Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1888.

LONGEVITY.

Almost every one wants to live long. From the earliest ages length of days has been considered one of the greatest, if not the very greatest, of earthly blessings. Yet with all their searchings men have not found the secret of longevity. Several have thought that they have discovered it, and many more have tried to make the world believe that they had found it, but the elixir of life, like the philosopher's stone, is still among the secrets that the industry of man and the ingenuity of man have not been able to wring from Nature. Latterly the attention of men has been directed to the best way of giving their bodies fair play. Medicines and specifics of one kind and another are falling into disrepute and people are getting to believe if they desire to live long—if they wish to keep the wonderful mechanism of their bodies in good order—they must find out how those who have lived longest and enjoyed the best health have treated themselves. They are in this way trying, by the inductive method, to build up what may be called a science of life. These enquirers are in all parts of the world and they now and then give the results of their investigations to the public. The results are singular and not exactly in accordance with the preconceived notions of any individual scientist or school of scientists. Still further are they from confirming the theories which enthusiasts and hobbyists who have made hygiene their study have formed. Clement Milton Hammond is one of the searchers after physiological truth. He appears to have entered upon his investigations without bias. He had no hobby. He was neither a vegetarian nor an anti-tobacconist, neither a tea-totaller nor a tea and coffee hater. He, it seems, was desirous to get at the truth whatever it might be, or whatever theory it might prove or discredit. He lived in Boston, and was associate editor of the *Globe* of that city. He had five thousand blanks printed containing questions, to which he desired answers from persons in the New England States who were over eighty years of age. He sent these blanks to the representatives of the paper, and he received answers from three thousand five hundred men and women. The old people resided in every part of the New England States, had lived in many different ways, and had followed all sorts of occupations. The first thing that seemed to strike him was that by far the greater number of these people who had attained the age of four score had been married. The first conclusion, then, that he came to is that marriage is favorable to longevity. Of course the greater number of men and women get married some time in their lives, but the proportion of married to single in any country, we should say, is hardly twenty to one. He found, too, that there were among his 3,500 correspondents 251 more women than men. Conclusion number two is that a woman in the New England States stands a greater chance of living to be very old than a man. There may be local reasons for this. In Massachusetts, for instance, the women exceed the men by 450, but in other states the greater number of correspondents were men. The families of those who were married averaged five. The papers showed that by far the greater number of the old people, both men women, were fair. The men were tall and lean, the women were, as a rule, short and fat. Five out of six of these old New Englanders, had light complexions, blue eyes, and abundant brown hair. The reader can make his own generalization from these facts. It appears that the habits of these old folks did not differ in any remarkable degree from those of their neighbors. "Early to bed and early to rise" is a maxim which is followed in all the rural districts and small towns of New England pretty generally, and these old people went to bed early and rose early like every one else in their part of the country. They had their meals, too, at the same hours and ate the same food. Most of them were eaters of pie, they drank tea and coffee habitually, and *horribile dictu*, a large majority of the men smoked and chewed tobacco. A few drank wine and other strong drink. A few of the women were habitual smokers and a score were set down as takers of snuff. A half a dozen never ate meat and two have abstained from water. Although there were a few small eaters among them and some large eaters they are nearly all described as having had throughout their lives good appetites. It would be a little hard to find proof here for any fad. The evidence adduced goes to prove that those who taboo pie are prejudiced, and that the dislike to fried pork is an unreasonable antipathy. In these examples of the survival of the fittest the tobacco smokers and chewers occupy a prominent place, and even the consumers of alcohol are to be found. The indications are that these old people came of a healthy, long-lived stock and that their children that survived infancy enjoyed good health. It is to be noticed that nearly all of these old people were actively employed during the whole of their lives. Almost half of the men were farmers and eight hundred out of twelve hundred of the women were farmers' wives. The very great majority of them were always their own masters. The number of employes is remarkably small. The sanitary condition of the abodes of many of these octogenarians was far from being perfect. Indeed, according to the principles of modern hygiene some of them had no business to live half as long as they did. A perusal of Dr. Hammond's very interesting paper is exceedingly bewildering. He seems to be a little puzzled himself and does not know very well what conclusions his enquiries lead to. He says: "One thing to me seems to stand out above all others: that a vital principle manifested outwardly by firm build and constant activity has been the chief cause of the advanced age of these people." He seems to think that organization of mind and body has more to do with longevity than any habits or conditions of life. He evidently believes that long livers, like poets, are born, not made. Perhaps he is right. But it is after all impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that there is such a thing as suicide in this world. Not the rough, sudden snapping of the thread of life that goes by that name, but a slow, steady process which it would horrify the suicide properly to characterize.

