

Sir John Ross left on Wednesday for New York, intending, we believe, to be away for some months, as he goes from New York to Washington and Ottawa, where he will be the guest of Lord and Lady Stanley.

We understand that Mrs. and Miss Daly leave for England on the 18th, so that Government House will be practically closed for all entertaining for some considerable time.

Sir John gave a small and select tea on Saturday last, to introduce the new regiment to the youth and beauty of Halifax.

Mr. W. H. Gossip, of the 1st National Bank, Minneapolis, was in town on Tuesday, on his way to North Sydney, where he goes as Agent for the Peoples Bank. His many friends were glad to welcome him back, and wish him every success in his new undertaking.

Miss Thompson, of Pleasant Street, has gone to Ottawa, to visit her sister Mrs. Clark.

It is said that Leo XIII. has had a will drawn up as follows:—All his personal patrimony, valued at about 400,000 francs, will go to his nephews. All the real estate, money, and treasures in art will go to enrich the Papal treasury, with the exception of some important sums of money destined for the Propaganda, the Missions, repression of slavery, etc.

An amusing story comes from the Law Courts. A gentleman belonging to the light-fingered fraternity has been busily engaged lately in removing overcoats and umbrellas, and a private detective was set to catch him. This man had so much confidence in himself that he took off his own coat and put it in a tempting spot in order to entrap the thief. But, unfortunately for himself, the detective became engrossed in a case which was proceeding, and when he looked round for his coat it had gone! He went home a sadder and wiser man. The next time he lays a trap he will use someone else's coat.

The Proprietors of Le Bon Marche are having an Easter display of goods this week.

"There are incidents," said a teacher in a Board School, "that will destroy the dignity of any occasion. The other day one of our lady teachers was drilling some of her younger pupils in forming sentences. She gave the word 'trumpet.' Each member of the class was to form a sentence in which this word occurred. As a start she asked an unusually bright little fellow, if he could form a sentence with the word 'trumpet' in it. He was eagerly confident in his belief that he could, and the teacher asked him to proceed. This was his sentence: 'I will trump it with a spade.' This, of course, put the school-room in a roar, and the teacher went with the tide."

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A large number of people are under the impression that a great many deaths are caused in all our towns through overcrowding. This would not seem to be the case at Ottey St. Mary, Devon, where during the past twelve months only four deaths have been recorded, and their aggregate ages amount to 331 years, or an average of nearly 83 years each. The respective ages were 85, 82, 82, and 82.

A friend of ours tells us an amusing story against herself. One evening, going out to dine, she was unfortunately detained, and arrived at her friend's house so late that all the guests were already in the dining-room. When the footman had taken off her cloak a charming-looking old man approached her from the dining-room, saying, "Mrs. Dash sent me to say she was very sorry they could not wait any longer, and that I am to show you into the dining-room." "Oh, thank you so much," the lady answered; "very kind of you I am sure;" and taking his arm with some embarrassment, she walked towards the room. When seated she found a gentleman on each side of her. The man she had mistaken for her partner at dinner was her host's butler!

Among the latest exchanges, by far the best is *Bank Chat* a monthly paper, devoted to the Interest, Instruction and Recreation of those in the Banking Profession in Canada, edited by I. Harcourt Verney, Toronto. This is quite one of the best Canadian papers we have seen, well-written and artistic in "get-up." Of course, several columns are of peculiar interest to bankers, containing items bearing on the profession from all parts of the world, and personals from the chief banks in Canada. Seeing that the banks are a strong body here, we are surprised to find Halifax supplying so few items, and still more surprised not to have come across this paper before. The December number is beautifully illustrated with photo-engravings by the Hanson Company; not quite so fine as ours, perhaps, but very clear and distinct. If "Bank chat" goes on as it has begun, it will become a strong bond of Union between Canadian bankers, and credit to the profession it represents.

A GIANT and a dwarf having quarreled, agreed to fight a duel with pistols, both time and place being arranged. Before the day, however, the giant called upon the dwarf and said, "It's occurred to me I shall have much the worst of this, as you've a far larger mark to shoot at than I have." The dwarf, who was a smart little fellow, replied, "that this being so, he was quite willing to have a figure of his size chalked on the giant's body and that any shots that went outside this should not count;" and to this the thick-headed giant agreed.

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