

to-morrow's battle I sped on my way to Oshawa, having to suffer another six hours' delay in consequence of a whole freight train getting off this time, which was, by-the-bye, as cleverly and quickly put on the track again, feeling sorry I did not secure the section-master's name, for he deserves to be placed on record. Mr. Editor, the latter experience and several similar ones of late have schooled me and a great many others into the belief that it is a common necessity to have a double track in certain portions of the Grand Trunk Railway, and once accomplished would be a common good for the country at large. I arrived at last at the smart little town of Oshawa sound in limb and health, which fact always makes me remember the Grand Trunk with kindness and favour, for out of the thirteen years I have almost constantly travelled on the Grand Trunk Railway, I have never met with the least personal injury—a testimony that you could not bear for any of our cousins' lines.

I found Oshawa a perfect beehive of industry; hundreds shaping both metal and wood into almost any imaginable shape that is used in the ordinary walks and wants of life, more particularly for the farmer, manufacturer and publisher, our better half not at all forgotten.

Mr. Editor, it occurred very forcibly to me that the too current and gratuitous remark of our neighbours, to wit: "that we lacked enterprise and ambition," was entirely without foundation. Let any one visit and inspect Messrs. Hall's, Whitting & Cowan's and Mr. Gibbs' establishment, and I aver that they will at once come to my conclusion in the matter. Then, Mr. Editor, take it in point of personality we have no occasion to blush when we remember that we have a Glen with uniform kindness and a ready way peculiar to himself of demonstrating any particular intelligence he wishes to impart to another, and equally as adroit in drawing short-cut out of others what they wish to convey to him. Turn to the Whittings and you have as fine an explanation of native genius and native merit as can be desired.

Look round again and you can see in the Gibbs' a strong and clear brain striking sure and clinching every time.

Go a little further westward and we come to our young Queen City, where you can find a Jacques & Hays, who declare by their fiery energy that they are determined to keep in the front ranks; and not less unworthy of notice is our Taylor—with his fine safe factory, an honest disposition, hard worker, and full of common sense. Referring to our hotels we compare equally favourably, taking all things into account, both in point of taste and high-class cooking. Our "Queen's," "Rossin," "Tecumseh," and "Welland," are worthy of special mention; their proprietors and lessees of the whole four deserve well of the country for the manner in which they have met and conquered all manner of difficulties which the great mass of mankind would have staggered at and retreated from. Then looking to our great staple business of lumbering. Our "worthies" at the Chaudière alone, ought to command the respect and praise of the world, for they have put forth an energy and courage, and practised a degree of common sense that has brought them a success with few or no parallels in the history of the world, taking all things into consideration.

Turn also to our very important and equally useful business of Life Assurance, and we don't come short in comparison with the other side, when we remember the urbane manner and ready intelligence of a "Ramsay," and the acute and equally mathematical gifts of our Metropolitan "Orr." Come to Railways, sir,—and take into account our great winter difficulties and comparative small passenger travel, we are not a whit behind hand with the best lines on this hemisphere. And it is no small item to plume ourselves on, that we kill fewer people than any lines south of us, of the same length, and running an equal body of freight. To this part of our commercial wealth we are proud to link such names as Brydges, a host in himself, irrespective of his large experience, his fine talents and brilliant genius constitute him in a pre-eminent degree, a Railway man. We have them in numbers that rank with the best going, such as an Abbot, a Muir, a Bolton, &c., which are an honour to any nation young or old. Coming to our social status it is the opinion of older heads than mine, that in this respect we take rank in the forefront with any nation in the world, taking our youth for a standard to compare by. For points of proof look at the deep-seated filial affection that pervades our homes from one end of the land to the other. The marked reverence paid to age, and the ever ready courtesies paid to the ladies by our young men; the taste and elegance displayed in our festivities of late years both in private and public, either for music or dance and the natural gallantry of our side of the question to the fair ones under such circumstances, all of which speak out a strong outcropping of that uniform and equable spirit which ought to characterize any Christian nation.

Should any yet think that the true American and Briton are yet cold to each other, they should have been at the Military Ball given at Clifton, where the brightness and talent of both sides of the line commingled together in the most hearty and unaffected manner; the most prejudiced Briton would have been overcome had he been favoured with such a sight as I was. On cousin's side a pair of eagle but soft brilliants, enough to move a stone into life almost. And on

the other hand the most jealous American must have been disarmed had he witnessed the sweet and bland confiding expressions of our innocent and unaffected girls. Then, again, had any of our city cousins had the pleasure of attending the ball at Oshawa, all prejudice about the want of taste in our country maidens would have vanished for ever. Does that Oshawa, my dear Editor, put you in mind of another eagle eye of remarkable lustre and equally bold Roman contour, such as a man only sees once in a time, who, if I remember right, hailed from the good town of Whitby to grace the ball-room. This will conclude my present description of what I saw and heard in my sojourn in Ontario.