DISMISSED.

Lord Sackville has been told by the Government of the United States that he is not wanted any longer in Washington as the representative of Great Britain. Secretary Bayard says what he means in the plainest way. He uses no euphonious phrases, no polite official circumlocution. He tells him that his continuance in his present official situation near the Government is no longer acceptable, and although he is not in the slightest danger, he, in compliance with custom, sends his lordship a letter of safe conduct. Under other circumstances this summary eviction would be exceedingly irritating, for after all, Lord Sackville's offence is not really of a very serious nature. But the Government and people of the United States are just now abnormally sensitive. It would never do for the President to tolerate the interference of the British Ambassador in the election contest even when it is in his own behalf. The stump orators and the able editors of the other party would, if he overlooked Lord Sackville's offence, raise such a howl as would make his re-election an impossibility. They must denounce British interference, and they must deal with the meddler in the most severe and summary way. As soon as the letter which Lord Sackville had been entrapped into writing was published the Democratic politicians demanded that his pasports be sent him and that he be requested to leave the seat of Government. The Republicans laughed at their indignant zeal, and said all the mischief had been done already. The very circumstance of Lord Sackville's writing the letter was sufficient to convince the American nation that the British felt the liveliest interest in having Mr. Cleveland returned and that they were willing to do anything to help on his election. Unfortunately, there is still in the United States a large body of electors who hate Great Britan cordially and who would violently oppose the candidate whom they believe to be favored by the British. This the Republicans know; this is why the letter was written; and this is why the American Government find it necessary to show in the most ostentatious manner possible that they resent the interference of the British ambassador in the Presidential election.

A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL.

One of the urgent needs of Victoria is a first-class hotel. The want of such hotel accommodation as the best class of travellers require and will have is the only thing that hinders Victoria from being one of the most popular watering places on the continent. The scenery in its immediate vicinity and within easy reach of it is magnificent. It has drives such as but few cities can boast of. The combination of splendid mountain scenery with the advantages of being on the sea coast is what few summer resorts have to offer. The visitor to Victoria can be one day climbing high and rugged mountains, and the next luxuriously sailing on a quiet sea studded with beautiful islands. The dweller of the cities inland and south escapes the enervating heat of the summer months by coming to this northern city where the climate is deliciously cool even in the dog days, and if his health or his pleasure require it, he can remain here until long after the cold weather has set in in places situated in the same parallel of latitude in the east. Victoria has the double advantage of having a cool summer and a warm and pleasant autumn. There has not been up to this date sufficient frost to kill the delicate plants of the flower garden; dahlias and roses are now in bloom, and plants that are looked upon as exotics in the east are still flourishing in the open air. Visitors to the watering places of the east, as all know, are driven inland by the frosts and chilling winds and rains of early autumn. Here summer leaves us very gradually, and our mild winter does not set in until long after the eastern parts of the Dominion and the north-eastern States are buried in snow. With such a climate and in such a situation Victoria should be crowded with visitors from early summer to late in the autumn But it is of little use inviting people to come, and describing the natural charms and advantages of the city and Island if we cannot assure them that they will enjoy here all the domestic comforts, conveniences and luxuries to which they are accustomed at home. People will not come to a place when the accommodations are not up to their standard of comfort, or coming once, they will be certain not to return. It seems to us that these are good grounds for believing that the money invested in a really good hotel in Victoria would yield a handsome return. Its establishment, besides being profitable to those who built and maintained it, would be a very considerable public benefit. A large number of tourists now visit Victoria and they leave in it a great deal of money which benefits not the hotel-keepers alone, but all who do business in the city. If it were made a place of summer resort in which numbers of rich people and their families lived for three or four months of the year the benefits derived by the citizens generally would be still greater. And when we have the proper accommodation to offer summer sojourners their number will every year become greater and greater. The natural attractions of the city and island are so great and so varied that they have only to become known to be appreciated and taken advantage of by persons from all parts of the continent, always provided, however, that we can make them as comfortable as they would like to be after they do come. We have for some years advocated the erection of such a hotel as we and many others are convinced that Victoria needs, but with, so far, no result that can be perceived, but we are not discouraged. We believe that the advantages of having such an institution in the city are so many and so great that the time is not far distant when enterprising men of means will see it is to their interest to give Victoria a really first-class hotel.

