

EXCELLENT APPOINTMENT.

We are glad to learn that Mr. A. L. Light, the Chief Engineer of Government Railways of the Province of Quebec, has been named by the Supreme Court, (to whom the selection was referred) as the third Arbitrator or referee in the important case of Messrs. Alexander Manning and John J. Macdonald & Co., versus the Dominion Government in re section "B" of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Judge Clarke, of Cobourg, representing the Government and Mr. C. J. Brydges, the late efficient Manager of the Intercolonial, but now Manager of the Hudson Bay Company at Winnipeg, acting for the contractors. The commission sat last Friday and Saturday at Ottawa, then adjourned to meet in Winnipeg early in January, from whence they will first examine the work in dispute and hold their Tribunal, it being considered more convenient and more economical to take two commissioners to Winnipeg than bring some 50 witnesses to Ottawa. This is the most important case yet held, with regard to the Canadian Pacific, a large sum of money being involved. As regards the appointment of Messrs. Light and Brydges there can be but one opinion, they are eminently fitted for the position and carry the courage of their convictions.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

A SUCCESSFUL FAILURE.

"Yes, George, dear, I accept your proffered love, and will be your wife," and a pair of strong arms clasped her tightly, lovingly.

"You have heard, of course, she said, from under the lapel of his coat, "that father has failed?"

"No, I hadn't heard that," said George, weakening his grip a little.

"Yes," she continued, nestling more closely to him; "he failed last week, and —"

"That puts a different phase upon matters entirely," said George, struggling to break loose, but the girl held him fast and continued:

"And settled with his creditors at two cents on the dollar, and —"

"Nay, dearest," interrupted George, passionately, "do not speak of such sordid matters. Let us think only of love and the happiness which the bright future has in store —"

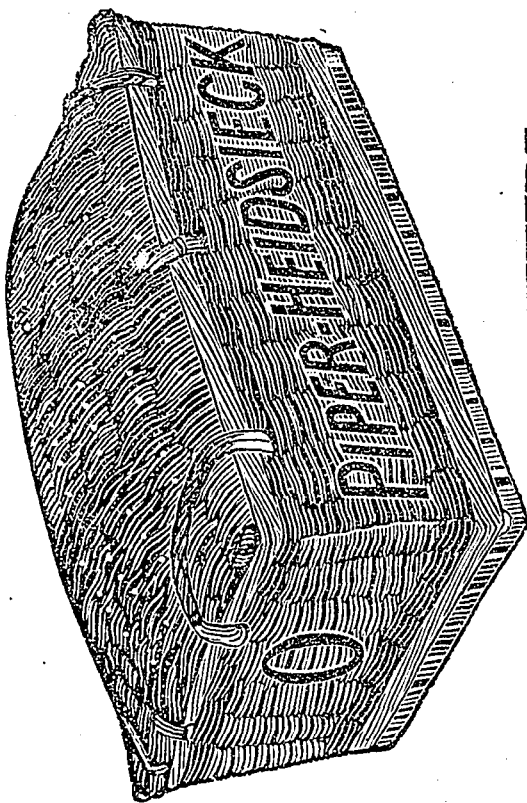
But, gentle reader, let us leave them in their young love and perfect trust.—*Philadelphia Call*.

"CONNECTED WITH GAMBLING."—In the Superior Court here on Monday judgment for the defendant was given in the case of Macdougall Brothers vs. Demers. Mr. Demers, a trader, of Quebec, employed Messrs. Macdougall, stock-brokers, of this city, to conduct some speculative transactions on his account on the Chicago Corn Exchange. Messrs. Macdougall transmitted to their agents in Chicago \$1,279.99 for this purpose. The present action was brought to recover this—the exact sum sent without brokerage—and was instituted as a test case. It was twice argued. Judge Loranger has decided that the transaction was so intimately connected with gambling as to be illegal under the code, and, though there was no doubt about the proof made by the plaintiffs, they had no cause of action and the suit must be dismissed. The judgment will be appealed from.

HOW A MINT IS GUARDED.—"It would not be healthy for a burglar to attempt any of his tricks about the mint," said Colonel A. Loudon Snowden, the other day. "About a year ago I caused all the muskets to be changed for repeating rifles and seven-shot carbines that are darlings. Our outside watchmen who patrol the streets about the place are well supplied with fire-arms. In fact, they are walking arsenals. We can readily arm every person in the building who can handle a pistol or gun. There is no trouble apprehended, that I know of, and I cannot divine why the secretary of the treasury has ordered gatling guns and carbines for the mints. I have not requested any, because we are sufficiently armed. At this time there are being turned out over a million of standard dollars each month, and we frequently have \$15,000,000 in silver in the vaults. But it will take a little army with cannon to get at it."—*Philadelphia Record*.

