TOPICS OF THE TURF.

Up-to-Date Comment on Matters Relating to That Noble Animal the Horse.

"R. T.," Hamilton, writes to ask if the conveyance of a horse by A to B, subject to an equity of redemption on repayment of an advance made on the horse, makes B so much an owner that A cannot enter the mortgaged horse in a race in which B has a starter, and in, which, by the rules of racing, two horses in the same interest cannot contend. My correspondent is referred to the secretary of the Canadian Jockey Club.

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Mr. Cahill of Hamilton, son of the late police magistrate, unearthed amongst his father's papers a programme of the Toronto races, 1840, and sent it to a gentleman of this city, who has kindly given me a sight of it. It is of much interest. What with officials, stewards, nominators, etc., there are at least forty names on the well-printed page. And of all these gentlemen, there is but one survivor, Mr. Charles Wallace Heath, who was at the time, when Canadian towns were alive with British soldiers, reckoned the handsomest man of his day, in or out of uniform. His striking figure is still, at the age of eighty, one that nobody would pass without observation. Among those entering horses is Mr. G. W. Yarker, who in addition to giving his name to a flourishing village north of Napanee, gave it also to our own "George Washington," and who was a liberal patron of the sport. The race course was on Scarlett's farm, between Toronto Junction and the village of Weston, and the stakes were very respectable in amount and the patronage of the very best. There were three days' racing. The big event of the first day was the City Plate of $550, over two miles and a distance. Entrance $25. On the second day the piece de resistance was the Upper Canada St. Leger, one mile and three-quarters, for foals dropped in 1837. Entrance $50 each, with $125 added. They had not then learned the art of making the gate pay the purses, and owners, as they still do in England, found it a costly game, in which they had to put up the principal part of the money to be run for. The Mayor and Sheriff (J. B. Jarvis) were among the stewards, as were Hon. W. Cayley, father of the rector of St. George's; Mr. W. H. Boulton, Mr. Goldwin Smith's predecessor at the Grange; Mr. C. C. Small, clerk of the Crown and father of the present collector of customs; Davidson M. Murray, then of Glen Grove and father of Mr. Huson Murray, a practising barrister of this city; Isaac Buchanan, the well-known merchant, who afterwards moved to Hamilton, but whose laugh was the best known in Toronto; George Monro, father of the present customs official; Sir Allan McNab, Major McGrath, of immortal memory, and several officers of the garrison. In fact, the sport was in the hands of the right sort of people. Mr. John Maitland was secretary, whose brother owned and gave the name of what was long known as "Maitland's Wharf," at the foot of Church-street. If horse racing at Toronto had gone on as it began, by this time our turf would have been as famous as the Australian turf is to-day; but there was a very dark interval preceding the establishment of the Ontario Jockey Club, and recent divisions in that body are not calculated to strengthen racing in its position as a great social as well as sporting success.

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So far Messrs. Williams, Munro, Shields and Higgins as regards the starting machine. Now let us hear from some foreigners. This is the way they talk, and if the O.J.C. managers don't see their way to adopt the principle after hearing, then both words and and experience are to them but as chaff scattered to the wind.

Marty Bergen says: "I've got nothing but praise for it. I wish it had been invented years ago. I think I have paid $20,000 in fines for the want of something like that to give all the boys an equal chance."

Starter J. F. Caldwell: "The machine is all right. I have no fear of its ultimate success.

James R. McCormick: "It is destined to work a total revolution in racing everywhere, and no track can do without it. Besides, in six out of eight cases, your chances with a bad actor at the post are almost as good as with a good one."

Barney Schrieber: "I have never seen anything so simple and yet so nearly perfect. If there was any doubt in my mind the two-year-old start on Saturday afternoon settled it at once and forever."

Starter J. B. Ferguson: "I shall have these machines at work on every track where I am employed. Then nobody can say that the starter is working in the interest of the books."

Col. P. A. Finnegan: "I never saw but one perfect start in my long connection with the turf, and that was the two-year-old on Saturday. The eleventh horse was not ten feet behind the first one. The gate has come to stay, and no track can afford to get along without it."

W. O'B. Macdonough: "There is a right and a wrong way to do everything, and the right way to start horses is with this gate."

Walter S. Hobart: "The invention of this gate has expunged the expression 'left at the post' from the racing language."

H. R. Baker: "It is the best thing I have seen, especially for the jockeys. No boy can now say that he was worn out at the post and had no strength to handle his mouth in the race."

