

CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.



IN the rambling autobiography of the Prince of Charlatans, (Diogenes of course refers to Mr. P. T. Barnum), it is related that in his early youth he was hideously bewildered by a simple arithmetical question. So hopelessly mysterious did it appear that it fascinated him in a weird manner. It haunted him oppressively, like a nightmare, and blighted for a time the happiness of his childhood. The maddening conclusion, to which he was arithmetically driven, was so utterly repugnant both to experience and to reason, that even his tender intellect refused to admit it, though at the same time he was unable to detect the fallacy.

The conundrum is as follows:—Master Jones is born when his father is just twenty years old. Mr. Jones is undoubtedly at this important date twenty times as old as his infant son. In ten years, however, he will be only three times as old, and in ten years more he will be only double his age. As the son is evidently gaining, rapidly, upon his father's age, the question arises, when will he actually overtake it? There is much to be said in favour of the popular belief that in spite of the plausible conundrum this event has never really taken place. The Cynic has never witnessed it in the whole course of his long-protracted existence; but he lately met with a paragraph in the *Toronto Globe*, which related, without any comment, an incident equally extraordinary. In a notice of the death of Sir Edward Cunard, the Western biographer informs us that "*Sir Edward Cunard was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, January 1st, 1816—as was his father—and was there educated.*" A statement of this nature is certainly somewhat startling, but (as the *Globe* claims to be the leading journal of the Dominion) the Cynic with commendable modesty hesitates to contradict it.

ANOTHER ODD ADVERTISEMENT.

An exchange advertises under the head of "Lost"

"A horse, belonging to a lady with a long switch tail of a dark color, and a good trotter."

DIO. at first thought there was a misplacement of a comma in this advertisement, but on reflection he thinks not. The "long switch tail" evidently alludes to the usual appendage of a "girl of the period," and the fact of the "dark color" being mentioned, is only to call attention to the singularity of that tint where all around is golden. "A good trotter," of course, speaks for itself. All girls can walk, and the number of our winter dances would show that most can gallop; but though many are seen trotting about the streets, few "go the pace" to which the advertisement clearly refers.

MASONIC HONOURS.

Whiskey Detective Mason is again in trouble; this time at Windsor, (Ont.) He has received a formal notice, warning him to quit the town forthwith, or he will be summarily dealt with by the Windsor Vigilance Committee. The hotel-keepers whom he has informed against, intend, if they catch him, to give him a *Masonic* grip, and to invest him unceremoniously with the Windsor Uniform. On this occasion only it will consist of—tar and feathers.

** Since the above was written, DIOGENES has observed in a telegram that Mr. Mason has returned to Toronto in a damaged state, having been severely handled by the Windsor fraternity. He will hardly visit them again.



THE NIGHT-WATCH.

"A night of this work affects one more than sixteen severe dinners."—*Extract from Bank Clerk's Private Correspondence.*

"REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM."

The Intercolonial Railway Commissioners announce that, no "further sections" of the line will be offered to public competition for some months. Many persons imagine that the delay is caused by incomplete surveys, &c. DIOGENES knows better. He therefore enlightens the public with "a tale from his tub." The Commissioners urged by economy, animated by strong desire to save public money, and encouraged by the unexpected determination of the contractors to work at a loss, are considering how much the next "successful contractors" (?) shall pay down per mile for the privilege of excavating the works. This is a step in advance, and quite novel in railway practice. "Ad interim," the attention of Dr. Irvine is requested to elucidate the orthography of the term "further sections." Any communications the learned and accomplished gentleman may have to make, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Intercolonial Railway Commissioners, Ottawa.

CONCENTRATED LYE.

The patentee of the above, wishing to pay an appropriate compliment to the person whom the *Globe* calls the "best telegraphic correspondent in the Dominion," has consigned his first shipment for Ottawa, to the distinguished individual referred to.