

FOR THE NEWS.]

CONTEMPLATION OF NATURE.

Here on this pleasant height, with nought of care
To break the sweet tranquillity of joy
That fills my soul—yea, here where cooling winds
My fevered forehead fan and make my mind
So calm—'tis here would weary I lie down
And cast aside all thoughts of world and gain ;
To gaze in silence on the pictured scene
That lies so bright and beautiful before ;
To cast mine eye upon you distant hill
That rears its emerald-colored crest so high,
And where, like some ethereal gossamer,
Hangs o'er its brow a dreamy, purplish haze.
As though hung there to mitigate the beams
That fall about this heavenly summer day—
And like a veil o'er fairest face yet seen,
Unseemly hides from vulgar gaze the woods
That grandly crown the upland's kingly brow.

See at the foot that vale so widely spread
Between two hills that stand like sentinels,
Aye, sentinels and guardians of the plain,
So nobly ward them from its fertile face
That dangers that would fain its quiet break ;
See fields of golden grain for man a rest,
Which, moved by summer winds, upheave and fall
Like some small inland sea of molten gold.
Then, here and there, see orchards plentiful full,
Each luscious fruit upturns its mellow cheek
To meet the ripening kiss of noontide sun.
And through the vale, their heads uplifted high,
As though, full envious of the neighboring hills,
They fain would far out rival them in height.
Stand lofty elms, their topmost branches moved
By self-same breeze as blows on mountain top ;
And at their feet, flows on a gentle stream,
Within whose crystal bounds the lazy trout
Disports and suns him on his gravelled bed ;
A modest stream, a silent stream it flows,
Nor roars in thundering tones like mountain streams,
That plunge and dash along rough, rocky steep,
But rather seeks to keep the peaceful scene
Unmarred by gliding quietly through the vale ;
In silvery silence down to the sea,
While the white clouds that skip athwart its path
Reflect their pallid likeness in its deep.

Here can the weary rest and seek repose,
The soul, life wearied, taken a lease again,
And rise to fight the cold and heartless world
With nerves new-strung, with heart fresh-filled with
hope,
And mind untrammelled by the pain it bore.

O, Nature ! but thou art to hopeless man
A fountain of overflowing balm of life
Whereat he drinks, and, drinking of thy tide,
Becomes what once he was—a man indeed,
And stands before the world a living proof
Of thy free goodness, charity and love.

Brantford Ont. C. M. R.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE CHARMS OF LONG BEACH.—Among the numerous sea-shore resorts within easy reach of New York, which have been discovered and "promoted" during the past few years, none has attained greater or better deserved popularity than Long Beach, now in the full tide of its third and most successful season. The typical scene which we on another page illustrate may be witnessed, changing only its personnel, on any summer afternoon all the season through. One of the omnipresent and omniscient reporters went down the other day, and thus mingles truth and poetry in his description: "Long Branch was as lovely yesterday as art and nature could make it. There was a cool breeze from the ocean, a bright sun in the sky, and crowds of people in the hotel and on the shore. The level salt marshes behind the hotel and the level salt sea in front of it produce a peculiar effect. When one stands on the shaded piazza and looks out to where the horizon on one side comes down to the blue sea, and on the other to the green marshes, it seems as if he were in the centre of some vast dome of crystal, arched over tessellated floors of emerald and sapphire, with a streak of diamonds where the glittering surf breaks on the narrow stretch of white sand of the beach. All along the line of the beach are pitched brilliantly striped marquees, and from poles between float numerous flags. There was a fresh breeze yesterday, which waved the banners and fluttered the pavilions, and with the crowds of gayly dressed people who thronged the beach, it seemed as if some monarch of the 'Arabian Nights' had pitched his gorgeous camp by the water's edge, awaiting transportation to enchanted realms beyond the horizon's purple rim. The water in front of the bathing pavilion was dotted with bathers all day, who enjoyed the fine surf that rolled in on the hard sand." To the most exacting demands of a first-class summer hotel, with all that it implies, Long Beach fully and adequately responds. The appointments, cuisine and service are all of the best ; the connections with the city frequent, easy and certain ; the surroundings clean and free from all intrusion and the character of the company of the very best. Since the last season extensive alterations have greatly enlarged the capacity of the house, at the same time enhancing the comfort of its guests by introducing some features quite unique and superior to those of any other sea-shore hotel. At Point Lookout, five miles to the eastward, by the marine railway, the distinctive pleasures of the beach, fishing, shooting and sailing, may be found in full and perfect development.