Tom Boyle (trainer for A. B. Spreckels): "They have been a long while without this, and it will be longer before they find anything to equal it."

J. Galen Brown: "I never saw a thing so simple and yet so perfect."

George Rose: "It is perfect, and has come to stay."

E. C. Corrigan: "The high-priced starter must go, for no particular skill is equal to start with the gate. The horses line up to start within a foot of the gate and any man with common sense can see when they are ready and pull the lever. That is all that is necessary."

* * *

I had got this far in my remarks on starting machines when I learnt that a Mr. Sullivan, of New York, patented an apparatus three or four years ago that was successfully tested at Maspeth, L. I., and that is now being experimented with at Sheepshead Bay. This machine is not only portable, but is said to be far ahead of anything at present in use on the track. It was knocked out at Maspeth by the bookmakers, who probably saw many of their little schemes Fitzsimmoned by its efficacy, to say nothing of the way such a concern would dispose of dishonest and corruptible men-starters. For Mr. Sullivan's device the claim of originality is made, it being operated, report says, on an entirely different principle to that which governs the Australian machine. The latter invention, as I have previously stated in this column, consists of two narrow strips of webbing stretched across the track a few inches apart and carried away from and above the apparatus on an inclined plane by means of rubber bands. The chief objection to it is that there appears to be always a possibility that a fractious horse might get tangled up in the strips of webbing. For example, he might get his head or one of his legs through them. This disadvantage, it is claimed, is entirely obviated in the American patent. The barrier is four feet wide and four feet from the ground. It consists of light bamboo rods attached to cords stretched across the track. At the sides this barrier is fastened to arms which are hung to the upright post on pivots. Strong rubber bands extend from these arms to stationary braces at the top of the uprights, so that when the barrier is released by means of a trigger it is rapidly thrown outward and upward, away from the horses. In a false start, the inventor claims there would be no danger of the horses receiving any injury whatever from the barrier. If two or three horses ran against the barrier, it would yield to the pressure, and would finally slide up and over the heads of the animals if they persisted in pushing against it. By the method of operation it is also asserted that the apparatus would prevent false or bad starts. The starter will occupy a position midway between the horses and the machine, which latter will be operated by an assistant. If the field breaks away evenly, the starter will drop his flag, his assistant will release the barrier and the horses will be off. If, however, it should be a false break the barrier will not be released, but will simply serve to prevent the horses from running out in front. The entire apparatus is light and simple of construction. The uprights can be attached to the fence posts at the point where the starts are to be made, while the barrier itself weighs not more than 15 or 20 pounds.

* * *

First as to the starting machine. We have recently been getting some expert local opinion regarding its efficiency. All who have seen the arrangement in operation, so far as I can gather, endorse it. Under the circumstances we—that is you and I, dear reader—will be prepared to forgive the managers of the Ontario Jockey Club much if they will only afford us a peep at it under similar circumstances. Of itself, it will be a great drawing card at the gate, so well and freely has the contrivance been advertised. It was only reasonable to suppose that some smart "Yankee" would steal the product of the brains of other people as soon as they rightly got on to it. There is nothing singular then in the report that the machine in operation at New Orleans, although a development of the same idea, and worked on the same principle, is not the same as the Australian affair used in California. There may be honesty among thieves, but it is hanged most famous breeders of the day, including those of Messrs. Baldwin ("Lucky" of the ilk), Ben All, or rather J. B. Haggin, W. O'B. McDonough, the princely owner of the mighty Ormonde, and the late Senator Stanford at Palo Alto. He saw Ormonde, and thought him a grand beast. He also saw the great Salvator, and was of opinion the American ran the Englishman most awfully close in appearance, and excelled him in most other things. After a short sojourn in Prescott Mr. Higgins will gather his stable together and depart with the horses and their belongings for Washington, whence he will return in May to take in Toronto and Hamilton. He has engaged Ballard, the jockey who rode for him last year, to ride for him this.

* * *

A correspondent writes me a very strong letter regarding the outrageous doubling of rates by the railways for the carriage of single horses. He spares the C.P.R., as, strange to say, other people appear disposed to do, but hits hard at the older company. His letter is too long for insertion, considering that the matter is dealt with in the editorial columns of this paper, but its drift can be gathered from the following extract: "The dire necessity for doubling the rates on single animals conveyed by the G.T.R. may have had its origin in the need of extra receipts to provide payment for what the daily papers call 'a new palatial private car for Sir C. Rivers Wilson,' now being constructed at the car shops. Better let the poor people who live along the line ship their horses and cattle at the old rate and let Sir C. R. Wilson et ux. condescend to travel through our benighted country next summer in one of the many cars already doing service as palatial houses on wheels for the top functionaries of the road who have seemingly received orders to 'sweat the Canadians.'"

