

Jamaica bids fair to have a very successful exhibition, and our manufacturers must see to it that this country is well represented. Extended markets mean expanding trade and a greater prosperity.

Much interest is felt in the proposed attack on Halifax by the squadron, and speculation is rife as to the mode of attack to be adopted by the ships. The squadron is visiting Quebec, and on leaving there the attack is to be carried out.

Sir Edwin Arnold, author of "The Light of Asia," is still in Japan, and the newspapers say that a young Japanese lady has infatuated him. He is said to be determined to marry the charming Jap and settle in the country, and his Indian trip has been indefinitely postponed. Sir Edwin's friends are making every effort to get him out of the country, but so far without success.

The dome of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome is said to be seriously cracked. A similar state of things occurred about 100 years ago, and was remedied by encircling the dome with a strong band of metal, which was heated, and in contracting closed up the fissures. The use of electricity is recommended by the *Electrician* if a similar method should be tried in the present case.

It is a surprise to some persons to hear of the number of icebergs that are to be seen this year in crossing the Atlantic at this late season. An old and well known sea captain informs us that the cause of this unusual number of unseasonable bergs is attributable to there having been two successive mild winters in the Arctic regions, and the quantity of ice set free has been correspondingly large. This may be the cause, but after all it is but surmise. The horizon of knowledge is yet far beyond the reach of we poor mortals.

For the comfort of all travellers by train it is to be hoped that the report that the smoke problem has been solved by a down draft locomotive is true. It is claimed that a locomotive on this principle, which recently made a trip on the Maine Central Railway, drew a heavy train nineteen miles and return at a speed of forty miles per hour. As a result of complete combustion no smoke or cinders were emitted. This being the case, the present style of locomotive which belches forth thick smoke and cinders at every snort will have to retire to the limbo of out of date machinery, and we will gladly welcome the new order of things.

One would imagine that New York would be too hot in the summer time to be the scene of such a squabble as that which Mrs. William Waldorf Astor has been indulging in with another Mrs. Astor for the privilege of being called "The Mrs. Astor." It is amusing to hear of struggles for a title in democratic America, and the present case is almost as good as the Scotch story of the MacNabs. Two gentlemen of this name having occasion to call upon each other, the first one left his card, inscribed "The MacNab" at the residence of the other, who, not to be outdone, had his made out in large characters, "The Other MacNab." Could not the Astor ladies adopt some such method of settling their claims, and so give their friends a rest.

The *Toronto Week* is offering prizes for the four best short stories by Canadian writers, on subjects distinctively Canadian. The offer and conditions were published in the news column of THE CRITIC of August 1st. This is a praiseworthy scheme and encouraging to Canadian literateurs, and would no doubt be largely taken advantage of were it not for the deterring effect of two of the conditions, namely, that the stories must be type-written, and all Mss. sent in will become the property of the *Week*. Very few writers of ability would care to run the risk of losing their work in case the prize mark is not reached, and fewer still, with this contingency in view, would go to the expense of having their story type written. To stipulate that it should be legibly written would be sufficient, and if this rule was not complied with the competitor would be the one to suffer most by it.

The importance of 's, sign of the possessive, has lately been demonstrated in a judgment given by Mr. Justice Kehewick. In 1856 Mr. David Lewis started the business which has become famous in Lancashire as Lewis's. At first there was little enough in the name, but now, according to the story told by the Attorney General, it is a property upon which £500,000 has been spent in advertising. Figures were given to show this. Not only was the advertising carried out in the newspapers and by means of posters, but hundreds of thousands of penny Shakespeares, inflated balloons, and medals all stamped with the name of Lewis's, have been given away, while an eager public have flocked in to have their handkerchiefs printed with pictures of the various establishments in Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham. Local attractions have been provided also, such as bears kept on view in the shop windows. All this has been done by the present proprietor, who is not a Lewis at all, but a Colren. But the genuine Lewises, of Lancashire, grudge this appropriation, and Mr. J. Lewis, who sells ready-made clothing, dropped his initials and advertised "Lewis's trousers." Under the pressure of litigation he restored the J. M., but this was not considered enough, and further suit being brought Judge Kehewick has decided that the correct possessive case of "Lewis" is "Lewis'," and that if Mr. J. M. Lewis wishes to describe his goods he can speak of them truthfully, correctly, and lawfully, as "J. M. Lewis' trousers," but that if he conforms to general usage and describes them as "J. M. Lewis's" he invades the rights of the older firm. That the law should allow a man his possessive case, and yet refuse to allow him to use the form sanctioned by universal custom is not a little odd.

