustomed to raise the funds for keeping up his position on the turf, varied from 60 to 80 per cent. per annum. In the securities which he was accustomed to give the money-lenders of the great metropolis, he was joined by many friends, who, confident of his honour, did not hesitate to accommodate him with their names. But, "we regret to add, that we fear, in too many instances, those names were not genuine, and parties who only imagined they were liable for certain sums, are now called upon to preble the amount. Some of them, we understand, among whom are the Marquis of Bath, Lord Glasgow, and Lord Clifden, have disavowed their signatures, and legal measures will be immediately adopted to try the question." The hon. member is at present supposed to be in Sweden, where the extradition treaty for giving up delinquents does not exist.

According to the *Dublin Evening Mail*, the late Czar made Lord Dunkellin an innocent instrument in a bloody piece of work. A Russian captain had drunk too much, strayed into the lines of the English at Sebastopol, and been taken prisoner. The Czar wished to get hold of this man to make "an example" of him; when Lord Dunkellin became a prisoner, Nicholas hastened to set him at liberty in exchange for the tippling captain. Lord Dunkellin, it will be remembered, was profuse in his gratitude for Nicholas's generosity. Within forty-eight hours after the Russian captain re-entered Sebastopol, he was shot for his act of ingratitude.

THE CHINESE ANTI-REVOLUTION.—In ordinary times and when they are not under the influence of any revolutionary movement, the Chinese are not at all inclined to meddle with affairs of government. They are a delightful quiet people to deal with. In 1851, at that period of the death of the Emperor Tao-kwang, we were travelling on the road from Peking, and one day when we had been taking tea at an inn in company with some Chinese citizens, we tried to get up a little political discussion. We spoke of the recent death of the Emperor, an important event, which of course must have interested everybody. We expressed our anxiety on the subject of the succession to the Imperial throne, the heir to which was not yet publicly declared. "Who knows," said we, "which of the three sons of the Emperor will have been appointed to succeed him? If it should be the eldest, will he pursue the same system of government? If the younger, he is still very young; and it is said there are contrary influences, two opposing parties, at court—to which will he lean? We put forward, in short, all kinds of hypotheses, in order to stimulate these good citizens to make some observation. But they hardly listened to us. We came back again and again to the charge, in order to elicit some opinion or other on questions that really appeared to us of great importance. But to all our piquant suggestions they replied only by shaking their heads, pulling out whisks, and taking great gulps of tea. The apathy was really beginning to provoke us, when one of these worthy Chinese, getting up from his seat, came and laid his hands on our shoulders in a manner quite paternal, and said, smiling rather ironically:—"Listen to me, my friend! Why should you trouble your heart and fatigue your head by all these vain surmises? The Mandarins have to attend the affairs of State; they are paid for it. Let them earn their money, then. But don't let us torment ourselves about what does not concern us. We should be very great fools to want to do political business for nothing." That is very comfortable to reason," cried the rest of the company; and thereupon they pointed out to us that our tea was getting cold and our pipes were out.—*Mr. Hue's China*.

AGE OF OYSTERS.—A London oysterman can tell the age of his stock to a nicety. The age of an oyster is not to be found by looking into his mouth. It bears its ears upon its back. Every-body who has handled an oyster shell must have observed that it seemed as if composed of successive layers or plates overlapping each other. These are technically termed "shoots," and each of them makes a year's growth; so that by counting them, we can determine at a glance the year when the creature came into the world. Up to the time of its maturity, the shoots are regular and successive; but after that time they become irregular, and are piled one over the other, so that the shell becomes more and more thickened and bulky. Judging from the great thickness to which some oyster shells have attained, this mollusc is capable, if left to its natural changes unmolested, of attaining a patriarchal longevity.

CRYING IN THE PULPIT.—A new way of touching the hearts of the congregation is being discussed in several religious journals. Crying babies in church are justly esteemed nuisances, but crying from the pulpit is thought to possess many advantages. Tears excite sympathetic action, and when the clergyman is at a loss how to stir up his people, he must begin to wipe his eyes and whimper. Several articles have appeared in the Boston "Congregationalist" on this subject. In that paper of March 5th a pastor writes the following:—"Crying in the pulpit. I sometimes want to cry in the pulpit, but if I let my tears come, the flood-gates are opened, and I 'boo-hoo' like a baby, and of course preaching ceases. What shall I do?" To this question the western Advocate replies: "At the risk of being called impertinent we will say to the Pastor, make a strong effort when 'one tear comes' not to 'boo, hoo' like a baby, but cry out lustily like a man, and thus you will accomplish more in making the hearts of your congregation better, than any sermons ever have or ever can."

The *Waterford Chronicle* says of the tide of emigration which has again set in—

"Our quays are crowding with emigrants to the land of the 'Far West.' Nothing can stem the tide—they will—although from all that can be learned of the land of 'Brother Jonathan,' it is not new that haven of repose it was in the days of yore. The *Admiral's* steamer left our quays on Friday, for Liverpool having on board nearly two hundred emigrants—well clad and comfortable, and apparently of the better class."