

themselves with remedies of whose power and properties they are absolutely ignorant. In Vienna it has already been found necessary to forbid the sale of antipyrin, except under doctor's prescriptions, as no less than seventeen deaths were attributed to stoppage of the heart's action owing to overdoses. The freedom with which the prescription of this remedy has been assumed by the public has long since been viewed with anxiety by the medical profession, and frequent warnings have already fallen upon deaf ears; and yet it is to be feared that if the epidemic of influenza should spread, many more examples of recklessness will have to be recorded. Mr. Labouchere, claiming to act "by the light of common sense," upon having "cough, a headache, and an all-overish ache," accompanied by sneezing, diagnosed the prevailing epidemic, and at once administered to himself "thirty grains of quinine," and to meet the cough he took "unlimited squill pills." He writes that the one "settled the fever" and the other "settled the cough," and that in four days he was quite well. Upon this last fact he is certainly to be congratulated though we trust that others may not be impelled, "by the light of common sense," to follow him in such heroic measures, or to emulate his example by trying the effect of antipyrin in similar doses. It is serious enough to cope with an epidemic and its sequelae, without having matters complicated by ignorant and reckless experimental therapeutics.—*Lancet*.

THE HEIGHT OF WAVES AT SEA.

THE height of sea waves has long been the subject of controversy. Eminent hydrographers have insisted that storm waves were usually not more than 10 feet high, and and rarely over 20 when the conditions of the sea were most favourable for wave development. Many a traveller, reclining on a cabin transom, has looked up through the skylight to see the waves rearing their frothy crests, and wondered how even a 20 footer could show so high above a great ship's deck. Many a sailor dowsed by an up-driving wave while lying out on a topgallant yard has, doubtless, shaken his head incredulously when told that the highest waves were not above 20 feet, the rest being "heel" of ship and dip of yard. Now, however, comes expert testimony to prove that storm waves are often 40 feet and sometimes from 60 to 70 feet in height. In the recent British scientific expedition some instructive data were gathered by a sensitive aneroid barometer capable of recording its extreme rise and fall by an automatic register. "With a sea not subjected to an atmosphere of unusual violence, it indicated an elevation of 40 feet from the wave's base to crest." Admiral Fitzroy, after a long series of careful measurements from the main top of his ship, came to a similar conclusion.—*Scientific American*.

CHOLERA ON THE MARCH TOWARDS EUROPE.

THERE is unfortunately but too good reason for believing that the epidemic of cholera which has for so many months hung about the Tigris and Euphrates valleys, and the interior of Mesopotamia, has made considerable inroads into Persia. News of its having crossed the western boundary of that empire has been received from time to time, but it is now announced to the faculty of Medicine of Paris that there has been an alarming increase of the disease in Central Persia and on the Turco-Persian frontier; and that the inhabitants are fleeing northwards. Those who can afford the journey are endeavouring to reach Russian ports on the Caspian, and, remembering that this is the route into Europe which cholera has so often taken before, the announcement must be regarded as one of no little gravity. This is more so, because the Caspian port towns and fishing villages have a bad reputation in regard to those sanitary circumstances which are known to favour the diffusion of cholera.—*Lancet*.

M. PASTEUR says, speaking of the prevailing influenza: "Let men and women both quit smoking tobacco and smoke camphor instead, and they will probably escape the pest."

IN recent medical experiments on horses, in Vienna, the incandescent lamp played an important part. The subject was disease of the nostril, and by inserting the lamp with mirrors very successful results were obtained. The apparatus was provided with a cooling arrangement, allowing cold water to circulate round the lamp.—*Electrical Review*.

TEST borings recently made on the line of the Nicaragua Canal show that the entire divide to be traversed by the deep cut consists of solid basalt, at least to a depth of 165 feet, as far as the borings extended. This is a most favourable showing for the construction company, as it settles at once the important question of slopes in the greater part of the cut.

REFERRING to the story of the death of a lady from blood poisoning, alleged to have been communicated by microbes in the skin of a kid glove, the *Medical Press and Circular* says, "In view of the processes through which 'skins' have to pass before being cut up into gloves, a perfectly disinterested person can only feel some admiration for the robustness of the individual microbes whose tenacity of life and purpose enabled them at the proper moment to give expression to their malignity."

