

PASSING NOTES

Buffalo has had 121 cases of smallpox and 40 deaths. It is quite time that city officials should be vaccinated.

Mr. Butterworth, in the opinion of the "Globe," is courteous to Canada. So was the speaker in the old song courteous to the fly.

At length Congress has been shamed into an investigation of the outrages by the Alaska pirates, who are sustained, and even assisted, by the United States authorities.

The Ontario statute requiring hotel proprietors to provide fire escapes in all cases where their buildings are over two stories high came into force last month.

The statement is again made by The New York Sun that the Western Union Company has paid Edison hundreds of thousands of dollars for inventions relating to telegraphy.

So passes the glory of the oldfield Parker City, Pa., once a place of 10,000 people, now has but 400 left. The Legislature will be asked to decry the place and let it drop back into the mere Parker's Landing that it was before oil was found there.

A Wisconsin newspaper declares that we charge with treason those who venture to advocate free trade with the United States. We charge with treason those who are working to carry Canada out of the British Empire and surrender it to the United States.

Great progress has been made in New York in the supplying of power from central electric stations. The savings to the consumer is considerable, while the convenience is very great.

A professor of natural history, says The Washington Globe, was dismissed from the Smithsonian the other day and got into a lawyer's office on F street, where there is a very pretentious young clerk.

The export trade in apples is unprecedented. The shipments from the Atlantic last week were \$7,699 barrels, making a grand total for the season to date \$28,924 barrels as against \$18,711 barrels for the corresponding period last year.

Professor Wiggins says that if the tall comet Encke "should become another satellite to our earth—only one chance in a thousand that it will, though it crosses our planet about as frequently as that of Mars."

The advocates on both sides of the line of the New England fishery interest are queer people. Their fishing vessels are not allowed to masquerade as traders and make our ports a base of operations contrary to treaty.

Mr. Cairns, a well-known member of the British House of Commons, who lately visited Canada, evidently takes a very pleasant, realistic view of the state of things in this Dominion.

Uncle Sam Wants Canada.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Mr. Butterworth, of Ohio, has introduced for reference the following joint resolution authorizing the President to negotiate with reference to the unity and assimilation with the United States of the Dominion of Canada or of one or more of the provinces thereof.

Whereas the citizens of the Dominion of Canada are one with us in race, lineage, history and tradition; and Whereas the resources of the two countries supplement each other, and the arteries of commerce, both natural and artificial, are so interlocked and mutually dependent upon each other that they ought to constitute a single system to be one and inseparable; and

Whereas the commercial relations between the United States and the Dominion of Canada are and have been strained and unnaturally cramped, and in a measure paralyzed, owing to the inability of the two Governments to establish such a system of International trade and commerce between them as is essential to meet the requirements of the situation; and

Whereas the conditions and relations before referred to, as also the geography of the two countries, suggest the expediency of a just and permanent settlement of the controversies pertaining to the fisheries, boundaries and transcontinental trade except by blending of efforts and interests under one governmental system, and pointing logically to the necessity and probability of unity and assimilation between the two nations under one Government; and

Whereas the bonds of sympathy resulting from kinship, race, language, tradition and substantial identity of governmental systems, together with a community of interests based upon commerce and its aids and agencies, are of such a character that such union and assimilation are being discussed and favorably considered by the citizens of both nations, and inasmuch as it is believed that its early consummation would be of great advantage to all the citizens and subjects of the two countries, provided the same can be attained in a manner consistent alike with the honor and dignity of the United States and Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada; therefore, with a view to aid in the consummation of what is herein before suggested

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that the President be, and is hereby authorized and empowered to invite negotiations looking to the assimilation and unity of the people of the Dominion of Canada and the United States under one Government, and to invite and assimilate to be based upon the admission of the several provinces of the Dominion of Canada or any one of them into the Union of the United States upon the same terms and equality with the several States now composing the Union, and the assumption by the United States of the indebtedness of the Dominion of Canada, or just proportion thereof, and such other equitable terms and conditions as justice to the high contracting parties may demand; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that with a view to such negotiations, the President invite the appointment of commissioners by the Governments of Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada to consider the wisdom and expediency of settling and adjusting all controversies and differences which now exist between the two Governments growing out of the fisheries, or otherwise by such a union and assimilation as is hereinbefore suggested, either as to the whole or any province, or several provinces of said Dominion of Canada, and to be conducted with due regard to the amicable relations which obtain between Great Britain and the United States, and the obligations imposed thereby.

