

gement of a highly salaried company here must entail a pecuniary loss unless the prices of admission are raised and the house crowded. But, dear critics, why impose upon your credulous readers by saying that a New York swell of the first water is well portrayed by an utter, if fairly dressed, boor; or that a ranter is a good impersonator of a hero, and a "stick" of a vivacious flirt; or that a fellow with the stiffness and nasalty of a New England deacon is a fit delineator of a funny Irishman? Or why confuse the poor public by making them fancy that the audience, which laughed consumedly at the grotesque overdoing of a part, were amused at its comic art. We have seen such very dreary bits of acting praised by critics that we have sometimes fancied the writer was one of those malicious wags, who, being the first to plunge into the water, and finding it icily cold, assures his fellow bathers that it is delightfully warm, and then, hurrying to shore, grins at their cruel disenchantment.

THE instability of the French character leads the people of France to seek for frequent changes in their methods of administering public affairs. The French arms met with a reverse in Tonquin, and immediately the Cabinet of Mr. Ferry was obliged to resign. At present the signs of the times point to serious internal troubles which indicate that the old spirit of revolution has not yet died out.

By the closing of the gaps on the C. P. Railway, North of Lake Superior, all-rail communication upon Canadian soil between Halifax and Winnipeg has been established. Within a few months the railway will be completed and Canada will have within her territory a great trans continental means of communication from ocean to ocean.

If the system of farming the poor in Digby County is not soon abolished it will not be from lack of effort to remove this disgrace. The advocacy of the rights of the poor by Rev. John Ambrose, Mr. Adams, and others, must in time reform the present obnoxious system; otherwise the people of Digby County must be content to occupy an ignoble position in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen.

THE Long Parliament in Oliver Cromwell's time was guilty of many follies which would scarce meet with the approval of Puritans of the modern school; and we imagine that the tactics of the present Long Parliament now in session at Ottawa, will, when read in the light of history be likewise condemned by posterity.

THE half-breed rebellion in the North-West Territory has been completely stamped out, and the craven coward Riel is now in jail at Regina awaiting trial. Let him merely have justice, justice to the full, and Canadians will be satisfied. The probabilities of a speedy termination of our troubles with the Indians are to be seen on every hand. White Cap has surrendered; Poundmaker, Star-blanket and Dirty Horn are suing for peace, and Big Bear alone bids defiance; but his capture will be accomplished within a few days. Canadian Volunteers have all the pluck and valour of British soldiers; and if this be true, those who sneer at the prowess of Our Boys may yet have cause to alter their facial expression.

THE State of New York has decided to acquire, at a cost of a million and a half of dollars, the land adjacent to Niagara Falls, and convert the spot into a well-regulated public park. By this most of the abuses of which visitors to the Falls have had reason to complain, will be remedied. The hack fares will not be henceforth (as they were when Mark Twain was there) so much higher than the Falls, as to rob the latter of much interest.

To prelude any possible imputation of plagiarism the writer of the lines headed "Solace," which appear in another column, wishes to explain that they have been remodelled from a somewhat longer little poem originally contributed by him to a New York weekly paper.

"Buds and Blossoms," edited and published by Rev. Mr. Avery, of this city, is a tastefully arranged and well conducted religious publication, which should number among its subscribers every Baptist in the province.

The Acadian Hotel, rebuilt, fitted with all the modern improvements, newly furnished throughout, opened last week, under the management of Mr. W. Poppleton, whose knowledge of his business, and energy of character, speak well for the Acadian's future success.

Though the active and capable Post Office inspector is away "to the front," we cannot recall a time in Postal history, when the duties of the different departments were more satisfactorily performed than at present.

Mr. Wm. Macnab, printer, has in press Mr. Whitman's ballad "Canada," (published lately in the *Morning Chronicle*) which will soon be issued in neat pamphlet form and on sale at all the bookstores for the reasonable price of 10 cents.

We have been shown by Mr. E. Erb, an almost infinite variety of buttons of different patrons, manufactured in Western Canada, from a "vegetable" ivory.

It is said, that one of the committees of the city council is rather inclined to have an eye to business.

## MINING.

Gold mining in this Province, like all other trade operations has been attended with its fluctuations. At its early inception, large sums were subscribed by capitalists for the purpose of prospecting and mining. But unfortunately these sums, though ample, were soon squandered away or foolishly invested. The whole difficulty appears to have been centered in the fact that the parties who engaged in the work of prospecting and directing the works at the different mines were totally unfit for so important an operation. Then followed a rapid decline, in fact we have scarcely fully recovered from the effects of this serious and discouraging condition.