THE RECENT CAB STRIKE.—The demands made by the London cab-drivers were so reasonable, and were urged in such a calm and moderate spirit, that now the strike is virtually over we cannot help regarding their victory over the "owners" as a matter for unmixed satisfaction and gratulation. Our sketches after those of the *Graphic*, which were taken in different parts of the metropolis during the "strike," need very little explanation. No. 1, "Not Settled Up," represents the "horse-keeper" refusing the use of a cab to an unfor-

lunate driver who has not been able to pay in his last day's amount. The rule is strictly insisted on, even if the deficit be but a shilling ; and poor fellows are often obliged to visit the pawnbroker in order to meet the demand and be permitted to resume work. In No. 2 we have a couple of "Pickets" posted outside a tabooed yard to warn strange drivers against applying for cabs ; whilst the next sketch shows some of the "Mumpers and Lurchers"—idle, drunken drivers of the lowest type—who took advantage of the strike, and went round to the "closed" yards, threatening to apply for cabs if they were not "squared" by the "Pickets." The unwonted luxury of a week or ten days' rest had its natural effect upon the horses themselves, and in the two following sketches we see the results. In Nos. 6, 7 and 8 we have some glimpses of cabbies' Club life, these sketches having been taken at the premises of the Amalgamated Cab-drivers' Society, in Poland street, Oxford street, an institution which has several branches, and whose members, besides enjoying all the advantages of a workman's club, are entitled to money allowances in cases of sickness, accident, or death ; and to legal assistance in case of trade disputes. The *Cab-car* is a newspaper devoted exclusively to the cab world, the editor and most of the literary contributors being themselves cab-drivers. Our last two sketches form a striking contrast, No. 9 representing a fortunate "one-numbered man," who, being the proprietor of a well-appointed cab and two horses, was quite independent of the strike movement ; whilst No. 10 shows a miserable night-cabman, with a "growler" and a "holloes on four legs," waiting in the drenching rain for a fare. Some weeks ago we suggested co-operation as a means of relieving cabmen of their difficulties, and now we see that the Cab-drivers' Society above mentioned are about to start a "Limited" Company, with a capital of £10,000 in £2 shares, to work cabs on the co-operative principle. In the preliminary prospectus it is affirmed that the present owners have all made large fortunes, and that the promoters are able to demonstrate that on an outlay of £10,000 for 100 cabs, a profit of from 35 to 40 per cent. per annum can be assured if cabs are let out at 10s. per day for two months of the year, rising 1s. every two months to a maximum of 15s., the price rising or falling above or below these figures, as the price of corn per quarter is above or below 20s.

COMING TO TERMS.

One of the most distinguished artists in Paris, painted for a lady occupying a brilliant position in society, her portrait, with the intention of placing it in an exhibition soon afterwards. The lady, although for a long time celebrated for her beauty, had arrived at that age which is never admitted (fifty years) notwithstanding which she dissimulated, and was as amiable and graceful as in her younger days. Paris is full of resources, and ointments are to be obtained there to heal the wounds of time.

Our heroine had her portrait taken in the most graceful attitude, with all possible advantages, splendidly dressed, and leaning on an arm-chair, smiling in the looking-glass, which should return her the most amiable compliments. The painter made a most striking likeness, but this was a great mistake—a flattering one was expected, and the lady subsequently declared that she did not recognize herself in this painting, and the portrait was left on the painter's hands.

This was a double injury. Attacked in his pride of talent, and in his finances, he had not philosophy enough to see a portrait worth three thousand francs left coolly on his hands, and an idea of vengeance presented itself to his mind, which he put into execution at once.

A few days before the one fixed for the private reception of pictures at the Louvre, the lady was secretly informed that her portrait was ornamented with certain accessories rather compromising her. She went immediately to the artist, and there was the portrait, the same striking likeness, certainly ; but the painter had thinned the hair on the head of the picture, and the lady so faithfully painted, held in her hand two large tresses of false hair. On the toilet were several flacons of small bottles, labelled thus—"white-wash," "vegetable red," "cosmetic, to efface wrinkles," "blonde-water, to dye the hair in a minute."

"It is abominable," said the lady, greatly excited.

"Of what do you complain?" coolly replied the artist. "Have you not declared that it is not your portrait? You are right, it is a mere fancy sketch, and it is with that view I shall present it to the public."

"What, sir, do you intend to exhibit this painting?"

"Certainly, madam ; but as a cabinet picture, as the catalogue will indicate it under the title of 'The Coquette of Fifty Years.'"