A SENSIBLE OBSERVER.

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* takes a very sensible view of the squabble in Manitoba. It seems to think that the people of that province are making a great deal of unnecessary disturbance. It believes that they will be sure to get what they want and that they would get it quite as quickly by taking things easily as by making so much noise and fuss. It says: "These fights over crossing privileges are generally foolish and futile. As a matter of fact when one railroad finds it necessary for business purposes to cross the tracks of another it always succeeds in doing so in the end." After reviewing the course taken by both the parties in the struggle and giving a very fair and life-like picture of the situation, it goes on to say: "Both parties are determined to be as ugly as possible, and each is charging up unreasonableness on the other. But that a matter which is not like disallowance, which meant a final refusal of permission to build any railroad at all, but is merely a temporary check, involving at most a delay of a few months on one, or a present concession of what must shortly become inevitable on the other, should incite a call to arms and prepare several thousand people for the interesting occupation of cutting one another's throats, is ineffable absurdity." The *Pioneer Press* has hit the nail on the head, and if the Manitobans could manage to see themselves as others see them, they would act with much greater coolness and moderation than they are doing.

ELECTION SURMISE.

American politicians seem to be so much at sea with respect to the presidential election as Canadians or Englishmen. They guess and calculate more than enough, but the result is very far from being satisfactory. The conjectures and computations differ so widely that it is easy to see that none of the guessers are sure of their data. The fact that both parties have increased the number of the uncertain states beyond the bounds of reason shows how doubtful they are of the result. At first New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, were the uncertain states. The politicians have since added to the list California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire and West Virginia. It is not likely that more than two or three of these states are at all doubtful. But the politicians of the two parties in order to keep their respective supporters in good heart have tried to make them believe that the chances of success are greater than they are. It appears that the only really doubtful state is New York. And as the campaign progresses it is becoming more uncertain to which side it will give a majority. To speak of California being doubtful seems to people on this side of the continent most absurd. Every one knows that it is entirely Republican and that it has not since the contest commenced given the least sign that any change had taken place in the political views of any part of the majority. The same, no doubt, may be said of most of the other states claimed to be doubtful. It does not seem that either party has gained or lost in any very perceptible degree in any state. The tariff reformers must be greatly disappointed. They expected to make large gains in the north-western States, but as far as as can be seen these States have remained unchanged. The opinion has been gaining ground of late that Harrison's chances are improving. It does not appear very clearly on what ground this conviction is based, but it is undeniable that the nearer election day approaches the more confident the supporters of Harrison are becoming, while those of Cleveland are growing less sanguine. However, as far as can be seen from this distance, it is one's battle as yet. One candidate seems to stand as as good a chance as the other.

A POLITICAL EXIGENCY.