ONE OF YOUR OWN.

#### A DOUBLE-HEADED CHILD.

Speaking of cases of double-headedness, Frank Buckland writes as follows in *Land and Water*:—

The most remarkable specimen that I know of this, is a preparation in the College of Surgeons, of two skulls united at the top of each head—like an orange placed on the top of another orange—of a double-headed male child, born in May, 1783, in the province of Burdwan, in Bengal. Even though the two heads were united, the child lived to be more than four years old, and, strange to say, died from the poison bite of a *cobra da capello*. The following is an abstract of its history from the catalogue of the College of Surgeons:—

"The following account of a child with a double head is extracted from the *Philos. Trans.*, vol. lxxx., p. 296, from a letter of Everard Home, Esq., F.R.S., to John Hunter, Esq., F.R.S. Read March 25. 1790. The child was born in May, 1783, of poor parents; the mother was thirty years old, and named Nooki; the father was called Hannai, aged thirty-five.

"The body of the child was naturally formed, but the head appeared double, there being, besides the proper head of the child, another of the same size, and to appearance almost equally perfect, attached to its upper part. This upper head was inverted, so that they seemed to be two separate heads, united together by a firm adhesion between their crowns, but without any indentation at their union, there being a smooth continued surface from one to the other. The face of the upper head was not over that of the lower, but had an oblique position, the centre of it being immediately above the right eye. When the child was six months old, both of the heads were covered with black hair, in nearly the same quantity.

"The muscles of the face of the second head were evidently possessed of powers of action, and the whole head had a good deal of sensibility, since violence to the skin produced the distortion expressive of crying, and thrusting the finger into the mouth made it show strong marks of pain. When the mother's nipple was applied to the mouth, the lips attempted to suck.

"The eyelids of the superior head were never completely shut, remaining a little open, even when the child was asleep, and the eyeballs moved at random. When the child was roused, the eyes of both heads moved at the same time; but those of the superior head did not appear to be directed to the same object, but wandered in different directions. The tears flowed from the eyes of the superior head almost constantly, but never from the eyes of the other, except when crying.

"The superior head seemed to sympathise with the child in most of its natural actions. When the child cried, the features of this head were affected in a similar manner, and the tears flowed plentifully. When it sucked the mother, satisfaction was expressed by the mouth of the superior head, and the saliva flowed more copiously than at any other time; for it always flowed a little from it. When the child smiled, the features of the superior head sympathised in that action. When the skin of the superior head was pinched, the child seemed to feel little or no pain, at least not in the same proportion as was felt from a similar violence being committed on its own head or body.

"When the child was about four years old, and in perfect health, the mother went out to fetch some water, and, upon her return, found it dead from the bite of a *cobra da capello*. Its father told Mr. Dent that it was more than four years old at the time of its death.

"Mr. Dent found that the dura mater belonging to each brain was continued across at the part where the two skulls joined, so that each brain was invested in the usual way by its own proper coverings; but the dura mater, which covered the cerebrum of the upper brain, adhered firmly to the dura mater of the lower brain; the two brains were therefore separate and distinct, having a complete partition between them, formed by a union of the duræ matres."

I am sorry I cannot make a dissection of my double-headed snake, as the spirits of wine in which he has been placed has dried up the soft parts so much that it is next to impossible to make them out. I trust the above notes will be interesting to my readers.

FRANK BUCKLAND.

FASHION IN THE NEW AND IN THE OLD WORLD.—The young king of Siam, cherishing a friendly regard for an American lady who had, during the reign of his late father, resided in the royal city, requested her to send him her likeness. This was accordingly done by the hands of a mutual friend, and the gift, as we learn from a recent letter, was received with marked pleasure by the monarch. But after a long and careful scrutiny, he asked with a puzzled air, "Has my friend changed her nation or her religion? It must be one or the other. The features are the same, but the dress? This is not the costume she wore when I saw her last."

And thus it ever is in the East. Orientals cannot possibly comprehend why the style of dress should be changed, unless of necessity. Among them each nation and tribe has its peculiar costume, as well as its insignia of religious creed; and these fashions are perpetual, the lapse of thousands of years ordinarily being unmarked by any special change. The loose Oriental sleeve, adopted of late years by our ladies, has been worn in China for thousands of years: the various basques, sacks, and jackets, so generally prevalent among us at the present time, have all been portions of the national costume of Burmah, Siam, and Malaya from time immemorial; and so of many of the styles introduced as new in our

Western World. Some of their fashions, it is true, seem very absurd to our unaccustomed eyes; but ours doubtless appear equally strange to an Oriental, who regards red as the appropriate colour for a bride, white for mourning, and yellow as the distinguishing costume of the clergy.—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

