Our Moung Holks.

Put to the Test.

Wouldst thou go forth to bless, He sure of thine own ground, Fix well the centre first, Then draw the circles round

BUTTON-BOYS IN BLUE.

Life and Duties of a Page in the Canadian House of Cammons

One, two, three, four, tive -what a lot of blue easted boys there are busying them-selves about the Ottawa Parliament Cham ber' There are a dozen of them, at least, looking like so many magnified blue bottle

Now they are darting in and out through the swinging doors, note or card in hand, now whispering to some country member that his stanch supporter, Mr. Haystack, and his family are out in the corridor waiting to see him; then off to the Speakers tailer, with all the Haystacks, little and big, in tow, looking for all the world like a little tug dragging along a string of lumber harges

The next minute a little fellow is hurrying with a glass of water to the desk of that emment debater, the Hon. Sounding Brass. whose lips are even dryer than his speech, and then, with sublime impartiality, he reterns from another errand, bearing huge volumes of "Hansard" reports or bound newspapers to Mr. Muchquote, who is to answer Sounding Brass presently, and so on through the long hours from three o'clock in the afternoon until midnight, or perhaps

You do not need to watch the little fellows many minutes to find out that the life of a page in the Canadian Parliament is not on a lage in the Canadian Parliament is not always actively employed. He does have a rest sometimes. If you happen to be in the House of Commons as midnight draws near. you may often see a row of pages sitting around the Speaker's dais, with their weary heads pillowed on the top step, sleeping as

only tired loys can sleep.

Many a time they get so far into the land of Nol that, when sharply awakeded, they stagger off on their errand as if they were something worse than tired, rubling their eyes and wishing, no doubt, with all their hearts that they were easily singgled in

their beds.

However, if our little men in the blue jackets, with the bright silver buttoms down packets, with the bright silver buttoms down the front, do have to work hard, it is a comfort to know that they are well paid for it, and that more than one of them helps a widowed mother to solve the hard problem of providing plenty of food and fuel through the long, cold Canadian winter.

Let us see just what the pages' duties are. Nine o'clock in the morning must find them

Nine o'clock in the morning must find them in the l'arliament Chamber, ready to attend to the wants of the members who may be at theirdeaks, writing lighters, reading news-

their dicks, writing inters, reading newspapers, or possibly preparing speeches.

Their arkelf was as gower new, and
the species drifting from the sy forgetting
hanking that so gently is forgetting
thanking the attention
the standard members of the second in the s

Agicy pe lears alway

something which they might have done with

Running hither and thither on all sorts of errands during the sitting of the House is, of course, the tiresome and trying part of their work, which, before the session is ended, bleaches all the roses out of their cheeks, and makes them look as if nothing in the world would do them so much good as a month's holiday in the hay fields or by the

scaside. Besides good wages, the pages resmall amount of money in the way of 'tips and presents from the members, and the ever present possibility of these pleasant little events no doubt often puts fresh vigor into wearred limbs, and keeps a bright smile on the face that is tempted to look cross and

That these tips sometimes reach a considerable figure may be judged from an meadent which was related to me by a little friend, a page in the House. Once, long after the session had closed, he, to his surprise and delight found a ten dollar bill in the lining of his jacket, where it had worked its way out of sight and been forgotten. Not many boys earn so much that they would forget having received such an important rum

But pages, like most other lays, no somer get money than it burns in their pockets and Mother Carainel, as they have mick ey than it burns in their pockets, and atother Carachel, as they have lick named the old dame who is permitted to keep a tempting little stall in one corner of the big entrance hall, makes a small fortune out of their rockless spendings. permitted to

The pages' fun does not differ much from that of other hoya, except when they hold mock Parliament, which is really worth describing. This mock Parliament is an in cident of every session, and is generally held on some evening when the House has adjourn 1 at an earlier hour than usual

No sooner have the Premier, the leader of the opposition, and their respective supportcated their seats, than their place usurped by these savey youths, who prooced to carry out a programme prepared in advance. Standing up behind a deak that advance. Standing up behind a desk that leaves little more than his curly head visible. the mimic Premier lays before the smirking House a bill to provide handsome pensions for the widows of doceased pages, and sup-ports it with an eloquent speech, in the delivery of which the rhetorical peculiarities of the real Premier are imitated with mirthprovoking accuracy.