One has only to read the newspapers of the Republican party to understand why it is that President Cleveland has found himself compelled, as it were, to treat the British ambassador and those whom he represents, with an incivility that borders upon insolence. The Republicans want the anti-British vote and they eagerly seize upon any circumstance that increases their chance of obtaining it. Lord Sackville's letter was to them the richest kind of a windfall. They saw that it gave them an opportunity of convincing the haters of Great Britain that President Cleveland is British in his predilections. This is how the New York *Tribune* improves the occasion. It says: "The letter was an official certificate that the President is the English-Canadian candidate and worthy of receiving the suffrages and unbroken support of naturalized citizens of English or Canadian birth. The country is well aware that the President is the English candidate. The judgment of the London and the Canadian Press has been conclusive on this point." If the *Tribune*, the most influential and of the most respectable of the Republican newspapers could bring itself to publish such rot as this, what is to be expected of newspapers, which have no reputation to uphold, and of platform orators whose only object is to get votes, no matter how. Every intelligent man knows that the British Government had no more to do with Lord Sackville's blundering letter than the Emperor of China. But the *Tribune* did not write for intelligent, reasoning men. And it was to propitiate the unthinking class who blindly hate England and everything English, that the American Government treated the erring ambassador in the most public way possible with studied indignity. Some one had to be sacrificed to anti-British feeling and it was considered better that it should be Lord Sackville than President Cleveland.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

"GIVE HIM A SHOW."

We trust that now a Police Superintendent has been appointed the corporation will invest him with the power necessary to make the force under him fit for the work it has to do. The duties of a chief of police partakes more of the nature of those of a military than those of a civil officer. He requires from those under him constant watchfulness and strict obedience. But unless the men know that he has power to enforce his authority his orders are not likely to be strictly obeyed. When the policeman to whom some unpleasant or dangerous duty is assigned knows that his chief had nothing to do with his appointment, and cannot, in case of disobedience cause him to be dismissed, he will be very apt to shirk his duty or make only a pretence of performing it. If the Superintendent is fit for his office he is fit to be entrusted with sufficient power over the men to make his authority respected. Then again as he is, and ought to be held, responsible for the manner in which the men do their duty, he ought to have an influential voice in the selection of the men. When through aldermanic influence incompetent men are thrust upon him, the aldermen whose nominees they are, and not the Superintendent, should be held responsible for the way in which they do their duty. Every man admitted into the force, if not chosen by the Superintendent, should be subject to his approval. Complaints by him of their misconduct if proved on enquiry should be sufficient to effect their removal. In a small town like this a commissioner of police is unnecessary, but in order to have the force efficient and well under control the Superintendent should possess much of the power exercised by a commissioner. To place him under the authority of a debating club such as the Police Committee always is, without any discretion as to how he shall act in important crises, is to deprive him, if he is the man he ought to be, of the greater part of his usefulness. It is fair to presume that he understands his business a great deal better than the committee does, and it is, therefore, best to let him have his way, and hold him responsible for results. If he does well, all right; if he does badly, then the committee can bring him to task. But he should be allowed a chance to show what is in him and should not be dictated to by the aldermen at every turn and under all circumstances. The one-man power is not always the best or the safest, but there are positions in which it is necessary to place a great deal of power in the hands of one man, and that of Chief of Police is one of these. We trust that the Corporation will be wise enough to invest Superintendent Sheppard with sufficient authority to enable him to do his duty to the best of his ability. As the boys say, "Give him a show."

SPIRITUALISM.

