

Experiments, it is announced, are being conducted in the English Channel, near Folkestone, for the purpose of testing the geological structure of that portion of the sea bed upon which it has been proposed to construct a bridge across the Straits. The engineers engaged are M. Georges Hersent and M. Renaud, marine hydrographic engineers. The examination of the French coast is finished, and so far as it has proceeded on the English side of the Channel it has, it is stated, proved satisfactory. The sea bottom is declared very solid and suitable for the proposed structure. So says an English paper, but it is to be doubted that the scheme will ever be carried out. A tunnel would appear more feasible.

It is calculated to make one feel that something is out of joint when we hear that ladies crowded the court room during the trial of Birchell for murder at Woodstock. Women certainly have as much right as men to be present, if we look at the question of right on ordinary grounds, but the sense of fitness is wanting. It is unfortunately sometimes necessary for women to appear and take an active part in the proceedings of a murder trial, but that women who have no absolutely personal interest in it should flock to such a trial as this is a great pity. The hearing of sensational evidence and the consequent excitement and general throwing off the ordinary course of events cannot be otherwise than injurious to either men or women, especially women, because they are of a more highly strung and sensitive nature than men. It would be better if those who have no call to be present were altogether excluded from murder trials. We should think it would be the last place that any one would care to go.

The general theatre-going proportion of the citizens of Halifax are not aware of the debt of gratitude they owe the gentlemen who subscribed to, built and furnished the Academy of Music. Fifteen years ago the building was erected and furnished in order to supply a need which had long been felt. The cost was \$77,400, of which sum \$54,400 was raised by subscription, and the balance procured on mortgage bonds. Not a dollar has ever been paid to the subscribers as dividend on their investment, and the Board of Directors, under whose supervision the Academy is managed, give their services gratuitously, and aim to make the theatre a comfort and credit to our city. The unselfishness which has been shown deserves to be rewarded, and now that an appeal is being made to those who have for fifteen years enjoyed the privilege of witnessing and hearing entertainments in a first class house, it is only fair that an appreciative spirit should be manifested. The Orpheus Club will on Friday evening next give a concert in the Academy of Music, the proceeds of which will be devoted to putting the Academy in first class order and replenishing the scenery. The Governor-General and party, Admiral Watson, General Sir John Ross and His Honor the Lieut.-Governor have consented to patronize the entertainment, and there will doubtless be a brimming house present on the occasion. It is enough to say that the Orpheus Club give the concert to know that it will be worth hearing, and all who attend will be sure to get the worth of their money, besides helping to keep up our pretty theatre.

Prior to the year 1867 farmers were entirely without any organization or means of combining in defence or prosecution of their professional interests. In that year the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, a secret society, which degrees, etc., originated with Mr. O. H. Kelly, an employe of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The order increased but slowly for a few years, and was then eagerly seized upon by farmers as an efficient instrumentality for resisting the exorbitant freight exactions of the railway companies, which amounted to a heavy tax on agricultural production. This Order flourishes in almost every state of the Union, where it numbers over one million members of both sexes in good standing; also in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. The Grange is strictly non-partisan and non-sectarian, aiming to organize and combine farmers for mutual improvement and instruction, and for the defence and promotion of their common interests. Some six years subsequently to the inception of the Grange the National Farmers' Alliance and Co operative Union, also a secret society, was organized in Texas for the prosecution of objects not coming within the range of the existing organization. The Alliance, which is said to have a membership of two millions of both sexes, is a most important force and factor in the politics of the United States. It demands that the Federal Government assume the ownership and operation of all railroads; favors the abolition of National Banks and their notes, and substitution of treasury notes; asks for legislation preventing dealings in "options" and "futures," or speculations in the price of agricultural produce yet unharvested; approves of the unrestricted coinage of silver, and demands the prohibition of alien ownership of land. The Alliance also proposes the erection of a National warehouse in and for every county raising agricultural produce to the value of \$500 for the storing of such produce, the depositor to receive not more than 80 per cent. of the value of produce stored by him in treasury notes, which shall be lawful money for all purposes. Such deposits shall, if not redeemed within a year, be sold at auction, and any surplus arising from such sale after payment of cost and charges be paid to the depositor. The National Farmers' League is another influential, though not nearly so numerous or territorially extensive an organization as either the Grange or the Alliance. It is an avowedly political organization, but is not a secret society. The members are pledged to unite in the advancement of the interests of farmers by their vote and influence. Besides these organizations there are the "North Western Alliance," "The Patrons of Industry," "The Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association," and "The National Colored Farmers' Alliance." Only the first mentioned of these Orders, "The Patrons of Husbandry, as far as we know, has been introduced into the Dominion,

