

vernments prepare to make the next season agreeable for the cholera, should that chief among modern epidemics deign to visit us? Perhaps the cool, breezy and bracing days of the autumn might be profitably employed in atoning for the neglects of last spring. Let the snow fall upon clean back yards and well swept alleys; let no dirt heaps be left to ferment under the snow and deal out death vapours when the spring rains fall upon them, warmed by the sun. The work would be easier done now, and "spring cleaning" rendered a comparatively light task.

Other things there are in which municipal governments are notably remiss. Where is the city which has not its "rowdy" quarter? Its dark street? Or, in some shape, its "dangerous" neighbourhood? The existence of these is an evidence of inefficient administration; and unfortunately the best citizens, equally with the worst, are occasionally made to suffer from defects in the administration of municipal affairs. A case in point has but recently occurred in this city under painful circumstances; but nevertheless forming a worthy text for reproof to the civic administration of Montreal. At an inquest held on Monday last on the body of a gentleman who accidentally lost his life when standing upon Craig Street, presumably looking for the street cars, the jury, in their finding, called attention to the insufficiency of the lighting of that part of the city, and also to the extraordinary fact that, though twenty minutes had elapsed between the occurrence of the accident and the dispersion of the crowd which the sad casualty had attracted, yet no policeman had appeared on the scene. The jury in question was composed exclusively of gentlemen of intelligence, the majority, we believe, were members of the press; and their desire evidently was, while expressing their convictions according to the facts elicited in evidence, to avoid even the appearance of censoriousness when pointing out two very serious defects existing in a much frequented part of the city—deficiency of light, and insufficiency of police service. Juries may well advert, on every proper occasion, to the short-comings of municipal, or other incorporated bodies, as their remonstrances carry with them the solemnity of a judicial sentence, though it be left to the force of public opinion, or the will of the corporation, to carry them into effect.

NEWFOUNDLAND CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Sept. 28, 1871.

THE TREES, SHRUBS AND EVERGREENS OF TERRA NOVA.

It is remarkable that the plants met with, along the eastern coast of Newfoundland, between 45° and 50° N. lat.,—or the same parallel as those of Northern France,—should be similar to those of Norway and Lapland, in the north-west of Europe, under the Arctic circle. This is accounted for by the chilling results of the great Arctic current which sets out of Baffin's Bay, bearing on its bosom the icebergs and drifting ice-fields formed along the Greenland coast. This current washes the eastern shores of Newfoundland, and being ice-laden in spring and early summer, chills the atmosphere, and gives us a vegetation similar to that within the Arctic circle. But for this we should be growing the vine, and possibly cultivating the silk worm. As it is, the trees immediately at the coast are principally firs, and, for the most part, of stunted growth, although, at some distance from the sea, they attain a respectable size. Of the spruces, the Canada balsam spruce is abundant, and sometimes reaches the height of thirty feet. The black spruce is small, and chiefly used for fences. From its boughs or sprays we make our favourite beverage—spruce beer. The process is very simple, consisting of nothing more than boiling the sprays and smaller branches, adding molasses and yeast, and letting the whole ferment for a day or two. To persons living so much on salt fish, as our farmers and fishermen do, spruce beer is highly salutary. It costs but little, as ten gallons of the beverage may be made for half a dollar. The white spruce is very abundant and grows to a good size on the western coast, and also on the eastern at a dozen miles from the sea. Shingles, staves for fish and oil barrels, clap-boards, &c., are manufactured from the white spruce. But the most common use to which we put all the spruces is the construction of "fish-flakes" or stages for drying codfish. Nature has denied this iron-bound shore beaches, and as a substitute we construct platforms or stages along the steep descents of the hills on the edges of harbours, by using upright stakes of great length and attaching others from the hill-side horizontally to them, and then covering the platform, thus formed in ribs, longitudinally with spruce branches. On these "flakes" the cod-fish are spread out to dry, after being salted. Red pine is indigenous in Newfoundland, and on the west and north-east coasts grows to the height of 30 feet. It is supposed that ten different species of American pines are found in Newfoundland. The black and red larch, both called tamarac and tamarac, are the most useful of our forest trees. The timber of the black larch is very solid, strong and lasting, and is used in ship-building. Shipwrights here call it juniper, but it has no affinity to juniper, which in its tree state is the red cedar of America. We have no oaks, beeches or elms. The mountain ash is very common, and so are birches, black, white and red, balsam poplars, trembling or aspen-leaf, and willows of various kinds. The Canadian yew, a recumbent shrub, is mixed here with the recumbent juniper, which it much resembles. The *Shepherdia Canadensis*, a spreading shrub, is found here as well as on the Labrador coast. O