At this the lady fainted, and on her recovery immediately paid for the portrait. The accessories were effaced in her presence, the portrait restored to its original state, and the three thousand francs transferred to the purse of the painter.

HOW TO GO ABOUT BUYING A HORSE.

Let the colour be any colour. His ears, see that he has got few years, and pound a tin cluss to him to find out whether his hearing is good. All horses are dumb, but a deaf and dumb horse are not desirable. Look well to his eyes : see

that he has got a pupil in his eyes, and not too large a one neither. Feel on his neck with the inside of your right hand ; see that the spinal collum is well fatted and runs the whole length of him from fore to aft. Look on his hind legs for spavins, kurbs, windgalls, ringbones, skratches, squitters, thrush, greaseheels, through-pins, springhalt, quartercracks ; see if he has got a whirlbone ; look for some pinhips : hunt for strains in the back tendons, let downs, and capped hocks. Investigate his teeth, and see if he ain't 14 year old last May, with teeth filed, and six-year old black mark burnt into the top of them with a hot iron. Good hosses is skarse, and good men that deal in enny kind of hosses is skarser. Ask a man all about his wife and he may tell you ; examine him cluss for a Sunday school teacher, and find him all on the square ; send him tew New York Legislature, and rejoice that money won't buy him ; lend him 700 dollars in the highway without witness or note : but when you buy a good family boss or him, young, sound, and new, watch the man cluss, and make up yure mind besides that you will have tew ask the Lord tew forgive him. "An honest man is the noblest work of God." This famous saying was written in grate anguish of heart by the late Alexander Pope just after buying a good family boss.

VARIETIES.

—THE liquor law of Russia is very comprehensive and easily understood. There is no "local option" about it ; but the Czar decrees that there shall be no more than one drink shop in any Russian village, and where two or three villages are near together, the one drink shop shall suffice for all, and this shall be managed by a "man born and resident in the village," who shall be appointed by the common council and paid a salary. He is to derive no pecuniary profit beyond his salary, is to sell also food and wares, and is liable to a fine, dismissal, and even imprisonment if he allows any man or woman to get drunk on his premises. In a given contingency, if the population should become notoriously drunken and disorderly, the communal authorities are to interdict the sale of liquor entirely in that district or village, for as long a time as they shall see fit.

RIP VAN WINKLE.—While Mr. Joseph Jefferson was once playing *Rip Van Winkle* at Chicago, he went to the theatre very much exhausted by a long day's fishing on the lake. When the curtain rose on the third act, it disclosed the white-haired Rip still deep in his twenty year's nap. Five, ten, twenty minutes passed, and he did not waken. The audience began to get impatient and the prompter uneasy. The great actor doubtless knew what he was about, but this was carrying the "realistic" business too far. The fact was that all the time Jefferson was really sleeping the sleep of the just, or rather of the fisherman who had sat eight hours in the sun without getting a single bite. Finally the gallery became uproarious, and one of the "gods" wanted to know if there was going to be "nineteen years more of this snooze business." At this point Jefferson began to snore. This decided the prompter, who opened a small trap beneath the stage and began to prod Rip from below. The much-travelled comedian began to fumble in his pocket for an imaginary ticket, and muttered drowsily, "Going right through, 'ductor." The audience was transfixed with amazement at this entirely new reading, when Jefferson sat up with a loud shriek, and evidently in agony. The exasperated prompter had "jabbed" him with a pin. The play went on then—with a rush.

—IN the *Popular Science Monthly*, for August, Dr. Andrew Wilson, discussing elephants, remarks that the two existing species with which we are familiar to-day stand forth among quadrupeds as the representatives of a comparatively plentiful past population of these mammalian giants, and then proceeds to say : "The causes which have depopulated the earth of its elephantine tenants may be alluded to hereafter ; but it is evident that neither size nor strength avail against the operation of those physical environments which so powerfully affect the ways and destinies of man and monad alike. One highly important feature of elephant organization may, however, be noted even in these preliminary details respecting the modern scarcity of elephantine species, namely, that the slow increase of the race, and, as compared with other animals, at least, the resulting paucity of numbers, must have had their own share as conditions affecting the existence of these huge animals. The elephants are, of all known animals, the slowest to increase in numbers. At the earliest, the female elephant does not become a parent until the age of thirty years, and only six young are capable of being produced during the parental period, which appears to cease at ninety years of age ; the average duration of elephant-life being presumed to be about a hundred years. But it is most interesting, as well as important, in view of any speculation on the increase of species and on the question of competition among the races of animal life, to reflect that, given favorable conditions of existence, such as a sufficiency of food, a freedom from disease and from the attacks of enemies, and the elephant race, slow of increase as it is, it would come in a few thousand years to stock the entire world with its huge representatives. On the data afforded by the foregoing details of the age at which these animals produce young, and of their parental period, it is easy to calcu-

late that in from seven hundred and forty to seven hundred and fifty years, nineteen million elephants would remain to represent a natural population. If such a contingency awaits even a slowly increasing race, such as the elephants unquestionably are, the powerful nature of the adverse conditions which have ousted their kith and kin from a place among living quadrupeds can readily be conceived."

