

numerous negotiations between the Imperial Government and the ever unruly Afridi tribes. When it was decided to despatch a mission to Cabul under Sir NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN last autumn, Major CAVAGNARI was attached to the staff. Major CAVAGNARI throughout the campaign has been with General Sir JAMES BROWNE. In the negotiations with YAKOOB KHAN he was officially nominated the Viceroy's Plenipotentiary. It is difficult to do justice to the way the negotiations have been conducted by Major CAVAGNARI. He was made a Companion of the Star of India last year. His death, which took place in the Cabul massacre just telegraphed, is most opportune.

The London *Athenium* announces a rather astounding recent invention, which, if what is said of it be true, will supersede the use of coal and wood for heating and cooking purposes. The correspondent who has seen it avers that it makes an instantaneous and perpetual fire of two substances exhaustless in nature, costing not one-tenth of our ordinary fuel, and causing no smoke, dust or trouble. The stove is a part of the invention, which can be regulated to boil milk for a baby or roast an ox at pleasure. It is said to be a perpetual and economical source of fuel and heat for all purposes. The inventor of this everlasting fire is Mr. BOURBONNEL of Dijon, a lion and tiger slayer by occupation. The account states that he accidentally discovered the two universal fire substances some six years ago, and has been ever since inventing and perfecting his stove, which he has patented, and this timely substitute for wood and coal is now ready to revolutionize fuel and amaze the world.

The telegrams announce that Sir JOHN and Lady MACDONALD have gone to Hughenden to visit Lord BEACONSFIELD. It is undoubtedly an honor for the Canadian Minister to receive this courtesy from the remarkable man who is the Prime Minister of the Empire. Some writers have attempted to show that there is a resemblance between Lord BEACONSFIELD and Sir JOHN MACDONALD in many particulars, but those who have watched the political careers of both, and personally listened to the speeches of both, will fail to see any very striking resemblance. The visit may enable the Minister of the Empire to obtain from the Minister of the Dominion many facts that may be useful to him, and these, his whole career has shown, will fall upon sympathetic ears.

HOW PARLIAMENT IS PROROGUED.

I translate the following from a correspondent of the Paris *Figaro* as a matter of curiosity. I want to know whether it is authentic, and doubtless there are many persons in Canada who will inform me whether it is or not. I am aware that the ceremonial of investiture in the Order of the Garter has retained many of the French formulas, but did not know that old French phrases were still used in the prorogation of Parliament. Here is the account:—

At half-past two, the House of Commons being still sitting, the usher of the Chamber strikes three times at the door of the lobby. This door being opened, the Sergeant-at-arms announces in a ringing voice:—

"The Usher of the Black Rod!"

Captain Sir W. Knollys, the Usher in question, approaches the bar and summons the Speaker and "Her Majesty's Faithful Commons" to follow him to the House of Lords to receive communication of the Queen's Message. Forthwith, the House forms in procession, headed by the Speaker in wig and black robes, Captain Gossitt, Sergeant-at-arms, bearing the golden mace, Sir Erskine May, First Secretary, holding the Speaker's train, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty and the other Ministers of the Crown.

After crossing the long lobby which leads to the House of Lords, the procession stops at the door. The Sergeant-at-arms enters alone, and announces to the Lords:—

"The Commons!"

Then the members stream into the Chamber after the Speaker who takes up a position on a platform. Behind him the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Ministers take their stand. Opposite, under the Royal dais, the Lord Chancellor occupies the traditional woolsack. At his side are the four Royal Commissioners appointed, in the absence of the Queen, to pro-

rogate Parliament—the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Beauchamp, the Earl of Hardwicke and Lord Skelmersdale. These five personages wear the three-cornered hat and red robe lined with ermine. On the entrance of the Speaker, the five Commissioners bow three times with their hats, in automatic measure, and the Sergeant-at-arms sets down his mace before them on a table covered with a red carpet. Then the First Secretary, addressing the Speaker, pronounces three times, in French, the ancient formula:—

"La Reine remercie ses feaux sujets et accepte leur bienveillance."