Although men and women of all creeds and all nations believe in the immortality of the soul and in a life after death, "spiritualism," so called, is a comparatively modern belief. From very early ages men have believed that the spirits of the departed revisit the glimpses of the moon and occasionally speak to the living. There have always been persons who have pretended to be able to raise spirits from the vasty deep, yet no sect until of late years claimed to have the privilege of constant intercourse with those who have joined the great majority. Those who first declared that they possessed the power of obtaining communications from the spirits dwelling in the unseen world were looked upon as impostors or deluded enthusiasts; but it is surprising how many came to believe firmly in their pretensions. The converts to spiritualism were not all ignorant, credulous, weak-minded people. There were among them intelligent persons, who were well educated and possessed more than ordinary intellectual endowments. It was found that many of the mediums were impostors. Clever persons for the amusement and edification of the public, did, without the aid of spirits, almost all the extraordinary things which the mediums professed to be able to do with spiritual assistance, and were unable to do without it. Their object was to show that the so-called wonders of spiritualism were nothing more than a species of ingenious jugglery, and that some of the phenomena were not ingenious at all. But in spite of these exposures spiritualism continued to grow until its believers in the United States alone are said to number eight millions. This is very likely an exaggeration, but there is no doubt that the believers in some form of spiritualism are very unmerous, not only in the United States, but in all other Christian countries. Can these people be all the dupes of clever impostors? There are many who believe that they are. The exposure in the Diss Debar case showed that a shrewd lawyer, an educated man, who possessed intellectual power and activity enough to perform important public duties satisfactorily was made the dupe of a coarse adventuress who, though cunning enough, was not possessed of a tithe of his power of brain. Two of the most celebrated of the mediums of the sect, women who it is more than probable were instrumental in making thousands of converts to Spritualism, have lately confessed that their manifestations were deceptive tricks, and that they were, during the whole of their Spiritual career, nothing more nor less than impostors. These are the Fox sisters, who were supposed to be at one time on intimate terms with the whole world of spirits. They commenced their career of deception when they were children for pure mischief, and afterwards continued it for notoriety and gain. Their elder sister, Mrs. Underhill, was shrewd enough to see that a good thing would be made out of the performance of the girls and through her influence they became professional mediums. They deceived thousands, and we do not see that they were ever discovered and exposed. Margaret Fox, who was afterwards the wife of the famous Dr. Kane, the Arctic explorer, says in an autobiographical sketch which appears in the N. Y. *World* of the 24th ult., over her own signature. "I have seen so much of miserable deception that I am willing to assist in any way and to positively state that spiritualism is a fraud of the worst description. I do so before my God and my idea is to expose it. I despise it. I never want to lay my eyes on spiritualists again." This is the testimony of a woman who was for many years a medium in whose honesty thousands placed the most implicit faith. Are there many more like she was? Are what appears to the uninitiated observer genuine and very wonderful spiritual manifestations mere juggling tricks, more or less ingenious? Whether they are or not Mrs. Kane's confession as well as other exposures, should put people on their guard against readily putting faith in alleged spiritualistic phenomena that appear to them very wonderful. It is quite possible that they may be imposed upon. Those who have seen the performances of Herrmann, or any other clever professor of legerdemain need not be told that it is not safe to trust to the evidence of one's senses. Both the eye and the ear can be easily imposed upon. Seeing is not always believing, and hearing is often not evidence that can be trusted implicitely. It is seen, too, that a person in a hypnotic state cannot be sure that what he sees and hears, and feels and tastes, and smells is real. He does not even speak his own words, or think his own thoughts. Who knows how much mesmerism has had to do with these so-called spiritualistic phenomena? At any rate imposture is so often practised that it is only prudent for the tyro to be sceptical and on his guard.

WHITE SALMON.

We learn that two or three British Columbia canners have tried the experiment of putting up white salmon. The venture is a risky one for there is a wide-spread prejudice against salmon whose flesh is white. Those who know most about salmon say that there are no grounds whatever for this prejudice. The white salmon is as healthy a fish as the one whose flesh happens to be pink. It is as fat and as well flavored, in fact, as good a fish in every respect. The cause of the difference is not very well known. The fish are of the same species. There is no greater difference between them, naturalists tell us, than there is between a dark-skinned man and a fair-complexioned man. They are, as far as species goes, absolutely identical The two kinds come up the rivers together at the same time, their habits are alike. Nature makes no other difference between them. It is supposed that the difference is caused by the waters they frequent and the food they eat. It is thought that the white-fleshed salmon do not go so far out to sea as its pink-fleshed brother—that it remains in the bays and land-locked seas where the water is not so salt and where the food is different. But this is all a matter of conjecture. For all practical purposes the white-fleshed and the pink-fleshed salmon are identical; and they may, for all that is known to the contrary, frequent the same waters and live upon the same food. The prejudice we have alluded to has caused a difference in the demand for them, and a consequent difference in the price, but the person who buys a can of white-fleshed salmon gets as much nourishment and as great a dainty as he who buys a can of pink-fleshed salmon. In a word he gets as good an article for less money. Both being as well-packed, there is not the slightest difference between them. We trust that the firms who have put this excellent food fish on the market in the face of the strong and general prejudice (outside of British Columbia) against it will receive the reward that their enterprise deserves. They are really doing the public a valuable service when they save from being wasted a very considerable part of the year's catch of salmon.