THERE can be no doubt that the use of oil for the safety of vessels in stormy weather is becoming more general. A Norwegian engineer has recently drawn attention to the important point of selecting the most

suitable oil. A fat, heavy, animal oil, such as train oil, whale oil, etc., is decidedly the best, but as these oils in cold weather become thick, and partly lose their ability to spread, it is advisable to add a thinner mineral oil. Vegetable oils have also proved serviceable. Mineral oils, especially refined ones are the least effective. Crude petroleum can be used in case of need, but refined petroleum is hardly any good at all.—*Industries*.

THREE SONNETS.

I.

WERE these white hairs the strands of spangling gold,
Which richly shone around thy noble head?
Were these the curls on which my young eyes fed
Their love of beauty—now so grey and cold?
Mother! my greatest fear is gone—thy brow
Touched by those fateful fingers that close all;
I feared that I might die before the pall
Enwapt thee, and thou'dst grieve as I grieve now.

And still they're beautiful—these silver hairs,
Though the gold gleamings are no longer there,
For diamonds glitter mid the frosty white;
A dear possession! wheresoever fares
My way, near to my heart this lock I bear
Until I too shall pass into the night.

II.

From that bright heaven where pure souls work in peace,
Where the just dead live in immortal joy,
Where pleasures freed from sense can never cloy,
And those who suffer'd nobly find release
From pains, and to annoy the wicked cease,
Where Christ we'll meet and undisturbed adore
The infinite love that all our sorrows bore—
Can ears be lent unpaired to cries like these?

If so, bend down and let thy soul touch mine,
As thy lips kissed away my earliest woes,
O let me feel thy fond arms as of yore!
What yet remains of life make worthy thine,
As to the weeping warrior by the shore,
His mother came—come, arm me for life's close.

III.

The memory lives throughout the deathless years:
Then lapsing eons will not shake thy love;
And if I mount to where so far above
The vale I pine in, sad and stained with tears,
The boy's ideal like a star appears,
I'll meet thee one day, purged and pure like thee
On stormless margins of the jasper sea,
And we'll embrace, emancipate from fears

Of parting. Best of all I've loved or known;
I loved thee here; I love thee where thou art
To be thy son the richest heritage;
And yet I feel poor, feeling all alone;
The sense of loss remains, as if a part
Of me were gone. Hence tears upon this page.

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENGLISH MINORITY IN QUEBEC.—I.

A REPLY TO S. E. DAWSON.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—The English Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec are not unhappy; but they are alive to the danger that menaces them and cannot be blamed for criticising those overt acts of the majority that savour Old World mediævalism. That a good deal of temper has been displayed in much of the criticism delivered from platforms and through the press may justly be accepted as a gauge of the life that exists rather than as is too often construed into evidence of hostility on their part towards the majority of this Province.

With regard to States' Rights, if Mr. Dawson is willing to accede the right to the French majority in Quebec to legislate in accordance with their ideas of government without any intervention of the veto from Ottawa, will he accord them the right to demand the exercise of that veto against Manitoba, if the people of that Province legislate in a spirit contrary to the wishes of the majority in Quebec? One might almost infer as much. Mr. Dawson says there is the most absolute freedom in Montreal and quotes in evidence the statement of a stranger-clergyman present at a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance.

Will that evidence counterbalance the murder of Hackett; the refusal to permit Orangemen to walk on the twelfth of July; the taking full possession of the streets and public thoroughfares on the *Fête Dieu* occasions?

Mr. Dawson says: "The English provinces have established States' Rights, shall they not be equally available to the French majority in this Province?"

In all candour I ask Mr. Dawson—with his eminently judicial mind and classic lore—are the cases parallel? Mr. Dawson thinks it quite within the range of probability that the revindication one hundred years after date of the Jesuits' estates here, may lead to the distribution and secularization of the immense estates owned by the Jesuits in Brazil. Mr. Dawson reasons as though the authorities and the population of Brazil were composed of individuals

as intelligently educated as himself. What an error for a wise man to fall into! It is highly questionable whether one-tenth of one per cent. of the population of Brazil will ever hear of the Jesuits' settlement recently effected in this Province.