The Speaker bows, and the Secretary adds:—

"Ainsy la Reine le veult."

Meantime the Second Secretary has taken up a voluminous parcel of parchments which comprises the bills passed during the session and which he reads to the House. As the title of each is called, the First Secretary bows profoundly and repeats each time:—

"La Reine le veult."

The ceremony terminates by the reading of the Royal Message, and the Lords retire after shaking hands with the Lord Chancellor.

The same correspondent, writing of the Ministerial whitebait dinner at the Ship's Hotel, Greenwich, which is the prelude of the prorogation, relates the following pleasing anecdote:—

It was in the days of Palmerston and the Cabinet was going to Greenwich for the traditional banquet. Lord Palmerston was walking up and down the deck of the little steamer, when a gust of wind carried off his hat—the legendary white hat which the noble lord always wore.

On arriving at Greenwich all the batters of the place were applied to, but it was impossible to find a white hat, and the old Premier had to make up his mind to don a black hat. As he entered the banquet hall one of the wits of the company exclaimed:—

"Gad! Here's the Ministry in mourning."

The joke passed around and was enjoyed, but Lord Palmerston, who was very superstitious, attributed the downfall of his Cabinet, which happened several months later, to the loss of his favorite plug.

J. L.

EPIHEMERIDES.

Whatever else Montreal may lack, it cannot complain of any dearth of associations devoted to the pursuit of athletic exercises and out-door pastimes. Our cricket, lacrosse and snow-shoe clubs have acquired and now maintain a supremacy which is not disputed, and I fancy that these have done as much as any other institutions to keep the name of the metropolitan city of Canada before the eyes of the public, not only of the Dominion, but of the United States as well. Among these amusements, however, I have often wondered that bicycling was not included, notwithstanding that the velocipedic craze was quite rampant among us some years ago. It was, therefore, a pleasure to read in the last number of the *American Bicycling Journal* that a club was founded in this city on Dec. 2, 1878. The particulars are as follows:—

MONTREAL BICYCLE CLUB.

Entrance fee—Five dollars.

Subscription—Two and a half dollars per annum.

Club colors—Silver and blue.

Club badge—Silver "Beaver" brooch and M. B. C. in monogram.

Uniform—Dark blue.

Head Quarters—Montreal.

President, (not yet elected): Captain, Charles J. Sibley; Secretary and Treasurer, Horace S. Tibbs, P.O. Box, 1733, Montreal, Canada.

It is strange, however, that, so far as I can ascertain, the Montreal public have never been acquainted with the formation of this club. The summer has passed and the Double-wheel has not been seen on our thoroughfares or turnpikes in a single instance. Will Mr. Horace S. Tibbs inform us if the club still exists, and whether it is the intention to carry it on?

I have received the prospectus of the Fourth Annual Meeting for the Amateur Championship of America, to be held on Saturday, September 27th, on the grounds of the New York Athletic Club, at Mott Haven, New York. The programme—or program, as some will write it, *instar* telegram, &c.—is very full and varied, and the prizes are well worthy of competition.

A gold championship medal will be given to the winner in each contest, and to each member of the winning tug of war team. A silver medal of merit to the winner of second place, and a bronze medal of merit to the winner of third place. A prize of the value of \$200 has been presented to the Association by the Hon. Hubert O. Thompson, to be awarded to the best general athlete. The mode of deciding the title will be as follows: A winner in each contest will be entitled to five points, the second man three points, and the third man one point. The competitor making the largest number of points to be declared the winner. A handsome stand of colours will also be presented to the club or college making the largest number of points in the same manner as provided for in the general athletic prize, except that no club or college shall score in the team tug of war more than five, three and one points, for the first, second and third place.

