

Lord Dufferin seems to have the faculty, somewhat rare among men in his position, of remembering old acquaintances. He cabled his New Year's congratulations to the Thistle Curling Club of Montreal, of which he was a member when in Canada. A very graceful thing to do.

What will Sir John Macdonald do about all these vacant senatorships? He has some six of them to fill just now, and there is any amount of wire-pulling of course going on as to their disposition. Sir John will find his diplomacy sorely taxed to keep all applicants in good humor.

If Bismarck fancies that all he has to do in order to keep his emigrating Germans is to get colonies of his own where all his beloved *Deutschchen* may congregate, he is much mistaken. What Germans wish is to get away from this man of blood and war altogether. To be out of reach of his military system, his taxation and all the rest of it. To be in short, free. If there were German colonies to-morrow the emigrating German would still go to the States, because there they are free, and in their own way can call their souls their own. So good, friend Bismarck, nothing but free colonies will succeed in these days, and that you can't give, for you don't know how.

It seems very likely that Gladstone's race is about run. He may rally, but at best the last sands are fast running out. What then? His has been a grand figure, and the poor insolence and even clever Conservative caricatures can do little either to spoil his peace or mar his greatness. Such things are but like a congregation of lunatic monkeys running over the pyramids and saying what poor affairs they are. But after all, however, great Gladstone is not indispensable. Though he disappear, his work will continue, and England, the future mother of great men, will have men yet as good as he.

To be a member of the French Legion of Honor is no small honor. It appears that certain merchants and manufacturers who belong to the Order, have been accustomed to put the insignia of it on the goods which they manufactured or sold. The French Government decided that this is taking an unwarrantable liberty with honorable symbols, and has forbidden the continuance of the practice. Rightly, too, we think. Such distinctions are not given that they may enable one man to win a trade advantage over another. To take such a view of them, is to lower them immeasurably in public estimation.

Any number of dead-heads, it is said, are to be found at New Orleans. Newspaper establishments in New York and elsewhere so arrange matters that the whole staff get a free ride to the big show.

It is one thing, for which people with sensitive nerves, especially, have good reason to be profoundly grateful, that the discordant screeching of locomotives within the city limits, is to be put a stop to. It was one of the best things the late city council ever did when it passed that by-law, forbidding the use of steam whistles by locomotives, propellers or steamboats within the city limits. There is at least one misery the less in life since that was done.

Henry Labouchere, speaking of Egypt, says:—"My own opinion is that Egypt is a hell on earth to the laboring population, and that the condition of the fellahs is carefully concealed from us by our officials and correspondents, all of whom are more or less allied with the Europeans, who are there to make money, no matter how."

The Crofter agitation in Scotland still goes on, and will till some effective remedy be applied. And the movement won't stay with the Crofters. The whole tenant farmers in Scotland will be into it by-and-by. And good reason there will be for their being so.

Some people are saying that doctors charge exorbitant fees, and that as they form a close corporation, protected by Government from outside poachers, they ought not to be allowed to settle their own tariff. There is some truth in this. Would there be much harm done were anybody allowed to practice medicine that chooses? Again, many of the craft are tolerably ignorant, and the clever, competent man it is to be expected will always rise to the top. Besides it is not a settled fact that fewer patients are killed by regular practitioners than by those who are called quacks. How often you hear people saying "Oh don't go near him he is stupid and has no skill," though he may have as many certificates as would thatch the face of a parish. Well, they would say the same thing if he had neither certificate nor diploma to show. If he brought through his patients pretty generally his name would get up. If not, not. What worse then would things be in that case than now? It is, in any case, worth trying we do believe, even though some may say with a sigh, "we could not have believed that TRUTH would have been so heterodox and foolish."

A case is reported from one of the London hospitals, which, if true, will go far to remove the prejudice which many persons not unnaturally have against vivisection. Reasoning by analogy from data furnished by experiments on rabbits and monkeys, a London surgeon assured a patient that he was suffering from tumour on the brain. Not this alone, he told the exact spot where the tumour was to be found. It was the patient's last chance. He could not recover while the tumour was there. He might recover if it were removed, though the operation would be undoubtedly dangerous. He wisely took the risks. His skull was opened, and the tumour was found exactly where the surgeon had diagnosed. It was removed without difficulty, and the patient at last accounts was doing well, with every prospect of many years of health and usefulness before him. It is impossible to get over facts like these, if they are properly vouched for. No reasonable person can object to vivisection if it is conducted with the use of anesthetics, and every precaution always employed to avoid needless pain. Unfortunately this has not always been done, and what has set the general mind against the custom, is the cruelty that has so often been practiced in the name of science.

Some of the oyster boats on the Maryland coast must be hells of cruelty if all the stories are true that are told about the treatment of their crews by their captains. There is one captain awaits his trial now for the murder of one of his crew. The whole affair was most barbarous. One witness testified at the inquest that the poor victim had complained of sickness. The captain knocked him down with an oyster shovel and choked him blue. He then had him tied and swung over the deck until he promised to work. The poor wretch's promise, however, was useless enough, as he was physically incapable of exertion. The captain then beat him with a rope's end, and forced him to strip naked in the freezing air. He was afterwards tied up by the thumbs, kicked in the head, drenched with cold water, and finally thrown on shore to die. Altogether a record

of most revolting cruelty, indicating pretty clearly that some system of Government inspection needs to be inaugurated. Unfortunately this, though an extreme, is not an isolated case of brutality.