* * *

The Ontario Jockey Club will have to do some pretty tall hustling to get respectable fields for its several jumping races—that is if it desires to have any outside horses at all present. Not only will the Westchester meeting be in progress at the same time, but an equally formidable rival for Canadian horses will be the Country Club of Boston, Mass., which will race on May 30, June 3 and 6, and will give, among other races, three flat races for hunters, each for a five hundred dollar purse, four open flat races for four hundred dollar purses, and steeplechases for one thousand dollars and a cup open to hunters, for a purse of three thousand open to all, for a purse of six hundred dollars open to hunters, for a purse of one thousand dollars open to all maiden cross-country horses, for a purse of twelve hundred dollars open to all, for a purse of six hundred dollars open to hunters, and for a purse of twenty-five hundred dollars open to all. Talk about encouraging hunters and saddle horses, but here is a place to which running is almost a stranger giving close upon twelve thousand dollars in ten races for their benefit!

* * *

Messrs. Goodwin Bros., 241 Broadway, New York, whose Official Turf Guide for 1896 is just to hand, report that the enquiries about the Brooklyn and Suburban horses were never so numerous as they are this year, especially from Canada. The Guide, by the way, is the most voluminous and comprehensive ever published. It contains reports of 207 race meetings, results of about 9000 races, a 300 page index describing 7000 horses that raced last year, the names of the leading officers at the principal meetings, scales of weights, fastest times on record, a list of horses that died last year, table of jockeys' mounts, fixtures for 1896, tables of stake winners for 14 years, and a dictionary of race-track terms and phrases, besides a summary of all English races in which American horses competed in 1895, a list of winning stallions and particulars as to how to reach the different race-tracks in America. It is trite to say that no follower of the horse can afford to do without this work, but as a matter of fact, the man who bets on races and has it not at his side risks money that might have been saved by the judicious investment of a fraction. The Harold A. Wilson Company are the Canadian agents for the Guide.

* * *

The Duke and Duchess of York will be the guests of our late Governor-General and Lady Derby at Knowsley during the Grand National meeting at Aintree. They will attend the races on both days. The politicians and powers that be at Ottawa would follow the advice of the member for East York and drop race and creed they might do worse than adopt my advice to go in for another kind of race. They could hardly do better than follow where the very best in England lead.

* * *

Notice is given in the Ontario Gazette of an application to change the name of the York Riding and Driving Club, to the York Jockey Club. Mr. Clive Pringle, solicitor for the club, gives the notice. It would thus seem that the promoters of the new track at Newmarket have changed their minds about calling themselves the Toronto Jockey Club.

The headquarters of the organization being outside the city limits, possibly the change is a judicious one, although I think Toronto sounds better and would have a better effect abroad than York.

* * *

I have always advocated the encouragement of home breeding, but I would do it in another way than by penalizing foreign horses or making the conditions for race meetings that they would not enter. I would give a premium to the breeder of every Canadian horse winning in an open race, while at horse shows I would give a prize to the breeder, if it was only a certificate or diploma, as well as to the exhibitor. At present the premiums largely go to the dealers instead of to the men who most deserve them. It is my hope that the day will speedily come when at horse shows, as at other games, there will be classes for amateurs, as well as professionals. Just now they are nearly all for the latter or for the very wealthy.

* * *

A beautiful filly was dropped to imp. Andante, by Admiral, at Mr. Davies' Thorncliffe Stock Farm on Friday. With as good blood in her veins as can be found anywhere the little lady should prove a rare 'un.

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Admirers of the Hackney will read the following item with satisfaction: "Goldfinder 6th (1791), the son of the deceased Hackney stallion Danegelt, has just been purchased by Mr. William Bainbridge of Lancaster, from Mr. Alexander Morton, Gowanbank, Darvel, for the stud of Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., and the horse will be located at Terrington St. John, near King's Lynn, where Sir Gilbert has during the past few months succeeded in gathering together the choicest lot of well-bred mares that it was possible to secure in England and Scotland, as well as the trio he re-imported from the States last December. The price paid for Goldfinder was 3000 guineas." THE AGED P.

