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S. E. LEFEBVRE, Manager, 81, St. James St., Montreal, Canada.

FOR THE CRITIC.]

AT THE DENTIST'S.

Revenyefully dedicated to Dr.

My mournful tale of bitter wee, O victims of the dentist, hear, And when you know of all my pain, I'or pity's sake do shed one tear!

One frosty day in early spring
To Dr. Blank I had to go
To get some teeth filled. Did he strive
My pain to lessen? Ah 1 not so t

He pounded till you might have thought To murder me he meant to try. I bore it nobly for a time, Then fiercely uttered this sad cry:

O Dentist! "In our hours of case,"
So smiling, kind and glad to please,
When pain and anguish wring the brow, *
A very fiend of evil—thou!

He smiled at this, a grim, sad smile, And said the lines were "very good." Which he was not, I grieve to say, For soon he hurt me all he could.

And I need scarcely say that while He dug and pounded for an age, And filled my tooth with yellow gold, My gentle heart was filled with rage.

I had to go another day, And oh! the tortures suffered then They never could be half revealed By tongue or pen of living men!

Two instruments of torture new
By this time he had laid in stock,
And when I saw—or rather fell—
Their power, it gave me quite a shock.

The one I named a "bumble bee,"
And well did it deserve the name,
For in it buzzed, and out it flew,
And left a sting where'er it came.

The other was a mallet small,
But oh! the pain that it did bring,
You would not dream could be produced
By such a very little thing.

But let me tell you how it worked,— The dentist gently o'er me leaned, And when he'd put the gold in place, Twas pounded by another fiend.

Who hammered it with all his might
With the aforesaid mallet small,
And the first fiend would "Harder !" cry,
"Why you can scarcely strike at all!"

No need to say that I was struck!
And as the blows fell fast and thick,
Oh tmy! the longing that I had
To give them both a gentle kick,

Or hit them very hard indeed.
But then I thought twas not polite,
Though when it came to striking me
It never struck them in that light!

And so I never said a word, Though I was getting very weak--One reason for my silence was, That 'twas impossible to speak.

Because the dentist's fingers clutched My mouth and kept it open wide, Until I felt inclined to ask, "Pray, do you wish to step inside?"

Dear fellow mortals, if you're wise, You'll not go near a dentist's chair, Lest all the pangs you there endure Should make you wish to tear your hair.

Well now, I think I've said enough, And if this tale of horrid pain Will warning give to any soul, I shall not have endured in vain.

COWLEN.

LETTERS TO A COUNTRY FRIEND.

Dear Dick,—While searching among my old letters for one to which I wished to refer, I came across a bulky package endorsed " from Dick," and before I put that bundle away again two whole hours had flown. We have both seen a great deal of life, and are both greatly changed since those letters were written—But there—I shall not recall the past, although great is the temptation to do so.

The impulse to write to you, aroused by reading your old letters, I shall not, however, attempt to resist. Since you were here last spring nothing worth relating has occurred besides what has been recorded in the newspapers, except that my old friend and boon companion H——has purchased a farm and removed to it with his family. We have exchanged letters award made since he left the city. Lett Saturday he and his daughter letters every week since he left the city. Last Saturday he and his daughter, Miss Ruth, came to the city and put up with us. On Wednesday II——started for "the Hub," and probably will visit several other less distinguished cities on business, of which more anon.