

the male electors cast theirs. The distinction for franchise purposes between women with husbands and women without them is a purely arbitrary one and before long it will disappear. Meanwhile all friends of social reform will rejoice to see that Mr. Waters, the author of the successful Woman Suffrage Act of last session has given notice of a bill this year, the object of which is to confer the political franchise also on widows and spinsters. It is not likely that the bill will become law, but Mr. Waters has a good deal of staying power, and he has got hold of the right end of a good stick. He could not be identified with any better movement or cause, for assuredly the participation of women in politics will work a revolution for good. Politics is the highest occupation to which any thoughtful mind can devote itself, and there is absolutely no reason for excluding women from it, as we do when we prevent her from voting at elections.

According to the *Free Press*, of Winnipeg, that city is still disgraced by brutal pugilistic exhibitions such as were recently suppressed in Toronto. The press can soon bring them to an end by describing and denouncing them as it did here. The graphic descriptive reporter is a most useful ally of the social reformer. The latter might labor much longer than he has even now to do, if the former did not help to arouse public opinion by describing things as he finds them. The journalistic dishes served up by the reporter are not always savory, but it is impossible to get along without him. I dare say Hercules stirred up some very offensive odors while cleansing the augcan stables.

Montreal is to have a free public library as the result of a bequest from the late Mr. Fraser, of Fraser Institute fame. Unfortunately much of the money has been squandered in litigation with his heirs, and the remnant will not go far towards supplying the long felt want. The Institut Canadien, a celebrated French Canadian Association, has decided to hand over its collection of 10,000 volumes, many of them rare and valuable works, and other small collections have been secured, making a total to commence with of 1,7000 volumes. The revenue from the fund will be only \$2,800 a year. Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, one of the trustees, is fitting up a building at his own expense, but it is evident that money from some source must be had if pace is to be kept with current literature, to say nothing of making up a good reference library. The ways and means in Toronto are provided for by a general tax; but as the merits of this system have still to be tested, it is not likely to be adopted in Montreal, especially as the Mechanic's Institute there, instead of amalgamating with the free library seems disposed to hold aloof.

ONLOOKER.

General News.

CANADIAN.

Dr. Sullivan, of Kingston, has been appointed to one of the vacant seats in the Senate.

Dr. Dowling, Reformer, has been elected to Parliament by a majority of 700 over the Conservative candidate, Mr. Harvey.

Five houses on Dover Court Road, Toronto, were burglarized on Friday last, and \$300 worth of booty secured by the burglars.

Mr. Clemow has been appointed to the Senate in the place of Senator Skead, deceased; and Mr. James Gouin, proprietor of the Russell House, to the postmastership of Ottawa, a position which was also held by Senator Skead.

An Order-in-Council has been issued declaring that the Scott Act will go into force in the counties of Dufferin and Renfrew at the expiring of their present liquor licenses.

The Montreal Carnival was a great success, far out-rivalling its predecessors in the number of visitors from outside points, the number of whom is shown by railway statistics to have been between forty and fifty thousand.

A collision occurred between two Grand Trunk freight trains at Parkdale, near Toronto, on Jan. 29th. By some misunderstanding the west bound engine plunged squarely against the tender of the other train, ditching the locomotive, into which it crashed. The damage will probably reach \$4,000 or \$5,000. Some of the train hands were injured.

Ransom Forbes and Albert Thomas, have been committed for trial at St. Thomas, for the murder of Lewis Stilwell, of Tilsonburg. Mrs. Stilwell, wife of the murdered man, has been implicated in the affair—in fact from the revelations of St. Thomas, she was the originator of the crime. She incited Forbes and Thomas to commit the deed by offering them a heavy bribe.

A despatch from St. Martin, N.B., states that the American three-masted schooner *Aracania*, of Portland, Me., for Bear River, N.S., went ashore on Quacoa reef, on the 28th ult., and became a total wreck. Four of the crew reached land, but three of them died from cold and exposure. Not a vestige of the *Aracania* remains. The captain, first and second mate, the pilot, cook and four sailors perished.