Mr. Wiman Thinks the Butterworth Resolutions a Fatal Mistake.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Mr. Ernest Wiman, in an interview on the Butterworth resolutions to-day, said:—"Mr. Butterworth has made a fatal mistake in introducing his annexation resolutions."

Population of Toronto. The special city census taken on Wednesday places the population at 168,040. Add five thousand for Parkdale, and the population, after the union is accomplished, will be 173,000.

A Bonfire of Bibles. The Liberal Government tries in vain (says the Madrid correspondent of the London Daily News) to enforce the spirit of tolerance among the authorities and subjects of his Most Catholic Majesty.

AS YOU LIKE IT.

A TAP AT THE DOOR. A hand tapped at my door low down, low down.

I opened it and saw two eyes of brown, Two lips of cherry red, A little curly head. A bonny, fairy sprite in dress of white, Who smiled, with lifted face, "Papa, good night."

She climbed upon my knee, and kneeling there, Lippled softly, and solemnly her little prayer; Her meeting finger tips, Her pure, sweet baby lips. Carried my soul with her, half unaware, Into some clearer and diviner air.

I tried to lift again, but all in vain, Of scientific thought the subtle chain; So small, so small, My hearing all; Though I could call each star and tell its place, My child's "Our Father" bridged the gulf of space.

I sat with folded hands at rest, at rest, Turning this solemn thought within my breast; How faith would fade If God had not been here—no baby age— Only the prudent man or thoughtful sage; Only the woman wise, no little arms. To clasp around our neck; no baby charms. No loving care. No endless prayer, No thrill of hoping song, no pasturing feet, No infant heart against our heart to beat.

Then if a tiny hand, low down, Tap at thy heart or door; ah! do not frown; Bead low to meet The little feet, To clasp the clinging hand; the child will be Nearer Heaven than thou—nearer than thou.

The monster 111-ton cannon recently manufactured in Germany carries twenty miles. The spelling bee is a thing of the past Boston has originated the pronunciation book, which might be made equally useful. A laundry in Cambridgeport, a suburb of Boston, is the largest in the world, and proudly claims to keep 50,000 dices in clean shirts.

One of the promised sensations of the Paris Exhibition will be given by a man who will make daily balloon ascensions mounted on a horse. Advertising vans are not allowed to appear on the principal boulevards in Paris, on the ground that they obstruct travel and frighten horses.

In Lupton the test of oratory is seeing who rattles off the most words without stopping to draw a breath, and the women generally come out ahead.

A weather prophet at Vera Cruz predicts a tidal wave for the 4th of November and proudly claims to keep 50,000 dices in clean shirts.

Last year the United States imports from Japan, including raw silk, tea, fans, handkerchiefs, bamboo, and the like, amounted to nearly \$10,000,000. More than she exports to any other nation.

P. T. Barnum, the veteran showman, has made his will, and attached to it the affidavit of two prominent physicians stating that the eminent showman was, at the time of his death, in his right mind.

Herrmann, the magician, says nineteen men out of twenty, if asked to select a number under ten will choose seven. "There is no explanation of it," he adds. "It is the habit of the human mind, nothing more."

Siam has 8,000,000, and to convert this vast host to Christianity there are only 3 missionaries. In the United States would give us less than 65. Michigan would be entitled to two.

A St. Louis uncle wrote:—"I am 62 years old. In eight years I would have been 70, an old, dilapidated, tottering fossil. I have played the world out and it don't owe me a cent. I've had more fun than a mule in a cornfield and I've got enough. Therefore I will cheat the course of nature and jump the time to come."

Conjunctive flourish in China as well as in Christian lands. Whenever great food or famine occur great soup-kitchens are established. There are societies to provide coffee for those who cannot buy them, for gathering human bones which have become precious and giving them suitable burial, for distributing plasters and drugs, and for presenting "virtue books."

Thirty-odd years ago there was a poor drawing-master near Frankfurt who rejoiced in the title of Duke of Shlewigstein-Sonderburg-Gluecksburg, and in three pretty daughters. He was so poor he could allow the girls only 83 a month each pin-money. But the girls "got there all the same," being now respectively Empress of Russia, Princess of Wales and Duchess of Cumberland.

United States Postmaster General Don M. Dickinson is said to be superstitious on the subject of white horses. This may be due to the fact that his white horse has reddish tints. At all events, he holds the belief that the sight of a white horse always brings him bad luck. He says that he never saw so many in his life as on election day, and by night he felt convinced that his party had been beaten, though he had heard no returns.

