

rible headache, and a conviction that sheep are good enough for wool and chops, but not worth a cent as a narcotic.

THE SHARPEST TRICK YET.—A gentleman who has recently returned from a business trip to Texas, related to us an instance of sharp practice on the part of a trio of thieves, which we think is entitled to pre-eminence in the line. Immediately over one of the banks in Dallas is the telegraph office, and a few days ago two of the operators applied for their discharge, received it, and left town. On the day following a well-dressed business-appearing man appeared at the bank with a cheque for \$10,000 on a well-known New York banking-house, and desired it cashed. He brought with him numerous letters of recommendation from parties with whom the bank had business transactions, and, so far as surface indications went, everything was all right. But \$10,000 dollars was a considerable sum to pay out, even on the very best documents of recommendation, and the bank officers hesitated, wavered, and finally declined to cash the cheque. But the stranger was importunate. "Gentlemen," said he, "I came to Texas to invest this money in cotton; it is very necessary that this cheque should be cashed, or I will be greatly inconvenienced. Suppose you telegraph to New York to this banking house? Ask them about me; I will pay all expenses." Nothing could be more plausible than this; nothing sound more honest. So a dispatch was sent asking about the stranger and the cheque, and in a short time came the answer, to the effect that it was all right, and the Dallas Bank would confer a favour on the New York firm by accommodating the cotton-speculating friend, and cashing the cheque. Still the bank officers were not satisfied, and the dispatch to New York was duplicated. Again the answer was of a similar tenor, only probably a little more emphasis was added to it. This was satisfactory, and the cheque was duly cashed. It seems to be the practice of operators to go over their day's work at night briefly by asking the different points to which dispatches have been sent, whethy they have been sent or not. On inquiring of the New York operator whether dispatches 13 and 14 had been received, a negative answer was returned. No such dispatches had come to hand, and consequently no answers could have been sent. It was evident that the bank had been swindled, but how? There was the mystery. The dispatches had been regularly received, they had come from somewhere, but where from could not be known. The cotton speculator had disappeared with the funds, and the bank officials were at their wits' ends. In a day or two the mystery was solved. The two telegraph operators referred to above had gone a few miles out of Dallas, taken possession of an old shanty by the roadside, attached a battery to the wires, and taken the dispatches intended for New York off. They had been sent pre-arranged answers. The three were confederates, and the operators knew about the time the bogus speculator would enter the bank; and when to attach their instruments. It was an adroit scheme, and successfully carried out. The bank has no clue to the swindlers, but has learned a valuable lesson and paid a high price for tuition.

"MOTHER IS NEVER AT HOME."—Willie, once my private pupil, was the son of a very rich man in A—, a generous, good-hearted boy, bright

enough, but the prospects of great wealth to away his care for books and love of study. His habits were forming, and he was in great danger for he had no lack of spending money, and hence no lack of companions of whom some were wise and dissipated. But this could not yet be said of Willie.

One morning as he entered my room and laid down his books, he took from his pocket some beautiful looking cigars, and handing them to me, said

"Don't you want a good smoke, sir? These are very nice, real Havannas."

"No, thank you, Willie," I was happy to reply, "I am glad I am not in the habit of smoking."

"Well," he added, "I smoked too much last night; and besides, I have no lessons this morning."

"How does this happen, Willie?" I asked. "Tell me where you were and what you did last night."

"Ho! nothing much," said he. "I was out with the boys at the new billiard saloon; but I had a splendid time!"

"Willie," I asked, "did you drink, too?"

"O, no, I didn't drink. Some of the boys drank too much; I only played and smoked a little, as I said before."

"Well," I said, "I am glad to hear, Willie, you don't drink, and now tell me, please, truly and frankly, if you think you felt as well this morning—weary and tired, without your lessons—as you would had you spent the evening quietly in your own pleasant home, with your books and with your mother?"

"Ah! to tell the truth," he added, with a stifled sigh, "mother is never home evenings like me to go with."

Sad truth! I could say no more. But, oh, how I wished, for Willie's sake, his mother thought of society and more of her boy.

Literary Notices.

CAMPBELL'S GEOGRAPHY.—Messrs. Reid & Co., of this city, have shown us the fifth edition of Campbell's Geography, which has just been issued. It is a great improvement on, and complete revision of the former edition, particularly the part of the work relating to the Dominion of Canada. Recently formed political divisions, such as the new counties, are fully described. Changes of seats of Government are noted; errors of previous editions are corrected; fuller and more accurate information given. Statistics, both home and foreign, have evidently been corrected from the latest authentic reports. The maps in this edition are by S. B. Mitchell. They are brighter, and there are more of them than in the former edition. The maps of the Hemispheres, Dominion of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, and the United States, are double-page maps.

READINGS, RECITATIONS AND DIALOGUES.—Sons of Temperance, Good Templars, Cadets, &c. This is a great and useful little work, published in Toronto, Ont., by Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., and edited by Geo. Macklin Rose, Esq., P. G. W. J. S. of T., the object of which is to afford amusement and profit to the members of Bands of Hope, temperance societies, &c. The selections contain choice, and show the author's adaptability to the work.