SOCIALISTIC AGITATORS.

We see by the Melbourne *Journal of Commerce* that the coal miners, whose strike has caused so great a disturbance over a very wide circle, had in view not so much the improvement of their own condition as the accomplishment of a social revolution in all parts of the civilized world. At the beginning of the strike they issued an appeal for aid. To this appeal they gave the high sounding title "manifesto." They tell the world, "We are simply defending one of the highest principles for which workmen can contend—a principle worthy the unlimited support of ourselves and the general body of workers and which is summed up in the words, "The unequal distribution of wealth." Of course, the miners did not mean what the ignoramus who drew up their "manifesto" made them say. Their object was not certainly to defend the unequal distribution of wealth. Quite the contrary. They struck work in order to take money out of other people's pockets and to put it into their own. They considered that wealth in the coal industry and every other industry is unequally distributed, and their object was to divide it more equally by getting a greater share themselves. There are a great many in this world who want to distribute wealth in this way besides the coal-miners of Australia. These miners were in the receipt of very good wages, when, having listened to the mischievous advice of agitators, who prated to them about capital and labor, they struck work. For the eleven days previous to the strike the men of the Burwood mine earned an average of 11s. 6d. a day, or $2.76, supposing they worked full time. The average of the Newcastle Company for the same time was 12s. 1d., or $2.90. Navvies were working in the same place for $2 and $2.50 a day. The agitators persuaded the men who were receiving such wages that they were ill-used, and persuaded them in order to "defend the unequal distribution of wealth" to cease earning anything at all for a time. It would appear that the employers were then paying quite as high wages as they could afford, for rather than accede to the demands of the men they closed the mines, although some forty ships were waiting for cargoes and many orders were unfilled. The result of the advice of the agitators was ruinous to many of the miners themselves and the cause of loss of work to men employed in other industries. The manufacturers in Australia being disappointed in their supply of coal and being obliged to pay enormous prices of what they did use, had to limit their operations, which meant employing as few hands as possible, and the loss and suffering thus caused were both greater and wider in their extent than can be readily imagined. The agitators who preached socialistic rubbish to the men had the satisfaction of seeing them and their families suffering in the first place, and of having caused numbers of factory operators, sailors, and others to lose work and wages for an indefinite period. Their advice did good to no one and harm to very many. This is, in nine cases out of ten, the result that follows acting upon the advice of shallow and ignorant blatherskites who undertake to reform the world when they do not possess brains enough to run a peanut stand successfully. The trash that we see in low class newspapers about the "unequal distribution of wealth" like the hifalutin talked by the Australian agitators in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, injures a great many in the community and benefits very few indeed. The Australian strike is a failure and the agitators are responsible for the suffering it has caused.

ABOUT PEWS.