Again Mr. Dawson puts the question regarding the quasi establishment of the Roman Church in Quebec—"Does it in any way affect the English minority?" and he answers, "Certainly not." I reply just as emphatically—Certainly yes. It affects us sentimentally and financially.

When we see a cardinal of the Roman Church occupying a seat of equal honour with Her Majesty's representative in the Parliament at Quebec we are affected to the extent of protesting that such a sight ought not to be seen.

When we know that nearly three-fourths of the revenue derived by the Government at Quebec comes from nearly purely Protestant sources we have a right to take into our most serious consideration a state of things wherein the majority contribute so small a share towards the burden of government.

It is not to be wondered at that the French *habitant* looks to the Government to build his bridges, make his roads, feed his poor, furnish the farmer with seed on every slight occasion, maintain his charitable institutions, when he knows that only a small share of the cost indirectly falls upon him, and the executive at Quebec knows that the increase yearly of the public debts can only reach its limit when the resources of the Protestant portion of the community are exhausted.

The above will suffice for the present as a reply to all Mr. Dawson has written in his letter on that score.

Again Mr. Dawson says the minority should not be alarmed because of the writings of a few extremists.

Whether the writings of the extremists represent the views of the mass of the French-Canadian people I know not; but this I do know, it has secured their votes, and votes count every time with the politician who seeks power; or having obtained it, seeks to retain it.

When we are told, as I have been told, that Mr. Mercier's appeals to his French-Canadian people, in the strain that the people of Ontario are Orangemen, fanatics and bigots, secure him votes; that his declaration from his seat in the House that he would not have in the employment of the Government an Orangeman, knowing him to be such, or if he knew of any already in the employ of the Government he would discharge them, secures him votes; that when he speaks of the present jury system as "a barbarous English custom which he intends to reform agreeable to the enlightened sentiment of the age," such language secures him votes amongst the French-Canadians—all Mr. Dawson's fine platitudes about hospitable parish curés, or the innocent and harmless-to-Protestants parish system, will not close our eyes to the fact that extreme watchfulness alone will secure to us the liberties we prize.

Mr. Dawson says:—"The Revised Statutes of Quebec are law here, not the Syllabus of Errors." The number of ecclesiastics who would laugh and chuckle at this statement, did they see it, is more than I can count up just now.

Again I quote from his letter:—"The strength of the Roman Church now is in its diocesan bishops, who are in touch with the people."

Does it look like it when the Jesuit Incorporation Act was passed in spite of the strenuous opposition of Archbishop Taschereau and the majority of the bishops of the Province?

Does it look like it when the same archbishop was relieved of his office of procurator to settle the Jesuit question on behalf of the Pope, and Father Turgeon was nominated in his place?

I trust Mr. Dawson in his second letter will draw a straighter line; for he possesses the requisite knowledge and ability.

JAS. THOS. PATTISON.

Portage du Fort, Que., Jan. 24, 1890.

THE NAME AMERICA.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—I desire to draw the attention of your readers to the following extract from the February number of *The Law*, occurring in a letter signed "Carlos Erskine Crosby." The original paper to which the extract refers was, I think, reprinted by you in your columns, and has no doubt given rise to much discussion:

"In the December number of *The Law* appeared an article entitled, 'A Nation without a Name,' in which it was argued that the people of the United States can not hold claim to any precise name of their own. It can readily be admitted that our forefathers probably overlooked this little detail; but we must remember that then (in 1776) we were the first to lay claim to the title, (1) and, in fact, we were the only real Americans (aborigines excepted) then in existence; for outside of the narrow limits of the original thirteen states, the whole of the western hemisphere belonged to different European nations, as colonies, and consequently had no separate existence of its own.

"In 1776, we set ourselves up to be free and independent Americans (2) and we succeeded. In latter years our example penetrated to the south, and the Spanish colonies gradually became free; but without any tremendous effort—had their chains been strong, they would still be wearing them! However, these Spanish colonies all had