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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1892.

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

In selecting a poet laureate it is sincerely trusted the claims of the *Colonist* poet will not be overlooked by Her Majesty. It is said that he would make a "first-rate poet lariat."

A NEW YORK painter who was working on a scaffold high in the air went to borrow a chew of tobacco from a friend and fell seven stories. The man who will borrow his eating tobacco usually falls about seven stories in the estimation of his friends.

AMONG the most remarkable inventions at the recent exhibit at Berlin was a set of paper teeth made by a Luebeck dentist in 1878. They have been in constant use for more than 13 years, and show absolutely no wear whatever. Here is a use for old files of the *Times*, which are certainly tough enough to stand a good deal of wear.

A RECENT Methodist conference severely roasted a minister who would not pay his debts and refused him a transfer to another conference. The plain straight dead-beat is bad enough, but of the ministerial dead beat it must be said, "Of such is not the kingdom of heaven." How pleasing it is to reflect that Victoria clergymen, as a general thing, pay their debts.

In Finland a woman can't murder her husband with impunity, and the law does not recognize the truth of the conjugal aphorism "What's yours is mine." A pretty Finnish woman has just been sentenced to have her right hand cut off for forging her husband's name, and then to be decapitated and cremated for administering a strychnine capsule to her wronged spouse. It is needless to remark that woman's rights evidently do not obtain in Finland.

A SCOTCHMAN writes to the *New York World* that "Sir Edward Arnold is in error as to frost killing cholera," adding, "there was cholera in Edinburg years ago at Christmas, and snow on the ground a foot deep." This may be true, and yet the fact remains that severe frost is unfavorable to the propagation of the disease. Under favoring conditions of filth, etc., it may prevail even in cold weather, but cold always retards, if it does not destroy it. Professor Koch, in his celebrated address before the Berlin cholera

conference in 1884, in which he gave the scientific world the first authentic and complete account of the comma-bacilli, said, "they flourish best at the temperatures between 86 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit, but they are not very susceptible to lower temperatures. Experiments have been made on this point which show that they can grow very well at 62 degrees, though more slowly. Below that point the growth is very small and seems to cease below 60 degrees." From this it would appear that cholera is not likely to prevail to any considerable extent with the thermometer at or near freezing point.

GOLD COIN SWEATING.

The question of the advisableness of adopting measures to curtail the circulation in Canada of American coins receives a new aspect from an item of news which reaches us from New York.

It appears that several large banks in that city who do business with California, have been troubled of late with the many lightweight \$20 gold pieces, which are found in almost every shipment of gold that comes from that state. At first sight, it was thought that the friction of the coins against each other during the railway or steamship journey caused the loss of weight, but soon various suspicious features were noticed which make it all but certain that the coins are subjected to a "sweating process" by electricity, which will extract as much as 75 cents or \$1.00 from each \$20 gold piece without materially affecting the face of the coin. The experts at the United States treasury office have seen so many such light-weight coins during the last few weeks that they now can tell one almost immediately without going to the trouble of weighing it.

It is believed that this fraud is being practised on a large scale in California, probably by the Chinese, who have the reputation of being the cleverest counterfeiters. In a recent shipment of \$60,000 to one of the largest banks of the city, which does business with California, there were no less than 40 underweight gold pieces. These coins are, of course, thrown out by the treasury, disfigured by a large and conspicuous L, for no more than one-half of one per cent. light-weight is ever allowed in a coin. Nothing remains, then, but to send them over to the assayer's office to be turned into bullion, or to sell them to the various small brokers who handle such coin.

One dollar taken out of each \$20 gold piece means a good profit to be gained by the simple process of suspending the coins for a short time in an acid fluid charged with electricity. The "sweaters" naturally prefer to do this to larger gold pieces, because more can be gained from each coin, and because most persons, especially in the Eastern States, are less familiar with those particular coins, and therefore less able to detect the fraud by the mere look and touch of the gold piece.

The government is powerless, because in itself the practice of subjecting a gold piece to electrolysis, be it for gilding purposes or otherwise, is not a legal offense, so that even if a "sweater" or band of "sweaters" were caught in their workshop, it would be difficult to indict them.

The legal offense is only committed by the man who passes the coin, and even the intention of fraud has to be proved. Nothing can be done, therefore. In the meanwhile, the underweight double eagles keep pouring in, to be returned again by the treasury with the defacing L stamped on them.

A GRIEVANCE TRULY.

SIR:—I do not think it right to keep silent any longer about the treatment I have received or rather my bottles from a druggist a couple of days since.

Being desirous of extending my business, I went to this druggist about 12 o'clock. The proprietor being away, I wrote him a note offering, on certain conditions, to appoint him one of my agents. At the same time, I left in charge of his clerk four bottles representing different kinds of medicine. Three were securely tied and sealed with wax and with my trade mark (the crest of my family) stamped into the wax. I said to the clerk, "Take care of them; I will come back in the evening for an answer." On going back, the agency was declined, and I asked for my bottles. They were given to me, how? Why the string tying down the cork was cut, my trade mark completely torn off and every one of the corks had been taken out. Just as I was going to ask the reason of this wanton destruction of my property, a customer came in, or I should have spoken about it. It was well for the proprietor that my trade mark had not been completely registered or he would have found to his cost what wantonly destroying my property left in his charge would be. I believe that it would have resulted in a law suit. I would inform the person who obliterated my trade mark and crest that the same is registered in the Herald's office in London, and such action there would have rendered him liable for felony.

PROFESSOR TOTTENHAM.

Victoria, Oct. 14th.

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