The moment he sats down, up inmus the leader of the opposition and preceds to denounce the measure as extravagant, in leader of the opposition and consistent, inequitous, and an on in the most approved l'arliamentary fashion, taking pains to ape the real leader in his turn.

The delate is vigorously taken up by the rank and file, and the fun waxes fast and furious as, amid vociferous cheers, slamming desk-tops, and acraping of boots on desk posses in which the children of a larger growth whom they are imitating are fond of indulging. the speech-making tinues until, at length, a vote is taken, and the bill is passed, of course, by a traumph

ant majority.

On one occasion when this mock delate was at its height, the genuine Premier hap pened lack into the Chamber, which was pened lack into the Common speciators, filled with a throng of amused speciators, and after him came the real leader of the op-position. The loys were not a while almahed by their presence, and nobody enjoyed the fun more heartly than did the two grave statesmen who were being so and coordinates.

Only small hoys can be pages, and when a small boy develops into a big boy, he must give up his place. In the record of the pro-ceedings of that august hody, the Senate, may be found the following entry.

Your Committee recommend that William Smith, Frank Jones and Charlie Rob monoment, rank some and Charie Roben moon, pages employed by your Honorable Horse, he notified that their services will be seen to require at the next sexuon of Parlia and the services of their having ontgrown of their having ontgrown where the second that their having ontgrown and their having ontgrown and their having ontgrown and their having ontgrown

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would seem still more reasonable, consider ing the difference in the populations, for one of our button boys in blue to cast ambitious glances toward the Premier's chair in the annalian House of Commons especially as he enjoys such excellent opportunities for an early acquaintance with the public duties of that honorable position. [J. Macionald Oxies in Youth's Companion

The Gold Fields of Alaska.

Gold in variable quantities and under different conditions has been found in three principal districts of Alaska: the Junean, and Douglass Island district, one hundred and eighty unless northeast of Sitka, and bordering Gasteneaux Channel, a narrow in let which separates Douglass Island from the mainland; the Sitka district, the quartz deposits of which are found at Silver Bay, a narrow, tortuous arm of the Pacific, indent ing Baranoff Island, and in the valley of the Yukon River in Western Alaska bearing quartz has also been found at Unex Island, one of the smaller of the Aleutian group, and some effort has been made here at development, but more of that creafter. Asconcerns the Yukon Valley, As concerns the Yukon Valley, httle attention has been paid by explorers and prespectors to discover gold bearing quartz, and the only results, so far, relate to placer mining. At the head of Lynn Caual, one of the inner passage, adapted to steamer navigation, about three hundred miles northeast of Sitka, is the mouth of the Culcatl River, navigable for canoes for a score of miles. At the hear of this canoe navigation are three large t hileatl villages, and it is at this point, there commences what is known as the Chileatl Portage, across the range of the head waters of the Yukon River in B stub territory. The distance from the "alian villages on the American side of the divide to the first lake, the source of the Yukon, is about thirty miles, but the route is one of the most difficult in the territory, yet the only practicable one by which to reach the Yukon Valley from the south. During the past three years, the reports that the bars of the Yukon and its tributaries, Stewart and Pelly Rivers. and Forty Mile Creek were rich in placer gold, have induced several hundred Alaskan miners to venture across the range, at the Chileatl Crossing, and descend these streams. Several parties are also known to liave perished in this perilous scarcis for the new gold fields. Arvan.

"Blacked Out."