REPORTED CURE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—In the newspapers appears the statement of a case of hydrophobia which occurred at or near Detroit, and which was treated successfully by the following means: One grain sulph. morph. was injected hypodermically every four hours, and 30 grains castor given at the same intervals. Small quantities of chloroform were also inhaled. Sleep was produced in half an hour, lasting one hour and a half, and finally the convulsions ceased. The patient was wrapped in a woollen blanket wrung out of a warm solution of muriate of ammonia, 20 grains to the ounce; but this was not done till the symptoms began to yield. There was nothing very novel in this treatment, especially as to the morphia and chloroform, which were doubtless the efficient agents, admitting the case to be correctly stated. The castor and the warm fomentation may have aided slightly. But the patient is described as "barking like a dog," seizing the pillows in his teeth and shaking them like a ferocious dog, etc. This part of the story does not add to its credibility. It is matter of surprise that newspapers conducted by intelligent men will, from time to time, give currency to such statements, whilst physicians everywhere have declared against them as popular errors. Probably one-half of the civilized world still believe that men with hydrophobia act the part of rabid dogs, and are frequently relieved from suffering, through professional authority, by pressure between feather beds.—*American Chemist*.

LIEBIG ON BEER.—A correspondent recently visited Baron von Liebig and had a very interesting conversation of an hour's duration with the veteran, which he reports very fully. Touching questions of alimentation the correspondent writes:—"And beer? Is it necessary that people should drink as much beer as you do in Munich?" I asked. "Beer," said the Baron, "is better than Brandy. Man must have a stimulant of some sort. Brandy is a great evil. We find that the consumption of beer is making headway even in the wine districts, for instance, in Stuttgart. As a nourishment, beer takes a very subordinate place, not higher, indeed, than potatoes; and we find that in no city is there such an amount of meat consumed as in Munich, where the greatest quantity of beer is also consumed. Beer must have meat or albumen. Before every beer-cellar in Munich you will find a cheese-stand. Why? Because in cheese you find that albumen which in beer is lacking. Therefore you see that beer and cheese go together like a law of nature! But as an article of nourishment beer is very subordinate. Schnapps is a great misfortune, and destroys the power. Through our late war we have won great respect for tobacco, tea, coffee, and extract of meat. A physician told me that when the wounded would take nothing else they have grasped at cigars; their eyes glistened—they felt a lifting up of the sinking nerves. Tobacco must have its effect. We could not do our wounded, frequently, a greater service than by giving them cigars. And we came to the conclusion that tobacco was invaluable to us." These are Baron von Liebig's own words, noted down as he spoke to me in German.

The Paris papers are indulging in all kinds of pretty stories about the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The *Avenir National* tells us one which is certainly not generally known. During his Royal Highness's illness, a robust young man, half countryman, half gentleman, was always remarked at the château Sandringham; he was even admitted to the patient's bedside, and the Prince appeared to be deeply attached to him. Everybody was puzzled at the presence of this stranger, whose name and position were kept secret. However, all has since been discovered, and here is the enigma explained. In 1855, during the stay of the Royal Family in the Isle of Wight, the Prince of Wales kicked over a basket of shells which a boy was gathering. The boy, red with rage, dared his Royal Highness to "do it again," and he would see what he would get. The Prince did it again, and the boy thereupon landed his fist upon his Royal Highness's nose, giving him a pair of black eyes. The Queen, on seeing the Prince, insisted on knowing the truth. "You have only got what you deserve," said Her Majesty, "and were you not already sufficiently punished, I would punish you myself. I hope you will always be served in the same way when you are guilty of the same conduct." The Queen then sent for the boy's parents and offered to bring him up. The parents consented; the boy has grown up with the Prince of Wales, and is now treated as his foster-brother.

The *Amherst Gazette* has been publishing Prentice's poems as the original efforts of a boy of fourteen. The editor has been shown one of them in Garvin's Fourth Reader, and the poetry of the boy will be declined in future.

IT IS A FACT—That the Shoshonees Remedy and Pills exercise most wonderful powers in promoting appetite, improving digestion, regulating the bowels, and removing nervousness and debility. The weakest will take no harm from the use of this great Indian Alterative and Tonic Medicine, but will gradually regain their health. The strongest will preserve themselves from many of the mishaps in which their boasted strength and fearlessness of results often betray them. Long suffering invalids may look forward to this rectifying and revivifying medicine with the certain hope of having their maladies mitigated, if not removed by its means.

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Horse owners will find the Nutritious Condiment of great service at this time of the year. Where green food cannot be obtained it is invaluable. Ask your druggist for a 25 cent packet (2 lbs weight) that you may try it.

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DEFFNEY DUGGIE.—Your lines, though well conceived, are hardly worth a better fate than the waste-paper basket, to which, in charity, we consign them.

#### BIRTH.

At Belleville, on the 26th of April, the wife of F. Campbell Wallbridge, of a son.