One of the questions of the day in this and other countries is, should the churches be free? Is it right for any one calling himself or herself a Christian to have a property interest in a place of worship, to have the power of turning those who come to hear the Gospel preached into the street? There are many sincere Christians who look upon the pew system as unchristian. And really in the large cities it has that appearance. The visitor to almost any large Protestant church on the continent will be tempted to ask where are the poor? He will see no indication of poverty in the congregation. If every one were required to pay an admission fee of a dollar the audience could hardly be more "respectable." A poor person, we will not say shabbily but unfashionably dressed, would feel sadly out of place in very many Christian churches. He would be painfully reminded of his poverty and the unfashionableness of his attire every time he looked around him. Mortifying as this is to men it is still more so to women. A poorly dressed woman would feel as much out of place in one of these churches as she would in a ball-room. To a Christian who is not blessed with a sufficiency of this world's goods and is honest enough to allow his apparel to indicate his condition, there is no place where he can sit and not make an advertisement of himself. The great body of the church is owned by well-to-do people, who have had its area boxed off for their private and particular use and occupation. The stranger does not feel like intruding upon what belongs to another, and the poor, shabbily-dressed person sees] that the contrast between his clothes and those of the well-clad owners of the pews is too great for either of them to feel at their ease near one another. It is true that in most churches there are a few seats which are called free, but to occupy them would be to proclaim their poverty, and that they do not choose to do. No one likes to see himself or herself declared to the whole world to be a pauper. This may be pride, but it is a natural kind of pride and, besides, people who are rich and comfortable must not claim for themselves a monopoly of pride as well as of almost everything else. The consequence is that the poor for the most part do not attend church. That sign of the Divine mission of Christianity, "To the poor the Gospel is preached" is not at all conspicuous in the Protestant churches of this continent. The non-church goers are becoming more and more numerous. Christianity, among Protestants particularly, appears to be becoming the religion of the well-to-do, the respectable classes. Canon Mockridge, of Toronto, in a sermon which he preached on the subject of free churches a few Sundays ago, said: "Brethren, what particular use is it for me to pay house to house visitations? I visit now from 400 to 500 families, and of these only a very small proportion come to church. I can't get them to come, and really I don't wonder that they stay away. They tell me 'you only want people who are able to pay pew rent, and I can't afford it.' I tell them 'Come, there are seats where you can sit that are not rented.' They say: 'I don't care to be ticketed a free seat man.'" And Toronto is not the only city in which the non-attendance at the churches is exciting the anxiety and solicitude of good people. In Montreal the subject has been earnestly discussed and enquired into. But the agitation there and elsewhere, we venture to say, will have but little effect as long as the seats in the churches are personal property. It is said that the difficulty in making the seats in churches free is a financial one. It would be impossible, many think, to raise money enough for church purposes if the seats were free. When contributions are given voluntarily and not as a payment for space in the churches, the collections are small. This may be true in many congregations, but in some places the free seat system has been tried and has succeded. Those who are willing to support a church which will be in a position to do the greatest possible amount of good to the greatest number can, if they are so minded, give as liberally for the good of the whole denomination as they do for their own particular comfort and convenience. There is really nothing to prevent the seats in churches being free except the will of the church-goers. The real cause of the origin and continuance of the pew system is, we very greatly fear, the feeling of class distinction that permeates every Anglo-Saxon community. The truth is that we are, as a people too aristocratic to have our churches free. We carry our social distinctions to church with us. They are in reality petty and trivial, and should, if we are as much in earnest as we pretend to be, be forgotten or disregarded in the presence of Deity. But small, and even insignificant and contemptible as they are, when viewed in the proper light, they mean a very great deal to the most of us. We cannot get rid of our exclusiveness and our self-importance when we want to, or when we see that it is our duty to throw them aside. As a very wise man and a keen observer said, we are a nation of snobs and we cannot for the life of us get clear of our snobbery. We say that we are all equal in the sight of the Lord and we believe it too, in a way. But this conviction has not a strong enough hold of us to induce us to make our churches places in which all are equal, places in which there are no rich and no poor, no high and no low. It may be, perhaps, too much to expect people to get rid of habits and ways of thinking that have become a second nature to them for even one day in the week, and to meet in one building for a few hours on a footing of perfect equality. But until they do we very much fear that the evil of non-attendance at church will go on increasing and our churches like our theatres and big hotels will become places into which men and women with empty purses and poor clothes will not think of entering.

CARIBOO VACANCY.

The writ for the election of a member to fill the vacancy in the legislature, caused by the resignation of Mr. Robt McLeese, junior member for Cariboo district, has been issued and is returnable on the 16th January. Possible candidates have not yet been heard from, though there is ample material from which to select a good man. It is quite probable that some of the gentlemen who were defeated at the general election will again try their chances with the popular vote.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE Winnipeg *Commercial* says the influence of railway competition is already felt in Manitoba. New freight and passenger tariffs have been announced in which reductions on previous charges are made. Merchants have been politely notified of the change in rates. For the first time in the history of the province railway companies have commenced to solicit business. New efforts are being made to accommodate the public, and the time between Winnipeg and St. Paul has been considerably reduced, dining cars have been put on the routes and second class passenger rates are given. Instead of having only one line to the East, Manitoba now has three which are all actively and courteously competing for the trade of the shippers.