Speaking of the Russian censorship, Mr. George Kennan, in an article in the May Century, says: "What does the Russian tovernment hope or expect to accomplish in this land on the control of the con tovernment hope or expect to accomplish by 'blacking out' articles that aim simply to tell the truth with regard to Russian af fairs, and by throwing into prison every man such article may be in whose presents

The Ressian author Progavin, in a book that was anadvertently sanctioned by the press center, but that was afterward sensed and burned, asks this same question, and Can an idea le coked to death Can thought be killed, bursel, or annihilat ed? Are not truth, and love, and justice, and freedom immortal? It is the most terrible of mistakes to suppose that ideas can ever be crushed. People have peopled men have died in chains and cascinates, their bodies have decayed, their graves have book lost, and their very names have been forgotten; but their ideas and asparations live on. Washed in the blood of suffering, such tileas and aspirations have become the dream of every man in where brain a thought attracted in whose breast a heart beats.

The press censor, when he harned Pro gavin a book, thought that he had destroyed forever its 'permesons' influence: but the 'sleas and aspirations' of the cilled author 'live on ; and his woods, although larmed by order of Government in Partie will ameal to hundred of thousands of sympathetic hearts in England and the United States.

Semetime in the far distant future the color of the fired patriot, no longer blinded by the fired as patriot, no longer blinded by the fired as ease at the fired will look over the pages of his rational history that record them attempts to gag public opinion and strangle human thought, and will with from a fired that any the bottom of his heart that so humiliating the fired strangle human thought are considered to backed the fired that any the bottom of his heart that so humiliating the fired standard abambled a record might be blacked that will be sometime with

The Confession of Faith.

The subject of revision will lend mighty importance to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which met in Saratoga on Thursday of this week. The desire for revision is a growth of years, and is the manufestation of a remarkable breaking away of a conservation which is inclined to away or a conservation which is inclined to resist changes, and from an iron bound ad-herence to old dogmas which were once sup-posed to bear the stamp of infallible and unalterable truth. That which is to be revised is the Confession of Fatth, adopted by the Westminster Assembly of Divines on the 4th of December, 1646. Facts in regard to this assembly are presented in concis-form by the New York Tribane, as follows This famous synod of Calvinistic theologians was called together by the Long Parliament on July 1, 1643, and remained in session till February 52, 1649. Some of the members belonged to the Church of England, but most of them were. Presbyterians and nearly all were strong. Calvinists. It ap-proved of the "Solemn League and Cove-nant," already adopted in Scotland, and put forth a Directory for Public Worship. But forth a Directory for Public Worship. But its most important work was the Confession of Faith which has had such a profound in fluence on Presbyterians throughout the world, and which may almost be said to have created a distinct type of religious life. The confession was finally adopted in August, 1657, and the two catechisms in July, 1648, These formularies have been opted with slight modifications by all the reabyterian churches in the world. The Shorter Catechism was introduced into New England by the Puritani, and formed the basis of the cele brated New England Primer, which for nearly two centuries was the only recognized book of instruction for the young. It has been said that the Westminster Confession ten said that the Wathinster Confection is not formally a Calvinistic creed. This is true. But as a matter of fact, its framers were so deeply tinctured with Calvinism that they could not help putting a good deal of it into their creed; and, as a matter of fact, the Westminster Confession has rays stood as the bulwark of Calvinism. The Church aims, by revising its creed, to give more perfect expression of its present thought—not to discard the old standards of its faith. These standards have been encumbered with utterances which modern opinion repudiates, which have given a great deal of trouble to expounders of the Gospel There are expressions which the lay mind fails to comprehend and which even the trained theologian can rot interpret to the satisfaction of himself and others. The subject has been discussed with such marked candor and liberality that the meeting of theUnited States General Amembly hids fair to witness a most profitable interchange of views. The church can not fail to be atrength-ened in its bonds of fellowship and in its capacity for usefulness by meeting the issue presented, and giving it such treatment as is commensurate with the hold it has taken on the minds, hearts and consciences of a great majority of Presbyterians.

There are many widows who ve found Their first experiment curst, So married a second hisland To revenge themselves on the first.

CURE, CURE, CURE

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