

hand. It did not seem to them awful that the substitution of power for ordinary looms was to be the means of depriving many of them of bread, and of causing a great reduction in wages generally, because, owing to the facility of manufacture, prices had fallen. La Rochelle's machine can load, elevate, and fire; why can it not be used with garrison guns? During the hottest fire no terror could be inspired into the heart of the machine, and the solitary director of a battery might be safe under cover of the works. Less artillerymen would be required for garrison towns; the saving in that way would be great, each artilleryman, probably, costs Government £100 a year. A machine similar to La Rochelle's might cost £200, but it would last for years, and great would be the consequent saving; besides, when there will be fewer artillerymen there will be fewer officers, and in that way, too, a considerable saving may be effected. Mr. La Rochelle ought to send his model to the Board of Ordnance, in England, who would cause it to be examined by some scientific officer, and give it a fair trial.

### THE OPENING OF THE RAILWAY.

It is said that the breaking of ground for the Canadian portion of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-road, will take place at no distant period. This is certainly the season for a public celebration of the kind, for if we are to assume the same interest here that has been manifested at Portland, a vast concourse of people will assemble on the occasion, and it is therefore important that a favourable season should be chosen. It might certainly be desirable that the new (and, it is to be hoped, permanent) Governor-General should be present on an occasion of the kind, but if, as is stated, he will only leave England in November, the autumn will be too much advanced to render the ceremony what it ought to be, one of interest and enjoyment to all classes of the population.

### THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

This Theatre has again been opened, and, according to our recommendation, at reduced prices. There is a charm about the acting of Mrs. Skerrett, (who we have no hesitation in stating constitutes the chief strength of the house), that will always draw audiences; but whether these are to be of a better order, will much depend upon Mr. Skerrett himself. He has succeeded in rooting out one nuisance; but another, not less glaring still remains; and while this continues, no respectable woman—certainly no lady—will venture into the Olympic. The offensive exhibition of which we complain, is the extension of their whole persons along the benches, of certain frequenters of the theatre,—principally very young men—who should not be permitted to occupy the front seats, to the exclusion of those who do know how to conduct themselves. We particularly noticed this last evening. Two youths were extended at the full length of their limbs, on a front seat, adjoining one wherein sat a private party, who must have been as much disgusted at the sight as we were. Nor was this confined to the youths in question. Men, who ought to have known much better, and whom we shall name if this conduct be repeated, were lolling about like so many gawky school-boys, and vociferating in a manner to drive any lady from the house. Talk of Mrs. Trollope in America! She had better have visited the

Olympic Theatre in Montreal last night, when she would have enjoyed once more the delight of seeing human feet thrown over the edges of the boxes. All this may do very well; but well-bred people always consult the convenience of those around them as well as their own. We are sure Mr. Skerrett will rectify this.

### MINERAL WEALTH OF CANADA.

We direct the attention of all classes of the public to the second letter of a Cornwall Miner, which appears in our present number. If, as he asserts, (and he ought to know,) the soil of Canada abounds in minerals of various kinds, the attention of proprietors should be directed to the wealth which lies concealed in the bosom of their respective grounds. One of the most clever and witty women we ever knew, accounted for the names of Canada and America (South) in the following manner: namely, that when Columbus first discovered the New World, he came first to Canada, which, finding it to be seemingly barren and uninhabited, he again left, exclaiming as he did so, "*A qui nada!*" but that visiting South America and ascertaining its riches, he changed his tone of disappointment to one of joy,—as he cried out, in the full gratification of his heart, "*Ah muy rica!*" It would appear, however, according to our Cornwall Miner, and from the discoveries on Lake Superior, that Canada was not, after all, so poor a country as Columbus is supposed to have thought it.

