

### PROCTOR'S MONTREAL THEATRE.

Good Things in Store for the Patrons of This Popular House.

The unlimited push and enterprise of Mr. F. F. Proctor has again been demonstrated, as on Jan. 5, he opened a new palatial play-house in Newark, New Jersey. This new theatre is one of the most beautiful and perfectly appointed temples of amusement in the United States, and by opening it, Mr. Proctor has made his circuit by all odds the largest amusement enterprise of its kind in the world.

Controlling so many theatres, it is an easy matter for Mr. Proctor to secure the very best amusement market affords, and the steady patronage enjoyed by everyone of his houses, encourages him to provide

bill of extraordinary strength and drawing power.

He has been especially careful in catering to the wishes of his patrons in Montreal and for several months past the leading stars of the European and American vaudeville stage have appeared on the boards of Mr. Proctor's beautiful theatre on Guy Street. Following a well laid out plan, Mr. Proctor has determined to give his patrons bigger value for their money than ever before, as he has established a permanent Stock Company of New York's favorite actors and actresses, who will appear in a repertoire of popular comedies of the highest class. Those who are fond of good vaudeville will also be catered to, as the usual waits between the acts will be omitted, and the very best novelties in the vaudeville line, both European and Ameri-

can, will serve to while away the time usually taken up with musical selections. The ladies of the Stock Company have been chosen, not only on account of their talent, but for their good looks and excellent taste in dress. In the various plays in which they will appear, the women of the company will show the latest Paris fashions, so that the women in the audience can get an idea of how to dress becomingly. The male members of the company have also been selected with great care, and they are all men who have made successful appearances in the best theatres in New York city.

The scenery and accessories will be on a very elaborate scale, all the necessary equipments being sent direct from Mr. Proctor's 5th Ave. Theatre, New York City.

The plays chosen for presentation by the company, are tried successes by prominent authors. They will include such sterling attractions as 'Why Smith Left Home,' 'What Happened to Jones,' 'The Mysterious Mr. Bugle,' 'The Still Alarm,' 'Bliss Jeans,' 'The Briston Burglary,' 'A Bachelor's Honeymoon,' 'Seven Twenty Eight,' and many others equally interesting and amusing.

The custom established a few months ago, of admitting ladies in the afternoon, except Saturdays and holidays, is still adhered to, and the theatre is crowded every day with an assemblage of the leading ladies of Montreal society.

There is always some feature in the bill to interest the children, and as the management is always careful of their comfort, they come in groups of a half dozen or

more, unattended, and enjoy an afternoon of innocent amusement. It is not to be wondered at that Mr. Proctor's Montreal Theatre has become such a popular resort, as everything that money can do, or ingenuity suggest has been done for the benefit of the patrons.

### Word of a Mountain Climber.

'If all the mountain climbers in the world to-day were to make a combined attempt to explore the Canadian Rockies their task would not be completed within a century.'

This is the expressed opinion of Mr. Edward Whympor, the doyen of mountaineers, the man who led the way to the Alps, taught the Swiss how to climb their own peaks, who first scaled the dizzy heights of the Matterhorn, and camped in the highest altitudes of the Andes.

## Short Topics of the Day.

### MYSTERY OF A FAMOUS BEAUTY.

Countess de Castiglione's Love Letters—Her Last Day.

The reported arrest of Angelina Ver-gaxiola, reputedly maid to the famous Countess de Castiglione, the once reigning beauty of the Second Empire, has recalled the melancholy end of that remarkable woman.

After the decline of her beauty she could no longer bear to be seen by man or woman and lived the life of a recluse in her apartments in the house where now is the Cafe Voisin. Her meals were sent up to her by a dumbwaiter which ended in a turn table. The Countess used to fetch the plates herself and replace them when empty.

The only occupation she indulged in was reading over her old love letters, of which she had an endless store—many of them in indifferent verse. It is supposed that two of her most constant correspondents were the Emperor Napoleon III. and King Victor Emmanuel of Italy.

As soon as it was known that she was dead—some two years ago—certain officials believed to have been agents of the Italian Government, acting with the sanction of the French authorities, appeared on the premises and made a search of all the documents they could find. This makes it appear all the stranger that Angelina Ver-gaxiola should really be in possession of any of the documents which the telegram from home announces were found in her possession.

It is, however, a well-known fact that after the late Countess's things were sent to the public auction rooms it was found that masses of letters were contained in boxes and furniture which had escaped the attention of the searchers. A second investigation took place and some of the documents then found were carried away, while many more were burned.

In spite of this second search it is known that many bundles of letters and papers escaped discovery, and had been removed before the authorities had wind of the oversight committed by the first investigators. It may be that Angelina obtained possession of one of these bundles containing the letters now alleged to be from crowned heads.

But a further mystery exists as to Angelina's connection with the late Countess. No trace of her appears in the latter years of the great beauty, the only woman who were ever admitted to her in those days being her old nurse, Luise Coré, and a French maid, Emma P—. The terms on which the latter was taken into her service have been found, and are curious enough.

