

CALL AT 163 BARRINGTON ST.

AND SEE OUR STOCK OF

Gold, Silver & Plated-Ware,

A full line of all classes of these goods. Cheapest in the market. The best place in town for securing Xmas Presents.

New William's. New Home and White

SEWING MACHINES.

All first-class machines, now selling at very low rates. This is the season to buy.

ROBT. WALLACE.

Ungar's Steam Laundry,
62 & 64 GRANVILLE ST.

We have been in the Laundry Business over twenty years in New York and St. John, and have always given satisfaction. All parties entrusting their work to our care will be sure to be satisfied.

Goods called for and delivered free of charge. TELEPHONE 653.

MAX UNGAR,

PROPRIETOR.

DAVID ROCHE,

HOUSE, SHIP AND ORNAMENTAL PAINTER

Importer and Dealer in English and American Paper Hangings and Decorations.

AGENT FOR G. & T. C. POTTER'S ENGLISH PAPER HANGINGS.

234-ARGYLE STREET-236

HALIFAX, N. S.

Branch at 15 Barrington Street.

Chipman Brothers,
HALIFAX.

MAYFLOWER.

WHOLESALE HARDWARE,

NAILS, IRON, STEEL,

PAINT OILS, GLASS, &c.

AT LOWEST PRICES.

SHATFORD BROS.

Are Agents of the popular grade of OIL. Address

Liverpool Wharf, Halifax, N. S.

USE

IDEAL SOAP,

The largest bar and best value in Canada.

WE GUARANTEE IT TO GIVE PERFECT SATISFACTION.

WM. LOGAN,

St. John, N. B.

COALS!

SYDNEY COAL, VICTORIA COAL

ANTHRACITE COAL.

For PRICES and TERMS of SYDNEY COAL, Address

CUNARD & MORROW, HALIFAX,

AGENTS GENERAL MINING ASSOCIATION, (LIMITED)

And of VICTORIA COAL,

S. CUNARD & CO.

AGENTS LOW POINT, BARRASOIS, AND LINGAN MINING CO., (LIMITED)

Local Requirements of any of the above COALS supplied by

S. CUNARD & CO.

MOIR, SON & CO

MAMMOTH WORKS

MANUFACTURERS OF

Bread,

Biscuit,

Confectionery,

Fruit Syrups, etc., etc.

Wall Papers.

WHOLESALE ONLY.

We have just received a very large stock of this Season's choicest Canadian and American designs of

Room Papers and Blinds.

Samples and Price Lists on application to

Salesroom 123, 130 and 132 Argyle Street

HALIFAX, N. S.

T. C. ALLEN & CO.

HALIFAX, N. S.

LETTERS TO A COUNTRY FRIEND.

Dear Friend,—While looking over some old newspapers the other day, I came across a paragraph headed "The Mystic Three." "In obedience to what subtle law" the writer, who styles himself the "Mystic Three Editor" asks "is it that events so often happens in threes? Or is it only by chance." And readers are invited to communicate brief accounts, for publication, of "unusual events and incidents that have come within their experience in series of threes."

This reminded me, as it doubtless will remind you, of talks we have had about similar events occurring thrice within a few days, or weeks at most, of each other. You told me that in your family, the frequent occurrence of like events in this way had been noted for generations, until it had become a traditional superstition, that if one death occurred in the family there would be three within as many weeks. And that accidents, births, marriages, etc., would follow in like mystic succession. In our family the Mystic Three has also become a superstition, and you will remember that I related a number of most remarkable, in fact, *startling* incidents of this nature. A few days ago a gentleman from the country related in my hearing a story which adds another to our already large collection of incidents of a similar nature.

A dog which had been noticed trotting quietly past this gentleman's residence suddenly turned, looked towards it, and howled once, a most dismal heart-chilling howl, then turned towards a neighbor's residence, howled twice and trotted on. Neither the gentleman nor his family were superstitious, or were in the habit of attaching any importance to dogs' howlings or other "warnings." So the incident made only a momentary impression. Within a week the gentleman's infant son was taken ill and died, and within a fortnight more, a mother and her babe were carried from the neighbor's house to their last resting-place. What about it? Is it only by chance, or in obedience to some subtle law, that events so often happen in threes?"

This reminds me of my promise, which otherwise I might have forgotten, to give you a short chapter in the history of our young friends, whose romance is in course of development. A few days prior to our Natal Day anniversary, our Romeo overtook me on my way to the Park, and accompanied me during my walk. I could see that while engaging in conversation on other themes, his mind was absorbed with something of much greater interest to him, and before parting he told me a strange weird story of a gypsy's prophecy, made before his family and that of his lady love came out from the old country. The gypsy had predicted the family feud mentioned in a previous letter, the settlement at Chebucto and other events, all of which had been fulfilled. Remaining as yet only partially fulfilled is the prediction that a young woman and a young man, the last of these, their respective families, would love each other, be engaged, and ultimately marry other parties. The young man assured me that he was not under the influence of any superstitious feeling, but he admitted that he could not rid himself of the feeling of dread of impending catastrophe.

Since our Natal Day anniversary I met our young friend again, and instinctively felt that the gypsy's prophecy had been fulfilled. We had been in conversation but a few moments, when he told me that the estrangement which he had dreaded had occurred. The particulars as related to me are sufficiently interesting to bear repetition. They would read like a chapter of exciting romance, but I have no time to spare for romancing at present. Ah! I had almost forgotten to mention the connection of this affair with the "Mystic Three" superstition. Our young friend said that the dread of impending evil which had preceded the unfortunate estrangement had been increased by a foolish superstition, known in his family as the "Mystic Rule of Three." "I don't believe in the thing myself," he said, "but it is, I must own, very strange how frequently, almost invariably it would seem, weddings, births, accidents, or other prominent events have occurred in triplets. These," he said, "must be mere coincidences, noticed because occurring thrice, while there must be tens of thousands of events which stand alone. However this may be," he continued, "two quarrels, or rather estrangements, had taken place in our family within as many weeks prior to this, to me, terrible affliction."

I shall offer no explanation until I have learned what you think about the "Mystic Three." Of this, however, I am assured, there is a wise Providence directing and controlling all events.

We have been having and thoroughly enjoying a series of beautiful summer days, and nature, whom I like to imagine as re-invading our city and its environs, once all her own wild haunts, is docked in her most charming robes. Your home and its surroundings must be perfectly lovely; but would you not enjoy a stroll through our gardens and parks? Their charms are of course enhanced by comparison with much that is everything but lovely in city scenery. I do not think of anything particularly worth relating that has happened here recently.

As you will see by the papers, there is a good deal of uneasiness, not amounting to general alarm even, much less to genuine scare, on account of the existence of a number of cases of diphtheria, some of which have terminated fatally.

It is certain that, where there are animal or vegetable impurities, or exhalations therefrom, there this dreaded disease appears and is most fatal. Probably the diphtheritic poison infection, or parasite, finds in filthy essential conditions for development and increase. The human system, debilitated by impure exhalations, and other debilitating causes, rendered incapable of vigorous remedial effort, or resistance to infection. The mucous membrane of the throat for instance, partaking of the general debility, becomes a suitable field for the growth of the infection, while the mucous secretion, also sharing in the prevailing abnormal condition, favors the growth of the diphtheritic crop instead of killing the germ, as the normal secretion would, and does. Then, if the diphtheritic membrane be not removed, comes