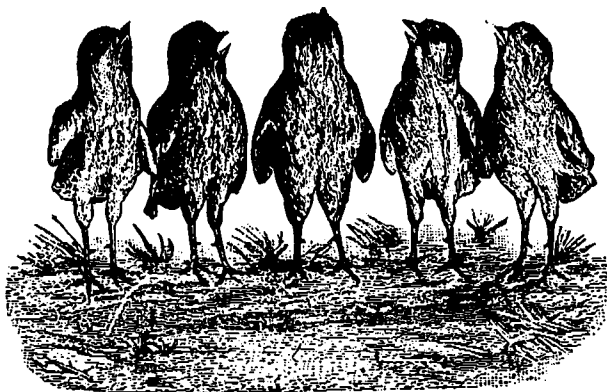




November.

No breeze the balm of woods to bring,
No leafy branches waving nigh,
No bud to flower, no bird to sing,
No song between the earth and sky,
No oriole with sunny wing,
No hills of green to greet the eye.

No blossoms on the faded brier,
No fragrance in its withered stem,
No life in leaves as red as fire,
No sweetness in its ruby gem,
November, like a sober friar,
Now doffs Queen Nature's diadem.

Yet how delightful is the day!
The leafless limbs like ladder-bars,
Bear our plumed fancies far away;
Like Jacob's stair that touched the stars,
They hint of white wings, and the ray
Of glory from God's golden cars.

What though the bird's deserted nest
Swings without song upon the tree,
Like a sad heart within the breast,
And faded leaves fall fitfully—
Spring will return, the gorgeous guest,
With song and balm for you and me.



TO OUR READERS.

WE are exceedingly pleased to be able say, as we are about to enter upon our third year, that MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has already secured a place in our rural homes such as few, if any, of the old-established publications of its class can boast of. It has thus rapidly won its way to popular favor strictly upon its merits. We can honestly say that any promises we made two years ago have been fulfilled to the best of our ability and such will be our policy in the future. Our sole desire is to see the ILLUSTRATED steadily growing and creating in its influence, and if our friends who appreciate our efforts—and we are glad to know they are not few—will co-operate with us during the coming year, our list of subscribers will be more than doubled, and we will thereby be encouraged to do even better things in the future.

We have to draw the attention of our readers to page eleven, where they will find something of interest to them, and also to our clubbing list on page sixteen, from which it will be seen that by sending us the regular subscription price for any of the Canadian Weeklies, they will have the ILLUSTRATED practically for nothing and besides by subscribing now they will get the balance of this year free. This rare opportunity should be largely taken advantage of.

FROM statistics furnished to the British Board of Trade it is shown that during the present year there has been a great falling off in emigration from the British Isles. For the nine months ending with September the emigrants of British origin to all parts of the world numbered 176,056, as against 208,315 for the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 32,259. Of the total number 20,041 came to British North America, as against 25,739 last year, a decrease of 5,698.

THE attention of our readers is drawn to the following new regulation of the Post Office Department:—"108. Every person who uses or attempts to use, in pre-payment of postage on any letter or mailable matter posted in Canada, any postage stamp which has been before used for a like purpose, or who uses or attempts to use for the purpose of transmission by or through the Post, any post-card, or stamped envelope, or stamped post band or wrapper, which has been before used for a like purpose, shall incur a penalty not exceeding forty dollars and not less than ten dollars for every such offence; and the letter or other mailable matter on which such stamp has been so improperly used, and the post-card, stamped envelope, or stamped post-band or wrapper so used more than once, may be detained, or, in the discretion of the Postmaster General, forwarded to its destination, charged with double postage."

THE Canadian hen occupies at present a most unique and enviable position; she is, in fact, the observed of all observers. Is a hen, a bird? That is the question which bothers a large number of people. In the McKinley bill "Eggs" are charged with a duty of five cents per dozen and in another part of the bill appears the following entry: "Eggs of birds, fish and insects, free." People on this side of the line, when they heard of the duty of five cents per dozen on eggs, at once jumped to the conclusion that the product of the hen was meant but on learning of the other entry they, or at least some of them, began to think that they had been too hasty in their conclusions as they slowly realized the fact that from time immemorial a hen had always been ranked as a bird. If she is not a bird, what on earth is she? To call her an animal would be the height of absurdity. It is just as irrational to contend that a hen is not a bird as to contend that sheep, cows, horses and goats are not animals. We understand it is seriously contemplated to bring a case into the United States courts to test the point and we believe it will be held that a hen, being a bird, her product should be admitted free of duty.

