

**Write Plainly.**

In a recent lecture an English author makes an earnest plea for the more liberal encouragement of the art of fair writing, as distinguished from legible writing, in our schools and colleges, and the frequent illegibility of the hand writing of professional men and authors is commented upon. This matter receives a practical illustration in the manuscript of a novel by the late Colonel Burnaby, which proves to be positively undecipherable, even by experts, and cannot therefore be published. *American Stationer.*

**General Notes.**

The United States imported from Canada last year 11,500,000 dozen eggs at a cost of \$2,000,000.

DAVE NULTY, formerly of the *Moosomin Courier* has turned up at Portage la Prairie as editor of a journal which he names the *Advertiser and Holiday Review*. Whether Portage la Prairie will support a third journal or not remains to be seen, anyhow we wish Dave success if only for the courage he shows.

It is rumored around Winnipeg, and stated in the daily journals, that the local Board of Fire Underwriters have about completed their work of revising the insurance premium rates of the city, and have prepared a new and reduced tariff, which is being submitted to the Dominion Board for their approval or alteration.

The Roman police have succeeded in discovering in the ex-monastery of the Cistercians at Santa Croce, in Jerusalem, four boxes containing 144 manuscripts, which it would seem were withheld at the time when the Italian Government took possession of the libraries of the different monastic orders and concentrated their contents in the newly-founded public library in the Roman College called Victor Emmanuel. That these manuscripts were missing was recognized at the time, and their recovery now is matter for congratulation, as among them are many of great value, some of them being of the seventh and eighth centuries.

It is unfortunate for Montreal that, before it got rid of the small-pox, the other pestilence of a race-ry should come to vex it. Here the whole trouble, at worst, is based on a misapprehension. A large part of the French-Canadian population has falsely imbibed the notion that Riel was hanged because he had French blood in his veins. The duty of the hour is to convince these deluded people of their error, to show them that no such motive presided at the execution; that treason was the crime for which he suffered, and that an Englishman in his place would have met the same fate. Once convince the excited French Canadian of this truth, and all motive for indignation on his part would be gone. Every one who has any influence ought to set about this task; its accomplishment, which should be easy, would save a world of trouble.—*Monetary Times.*

MR. DONALD C. GRANT, one of the Forth Bridge staff, according to the *Engineer*, is bringing out a new form of signal for use at sea

to indicate to other ships the direction of movement of the helm, so as to avoid collision with ships close up. He does not propose to supersede the side lights at present employed, but only to supplement them. The officer on watch is supplied with a couple of signals small enough to be carried in a breast pocket of ordinary capacity. Should he wish to indicate that his vessel is on the port tack he takes a signal—with a round handle and colored red—from his pocket and fixes it by giving it a slight tap. The result is a brilliant red light. After this light has burned for about 30 seconds it explodes a small maroon, the report of which can be heard a mile off, and after this the light continues to burn for another 30 seconds. The process of firing the starboard tack signal is, of course, the same, the result being a green light, but in this case the handle is square, this difference of form making it easy in the dark to distinguish the right signal to be employed.

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