During the past week building operations have been suspended in New York, owing to the strike of the masons and bricklayers. As to the merits of this strike we are not in a position to speak, but the frequency of strikes in all parts of the world, and the suffering and hardship they entail, should make men think whether there is not a certain justification for these demonstrations, and if so, whether there is not some remedy for the evils complained of. This labor question needs a solution just alike to employer and employed, and powerful as is capital it will have to share its profits with labor or lie unused and useless.

Cincinnati, Ohio, has been excited recently by a battle between those who uphold and those who oppose married women teaching in the public schools. The argument of those who are against the employment of married women is that there are 300 unmarried girl graduates in the city who cannot obtain positions, and that women who may be expected to derive support from their husbands should not take the bread out of the mouths of girls who have no other resource for a livelihood. This is a very good argument, but the root of the trouble lies in the fact that probably nine-tenths of these girl graduates ought to be domestic servants, or lady helps, if they like the latter term better, instead of school-marms. And for the married women's side of the question, it might be said that they have as much right to earn their own living as their unmarried sisters. For the best results to all concerned the question should be one of competence. Let the best woman win. If there are too many applicants for this kind of work let those who are left take up domestic service, where recruits are needed.

A New York lady, named Mrs. Edith Sessions Tupper, was arrested in Toronto a few weeks ago by mistake, and was detained until it was decided that she was not the person wanted. The lady is a correspondent of the *New York World*, and since the event occurred, she has aired her grievances in that journal. She alleges that she was treated with rudeness and discourtesy by Sergeant Redburn, of the Toronto Police Force, and was not allowed to communicate with her friends. Quite a long story is made of it, and the Police systems of both Canada and the United States are pitched into. It would appear that Sergeant Redburn could not release Mrs. Tupper in the face of the orders from Police Superintendent Morine, of Buffalo, but this does not excuse any rudeness on the part of the first named official. It is not so very long ago that a Fredericton lady was arrested by mistake in Montreal, and found great difficulty in communicating with her friends, and establishing her innocence of the crime with which she was charged. Such cases cannot but awaken our sympathy and arouse a feeling that all suspects should be treated as if they were innocent until they are proved guilty, nor should they be placed in a cell like a condemned prisoner. The Toronto Police department is said to be very much exercised over Mrs. Tupper's story, and although some allowance must be made for a clever woman's making the most of her sensational adventure to arouse feeling in her behalf, yet some of the matters she mentions ought to be investigated and remedied. The Police Sergeant denies that he treated Mrs. Tupper discourteously, and states that she thanked him in the presence of witnesses for his courtesy. She was probably so glad to be free once more that she forgot everything else. Mary Wilson, the real thief, had sent her trunk to Niagara falls as a blind, and had herself gone to Boston with her booty.

Capital punishment is a subject which, since the execution of Kemmler, has been receiving an immense deal of discussion. Some soft-hearted humanitarians advocate the abolition of the death sentence altogether, which is a view the public is scarcely willing to endorse. Others, with the hope of being just without being vindictive, are looking for a method of putting a murderer to death with the least possible cruelty. That such a method is terribly needed is patent. The account of Kemmler's electrocution was bad enough, but it does not come near the horror of a hanging and a "garotte" which have recently taken place. The hanging was done at Birmingham, England, the man, Frederick Davis, being a wife murderer. "His head," says the despatch, "was half torn off, and the wind-pipe and carotid artery were severed, and blood poured all over the scaffold. The hangman explained that the unusual occurrence was caused by the victim having too long a neck. Davis was given a six foot drop. The other was the execution of Higinia Balagner, a Spanish murderess, at Madrid. The wretched woman was kept in a chapel during the twenty-four hours preceding her execution, and all the fine señoras and mashers came and stared at her while she was being preached at by relays of monks. The vast prison yard where the "garotte" was performed was filled with 10,000 spectators, who whiled away the time just before the execution by yelling curses at the executioner. This might well have unnerved the man and rendered him unfit to perform his task, which consists in giving three wrenches of a lever to an iron collar by which the convict's neck is adjusted to a post. The roar of horror which arose when the executioner removed the handkerchief which covered Higinia Balagner's face and exposed her features, hideously distorted by strangling, to the public gaze, is said to have been awful to hear. In view of such horrors as these two instances, the Kemmler case seems quite humane. Something should be done to make the removal of people who are dangerous to the community a less ridiculous affair. The opinion of a man who has had much experience on the application of electricity to the human body is, after many experiments, that electrical execution is all humbug, and that the ideal method for exterminating murderers is the secret introduction of carbonic acid gas by concealed pipes into a lethal chamber, where the criminal would sleep the sleep of death. Some people will think this method far too good for the man who recently threw his wife over Niagara Falls, in order that he might marry another woman.