Here is a remedy for cramp, suggested by Dr. R. W. St. Clair, of London:—Let the patient provide himself with a good strong oord, and keep it always by him. A long garret—the yard and a half of good stout knitting that supported the hose of a by-gone age—will serve the purpose well enough. When the spasm comes on, let him wind this cord round the affected part, take an end in each hand, and give them a good sharp pull. It will hurt a little—it is useless if it does not—but the cramp will vanish at once.

The following incident occurred at the battle of Bull Run. In the heat of the action an officer, who has since become prominent and well known throughout the country, was then in command of a brigade on the right of the line. While riding over the field he discovered a soldier concealed in a hole in the ground, which was of just sufficient dimensions to afford him shelter. The general rode up to him, inquired as to his regiment, and ordered him to join it at once. The man looked him full in the face, placed a thumb upon his nose, and replied:—"Oh, no you don't, old fellow! You want this hole yourself."

A Brussels lace merchant had received from a Belgian, residing in Paris, an order

for a quantity of Malines lace. The goods were carefully packed in a lead coffin, which was despatched to the Paris address as containing a corpse. The Paris merchant had to wait so long for the arrival of the "body" that he at length complained to the manager of the Northern railway, who informed him that the coffin had been detained at the frontier owing to the non-compliance with certain prescribed formalities relating to the transmission of corpses. The merchant at once took train to Quierzy, dressed in solemn black and with a mourning band round his hat and wearing an expression of profound sadness. But in spite of his emphatic protest against such an act of desecration the officials insisted on opening the coffin, when the truth came to light and the ingenious smuggler was taken into custody.

An Insulting Overture.

Congressman Butterworth, of Ohio, stands hardly second to Mr. Wiman, of Staten Island, in the ranks of the promoters of Commercial Union, and of the tutors of Sir Richard Cartwright and the Grit party in the fiscal policy they have adopted. In fact Mr. Butterworth was nearly as much quoted in the Canadian House of Commons as Mr. Wiman in advocacy of our surrender to Washington. He has now shown plainly and in a most offensive manner that he had no intention of restricting the "assimilation" or "union" or gobbling up, to our commercial interests only, the vast territory of Canada, as thorough as the partition of Poland, being the real object. The long preamble may be briefly summarized as "whereas we have learned the facts of Canada, and that surrounding circumstances, and competitor we mean to annex it. This follows the insulting proposition for negotiations looking for the surrender of Canada or any of its provinces. The price of our claims is to be the assumption of our public debt, and the assumption of our share of the United States public debt, which would necessarily leave us with no pecuniary advantage. The mere offer for a peaceful sale is a gross insult. How the sky would ring with denunciations of Canada if a motion was brought into our Parliament for the sale to us of Alaska, or Michigan, or Minnesota or any other State we might fancy. Its entertainment would assuredly be regarded as a gross insult. But this resolution cannot be regarded as a mere insult, or surrounding circumstances. While in terms it suggests a shameful sale, not a forcible invasion, this must be coupled with simultaneous movements on the part of our neighbors. We have seen their President send a message to Congress asking them to inflict a Yankee injury on Canada as possible without injuring their country. We have seen their Cabinet Ministers and other leading men coolly smiting detailed plans for our invasion. We see their President send a message to Congress asking them to inflict a Yankee injury on Canada as possible without injuring their country. We have seen their Cabinet Ministers and other leading men coolly smiting detailed plans for our invasion. We see their President send a message to Congress asking them to inflict a Yankee injury on Canada as possible without injuring their country. We have seen their Cabinet Ministers and other leading men coolly smiting detailed plans for our invasion.

Homeless Iowa Farmers. The strange spectacle of the eviction, by United States Marshals, of Iowa farmers from their homes, by placing their goods and chattels, with their wives and children, out on the public highway, has been witnessed for the first time in the history of our country. It is the leaders of the Canadian Opposition who have, by their conduct and their words of sympathy, invited this number to their country.—[Toronto "Empire."

Shows the meaning of Mr. Butterworth's allusion, in his recent advocacy of the same thing. Assimilation simply means annexation, immediate or a little deferred. And Sir Richard Cartwright and his Parliamentary supporters are aiding these foreigners in the first stages of their designs on our country. It is the leaders of the Canadian Opposition who have, by their conduct and their words of sympathy, invited this number to their country.—[Toronto "Empire."

A Rich Strike of Silver. DELUTH, MINN., Dec. 14.—Word has been received here that a rich silver strike has been made in the Badger mine, opened at Eight Inch vein silver ore assaying \$14,000 to the ton, making it about half pure silver.