THERE have been, this year, an unusually large number of cases of typhoid fever throughout the Dominion. It has been suggested that the recent epidemic of the grippe may have afforded the occasion, the opportunity, for the appearance of typhoid fever; it may have so weakened many people as to make them susceptible to the malady. But we think the etiology of typhoid must be sought for in another source. Typhoid fever is not indigenous in any locality; there must be a cause for it, and that cause is only to be found in the introduction into the intestines of the typhoid bacillus. There are many ways in which this bacillus may reach the locale where it will create a nest in which the disease will be hatched, but the most facile line of approach is that furnished by water. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the water we drink should be free from all sources of pollution. It is a peculiarity of the bacillus that it will only develop in situations where the conditions are favorable, as for instance, one person in good health and another who is not so strong may be infected, and the result will be that, in the latter, the disease will be developed, while the former will remain unaffected. That the fever may be limited to certain localities in large cities is not at all proof that it is not due to the water; the influence of environment is simply indirect. The residents of some places are more liable to attack than those of other places as the localities happen to be healthful or the reverse.

THERE is no better method of training the eye and all the faculties lying back of the organ of vision, which receive and develop the impressions obtained by the eye, than that of making careful descriptions. This may be practised in several ways. For instance a farmer has attended one of our leading fairs and on his return is anxious to describe

to his neighbors, who had not the same privilege, some of the prize animals. In doing this it is an easy matter for him to give general ideas which are both vague and misleading. Suppose a description is attempted of a horse. What are some of the peculiarities by which this animal, so superior as to lead his competitors, can be distinguished from all others? Attempt to approach accuracy in size, weight, the shape of various parts, etc. It will not be long before a second sight of the horse will be needed to clear up some of the doubts that detailed description has developed. Again, take some object near at home, and one with which you are familiar, and think you know all about. How does one cow differ from any other in the herd? Fix upon some points by which you could describe each one of the whole herd to a stranger or by which the same person could identify them. Next to oral description, and in some respects its superior, is the plan of writing out a description. Draw a plan of your farm with all the fences, gates, etc., from memory. Try the same with the buildings, grains, fruits, seeds, woods, leaves, and thousands of other familiar objects that offer excellent subjects for descriptive study. In short, try to express in words or drawings, or both, the characteristic features of surrounding things. Such attempts are far from wasted, for they train the observing powers and faculties of discrimination, upon the right use of which success in life depends, and nowhere so manifestly as with the farmer.

How far back into the misty past the legend runs that men and women, drinking at some spring or mountain stream, have gulped a lizard, we will not undertake to say. The story may be read in magazines one hundred years old, as it may be read in the papers of the present day. It is always the same story. Carelessly and hastily drinking at a spring, without the intervention of a drinking cup, the thirsty soul takes down an infant lizard casually swimming there. Safely ensconced in the human stomach, the lizard at once proceeds to make himself at home, and, notwithstanding his necessary lonesomeness, he thrives mightily. After nourishing it in that dark cave for three or four years the man undertakes to rid himself of his uncomfortable inmate, and in the general melee that results the lizard invariably gets the best of the encounter. He kills his man. This is the common legend, and it has been told so often that there are a great many people who believe it. Now the truth is that the saurian reptile known as a lizard and its various congeners are air-breathing animals, and can no more live without the atmosphere than can any other lung-possessing animals. Certain species inhabit swamps, but they cannot live under water for any length of time. Hence, if it was the misfortune of one of them to find the way to a human stomach, he would induce such a commotion and nausea inside of his prison as to induce his gaoler to let him up easily, or he would die and be digested as live oysters die there and are digested. All these stories about lizards in the stomach are old wives' fables, and have a like foundation to the story of the "three black crows." Everybody knows that story, and this other is the same. Some person somewhere, once upon a time, threw up something that was as "green as a lizard."

OUR correspondent in Melbourne, Australia, speaking of the collapse of the land boom there gives some startling figures regarding the present values of land in the heart of the city. He says: "Within the past three months the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York have completed the purchase of 110 feet on Collins Street, at the corner of Elizabeth, at £2,100 per foot, and with a frontage they had to purchase on Elizabeth street to complete their block, brought the Collins street frontage up to the sum of £2,700 per foot (about \$13,500). The Athenæum Club is now putting up a new building on the site of George and George's warehouse, recently destroyed by fire, in Collins street, and they are paying a ground rental of £75 per foot, per annum, for a term of years, we think thirty. These figures will give you a little idea of the land values here, and from all we can learn there is little prospect of a decline in city values