

## CHILD FANCIES.

Two wide blue eyes evaded sleep, to-night,  
Two lids that will not fall, disclose the light  
Of merry thoughts. A busy little brain  
Is troubled, and there comes a rain  
Of eager questions.

The light's turned off—I raise the blind. The sky  
Is rich with million diamond lights, and high  
The harvest moon is hung. The fields are bare,  
We laugh and say "Dance Earth has cut her hair,"  
Wee maid and I.

But clouds are scolding off the moon to bed  
In surly haste. There droops a drowsy head  
As all the glad sky-glorious appear;  
"Its dark," the wee maid cries in sudden fear,  
"Has God turned off the stars?"

- M. M. M.

## THE PEOPLE IN MARS.

There are people living in Mars, they say,  
Enjoying the lease of a longer year,  
And a starrier night and a sunnier day,  
And steadier climates than we have here.  
Are their winters blighted by want and woe—  
Their summers by pestilence, plague and thunder?  
Do they suffer there as we do below,  
I wonder?

Do they plant and water their rosy fields,  
And struggle with sorrow, and fight with fears,  
While the thorns and thistles their red earth yields  
Are choking the seed that they sowed in tears?  
Do they trust in idols of stone and wood,  
And trample the meek and lowly under?  
Do they love the evil and leave the good,  
I wonder?

Or a happier world may it be than this,  
Where sin has not entered, nor death by sin—  
Which is blushing still from Creation's kiss,  
While never a serpent has slid on its skin?  
And if we may wander among the stars  
When body and spirit are riven asunder,  
May we live life over again in Mars,  
I wonder?

Shall we find what here we have sought in vain  
Fulfilling ideals where once we failed?  
With the crooked made straight and the rough made plain,  
Will difficult mountains at last be scaled?  
Shall we cleanse our ways and redeem our worth,  
Repair the old wastes and retrieve each blunder?  
Shall we meet in Mars all we missed on Earth,  
I wonder?

[FOR THE CRITIC]

IN THE LOBBY.

They say  
They'll sit by the fire and presume to know  
What's done in the Capitol.

-Correspondent.

The Montreal Herald has been pleased to indulge in editorial pleasantries over my remarks in your issue of the 24th ultimo about Sir John Thompson's moral fitness to have been a knight of the Round Table had he lived in the days of King Arthur. Now we can readily conceive why that galvanized cadaver in the ranks of journalism is averse to ascribing probity to anyone when we call to mind that the only honorable thing it has ever been connected with is the "Honorable Peter." Perchance that merry gentleman knows somewhat about "Knights of the Round Table," but I strongly suspect that the article he is acquainted with should be spelled *minus* the initial "K!" But even Peter's moral *prestige* is lost to the Herald now.

Ministerialists, 126; opposition, 72—majority in favor of the policy of the government as expounded in the Budget of 1893, 54! Not a bad backing to come out with when the woods were full of choppers anxious to get a hack at the "mouldering branches" of the N. P. Sir John had a joyful countenance as he stepped along the street to-day, and no wonder. From the troubled waters of independence and mugwumpism he has emerged in a highly satisfactory manner, and has shown his opponents that they are still a good way off from their long prayed for goal.

The scene in the House last night was an interesting one. It was generally known that the Budget debate would be brought to a conclusion before the adjournment, and the galleries were well filled right up to the ringing of the division bell at three o'clock this morning. Precisely at twenty minutes past eight, Laurier rose to speak, and was loudly cheered by his followers. His speech was not at all equal in rhetorical finish to his previous great efforts that I have listened to, but one can discount a good deal when the leader of the Opposition has the floor and yet listen to a splendid address. There was nothing particularly new in his arraignment of the government's policy, but nevertheless he scored several telling points at the expense of the government. One of his best points was when he said:—"The country was now in the hands of statisticians. The statisticians had tried to show that the national wealth had increased \$92,000,000 in the last 10 years, but they had not attempted to show the amount of water there was in those stocks."