Advice to Mothers.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, cures the gum, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and the best remedy for Diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

CATARH, CATARRHAL DEAFNESS RAY FEVER. A New Home Treatment. Sufferers are not generally aware that these diseases are contagious, or that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the nose and of the eustachian tubes. Microscopic research, however, has proved this to be a fact, and the result is that a simple remedy has been formulated whereby catarrh, catarrhal deafness and hay fever are permanently cured in from one to three applications made at home by the patient once in two weeks. N. B.—For catarrhal discharges peculiar to females (whites) this remedy is a specific. A pamphlet explaining this new treatment is sent on receipt of ten cents by A. H. DRONK & SON, 303 West King St., Toronto, Canada. Sufferers from catarrhal troubles should carefully read the above.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS, In Plush Novelties.

We have made a big purchase of these goods direct from the maker, comprising some of the best ideas of foreign designers. Plush goods come in all popular shades, Garri- nal being the demand.

- Ladies' Plush Jewel Case, with handsome puff satin lining and a score of apartments, plated mountings, price \$2.85. Ladies' Plush Companion Case, Roman corners, rich satin puff lining, 7 Ivory handle pieces, price \$2.15. Ladies' Handsome Plush (square make) Companion Case, suitable for Jewelry, Gloves and Handkerchiefs, \$2.40. Ladies' Double Strong Plush Jewel Case, with revolving drawer, complete with handsome Hand glass, Brush and Comb, \$3.25. Ladies' Plush Collar and Cuff Box, combination, satin lined and plated mountings, \$1.95. Ladies' Handsome Plush Glove Box, with satin lining and Ivory Glove Stretcher, \$1.95. Ladies' Plush Handkerchief Case, satin puff lining, \$1.75. Ladies' Plush Dressing Cases, complete with Comb, Brush and Glass, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00. Gents' Plush Toilet Cases, complete, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00 and \$2.25. Gents' Plush Shaving Cases, complete, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00 and \$2.25. Ladies' and Gents' Plush Writing Cabinets, \$2.00, \$2.50, and \$3.00. Gents' Plush Collar and Cuff Boxes, complete, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00. Our Plush Goods are made of solid wood, being well put together with patent fastenings and hinges, nicely packed in heavy cardboard boxes, can be sent by mail or express without damage. Send in your orders early.

Table Covers.

Special Value in Embroidered Table Covers, in Scarlet, Green and Garnet, \$2.00.

Wool Hoods.

Infants' Warm Wool Hoods, all colors, 50c each. Children's Fancy Wool Hoods, all colors, 65c each.

Handkerchiefs.

75 Doz. Ladies' Fancy Lawn Handkerchiefs, \$1.00 per dozen, or 3 for 25c. 143 Dozen Twill Silk Handkerchiefs, all shades, 20c each, 6 for \$1.00.

Quilted Skirts.

Ladies' Quilted Alpaca Skirts, \$1.35. Ladies' Quilted Farmer's Satin Skirts, \$2.25. Ladies' Quilted Farmer's Satin Skirts, embroidered in Cardinal, Gold and Blue, \$2.25. Handsome Black Satin Quilted Skirts, \$3.50. Extra Quality Black Satin Quilted Skirts, \$5.00.

WOOLEN UNDERWEAR.

Men's Heavy Woolen Shirt and Drawers, \$1.50 per set. Men's Heavy Woolen Scarlet Shirt and Drawers, \$1.40 per set. Men's All Wool Navy Blue Top Shirt with Collar, 75c each. Men's All Wool Heavy Dark Grey Top Shirt with Collar, 60c each.

BLANKETS.

This is the season to buy Blankets. All Wool Blankets, fine, white and soft, 5lb weight, \$2.50, 6lb, \$3.00, 7 lb, \$3.50, 8 lb, \$4.00.

Some Startling Bargains in Rubbers and Overshoes.

Ladies' Croquet Rubbers, best make, sizes 2 1/2 to 7, 35c. Ladies' Imitation Sandal Rubbers, 2 1/2 by 7 1/2, 25c. Ladies' Fine Half French Heel Rubbers, sizes 2 1/2 to 7, 50c. Ladies' Felt High Cut Button Overshoes, sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$1.25. Ladies' Carnival High Cut Line' Waterproof Overshoes, \$1.75.

Ladies' German Felt Slippers.

Ladies' German Felt Slippers, 18c. Ladies' Leather Slippers, 50c. Ladies' Opa Slippers, 75c. Ladies' Kid lined, hand turned Slippers, Bow or Rosette, \$1.00. Ladies' French Kid Slippers, fancy headed, \$1.25.

MEN'S RUBBERS AND OVERSHOES.