Medcalf L. O. L. Banquets.

Medcalf L.O.L., No. 781, held their annual banquet Friday night in their hall, Queen-street east, which was gaily festooned with banners, flags, mottoes signifying stirring events descriptive of the scenes which are so well known to Orangemen. At the first table, with Worshipful Brother Hamilton, sat Brothers John McMillan, recently elected to the associate deputy grand mastership; W. D. McPherson, county master; E. F. Clarke, provincial grand treasurer; William Lee, provincial grand secretary; Rev. Dr. Galbraith, Rev. Mr. Odery, East Toronto, Dr. Noble, William Fitzgerald, grand master True Blues; J. C. Jones, district master, and about two hundred of the rank and file.

The speeches were of the best, and all breathed of unswerving loyalty and a determination to stand by the brethren of Manitoba in their fight for National schools. Judging the tenor of the remarks, it will go hard for any member of Parliament who is elected by Orange support in the city of Toronto if he does not oppose the passage of the Remedial bill.

Songs were sung by Bros. Boutcher, Hill, Beeman, Corbet and others.

The retiring past-master, Bro. J. Stewart, who has presided over the destinies of the lodge for the last two years, was presented by W. Bro. W. D. McPherson, on behalf of the officers and members, with a handsome P.M. jewel.

Origin of the Word Boom.

The Century Dictionary, after giving four different meanings of the word "boom," comes to the fifth and states that the earliest instance of the word in its present popular sense appears to be in the following passage: "The Republicans of every other state are of the same way of thinking. The fact is, the Grant movement (for a third term of the Presidency) is booming." This was written by J. B. McCullagh, in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, July 18, 1878. One of the editors of the dictionary, to get at bottom facts, even wrote to Mr. McCullagh himself about this little word, and received the following reply: "I cannot explain how I came to use it, except that while on the gunboats on the Mississippi River during the war I used to hear the pilots say of the river, when rising and overflowing its banks, that it (the river) was 'booming.' The idea I wished to convey was, that the Grant movement was rising, swelling, etc. The word seemed to be a good one to the ear, and I kept it up. It was generally adopted about a year afterward. I used it as a noun after a while, nd spoke of 'the Grant boom.'"

In a return bowling match at the Armouries between the Q. O. R. and 48th battalion sergeants, the Q. O. R. won by 139 points.

EVERYWHERE ECHOES.

The Clerk of the Weather's an artful old sprinter,
Last month he went running halfway into summer,
And now he's skedaddled right back into winter,
To cheer the sad heart of the unemployed plumber.

* * *

The golf arm, of which I recently wrote, and the glass arm of baseball have been succeeded by th cyclic foot. There is a distinction in gender, however, for, whereas the arms are both masculine, the foot is feminine. A traveler who had been to Chicago, and had "glanced at Toronto," wrote to a journal deploring the expansion of the "pedal extremities" of women. This led to a discussion which was warmly carried on. One lady wrote "I am an enthusiastic bicyclist, but have no intention of ruining the shape of my foot with over-much pedalling. Could some of your readers who have pedalled for years tell me what has been the effect on their feet?" Unfortunately the editor, although he allowed the exceedingly artless question to be put, placed at the end of a following letter, the fatal "this discussion must end here," and end, it is presumed, it did, for subsequent issues of the journal in question contain no further reference to the matter. I am happy, however, to be able to reassure the lady who wrote, and others who may be equally anxious, that there is no room for apprehension, at least in the present generation. An authority whom I consulted says that in cycling the movement should be almost entirely from the ankle and the knee. The pressure on the pedal by the foot itself, he says, "is only sufficient to bring into play the actual work done by the knee and ankle"; nor, he added, is the exertion on the part of the muscles of the foot calculated to "widen the tread." At the same time, no one who has watched a lady cyclist, who, after a long ride, is walking uphill with her cycle, can fail to have been impressed with the curious, jerky mode of locomotion which she affects.

* * *

New York state is going in heavily for the suppression of the immoral. Having knocked out the saloon backdoor, and the pool-room, it now proposes to abolish living pictures and tights. A Mr. H. D. Williams appeared before the committee at Albany and, although he stated that he had looked upon living pictures with the same delight that he would an oil-painting or a statue, and that the bill against tights would prevent Mary Anderson from appearing in Pygmalion and Galatea and girls from bathing in the surf, it was decided to report favorably to the Legislature upon both bills. Anthony Comstock, who, of course, was on hand, was very severe on the Midway Plaisance dances, which, he said, since the Chicago Exhibition has spread throughout the land

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In reading the accounts of the recent disasters experienced by the Italians in Abyssinia, one cannot omit to remember that what King Humbert has failed in doing with twenty thousand soldiers Lord Napier of Magdala did with four thousand. The route taken was different, it is true, but still it was through mountainous passes and the emphatic victory achieved grows in importance by comparison with recent events.