The Finance Minister replied to Mr. Laurier's speech, and it was by all odds the best address to which that ready debater has ever treated the House. Never was his manner so fearless, his style more epigrammatic, or his resources in argument so complete. I never thought Sir John's "lean and hungry Cassius" had so much pluck in him, but the way in which he danced around the parliamentary arena last night and knocked the stuffing

out of the orators of the Opposition was a caution. He was particularly severe on Mr. Charlton for the assertion that gentleman had made in the course of a speech a day or two ago, that the government had wilfully deceived the people in the elections of 1891 with the statement that they were absolutely certain of effecting a reciprocity treaty with the United States if they then received a new mandate from the electorate. This is the way he landed with his left and right on Mr. Charlton's devoted nose:—

"The people will not support such a government as we are. Some one will say, 'Why do you come to that conclusion?' Why? Because honest John Charlton says so. (Derisive cheers.) Because Mr. Charlton is a Christian man—(cries of oh, oh)—because he is an elder of the Presbyterian church—(cries of oh, oh)—because he is a stickler for the Sabbath—(cries of oh, oh)—because he is a man who pretends great goodness and is truly good—(cries of oh, oh, and laughter)—because John Charlton would not say this unless it were so. (Cries of 'Oh, oh!') I frame my political action on what he says, because I believe in his honesty. (Loud laughter.)"

Continuing Mr. Foster said he was not now speaking as between parties; he was speaking as between the man and the people, who read and heard what that man had said. Mr. Charlton was very much against the captain of a tug taking hold of a little string and allowing the shrill whistle of his tug to rend the solemn stillness of the Sabbath morning. He (Mr. Foster) would rather he would rend the solemn stillness of the Sabbath morning by allowing the tug to blow her horn ten thousand times, than he would rend the pact upon which society alone could stand, the truth. (Loud cheers.) If the captain of that tug told a lie to his mate the minimum of wrong would be done. He would only have imperilled the confidence of his neighbor, but these two would be the only ones concerned. What was to be said of a public man who would make these utterances, and make them without a shadow of foundation, and when given a chance to take them back or set himself right, not to do it, and spread them as a propaganda broad and wide throughout the country. (Hear, hear and cheers.)

Dalton McCarthy did the "unexpected" again and voted with the Government.

The Government has been advised that the British members of the Boring's Sea Arbitration Committee have returned from Paris to London and are now completing the line of argument to be followed in the case. The Canadian case is said to be regarded as impregnable. The court re-assembles on March 23rd. Sir John Thompson was in hope of reaching prorogation before the sitting of the Court in London, but he has abandoned that anticipation now, and Hon. Mr. Foster will be left in charge of the Government when he takes his departure in a week or so for England.

The Senate has been obliged to turn itself into a Divorce court again this session, and listen *ad nauseam* to tales of sin and infelicity that prove the truth of Churchill's lines to the effect that some people are—

"Man and wife  
Coupled together for the sake of strife."

On the 28th ultimo, the application of James Balfour, architect, of Hamilton, Ont., for divorce from his wife was reported by the Divorce Committee to the Senate in favor of its being granted. The unsavory details involve infidelity on the part of the wife with a stableman in the employ of the petitioner. This and the Howard divorce case make two bills of divorce passed so far in the upper house this session.

The evidence in the case of Hedden, of Montreal, whose wife ran away with J. S. Allan, is now being taken.

A debate took place in the senate a day or two ago on the question of the threatened invasion of cholera during the coming summer. It was started by Dr. Ferguson who called attention to renewed outbreaks in Europe of late. He said a very grave responsibility rested upon the government to protect the Dominion from a visitation of the dread scourge. Dr. Sullivan, of Kingston, urged the necessity of adopting the most approved methods in establishing a national quarantine under the direction of a cabinet board of health at Ottawa, having its authority from the Dominion Government. The Minister of Agriculture expressed a fear that the very general discussion on the subject throughout the country latterly might create a panic. The government, he said, would give its best attention to the whole subject. I am very much afraid that the government has been guilty of very serious delay already in the matter. The quarantine station at Grosbo Isle in the St. Lawrence is the key to the whole situation so far as the interests of inland Canada is concerned, and it is notoriously defective in its equipment for the purpose of coping with such a disease of cholera. This fact was known to the Government last autumn through the reports of medical men sent to examine it, but very little if anything has been done to improve its efficiency, and with the opening of navigation commences the siege to which it will be subjected. If the disease reaches Montreal it will play signal havoc within the crowded quarters of that big city. Toronto, too, is in a very insanitary condition, its potable water supply being simply execrable. I am told that Ottawa is in the best condition of any city in Canada to wrestle with the grim visitor if it comes this summer. Our sewerage is in a very satisfactory state, and our drinking water, taken from the Ottawa above the Chaudiere Falls, is as pure as it can be had.

Hon. Mr. Tupper has got at loggerheads with the members from British Columbia over the inefficiency of certain quarantine and marine matters in that Province. The Premier, in the absence of Mr. Tupper, has had to assuage the perturbed feelings of Colonel Prior, brought about by recently published strictures of the Minister of Marine upon the conduct of the B. C.