A boy named Baptiste Poulin was killed at a toboggan slide on the Ottawa river on Monday. The slide is a private one owned by a man named Secor, who closed it, by placing a three-inch plank across the bottom about a foot from the level of the slide, and went home. Some boys in the neighborhood, not knowing the position of the plank, started to slide down on their boots, toboggans not being available. The first boy to go down saw the plank in time to fall on his back and go under, getting only a slight blow on the head. Poulin, however, was struck by the plank on his upper lip, his face being smashed, his skull crushed, and his neck broken. He was instantly killed.

FIRES.—At a late hour on the 29th Jan., the residence of Mr. A. T. Galt, on Sherbrooke street, Montreal, was discovered to be on fire. Before it was extinguished the house was gutted. Probable damage about \$20,000, which is covered by insurance in the Royal. — At Cornwall on Jan. 31st, the confectionary store of J. M. McLennan, Pett street, was burned. Loss \$1,000; insured in the Hartford for \$400. — At Kingston on Feb. 2nd, Drennan's upholstering factory, in rear of his warerooms on Princess street, was damaged by fire to day. Loss on building about \$500; insured in the Queen's. Stock insured for \$2,500 in the London Fire Association; loss about \$2,000.

UNITED STATES.

Three hundred thousand cattle have died in Indian Territory from cold and starvation. It is estimated that half a million will perish if the intense cold continues another week.

A terrible explosion of gas occurred in a coal mine, at Savannah, Ind. Ter., on Feb. 2nd. Three miners were killed outright, eighty-nine seriously, and forty-two slightly injured.

The Senate went into executive session upon the Nicaraguan Treaty. Thirty-two senators voted for its ratification, while twenty-three voted against it. The affirmative vote being less than two-thirds of the whole number voting, the Treaty was not ratified.

A series of natural gas explosions occurred in Pittsburg, Pa., on Saturday morning last, by which fifteen persons were burned and injured in a terrible manner. None were killed outright, but some will die from injuries received. The cause of the explosions was a big leak in the huge mains of the Fuel Gas Company, and the loss to buildings and stocks is estimated at about \$20,000.

A sleighing party consisting of nine persons was run down by the limited express on the Lake Shore Road, at 2 o'clock, on the morning of January 31st, at Port Clinton, O., forty miles west of here. Stephen Hall, of Detroit, Mich., and Miss Jennie Hoople, of Oak Harbor, O., were instantly killed and terribly mangled. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vogle, of Oak Harbor, were fatally injured. Mrs. A. D. Therwecter, was so seriously hurt that there are no hopes of her recovery. The horses were killed instantly and the sleigh totally demolished.

At New York, at 2 o'clock in the morning of 1st inst, a tremendous explosion occurred in Grand street. The neighborhood was soon thronged with crowds who flocked to the scene from all directions. The excitement was tremendous. The shock of the explosion awakened people for blocks around. An investigation showed that dynamite had been put under the windows of Garry Brothers' store. The windows were shattered and the casings and woodwork blown away. Houses at the opposite side of the street were badly shaken. A few individuals lurking in the shadows at the corner of a street were arrested. One of them was severely cut in the face, and the others were binding up his wounds. The actual perpetrator of the deed is supposed to be a clerk who was discharged from Garry Bros. a short time ago, as at the time of his dismissal, the firm was subjected to a little boycotting by the Union of Equality Association, on account of not taking the man back at their solicitation.

Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was shot at on Tuesday, whilst walking on one of the New York thoroughfares, by a woman named Dudley. She was walking in his company, when she suddenly drew back and emptied the first barrel of her revolver in his back, which took effect under his shoulder blade. She then discharged the remaining barrels at him in quick succession, but none others took effect. Mrs. Dudley was immediately arrested, and Rossa conveyed to Chambers street Hospital. The notorious Irishman's wound is not considered dangerous. He was able to walk to the hospital immediately afterwards.

Nothing definite as yet can be received from Mrs. Dudley, as to her reasons for shooting him. The daily papers are circulating a story of her former fits of insanity in which she several times attempted her own life, but this is generally discredited. The opinion prevails that she wanted to get rid of a monster.