The firemen met last night on the Place d'Armes for the purpose of giving a silver medal to Mr. Lepage, the constructor of the new fire-engine which obtained the prize at the late competition in this city. The firemen present were addressed by Mr. Lepage, and by the Captain and Lieutenant of the *Hero*. It has been proposed to build a suitable workshop for Mr. Lepage, in order that he may exercise his ingenuity in the line wherein he has proved so successful.

The Mormons and Anti-Mormons had a fight on the 11th instant, in which the latter lost from 8 to 15 men killed, and the former 1 man killed.

The Hon. Mr. Cayley was a passenger on board the *Cambria*, and arrived in town on Tuesday. The hon. gentleman, we are happy to learn, has been perfectly successful in effecting the financial arrangements which were the object of his hasty visit to London; and has obtained, upon very favourable terms, all the means required for the completion of our public works, the Imperial Government having consented to waive for the years 1845 and 1846 the appropriation of £64,000 per annum towards the sinking fund on our debt, which will produce for present purposes £128,000 currency, and having consented to guarantee the balance, of £140,000 sterling, on the loan of £1,500,000, which they had declined doing, on the ground that they were entitled to be credited with the premium of exchange on the sum for which debentures had been issued (£1,360,000), which would have made up the million and a half to be guaranteed. This last item will, with the difference of currency and exchange, give us £170,000 currency. The debentures for

this amount not having been prepared, and the money being required for immediate purposes, we understand that Mr. Cayley effected an arrangement with the Bank of England to advance the amount at 4 per cent on the security of debentures bearing the same rate of interest, to be immediately prepared and sent home for sale. Mr. Cayley has thus secured £298,000 of the estimated sum of £500,000 required for the completion of our public works; and has made an arrangement with a London banking firm by which the balance required—not now, in consequence of the realization of provincial assets exceeding £100,000—will be at our command on our issuing provincial debentures bearing 5 per cent interest; the house in question agreeing to advance, when called upon, 75 per cent of the amount, in anticipation of the sale of the debentures when issued. This last sum, it may still be hoped, will not be required; but if so, Mr. Cayley's arrangements will obviate the possibility of any delay in completing our public works.—*Herald*.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

SIR,—In reading the WEEKLY EXPOSITOR of the 17th, I perceive that my first letter has been published to the inhabitants of Canada, or at least to so much of it as the circulation of your paper extends. I also perceive the introductory remarks to be of a very bold character, for which I hope I shall not fall under the censure of geologists. Be that as it may, every candid reader of that letter cannot but see that my object is to benefit the whole population of Canada, and to open a channel for permanent labour. With such an object in view, sir, I intend to proceed without fearing the power or courting the smiles of any; and in order to accomplish that object, I will endeavour to open the eyes of the Canadian population, not by making them geologists, but mineralists. I am certain, from recent discoveries which have been made in different parts of England, that it was not because there were no minerals, but from a want of knowing how to prove them when seen, the extensive mines of manganise, both in Cornwall and Devonshire, were unknown 40 years ago; and I think manganise was altogether unknown in England 70 years back. I also know a lead mine which was discovered about 20 years since in Cornwall, which was visible to the eye of the ploughman every time the field was ploughed, but from a want of knowing what it was, it remained as a thing of no value. These, with a variety of recent discoveries which have been made and are frequently being made in the mineral resources of England, must convince any one that gives the subject the least consideration, that it is solely from ignorance of their nature that so many valuable mines remained so long unknown.—Much may yet be discovered in Canada, if the inhabitants are put in possession of the means of distinguishing a stone of ore from one of a common kind. But, sir, lest I should be too tedious, or occupy too much space in your valuable paper, I will at once proceed and give the necessary information.

1st. I will begin with Copper ore:—This is frequently so much like mundic in color that many persons would not know the one from the other; but copper ore will cut with a knife and mundic will not, besides copper ore is of a variety of colors—red, black, green, gray, yellow, and variegated. To make sure that it is copper ore, take some of it and pound it into small particles, then put it into a glass, add to it vitrolic acid,