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Sherbrooke, Quebec, July 21st, 1888.
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Our Chaff Mill

"A blawsted Hinglishman" wants to know the meaning of the term "Political Shyster." We have little knowledge of and less admiration for politics as taught in our present schools, but believe it applies to "one" who, "politically speaking," thinks that a man walks in a rare shadow, and who, Micawber like keeps his weather eye open for "something" to "turn up," who is omnipresent at political gatherings, professes a thorough knowledge of autonomy and talks a good deal with his mouth, one who is not wedded to any particular line of politics, but who, having a disposition to "abjure soupe maigre" and live golly, is looking after more substantial pabulum, one who makes political capital out of the fact that Kiel was "hung some twenty years later" than he should have been, and for whom politics hath a charm only exceeded by that of loaves and fishes, one in whom *le sabre de mon pere* is a strong argument in Nationalist caucuses. For further information we beg to refer "a blawsted Hinglishman" to "The Life and Times of Louis Charles Belanger," and "The Decline and Fall of the Mercier Administration" now in course of preparation.

"Insomnia" asks for a definition of the word *Oxien*. We have much pleasure in informing her that *Ox* in an English word in common use derived from the Latin *bos bovis*, etc., *ien* is a modern Greek word manufactured at Augusta, Maine, and signifies strength. These words conjointly signify strength of an ox.

"Quiz," feels annoyed because he thinks that his City property is placed on the roll at an over-valuation, and wants to know what he shall do. Do I why represent to the Council that some other person's property is under-valued, and have the valuation increased, then you won't be the only one who will feel annoyed. "Misery loves company."

Written for the Land We Live In.

On Board the SS City of Chester,
June 24, 1888.

Thinking a few reminiscences of my past life might be interesting to your readers, I venture to send you a few lines.

We left New York yesterday at 5 p. m., filled with passengers, saloon, intermediate and steerage, principally Americans, but a few English. The weather is beautiful though foggy and the ship, all that could be desired. We are to have divine service in the saloon at 10:30 after which I shall continue my story.

My early life commenced as a sailor, having been a midshipman in one of Duncan Dunbar's ships, "Thames," "Sea Lark," and "Lancaster Witch." The owner having died, I had to seek another service, and after some time engaged on a ship called the "City of Manchester," bound for New Zealand, as second officer. We made a most extraordinarily long passage, being 172 days from London. I was much pleased with New Zealand, and consider it the finest country I ever visited. I made many friends while there and was the only one of the crew that returned with the ship. The chief officer left, and the Captain, a very fine fellow, had to remain in New Zealand on account of his wife, who was very ill; so a new Captain was appointed, Capt. Murison, also a very fine fellow. This was in Auckland. I proceeded as chief officer, in fact while we were without a captain, I performed all the duties from captain to cook. All the men had run away, tempted by the high wages then paid in the colony, a sovereign a day being paid for working cargo.

One of my friends there was Mr. W. One Sunday I went there to dine, and met a young lady who had just returned from Norfolk Island, a place described as the nearest approach to Paradise on earth. Well, in the evening, we went to church again. I was to leave shore that night. I may say that at the time I was 19 years of age. I was greatly struck with Miss —, and, as is proverbial with sailors, had a true love in every port. Well, as I said, we went to church, and

before we got back, I was desperately in love with Miss —, I went shortly afterwards on board ship, paying £1 to be taken off. No sleep for me that night. I wrote her a long letter professing my love and begging to know if it was returned. I sent it by a special messenger at a cost of another pound. We were to leave about four that afternoon. The anchor was weighed, and I began to despair of getting an answer. Presently I saw a boat under sail approaching the ship, which had not yet got under much headway. At length it reached us and a letter was delivered to me. I need not say how overjoyed I was. I have lost the letter, but shall never forget the concluding words: "We were going to India, and after promising to correspond with me, she said, that the short time she had passed with me, she had enjoyed very much; personally, she liked me, and if I came out to New Zealand again, as I proposed, she would be most happy to see more of me," she said, "sailors, on account of their many good qualities, were great favorites of hers, but she thought constancy was not one of their virtues."

After many adventures, I got to England and soon met my former love, who was staying in London. Of course my affection for her returned, and I again became her ardent admirer. I told her all about my New Zealand indiscretions, and she made me write explaining my position prior to, and since meeting Miss —. I have heard of Miss — since. She is now married to a naval officer, and has six children. I have never married, but with all of a sailor's susceptibility to feminine blandishments, have no doubt that matrimony will yet be my fate. My first love married a doctor of medicine and is also the mother of six children. I visited her and her husband last year.

I live in Canada when at home and may perhaps again give you some episodes of my life, if you consider them worth having. We had a very nice service in the saloon, and I am now having a smoke. Yours truly, F. J. P.

Note.—We regret the delay in publishing our correspondents letter, but it was partly owing to the delay in receiving it through the English mail.—Eds.

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