TAKEN as a whole, it may be safely asserted that no career in the present century has been so complete and splendid a success as that of the first DUKE OF WELLINGTON. His success began so early and stayed so late. From the age of thirty, his career was one of almost unbroken good fortune. At forty, he was a Viscount ; at forty-three, an Earl ; at forty-four, a Knight of the Garter ; nine months later, a Marquis ; and twenty months later, a Duke. So quickly did these honors accumulate upon him that his patents of Viscount, Earl, Marquis and Duke were all read on the same day, when he took his seat in the House of Lords. Grants to the amount of \$3,500,000, besides pensions, estates from foreign potentates, and magnificent presents of enormous value, in the shape of plate and ornaments, were bestowed upon him. At forty-six, his war career was over, and the rest of his life was to be passed in ease, so far as war was concerned. But he was destined to be twice Prime Minister, holding at one time nearly all the offices of government. MARLBOROUGH'S career could not compare in point of prosperity with WELLINGTON'S. He did not win Blenheim until he was fifty-eight, and he passed years in political disgrace and consequent seclusion. Then, too, he lost his only son, a blow from which he never recovered, and fell into a state of dotage for years before his death. Whereas WELLINGTON, through he lived to eighty-three, kept his health of mind and body, and saw his popularity steadily develop into a reverential sentiment towards him, such as was felt toward no other man in the British Empire, and by all classes, and left two sons to bear his name. NELSON, again, through the idol of the nation, was snubbed by the Court, and his career was closed by death at forty-seven, just when WELLINGTON was entering upon the long period of repose upon his laurels, and he left no son. Lord BEACONSFIELD'S success was magnificent, but it began late and soon ended. Moreover, he left no heir to wear his coronet.

At a great party in New York, some months ago, a lady suddenly turned to a gentleman and said : "Just look there!" "Well!" "Why, General and Mrs. —, have just entered the room, and no one takes the slightest notice!" "Oh," said her friend, "an ex-anybody is nobody in United States." "Perhaps," said the lady, "but I should have thought there might have been an exception in his case." But fame and position are not enduring here, even in the case of a general who saves his country. Prince BISMARCK was comparatively nobody until he was past forty. He has now for fifteen years been at the top of the wave ; but there are those who think they can discern a turn of the tide.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER sailed for Europe on Saturday.

ARABI PASHA is said to be daily developing formidable plans.

MR. GLADSTONE spoke at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London.

The lash has been put in operation on wife-beaters in Maryland.

The vessel containing the Italian Antarctic expedition has been wrecked.

The net revenue of the Dominion for the year ended June 30 was \$6,590,000.

INTERNAL troubles of a very serious nature are reported to have broken out in the Corea.

THE President of Guatemala has sailed for Europe in the interests of his Republic.

THE *Irak*, authorizing the proclamation of Arabi as a rebel and the landing of Turkish troops in Egypt has been signed.

WALSH, convicted of treason-felony in connection with the Clerkenwell seizure, has been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

THE Greek Government has despatched a commission to England to make contracts for the construction of a number of powerful war vessels, to cost 40,000,000 drachmas.

EVIDENCE is daily accumulating to show that the 60th Rifles suffered a disastrous defeat in the engagement on the night of the 1st instant near Alexandria.

HOLMES, the American champion amateur, won the single sculls at Detroit, beating Laing, the Canadian, by four seconds.

THE Viceregal party will leave Quebec for British Columbia on the 31st instant, unless anything occurs to disturb the arrangements made.

ELABORATE preparations have been made to ensure the proper observation of the transit of Venus, which takes place in December.

RECENT heavy rains have ruined Germany's crops, which promised to yield the most abundant harvest of many years.

A quarantine has been established at Spanish ports against Borneo, Soo Loo, and the Philippine Islands, where cholera is raging.

THE ill-advised arrest of Messrs. Joynes and George by the Irish police is causing the Government considerable embarrassment.