'It is agreed I shall stay in the rooms Madame assigns me to work in and to eat in, and that I must not enter another room unless called there by Madame, and that I must not move about the house, and above all never open a door to go in or out, and must never leave a door open.'

Madame alone may open the door to let me go out or come in. I shall daily wait in such places as I have been ordered; and I solemnly undertake never to touch anything under pretext of dusting it, never to throw anything away, and that all waste and sweepings shall be left in a paper in each room in order that Madame la Countess may examine them.

I further promise never to throw away a newspaper, or to touch either a newspaper or any other paper whatsoever.

It will be remembered that the Empress would never invite the Countess to the Tuileries, though the latter invariably obtained an invitation from another source. On one occasion she went to a fancy ball at the Tuileries in the sumptuous costume of Salambo. Thereupon the Empress sent an aide-de-camp to her with a fur cloak to wrap her up and conduct her back to her carriage.

### Lonely Dog And Parrot.

Mrs. Lucille De Bow of 414 West 124th street was arrested with her friend, Mrs. Margaret Wilson, early on Monday morning on a complaint of Harry S. Faucher, an employee of Fiss, Doerr & Carroll, the horse dealers, that the women had given him knock-out drops and stolen \$275 from him. He said he met the Wilson woman on a street car and she invited him to the apartments of her friend, explaining that she was just out of a convent in Chicago, and needed the advice and companionship of a good friend. In the Wilson woman's hat the police found \$275. Both women were locked up all night.

A dog and parrot which had been locked in the De Bow flat began to assert themselves on Monday night, and the other tenants did not get much sleep. The janitor went to the Harlem police court prison yesterday and tried to see Mrs. De Bow to get a key to the flat so that he could feed the dog and parrot. She sent out word that the key had been given to a friend of hers, who would see that the bird and dog were fed. Yesterday morning a man appeared at the house and turned the dog and parrot over to the janitor to be cared for. The women were held in \$2,000 bail for examination.

### The Sword an Obsolete Weapon.

There is only one sword factory in the United States, a Massachusetts concern, and that one has ample capacity for supplying the domestic demand for swords. The sabre lost its efficiency as a cavalry weapon as far back as the war of the rebellion, and the increased range of rifle has made the sword equally obsolete as an implement of actual combat. It is about as dangerous now as a head-master's baton and serves much the same purpose.

### Died of a Rare Disease.

Miss Josephine Glaser, 28 years old, died at her home in Guttenburg, N. J., on Monday night of a disease that puzzled the physicians who attended her. It was a gradual loss of the muscles. She became unable to walk about two years ago. Then she lost the power to lift her arms, her throat became affected and she was unable to swallow solid food. Her spinal column was affected and finally she was unable to lift her head. Last Saturday she became unable to swallow liquid food.

### Quarantined by Women.

The latest capture by the Kimberly column is a Boer laager near Makwani, with great numbers of cattle, guarded wholly by women under the leadership of the wife of Commandant DeBours. One hundred and fifty of the women were acting as cowboys, and only six men were connected with the camp.

### BURBONIC PLAGUE.

The Germ of the Disease was Discovered Seven Years Ago.

The plague of to day is the lineal descendant of that which was cleared away from London by the great fire. It represents one of many epidemics which history teaches us devastated Europe during past ages—pests, these, abolished by the disappearance of dirt which forms their soil and breeding place. We know the germ of the plague. It was discovered by Kitasato in 1894, and independently in the same year by Yersin, whose protective serum is used as a preventive.

The germ is somewhat shortened and rounded bacillus that flourishes at a temperature approaching that of the blood. Apparently the germ does not multiply by giving off spores, or seedlike bodies but by simple division of the parent germs into others. It is easily cured. A temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit destroys it quickly, and acid also acts efficiently in this direction. Yersin found the plague germ living in the soil in affected places. In the earth it appears to be non-virulent, but placed in another environment, say the animal body. It speedily develops its disease producing powers. Cows, sheep, pigs, cats, and, of course, rats, are affected by it, but the dog is said to enjoy an immunity from the attention of this bacillus. Gaining access to the body, through the skin for the most part, and probably through some abrasion of wound the bacilli make for the glands, and these swell and enlarge, constituting what doctors call 'buboes,' the disease has become known as the 'burbonic plague.'

The fleas which infect the rat are also credited with a share in the diffusion of the ailment, for, charged with the microbes, may possibly inoculate man. Hence the crusade against rats which has been ordered and advised. It may be added that in one form of the plague the lungs are liable to be specially involved, and the coughed-up matter in that case is highly infectious.

### Take of Drugs and Blackmail.

Asa B. Foster, the young Boston stenographer who is wanted at Meriden, Conn., for the alleged blackmailing of George E. Breckenridge of Boston, was held recently in the Jefferson Market police court on a formal complaint charging blackmail and conspiracy, presented by the City Attorney of Meriden. Appended was an affidavit in which Breckenridge set forth his version of the trouble which followed his meeting with Mrs. H. M. Pike at the Elm Tree Inn, Meriden, on Nov. 1, last year.