roses, the small scrubby Hudson's Bay variety, with its slender, purple-red branches, cover the vicinity of streams; and the *rosa parviflora*, or little rose, with its armed yellow branches, resembles the dog-rose of England, and enamels the open places in summer. Of ever-greens, the most celebrated is the Labrador tea-plant, which sometimes grows three feet in height, and is used by Indians and hunters, at times instead of tea, but it is a very indifferent substitute. The ground laurel and the Kalmia family are abundant in marshy places, the beautiful rose-coloured flowers of the latter strike the eye of the observer almost everywhere, in his country walks. Our berry-bearing shrubs present a vast variety and cover the ground in desert places. Partridge-berries, marsh-berries, the whortle-berry family, chief of them being the huckle-berry, or, as it is here called, "hurts," cranberry, maiden-hair, bake-apple, dew-berry, pigeon-berry, and a host of others, flourish here, and furnish delicious preserves. In the neighbourhood of all our settlements trees have been cut down remorselessly for fuel, and fires in the woods have been terribly destructive, so that the country in these localities presents a very naked aspect. Last summer we had a succession of fires in the woods which devastated whole regions once covered with trees. Day after day columns of dense smoke of a sickly yellow hue filled the air; a trailing column of smoke hung over St. John's, on its slow progress to the ocean, while the sun peered through the vast pall with a bloody and threatening hue, shorn of all its beams. This summer there has not been a single fire in the neighbourhood of the capital, the fuel probably being exhausted. Under the shade of the forest the soil is light, dry, and of a yellow-brown colour, covered with a beautiful thick carpet of green moss. As we have very few deciduous, or leaf-shedding trees, decay of foliage adds little or nothing to anchorate or enrich the soil, and the velvet-like covering remains unsoftened by fallen leaves. In summer the heat in the woods is most oppressive, and the mosquitoes and sand flies very blood-thirsty.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.

The first of September is an important day with our sportsmen, a day that date partridge-shooting begins. Our partridge, or partridge, are quite equal to the Scotch grouse, and, indeed, resemble them so closely, that it is difficult to make out any specific difference between the red grouse, grouse or moorcock of Scotland and those of Newfoundland. On the table they are a most delicious article of food, whether roasted, stewed, or in white soups. All visitors to our shores admit that the flavour of a plump partridge, well cooked, is unsurpassed in richness and delicacy. They are also of respectable proportions, a brace of them in season weighing from three pounds to three pounds and a half. At this time of year, when the sporting season opens, they are in splendid condition, after feeding on the wild-berries. In certain localities they are very abundant; and to the sportsman there can be nothing finer than a day's partridge shooting over our breezy "barrens" and dales, during our delicious autumn weather. The balmy air now cool and temperate; the bright skies; the wild, but charming scenery varied by countless lakes, or "ponds," as we call them; the low, rounded hills covered to the summit with the dark-green firs; the bold headlands along the coast, through whose summits glimpses of the restless Atlantic are obtained; the scent of the wild-flowers from the meadows; the lark's bright with the white and yellow water-lilies—all these, with the excitement of the sport, furnish to the lover of nature a day of rapturous enjoyment. It is a thrilling moment to the genuine sportsman when, gun in hand and dog at foot, he finds himself among the partridge covers. His faithful "Rover" scents the game; every nerve in his frame quivers as step by step he thoughtfully and cautiously advances towards the unseen cover, then suddenly pauses, the right fore-paw balanced lightly, and every limb and muscle rigid as a statue, the beautiful animal is at once transformed into a marble model. Presently a "whirr" is heard, and with a loud "ca, ca, ca," a magnificent old cock rises on the wing; crack goes the gun, and down tumbles the great bird, the scarlet tips over its eyes glittering like rubies, as with a "thud" that gladdens the sportsman's heart he strikes the earth. Or perhaps a whole cover, father, mother, and children, rises at once, and the double barrels "bang" at them right and left, bringing down two or three brace. At times a late cover is raised, the chickens of which are only two or three weeks old, just able to run smartly along the ground. It is a touching sight then to see the cock fearlessly exposing his life to save the lives of his offspring. He tumbles along the ground a few yards in advance of the dogs, rolling there in order to decoy the sportsman from the brood which the hen is eagerly calling into the thicket. No more touching instance of paternal affection could be witnessed—no more wonderful proof of self-sacrifice prompted by love. The poor bird would almost attack dogs and men in his efforts to save his children. No true sportsman would harm a bird under such circumstances—only a brute would fire upon it. The dogs are called off, and father and mother ptarmigan are soon rejoicing over their rescued family.

PLUMAGE OF THE PTARMIGAN.

After a day's sport over the hills, a supper of roast ptarmigan with wild strawberry tart as an accompaniment, and trimmings composed of our sweet garden vegetables is "a feast fit for the gods." Our ptarmigan have in summer a plumage brownish ash-grey in colour, mottled and barred with dusky spots. This colour, when the frost sets in, gradually disappears, as in the Alpine hare, and at length, when the snow falls, it is almost pure white. These remarkable changes, effected, as in the northern hare, without loss of substance, fit it admirably for its situation, as the sportsman, if he have not a dog used to the game, may almost walk over the bird without putting it up. It is feathered and haired down the legs and between the toes, and may be distinguished at a considerable distance by the red about the eye. These birds are widely diffused over the island, and it is no uncommon thing for a sportsman to bag in a day from a dozen to twenty brace.

CURRENT EVENTS—DANCING MANIA.