Our present condition, taking the Province as a whole, is really more encouraging than at any time since our most flattering days. It only requires strict economy, skilled experience and good business ability, to make our mines pay handsomely.

We are quite free to admit, and fully alive to the fact, that our mining interests are largely hampered, and serious, even villainous, scheming, has brought disrespect to our otherwise promising mining prospects.

We purpose to give such mining intelligence as shall lead to correct corruptions of the condition of mining properties, and an expose of any fraud that may come under our attention.

Almost all the mines, that are in full operation, are showing up well, with the exception of Goldenville, which for April reports 90 oz. 10 dw. from 130 tone crushing. It is confidently expected by experts that Renfrew will soon come to the front as a first class mining property. The manager, Mr. Hayward, is hard-working, earnest and knows fully how the business of such a property should be managed in order to bring about a success.

The old veteran miners, Hall Brothers, are turning out small tempting "bricks" from the mines near Bridgewater.

There are several very extensive copper deposits in this Province that some live Americans may yet fully develop.

The summer's prices at all the collieries have been arranged. The manager of the Gowrie wished the men to come under a reduction of a cent per ton. The men did not feel inclined to accept it, so, after a time, the manager gave way to the men. At the Reserve, Bridgeport, Caledonia and Lingan the same rates as last year will prevail. At Little Glace Bay there has been a reduction, voluntarily accepted by the workmen. It is to be hoped the Little Glace company will not fail in future to appreciate the generosity of their workmen. The shipments of coal from the C. B. ports up to date are considerably less than to the same time last year. The ice hung about the coast later this year than last, and vessels are not yet offering freely. Freight rates are low, which may tend to force vessels to seek charters in other quarters. A few steam colliers have been chartered, but not so many as in previous seasons. It is estimated that up till date the shipments are from twenty to thirty thousand less than last year. Though there is considerable lee-way to make up, it is thought that future activity will, before the close of the season, bring the shipments up to, at least, the quantity shipped in 1884.—*Journal*.

## RIEL.

"Veteran" writes us from Upper Musquodoboit, on Riel and the North-West Rebellion. In the course of his remarks he says:

Riel's acts cannot be condoned by any other than those low political place-hunters who are polluted by the lower stream of "sectional agitation"—those fomentors of treason and rebellion that flourish in all countries upon the credulity and ignorance of the people, and if the Government fails to do its duty in the premises, then the peace and prosperity of the North-West Territories will not be assured as long as a half-breed or Indian roams over their boundless domains. Already do we hear of certain parties comparing Riel to Jeff Davis. This, to use a strong phrase, is "rather thin." Jeff Davis was the chief executive of a Government *de jure* as well as *de facto*, the representative head of ten States that had withdrawn from the Federal compact in their sovereign capacity by Conventions duly assembled, and the war that followed in each section of the Union derived its powers "from the consent of the governed"—not in the shape of a Rebellion but in the form of a great Civil War, and as such was treated and recognized by the civilized nations of the Old World. Riel, for his murderous acts and treasonable designs, was once released by the Dominion Government under the pledge that he would leave the country and disturb the peace of Canada no more. By his recent acts he has not only violated his pledge, but he has, by repeating his treasonable and murderous designs, outlawed himself, and made his case doubly heinous. Can his apologists now expect clemency from a Government that has on a former occasion "tempered justice with mercy." "Vengeance is mine," saith the Lord, but the heartbroken, desolate mothers, widows and orphans of the heroes that fell in battle on the plains of the North-West now cry aloud for that justice which should be meted out to murderers and assassins. Will it be done?

PRIMITIVE BRIDGE BUILDING.—Lieut. Gibbon who explored the interior mountainous wonders of Peru in 1851, gives a graphic description of a suspension bridge which he examined, constructed of bark twisted into ropes, that was almost equal to the wire suspension bridges of our time. The cordage at one extremity was made fast to posts, which supported a roof of a house. He does not mention how the other extremity of the six parallel ropes was secured. The bridge was eighty yards long and six feet wide—spanning an awful gorge of 150 feet above a foaming torrent of black water, coursing over rocks below. Small sticks lashed to the ropes, side by side, made the floor. A woman had charge of a rude windlass in the house, by which any one of the ropes were tightened when too slack.