To the communication which I received is appended a list of the Amateur Champions of America, among whom I am proud to find several Canadians. I here transcribe them that their fame may travel over the whole Dominion to the farthest nooks and corners into which the NEWS penetrates. There is first Harold Lamb, of Toronto, who figures twice in 1876, as the Champion of the One-half Mile Race in 2 min. 20 sec., and of the One Mile Run in 4 min. 58 sec. Many a steed could not do as much. In 1877, Charles C. McIvor was proclaimed champion of the 100 yards, run in 10½ sec. Mr. Cuzner, whose given name does not appear on the record, stands first in America at putting the shot, 37 feet 10 inches. This athlete belongs to the McGill University Club, and his feat was performed at the McGill University games, Oct. 24, 1878.

Mr. Grant de Longueuil, whose grandmother was ennobled as Baroness Longueuil by Louis XIV. of France, and who is the possessor of the Longueuil estates, to which the title of nobility is attached, was lately in Ottawa to interview the Dominion Government regarding the resurrection of the title. I do not know what success attended the gentleman's mission, but the motive which prompted him is altogether worthy of commendation. Titles of nobility on this democratic continent have not and cannot have the significance with which they are invested among the old aristocratic nations, but as memorials or reminders they admirably fulfil a mission which ought never to be neglected in a progressive land. Their historical aspect is their principal feature. There were several French families of noble origin which distinguished themselves in the annals of Canada, and the De Longueuils were among them. Singularly enough, too, the scions of this house who particularly signalized their career, were born in New France and, if I am not mistaken, in the ancient village which bears their name, opposite this city. There were seven or nine brothers of them, I forget which. Three of their number became famous sailors and colonizers. One founded the city of New Orleans, another that of Mobile, and still another that of Galveston. The LeMoines also belong to the same family, but I cannot retrace the relationship. My friend, Mr. J. M. LeMoine, "the Irving of Canada," as Col. Strange once named him, might, perhaps, kindly furnish the information.

The wheel of time brings on many changes and curious *rapprochements*. On the 24th May, 1878, the Barlow Greys, a militia company of St. Albans, Vermont, came on to Montreal, with their arms, having obtained the ready consent of the authorities at Ottawa, to take part in the celebration of Her Most Gracious Majesty's birthday. On the 4th of the ensuing July, the 5th Fusiliers of this city returned the visit and participated at St. Albans in the festivities attending the anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence. On the 24th May, of this year, the 18th Regiment of the New York State Militia repeated the courtesy, and their presence in Montreal was deservedly regarded as an international event of the most interesting description, enhanced, as it was, by the presence of a daughter of the Queen. But, perhaps, it may be regarded as not more significant than the late meeting of the British and French squadrons under the cliff of Cape Diamond a couple of weeks ago. Since the era of the Conquest, now over a hundred years ago, the fleets of France and England had never come together under such auspicious circumstances. The thunder of their mutual salutes is said to have shaken the very foundations of historic old Quebec, and we may well believe that the echoes of those guns stirred the hearts of the people there as they were never stirred before.

I was asked the other day to open a column of Notes and Queries in the NEWS. The attempt was made twice before, but it failed each time from want of proper encouragement. It is not altogether amusing for a man, however unselfish or zealous he may be, to be obliged to answer his own questions from week to week. However, I am not indisposed to make a third attempt, provided eight or ten persons, who take an interest in our antiquities, pledge themselves to give me their assistance either in propounding queries or in answering such as may be propounded. A decade or a dozen of us, with a mutual understanding, could throw a great deal of light on the intricacies of our Canadian history and geography, at the same time that we should afford one another much intellectual recreation. The field is a comparatively untrodden one. Later, prizes might be offered as an inducement to widen the sphere of our researches. If my friends will come forward I am at their disposal, but otherwise I must respectfully decline undertaking so arduous a task absolutely single-handed.

A. STEELE PENN.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Pimples eruptions on the face, so annoying to the young and baffling to medical skill, can be completely cured by ACNE PILLS. They contain no arsenic, nosh, or any injurious drug; nor, except the disease, do they affect the system in any way, save as a tonic. Box containing 120 pills, with full directions, mailed to any part of Canada for one dollar. Sample boxes of one dozen 10 cents in stamps. Address W. HEARN, Chemist, Ottawa.

THE LATE GEORGE TOLLEY.