The first thing, Mrs. Pike is alleged in the affidavit to have done after being introduced to Breckenridge by the hotel clerk was to invite him to the theatre. He went. When they returned to the hotel after the show she blithely asked him (so sayeth deponent) to go to her room to light the gas for her. He went. Once there she ordered a bottle of cocktails, poured out for him and then told him to drink. He drank.

Then, according to the affidavit, deep unconsciousness followed, out of which Breckenridge awoke to find himself surrounded by a man who said he was H. M.

Pike, a Boston detective, young Foster, and Mrs. Pike, the latter being very lightly clad. An arrest followed, and after that Foster is alleged to have proposed out right to Breckenridge that he withdraw his charges of alienation against Julian de Cordova, the Boston glass manufacturer, in consideration of being let off himself on the present occasion. Breckenridge signed a release.

### Western Range Horses.

The great objection Col. Dent had to western range horses was the way in which they were broken. They are allowed to run wild with the bunch until they are often four or five years old before they have a rope on them, it is only natural that such an animal should be nervous and wild. Here is the method of breaking: A rider goes and rounds up the bunch and chases them into the corral; here the victim is selected and from a point in the centre the roper swings his lariat. Sometimes the bronco has to be violently thrown before the saddle can be adjusted. Then the bronco buster mounts armed with girth and spurs, a contest ensuing in which the horse bucks violently to get clear of a burden it doesn't understand. Sometimes he will have to 'break the horse's heart, to conquer him, then the result will be a dead head devoid of spirit.

It was suggested that more attention be paid to the colts—that they should be handled and petted when young and made to understand that men don't mean to injure them, thus greatly minimizing the trouble of breaking when the time came to saddle them.

### A Rogue's Trick.

Not long ago the wife of a Western Kansas politician asked him to lay aside politics long enough one day to dig the potatoes in the garden. He agreed to do it. After digging for a few minutes he went into the house and said he had found a coin. He washed it off, and this proved to be a silver quarter. He put it in his jeans and went back to work. Presently he went to the house again and said he had found another coin. He washed the dirt off it. It was a silver half dollar. He put it in his jeans. 'I guess I'll take a short nap. When he awoke he found that his wife had dug all the rest of the potatoes. But she found no coins. It then dawned upon her that she had been 'worked.'

### Influence of Food.

'What do you think of the theory that food has a potent influence in determining character?' asked Mr. Smithfield as he put three lumps of sugar in his coffee.

'I guess it's all right,' replied Mr. Wood as he severed a portion of his beefsteak. 'It always seems a little cannibalistic to me when you order lobster.'

'Well,' retorted Mr. Smithfield good humoredly, 'I ought to have known it was dangerous to lend you money after I discovered your fondness for beefs. But seriously, if there were anything in the theory wouldn't it make a man sheepish to eat mutton?' 'It would, and prize-fighters ought to restrict themselves to a diet of soup.'

### Her Walk And Handshake.

Woman changes, not only from suit to suit, but her manner as well. The feminine walk of the season has changed about absolutely, from the athletic swinging gait of the summer, with its startling manner of elevating the skirts from the ground, to a most rigid poise of the body from the hips up to the head. There is a decided droop forward from the waist, and the elbows are held well out from the sides with military stiffness—the arms, describing two curves, joining in the muff, which is held very low in front, at the full curved length of the arms, instead of the angular elbow bend, as formerly. The muff, by the way is held by the fingers, instead of incasing the hands.

### Work Well Spoken of.

Mr. Turner, who was connected with the Baker Stock company and whose work in the entrance of the Opera House attracted so much attention has been doing some wonderful work in the Hotel Edward in the way of decoration. The entrance through a hall that was never attractive has been improved so that patrons stop to inquire how it could be done. The grotto work is almost beyond description and the ribbon decoration in the office has attracted the attention of all the decorators in the city. Mr. Turner's ability and the Edward's enterprise have given artistic people something to talk about.

### From Their Standpoint.

The people of St. John are easy going in the matter of expense. They can pay \$10,000 for a wharf, thousands more for a privilege that they have always enjoyed—that of laying water pipes to Spruce Lake and now are asked for some more thousands—tens of them—for the purpose of supplying some mills with water. Mill men have an easy way of obtaining concessions on the ground that they employ labor. Such concerns as M. R. A., employ labor and ask no privileges.

### The Friends Who Wander.

Slander is an evil thing and few can afford to indulge in it, yet in spite of this some people in St. John whose worth could be represented by a cipher delight in indulging their imagination to the injury of those who have imagined them to be their friends. To classify such an act is hardly possible—but it is impossible to classify nothing.

### A Pleasant Evening.

A pleasant party gathered at the residence of Mr. James McLaughlin on Carmarthen street one evening this week to join in the festivities connected with the baptism of the second son. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin were assisted by Miss McLaughlin and by Mrs. Delaney and her daughter. The repast was beautiful and the host and hostess were warmly congratulated.

### "As Home."

The Young Men's Association of St. Peter's parish will hold an "At Home" in St. Peter's Hall on the evening of the 20th inst. A very pleasant time anticipated, as an excellent program is being arranged for the event.