DO RAILWAY COUPONS BEAR INTEREST AFTER MATURITY?—Judgment in review was rendered last week in Montreal, in the case of Desrosiers vs. the Montreal, Portland & Boston Railway Company. The question at issue in the case was whether the coupons representing interest on certain railway debentures, themselves bear interest without a demand for payment. Judgment was given for the amount of the Coupons, but without interest, and it was the latter part of this judgment refusing the \$513 interest which had accrued since the coupons became due, that was now before the Court. The defendants claimed that the coupons themselves represented interest on the bonds. That might be but Judge Johnson held, nevertheless, that each of them was a negotiable instrument, payable on a certain day which had elapsed, and there could be no doubt as to our law applicable to such facts. The Court, therefore, reversed the latter part of the judgment and allowed interest from the date of the maturity of the coupons.

VANDERBILT'S WALLER.—John Swinton, in his paper, has been making some interesting statistical observations relative to the wealth of William H. Vanderbilt. He assumes that if Mr. Vanderbilt's fortune of \$100,000,000 was converted into a solid bar of gold it would require 7,000 very able-bodied men to carry the beautiful ingot. If turned into bright golden eagles it would tax the capacity of 25 freight cars to transport the precious metal. Mr. Swinton declares that it would take 1,400 horses to haul the golden mass over the streets, and would give 70 Jumbonian elephants all they wanted to do—five tons each—to carry William's loose change.



IS SOLD EVERYWHERE.

'LETTING THINGS DOWN.'

(From Chambers's Journal.)

We were fortunate enough to know and love a good couple, who, years ago, lived in a comfortable mansion, and had all the surroundings of elegance and affluence. These considerations, as well as the kindness shown to us collectively and individually, made us rejoice when our holidays allowed us to visit the said abode, which seemed to our moderate views a very palace of delights. There was a large old garden; a hothouse full of fine grapes, usually very much at our service; a carriage we could use when we liked; a pleasant host and hostess to receive us when we returned tired from our drives or wanderings through the delightful meadows which lay round the house. There was no end of felicity at Eaglehall; and the interior of the house was as nice and well ordered as the outside was trim and prettily arranged. There were peace, plenty, and prosperity; young, happy faces beamed about us all day; and there seemed no end to the solid comforts and enjoyments then to be met with.

In the course of years, however, this system of things went on slowly but steadily deteriorating. The children of the house grew up and went out into the world—some successfully, others the reverse; the hand of change fell, not disastrously, but naturally on the good old host and hostess; things by little and little 'went down.' There was no want of money, only a want of heart or apparent interest in things. The place was no longer quite so pleasant to visit; and the last time we set foot within its doors the shadow of the last awful change was hovering over the kind old mistress, and the ancient faithful domestics had gone away, and others, rude, vulgar, and greedy, had come instead. We thought sadly, as we turned away from the familiar scene, that much of the discomfort prevalent came from things being at first allowed to 'go down.'

Now, we have been thinking a good deal upon this subject lately, and we would, as older folks, advise our young friends to avoid as far as in them lies that indifference of spirit which allows things to fall into disuse, disrepair, or disregard, merely for want of a little 'keeping-up.' It has been pithily said, 'that though money be scarce, soap and water are always abundant'—a fact surely not known to the world at large, judging from the way in which people, from sorrow, indifference, poverty, or other causes, allow even their outward appearance to 'go down' perseveringly.

'W'—is surely hard up,' said one lately, in talking of the apparently prosperous head of a flourishing firm. The man referred to was in the prime of life, usually tall, erect, and well 'put on,' and well known to have the best business in the place. For some little time it had been observed that he no longer walked with his usual air; his clothes looked shabby and soiled, and his hair and beard were badly kept. His manner, too, had become reserved and sour; so when a new Company opened in the same town, with offices whose plate-glass windows and freshly painted doors invited attention, people went away from W—, and he lost several excellent orders, which naturally he would have got. Nothing, all this time, had happened to cause W—'s deterioration but a want of energy and determination to keep himself 'up to the mark,' so the result was that people thought he had 'gone down' in money matters, and so left him, causing him in a few months to 'go down' altogether.