THE excitable Manitobans are beginning to think soberly about their grievances. There is no more wild talk about resorting to physical force. Common sense is reasserting itself, as we believed it would, and the people are willing to wait until the questions in dispute are settled in the regular and constitutional way by the courts of Canada. The *Free Press* says:

The situation is in every sense an exasperating one. But there is no feature of it which cannot be straightened out and made smooth by process of law. The trouble might have been avoided by anticipating it, but it was not; it ought never to have been precipitated, but it was. Exasperating as it is, it is not so serious as to demand violence; and if the public will but have patience and endure with dignified self-possession, relief will come the sooner and the satisfaction will be the greater. We are safe in the hands of the courts; let us be content to leave it with them.

THE arrest of Hannah Boyd for being implicated in the Galt poisoning case seems to have been caused by the feeling among the detectives that they must do something, no matter what. As far as can be seen she has had nothing whatever to do with the case. She once lived in Galt and was not as prudent and virtuous as she might have been. This seems to be the only ground there was for apprehending her. No one except the detective himself has the slightest idea why she was arrested. When the detective found her she was living as a servant and conducting herself with propriety. She did not act like a guilty woman and whatever the "clue" was that led to her apprehension or whether there was any clue at all, the detective keeps to himself. He had not taken even the coroner into his confidence, but he looked wise and declared that he knew what he knew. The arrest of the girl has led to making a scandal public that before was known but to a few in Galt. But this scandal had no connection whatever with the posoning of the little Cherry girl or with sending poison to the Rev. Mr. Ridley. The mystery is yet as much a mystery as ever it was.

Since the above was written we learn that the woman has been discharged for want of evidence.

THE course which the American Government has seen fit to pursue towards the Chinese is likely to be followed by consequences the reverse of pleasant. This many Americans see, and they are very far from approving of the policy which has been forced upon the President by the exigencies of the election. The York *Shipping List* sees trouble ahead. It says:

There are no shrewder diplomats in the world than the Chinese, and we have now furnished them with a notable instance as to the sacred and inviolable character of government obligations. However undesirable may be the Chinese immigrant to the people of the Pacific Coast, and how ever necessary it may be to adopt some more stringent and restrictive measures as to their landing on our shores, and aside from upholding the dignity and respect in which we as a nation have been held, we have important trade relations and commercial interests with China which it is extremely hazardous to disregard or endanger, but yet, in a pure spirit of demagogy, Congress has ridden rough shod over every such interest, and we stand in a position to be kicked out of China with the same precipitation that we are striving to kick John Chinaman from our shores. In the first place, not a few of our citizens hold high positions in the employ of the Chinese government, managing the collection of revenue in their customs service and superintending the development of their gold, copper and coal mines. Next, our merchants have established important hongs in all the treaty ports and carry on a large and lucrative trade, and finally, our missionaries have accomplished much in educating the people and providing hospitals and other enterprises for their relief and elevation, and it is no exaggeration to say that the future of these citizens and of this important work has been imperilled by what may be termed the exigencies of a political canvass.

SPIRITUALISM.

TO THE EDITOR:—Your article in yesterday's issue, headed "Spiritualism" has been read attentively. It is well written, but cannot be called a just criticism for the reason that you fail to comprehend the subject. You stand square upon the plain of materialism, which is entire ignorance of the grandest of sciences—Spiritual Science—that science in which alone is found the solution of that problem, "What and who is Man?" You advocate skepticism. What is skepticism? Ignorance—a thing to get rid of, not to cling to—therefore in all friendliness we advise you to investigate spiritual science, and learn to understand phenomena through knowledge of law.

PROGRESSIONIST.

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ELECTION CARDS.

To the Electors of the Cariboo-Lillooet District:

In seeking your suffrages at the coming election of a Member to represent you in the House of Commons of Canada, I beg to assure you that I am and always have been a Conservative in politics, and will, if elected, heartily support the Government of Sir John Macdonald and endeavor by every means in my power to advance the interests of the District.

S. A. ROGERS.

Barkerville, Oct. 19th, 1888. oct21-d&w

COMMONS CANDIDATE

We are authorized to say that Robt. McLeese, M. P. P., is the Conservative Candidate for the Cariboo-Lillooet Seat in the pending election for the Commons, Ottawa.

oct2-1mo-d&w