The American hog, as pork raised in Uncle Sam's domain is sometimes called, has not for some years been allowed entrance into France, because trichinosis, a disease caused by eating it, was spreading over the country. A decree prohibiting the importation of American pork to France was signed in 1881, and a sanitary service was partially organized for the inspection of that article when the ban should be removed. This inspection service came to an end for lack of funds, and so for nine years there has been no barrier between the French people and trichinosis save the decree of 1881. A movement is now being made in France to repeal the prohibitory law and re-establish the inspection service. If this is done American pork will once more help to feed the French, and there will be no occasion for the United States to put an interdict on spirits, wines, etc., from France. *Public Opinion* in its art notes says:—"The remission of the Fine Art tax in the United States is again rumored, but we hear that it will not depend in any way, as has been asserted, on the question of importation of American pork into France. Pork and pictures!—a truly American combination; not unlike Mark Twain's 'holy grailing expedition.'"

The story of Boulangism, as revealed by M. Mermeix in the *Figaro*, is, if not edifying, at least very interesting reading. It is in fact the story of a plot to restore the monarchy in France, and also of deep seated plans in the breast of *le brav'* general to comfortably feather his own nest. It will make an interesting bit of history. M. Mermeix has been assisted by several others, Boulangists like himself presumably, in making these revelations, but their names he is pledged to keep out of the business. This is no doubt a satisfactory arrangement for his assistants, inasmuch as the duty of fighting several duels has come upon M. Mermeix in consequence of the exposures he has made. Boulanger, as is well known, was the idol of the people of France for a season. Four years ago he was Minister of War, and when he was sent to Clermont-Ferrand, on the fall of the Goblet Ministry, the General met with a great popular ovation from the Parisians as he left the capital. About two years ago he made a triumphal progress through France. He was idolized as the man who was to save the country from the blunders and incompetence of the men in power, and as the hero who would lead the hosts of France in a great and victorious war of revenge against the Germans. However, it appears now, by the light M. Mermeix has thrown upon the action and motives of the General, that had he succeeded in overturning the Republic it would have been far less in the interest of the Comte de Paris, grandson of Louis Philippe, than for the aggrandisement of General George Boulanger. The startling successes of Boulanger, when he carried department after department in the north and east of France, made it evident that he had the support of both Bonapartists and Royalists, and when at the by-election held in January, 1889, he swept the Department of the Seine by a tremendous majority, it was equally plain that the Paris Socialists and a section of the extreme Radicals were enlisted on his side. These interests were conflicting ones, so it is evident that someone was being duped. The Boulangists wanted Boulanger to first secure a majority of the Chamber of Deputies, and then effect in a congress of the two houses such a revision of the Constitution as would provide for an election of a President by the people. This, it was hoped, would result in the election of Prince Napoleon. The Royalists on the other hand wished the General to effect the restoration of the Monarchy by a *coup d'etat*. Now comes the interesting part of the story. A pledge to this effect, it seems, was given by Boulanger to a Royalist leader, Baron de Mackay, who produced a letter from the Comte de Paris giving him full power to act. Relying upon this agreement, the Duchesse d'Uzès contributed the sum of \$600,000 to the campaign expenses of Boulanger, who, however, in his colloquies with his Radical adherents made no secret of his intention to swindle the Royalists, and he is now ungentlemanly enough to say that the Duchesse gave him this huge sum of money as an onslaught on his affections, she having fallen in love with him. By all that can be ascertained, there is nothing to throw any doubt on the Duchesse's sincerity of purpose but the statement of Boulanger, who certainly has not come through this piece of business in a manner to inspire confidence in his truthfulness. The Duchesse d'Uzès freely admits having supplied this money to Boulanger for the purpose of restoring the Orleanists to the throne of France. Each of the three parties which combined to carry Paris in September, 1889, evidently meant to cheat the others, and each believed in Boulanger, who in his turn meant to cheat all three. It cannot be denied that twice he came near success, but whatever may be thought of the opportunities which offered when the canvass of the two houses which preceded the election of M. Carnot to the Presidency was being carried on, and also on that night in January, 1889, when it was known that Boulanger had carried Paris by a great majority, he has never had another chance to cover himself with glory, for since that night in January his prestige has steadily declined, and so far as active events go, he has been for some time politically dead, it is only his ghost which is now being laid. The General had not much reputation to lose by these revelations, but he has succeeded in discrediting himself more deeply than before by his statement with regard to the Duchesse d'Uzès. The Duchesse, while no doubt acting foolishly in giving such a large sum of money to a lost cause, is the only one of those concerned in the events recorded who seems to have been thoroughly sincere. There was no pretence about her gift of \$600,000. She states that she holds a letter from the General in which he declares he was devoting himself to the Royalist cause, but she will not publish the General's letters without the permission of the writer. The probable reason why Boulanger did not seize the opportunities which offered to effect a revolution is that had he done so his duped adherents on all sides would have made France too hot to hold him.