Queer people in the world—not a new remark by any means, but fresh illustrations of the fact are constantly cropping up to remind one of it. A physician recently died in Indianapolis who left orders that his body should receive no burial, but go at once to the dissecting table. He no doubt wished to do all the good he could to his generation, whether in life or in death. His unusual wish was complied with.

It seems terribly difficult to get the principle of intolerance out of men's heads and hearts. It seems to rise from the unexpressed feeling that what I think is right anyway, and every one who is not of that opinion ought to be damned, or burnt, or beaten, or something equally dreadful. When any man or any body of men take to name-calling or blows and threats it is a sure sign that they are beaten in argument, and that they know it. Why there is so much of that sort of thing in country's exclusively or nearly Roman Catholic is a mystery on any other consideration than that it is generally felt that as a mere matter of argument there is little or no show. One would not like to say positively that such is the case, but it looks awfully that way. If the truth is God's and will assuredly prevail, why should its supporters bluster and swear, and take to sticks and stones in support of their orthodoxy?

People are every now and then sending in most mournful and indignant letters about having been "cut" on the street and so forth, and about this and that person not associating with them. All such complaints are very silly and very sinful as well. In nine cases out of ten we don't believe there was any intention to "cut." It was inattention, preoccupation, or fifty other things perfectly compatible with respect and good-feeling. Did they see you? Are you sure? Did you see them? Did you give any sign of recognition? No! Why the mischief not? Waiting for them to begin? And how do you know but they were waiting for you? Just as like as not.

A poor, thin-skinned, nervous, proud, self-conscious mortal once got very confidential with us on the subject of "cutting," and here is the way it went. He never recognized anybody till he was himself recognized. He was, we verily believe, as proud as the devil, and yet had a kind of morbid, self-deprecating spirit about him which was saying continually, "I'll never give anyone a chance not to return my bow. People may think me not good enough for me but nobody shall 'cut me,' if I can help it." What was the consequence? He was and is everlastingly looking out for insults, and is continually cutting people for fear they cut him. Mutual friends ask every now and then "What is the matter with P? He cut me dead the other day, looking me straight in the face." Oh, what could we say, but just that we supposed he had been in one of his half daft, diseasedly-suspicious moods that made him think every body had resolved to "sit upon him." Why wait for the friendly nod? Why not meet it, at any rate half way or more? Nobody but a boor or a brute would refuse to reciprocate the salutation of the meanest, except, for some dreadful moral or personal reason. A friend walking with the "Iron Duke" noticed him lift his hat to a begrimed laborer who had saluted them as they passed, and expressed his surprise that he

should have taken any notice. "Do you think," replied the Duke, "that I would allow myself to be beaten in good manners by a coal heaver?" In short the man who is always on the outlook for insults will be sure to get them, for they are swiftly manufactured out of his own diseased imagination.

Another knock-down blow has been administered to the reputation of Sir John Macdonald as a constitutional lawyer, his much-talked of *Dominion License Act* having been declared by the Supreme Court to be *ultra vires*. The Reformers are naturally jubilant, and claim another great triumph for Mowat.

Paris is seriously alarmed at the outcry of thousands of her artisans for bread. Relief schemes have been organized, and it is hoped that any threatened danger of popular outbreak which there may have been may be safely avoided.

A curious result of the recent earthquake in Spain was the moving of an entire village bodily, sixty feet away from its former site.

The Salvation Army claims to have made over seven hundred converts in the city of Guelph. Now let who will affirm the contrary. We hold that, notwithstanding the peculiarities of the Army, some of them not very pleasant peculiarities either if only a tenth of those turn out to be *bona fide* conversions, the Salvationists have more than justified their existence. It will be time enough to object to these peculiar methods when we find some better plan of doing the work which they show themselves able to do.

The Young Men's Liberal Club of the city has resolved itself into a mock Parliament, and the members are busily amusing themselves with "Cabinets" composed of the usual ministers, both Prime Minister, Secretaries of Home and Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Finance, Justice, Public Works, Inland Revenue, Railways and Canals, Agriculture, Marine and Fisheries, Customs, Militia and Defence, etc. The Government is evidently busily engaged to "rush things" and has a vast amount of important legislation to bring in as gets light on the various points, and sees clearly to their promulgation. We are glad to think that the tariff is to be materially modified, and that strong arguments will be presented to the attention of the United States Government in favor of reciprocity. An extradition treaty with that country is also talked of. We should like to see a clause inserted providing for the extradition of the tireless letter writer to the press on all imaginable subjects convicted of that offence on this side of the line, there should be no escape for him the other. John Chinaman is also to be legislated against, and the whole subject of immigration to be regulated. The Canadian Pacific Railway may tremble, for a measure is to be passed looking to a formidable diminution of the hold it has on Canadian public. There is to be no extension of the franchise, not all men but all women also, being given the right which in virtue of their existence as women, inalienably belong to them. Taxation is to be revised, while the law of all temperance people are to be glad by the introduction of a measure the prevention of the evils of intemperance. Now all this is play of course, but it doesn't do much good, cannot in its nature of things do any harm. We believe given to provide a socked hat for

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