We have the extreme regret of announcing to-day the death by drowning of Mr. George Tolley, the Special Correspondent of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS in Ontario, and well known in this city, for years, as editor of the *Star*. Pending the memoir and portrait of our lamented friend which we shall publish in our next number, we give the few details which have reached us of the sad accident. It appears that about 9.30 p.m. of Saturday, the 6th inst., Mr. Tolley started from Brockville for Kingston in a skiff, about 18 feet long with 5 feet beam. He persuaded the captain of the propeller *Persia*, who at first objected, to tow him up. A rope about 30 feet long was attached to his skiff from the stern of the *Persia*. Mr. Tolley's friends tried to persuade him to go aboard of the *Persia*, but he said he would be all right in his skiff. About 11 p.m. his boat was found opposite Brockville filled with water, with his umbrella and an oar. His hat was found on Sunday at Picken's Point, one mile east of Brockville, but no tidings of him have been received. His body is being searched for. It appears he had a rope tied to the front seat of his boat which caused the skiff to steer badly and filled with water while swerving, and the unfortunate man washed or jerked over. The pilot of the *Persia* as soon as he missed Mr. Tolley, immediately cut the rope in hopes that the boat would be of some help to him. The accident must have happened a mile or two west of Brockville.

THEATRE ROYAL.

For several long months we have been without any musical or dramatic entertainment of any kind, and it is therefore a pleasure to be able to announce that the theatrical season has opened under the most favourable auspices. The Theatre Royal, splendidly renovated by its enterprising proprietor, has taken the lead, and last Monday began its series of performances by the introduction of Haverley's Juvenile Pinafore Company. They are a charming troupe, and their success was assured from the first. We invite all our friends to assist at these representations, which continue during the week, with matinees on Wednesday and Friday, to which children should be brought. The list of attractions presented by the Theatre Royal for the season is a brilliant one and promises well, especially as the times are brightening and our people will be able to afford themselves more than usual amusement. Mr. J. B. Sparrow is at the head of the management, and he knows exactly what will best please the Montreal public. We are pleased also that he has secured the assistance of our friend Mr. Honier, late of the *National*, who has much experience of the stage and will be able to rally the French population that are naturally fond of the theatre.

CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER.—How it ripples across the fields and echoes along the hill-side, as musical as the distant church bells pealing over the grassy meadows, where the brown village darlings are gathering butter-cups.

There are no sounds so sweet to the mother's ear, except perhaps, the first lisping of an infant's prayer. Children's laughter! how dull is the home wherein its music once joyously echoed, but now is heard no more! How still is the house when the little ones are all fast asleep, their pattering feet are silent! How easily the fun of a child bubbles forth! Take even those poor prematurely aged little ones bred in the gutter, cramped in unearthly homes, and ill-used, it may be, by drunken parents, and you will find that the child's nature is not entirely crushed out of them. They are children still, albeit they look so haggard and wan. Try to excite their mirthfulness, and ere long a laugh rings out as wild and free as if there were no such thing as sorrow in the world. Let the little ones laugh then; too soon, alas! they will find cause enough to weep. Do not try to silence them, but let their gleefulness ring out in gladsome peal, and reminding us of the days when we, too, could laugh without a sigh.

ARTISTIC.

It is said that the late Charles Landseer left 10,000*l.* to the Royal Academy.

RABELAIS is to have a statue at Chinon (Inde et Loire).

THE French government purchased at the Salon sixty-three paintings and thirty-one works of sculpture.

THE Dutch are bitten by the mania for restoration. The church of St. Lawrence at Rotterdam is in the hands of the Philistines.

A BRONZE statue of Cervantes, by Professor Carlo Nicoli, of Carrara, has been shipped to Alcala de Henares, the great Spaniard's birth-place, where it will be erected.

THE son of the late Charles Fechter is said to be a clever young man, who is devoting himself to the law instead of the stage. His sister, Mlle. Mario Fechter, the *prima donna*, is described as an excellent young woman, who has been carefully brought up by her mother, and who has many dramatic gifts. She is pretty, slender and graceful, with sparkling black eyes and delicate features.