Our usually sober and quiet community has recently been seized with a dancing mania. The immediate cause of the attack was a succession of visitors, in the shape of naval officers. First of all our Governor disappeared "on leave of absence to visit the Lower Provinces." He returned bringing a handsome young bride with him. He is very popular among us, and deservedly so; accordingly a public ball was held in the Victoria Rink in celebration of the happy event, to which

he and his lady were invited. Just at that time the United States war steamer "Congress" arrived from Greenland, and two British men-of-war, the "Lapwing" and "Danac," also dropped anchor in our harbour. A succession of entertainments and an unusual outbreak of gaiety followed. Ball followed ball; and then the officers of the various ships must needs give return-entertainments and "bonnet-hops." Dancing became epidemic and threatened at one time to invade the ranks of the clergy. The bench and bar succumbed to it at once, and went into the work heavily, led on by the Chief Justice. Solid fathers of families, who were understood to be rheumatic, and whose dancing days were supposed to be over; old ladies who were believed to have renounced all the vanities of the world—strict "professors" whose principles sternly prohibited the "light fantastic"—all yielded to the prevailing epidemic. At it they went—

"Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,  
Stroking beards and pulling whiskers,—  
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,  
Families of tens and dozens,  
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives,  
Followed the fiddler for their lives."

Happily the attack did not last long. The naval warriors departed, and we got back to our codfish, rather ashamed of the wild outbreak. It is not often that we are carried off our feet in such a fashion.

THE FISHERIES.

Our fishermen have a most successful fishery on Labrador, the best for ten years. The shore fishery is also excellent. The price of fish is high—four dollars per quintal; provisions are moderate in price; crops unusually good, and as yet we have no potato disease. All these favourable circumstances, together with the uncommonly fine weather, which will enable the fisherman to store his fish in prime condition, will make the present an unusually prosperous year in Newfoundland. The fall shop-trade will be good, as the fishermen have plenty of money and do not spare it when it is in hand. The mackerel have reappeared on our shores. Once they were as numerous as codfish, but until last year hardly a mackerel was seen for the last forty years. It would add immensely to our sea-treasures should this fine fish return to its old haunts, as there is reason to hope it is doing.

DEUX RIVIERES PORTAGE.

Among the numerous portages on the route to the Red River country of Fort William few present more difficulties to the traveller than that sketched in the present issue. To pass it and Pine Portage by land travel involves the construction of two miles of road which would lead to the navigable waters of Sturgeon Lake and river—a water reach of twenty-seven miles. In crossing this portage, the troops of the Red River expedition had to cut down large pine trees and notch them to receive cross bearers, along which the boats were hauled. The labour, it may be readily supposed, was of the hardest kind.

SHAMROCK LACROSSE CLUB.

CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD.

This Club, now the undisputed possessors of the proud title of Champions, was organized in 1866, and though still comparatively a young club, has by its steady perseverance succeeded in reaching the summit of Lacrosse fame, defeating the best clubs in the Dominion, the most notable of whom are the Montreal Club, the Caughnawaga Indians, and last, but not the least, the celebrated Toronto twelve, champions of Ontario. Montrealers, as well as the Lacrosse players throughout the Dominion, have watched with the deepest interest the long and severe struggles between the Montreal Club (the former champions) and the Shamrocks for the coveted honour. During three years five matches were played, the Montreal winning two, the Shamrocks two, and one being drawn. The Shamrocks having won the last two matches were declared the champions. Since that time (1870) they have played and won fifteen matches—a feat that has never been equalled by any other club in Canada. The following is a list of the matches they have played since their organization:

1867.			
Shamrocks 2nd twelve vs.	Montreal 2nd	.....	Drawn.
" 1st	Indians 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
1868.			
Shamrocks 2nd twelve vs.	Crescent 1st	.....	Crescent.
" 1st	Montreal 1st	.....	Drawn.
" "	Y. Mechanics 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Indians 1st	.....	Indians.
" "	Unions 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" 2nd	Montreal 1st	.....	Montreal.
" "	Caughnawaga 2nd	.....	Caughnawaga.
1869.			
Shamrocks 2nd twelve vs.	Caughnawaga 2nd	.....	Shamrocks.
" 1st	Prescott 1st	.....	Prescott.
" "	St. Regis Indians	.....	Indians.
" "	Caughnawaga Indians	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Montreal	.....	Montreal.
" "	St. Regis Indians	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga Indians	.....	Shamrocks.
1870.			
Shamrocks 1st twelve vs.	Montreal 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Corwall 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga Indians 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Montreal 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Corwall 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Dominion 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" 2nd	Caughnawaga Indians	.....	Shamrocks.
1871.			
Shamrocks 1st twelve vs.	Saratoga 1st	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	Caughnawaga Indians	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	at Saratoga.	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	at Troy.	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	at New York.	.....	Shamrocks.
" "	vs. Toronto.	.....	Shamrocks.

It will be noticed from the above that the Shamrocks have been acquiring strength from their first match, and though beaten were always ready to try conclusions again with the victors. This summer they made a trip through the United States, taking the Caughnawagas with them, playing at Saratoga, Troy, and New York, and winning every match. On their return a match was arranged with the Toronto Club, who were anxious to obtain the championship, and very