Men's Rubbers Imitation Sandals, best Canadian make, sizes 9 to 12, price 50c. Men's Wool Lined Rubbers, sizes 8 to 11, 75c. Men's Felt Buckle Overshoes, best Canadian make, sizes 9 to 11, price \$1.25. Men's Buckle Arctic Fleece Lined Overshoes, best Canadian make, sizes 6 to 11, price \$1.40. Men's Snow Excluder Fleece Lined Overshoes, sizes 6 to 11, price \$1.25.

SPORTING BOOTS.

Men's Pure Gum Hip Sporting Boot, every pair warranted finest American make, price \$4.75. Men's Pure Gum Knee Boots, best American make, price \$3.75.

Men's Slippers.

Men's Fancy Velvet Slippers, nicely embroidered, 90c. Men's Fancy Velvet Slippers, White Kid Lined, \$1.25. Men's Fine Brocade Plush Chamoe Lined, \$2.00.

MISSES AND CHILDREN'S RUBBERS AND OVERSHOES.

Misses' Imitation Sandal Rubbers, size 11 to 2, 25c. Misses' High Cut Felt Button Overshoes, sizes 11 to 2, \$1.00. Misses' Lined Water-proof Carnival Overshoes, 11 to 2, \$1.50. Children's Imitation Sandal Rubbers, best Canadian make, 25c. Child's High Cut Felt Button Overshoes, 90c.

LADIES' BOOTS.

Ladies' Oil Pebble, Button or Lace, medium toe and heel, sizes and half sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$1.25. Ladies' Indian Kid, button with worked button holes, sizes and half sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$1.25. Ladies' Eureka, French Oil Goat, button, opera toe and medium heel, sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$1.75. Ladies' Fine Polish Calf, button, sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$1.75. Ladies' Fine Quality French Kid, light, medium and heavy soles, D and E widths, sizes and half sizes 2 1/2 to 7, \$2.00.

SPECIAL BARGAINS.

100 pairs of Misses' Solid Leather Lace Boots, sizes 11 to 2, for 75c per pair. 300 pairs of Children's Solid Leather Lace Boots, sizes 6 to 10, clearing at 55c per pair. Order immediately before they all go.

MEN'S BOOTS.

Gents' Solid Leather Lace and Congress Working Boots, with heavy soles, sizes 5 to 10, \$1.25. Gents' Full Ford Serviceable Base Boots, neat and dressy, 6 to 10, \$1.50. Gents' Sewed and Rivetted Leather Lined, good wear, sizes 6 to 10, extra value, \$1.75. Gents' Seamless Sewed and Rivetted Lace Boots, sizes 6 to 10, \$2.00. Gents' Grain Water Tight Leather Lines, sewed and rivetted, sizes 6 to 10, \$2.00. Men's Russian Felt Footed, 2 Buckle Boots, warm and comfortable, sizes 6 to 11, \$1.75. Men's Half Ford Felt, Long Boots, sizes 6 to 11, specially made for cold weather, \$1.75. Lumbermen's Felt Soles and Rubbers complete, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00. Space will not permit of a full list of foot wear. We Keep New York, Boston, Rochester and other fine American makes. Send orders for any particular make or style.

Dress Parcels Complete.

- 14 yds Combination Stripes Tweed, Effect 14 yds Check Wincoy, Navy and Garnet, Costume Cloth, Grey and Brown mixtures, Navy and Brown, Brown and Gold and Blue. 4 yds Skirt Lining, 2 yds Waist Lining, 1 1/2 doz Buttons, 2 1/2 yds Skirt Braid. All for \$9.25. 4 yds Serge Saiting, in Brown/Sage and Navy mixtures, 4 yds Skirt Lining, 1 1/2 yds Waist Lining, 2 1/2 yds Skirt Braid, 1 1/2 doz Buttons. All for \$2.00. 14 yds fine English Costume Cloth, in any color. 2 yds Foundation Muslin, 1 1/2 yds Waist Lining, 4 yds Skirt Lining, 2 1/2 yds Skirt Braid, 2 spools Twist to match, 1 spool Cotton, 1 1/2 yds Silk Plush for trimming, 1 handsome Wool Shawl. For \$5.00.

Send us your orders and we will give them our prompt and careful attention. Goods by express can be sent to any part of the Dominion, costing you say from 10c to 15c per pound, which you pay on receipt of goods. If under 5 pounds, parcels can be sent by mail, which will cost you 10c per pound, which amount must be added to price of goods. Send enough and we will return what is sent in excess. CHARLES STARK 62 CHURCH STREET, (TORONTO)