'Rub up your brasses, Sally,' said an energetic husband to a wife, who being, when first married, clean and orderly, was degenerating into a sattern, and failing to 'keep up' the interior of the pretty cottage. So we may all in our several ways find plenty 'brasses to rub up;' and if our

own spirits are gloomy enough at times, we may, at any rate keep the externals about us bright for the sake of others. He is a poor-spirited being who, because things go contrary to his wishes, gives himself up to the despondency that would induce tawdriness in house or garden, or personal self-reverence; and the brave soul that looks well to the comfort of those around, and works on steadily, with perhaps a breaking heart, is worthy of the highest veneration.

'Brush your hair, Betty, and then things won't look so bad,' was the homely advice given by an old friend to a woman whose husband had lost money by the failure of a bank, and who could not see the force of the wife sitting tawdry and dishevelled, with unswept floor and unidy hearth and unprepared dinner, because this calamity had happened.

We all know how in the very presence of death itself, externals help to make the pangs of friends and watchers scarcely so keen as discomfort and penury would do. 'All was done that could be done, and the family is well left,' is often the comfortable reflection of the survivors after a death. The same thing could not be said if everything had been allowed to 'go down' only because the malady was hopeless.

Some people took a dull house which had been allowed to 'go down' by former tenants. They found everything as bad as possible—paper hanging off the walls, grates rusty, drains all wrong, and a general look of decay about the place, though it had been inhabited for years and just newly vacated. In a week all was changed; there were fresh but inexpensive papers for each room, the grates were well rubbed and polished; soap and water, and windows opened for fresh air, did the rest, and the house was no longer dull. The former tenants had not cared to 'keep things up.' It is much easier, by care and very small expenditure, to 'keep things up,' than it is to 'let them down,' and then institute a thorough reformation. An old house with which we were familiar, a mere shell, with thin walls and tottering floors and rat-eaten woodwork, was yet the very prettiest abode in our memory, simply because it was well 'kept.' A coat of paint nearly every year, carpets fresh and new, good order and cleanliness in every corner, and you forgot its age, and perhaps its decay.

The same system should be pursued with regard to mind, habits, and cultivation, as to houses or gardens. Let all young people carefully 'keep up' the accomplishments learned at school; let them as far as possible cultivate every talent. We have seen men and women, careful to preserve in all things the habits of youth, retain a freshness in middle-life and old age which was perfectly astonishing. There is no need whatever for any one 'going down,' a high standard of excellence placed before us at the first may lead to that nobler and better life which grows brighter and brighter 'even to the perfect day.'

REALLY REFRESHING.

It is almost invariably the case that when a cashier robs, or a clerk steals, or a treasurer defaults in any part of the country, he begs off by declaring that he speculated in Wall street and lost. It is therefore really refreshing to learn of a case in which Wall street was not to blame. It occurred in a town in Ohio the other day. The owner of a private bank discovered a shortage of \$2,000 and rushed for his cashier.

"Yes, I took the money," was the calm reply.

"What for?"

"To speculate in Wall street."

"And you lost it all!"

"Not much; I am just \$12,000 ahead after paying you back. The money will be here by express at noon."

"By George! but you are a keener, Joe—just too sharp and shrewd for anything. Put in \$10,000 and become a partner; you are a chap I can count on."—*Wall St. News*.

FREE CANALS.

The canals closed December 1, and the experiment of free canals, so far as the season's traffic is concerned, has been a success. There has been an increase in number of boats cleared, as compared with last year, of 225, the number being 6,796, against 6,571 in 1882. The movement of cereals was also very much larger, an increase of nearly 13,000,000 bushels being reported. In flour and wheat, however, there was a decreased traffic, only 17,824,272 bushels of wheat being moved this year, against 19,506,766 bushels last year. In corn there is an increase of nearly 10,000,000 bushels, and the shipments of oats increased from 565,377 bushels to 2,949,375 bushels, and of rye from 677,395 bushels to 2,821,780 bushels. Barley shipments this year were 541,773 bushels, against 316,297 bushels last year.—*Indicator*.

U. S. SECURITIES ABROAD.—We had the pleasure of a conversation with Mr. James McHenry yesterday, who is visiting the United States for the first time since 1874. Mr. McHenry was extremely severe upon the Erie management, and says that confidence has completely departed from its securities on the other side. The only dealings of any consequence there are occasioned by the sudden freak of some firm or other, which cables for 10,000 shares in ten share certificates, and, when they arrive, as speedily determines to send them back owing to the absence of a market. Not only is a market lacking in England for Erie, but confidence has vanished in nearly all American securities, and the best of them can be sold only in limited quantities. Mr. McHenry says this is due to the way in which investors have been skinned by their American cousins, and that some great change of policy will have to be inaugurated in our railroad management before investment demand will again spring up.—*Wall St. News*.