* * *

Apropos of the theatre hat, of which visitors to the local theatres have had good cause to complain during the past week, an instructive little story comes from Russia, which will give a useful hint to those who suffer from an expanse of hat with no bottle inside, as the king of the Brownies suggests there might be with advantage. A man in the pit of one of the theatres at St. Petersburg was sitting just behind two girls whose huge headgear entirely cut off his view of the stage. In despair of getting his money's worth, he begged them to remove their hats, a request which they, of course, received with as much indignation as if it had been the worst of insults. Then a happy inspiration came to him; he put on his own hat, and at once everyone behind him began to shout, "Hats off! hats off!" He kept his hat on all the same, and the two girls naturally began to think that the cries were addressed to them. As the people behind began to get indignant, they at last took off their monstrous hats, and the ingenious man then removed his, and all was peace. But there is a feature connected with the theatre equally as disagreeable as the hat. I refer to the habit of arriving late. At the Grand Opera House on Friday night people were streaming in at half-past eight and not only noisily taking their seats, but obstructing the view of those more decent and considerate than themselves. I had just made up my mind to write to an evening paper edited by a gentleman whose special mission it is to set all things right, when looking up I found one of the most grievous offenders was a member of the staff of that very paper. Men cannot expect ladies to be more considerate than themselves, but deadheads should at least strive to set an example.

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This carries me by natural sequence into a position to speak of the Brownies themselves. I might as well talk out at once. I was disappointed. Less of the spectacular and more gambolling and fun would have pleased me. The presentation is pretty and pleasing, but it is not satisfying. There is only one artist in the cast above mediocrity. Little Ida Mulle appears to advantage, but she always was a hardworker and winsome. Among the remainder there is not even a character respectably presented from an acting or singing point of view. There is some very fair dancing, especially jigging, but the majority of people looked for something more quaint and less common-place. The four acrobats who do ground and lofty tumbling are superlative in their feats, and the scenic effects are splendid for a peregrinating entertainment, but from the master mind that fashioned the Brownies one has a right to expect more than gymnastics and tricks of the stage. In one or two particulars we had a realization of the Brownies of fancy, but there was too much of the full-grown and stereotyped to please the idealist. I can scarcely tell why, but I never see Brownies portrayed as up to their antics but what I think of poor Dick Doyle's title page of Punch. Take up any number of that famous publication and there you will find Brownies forty years old or thereabout hanging around in all sorts of impossible and amusing attitudes. I do not know whether Mr. Palmer Cox got his inspiration from Dickey-Bird Doyle, but I do know that he and that famous artist would have made a pair and might have been depended upon to produce something more fanciful and truer to the Brownie creation than we had last week at the Grand. Founded on old lines—the spectacular burlesque of my youth—as it was, there was yet much that is light, airy, delicate and fantastic in the entertainment, but what I looked for was more of the quaint side of the dainty little pigmies and less of the fairy queen and pretty prince element. What capital characters the Brownie dude, king and policeman might be made in capable hands! But why, Mr. Cox, not let the race have a chance to perpetuate itself by giving us some Brownie ladies?

* * *

Advertisement in a New York paper: "Found, on Saturday, March 7, in the insides of an ostrich, a lady's fine silk handkerchief marked with an initial. The owner can obtain same by calling on —— next Friday between 10 and 4 o'clock, proving property, and paying for this advertisement."

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Valkyrie III. is for sale for $27,500. The R.C.Y.C. might buy her and challenge all the lakes. It would be more praiseworthy than entertaining a challenge to race a yacht built to advertise a cigar.

* * *

Our good old friend Dean Hole has been at it again. How he does hate everything mean and petty! Recently he was invited to dine with the South London Licensed Victuallers. He did not spurn the invitation, as too many Toronto parsons would have done, but after expressing his abhorrence of tyranny and cant, went on to say: "The Christianity and common-sense which alone can reach true temperance seem to be more and more ignored by teetotallers, who would incarserate mankind in Pump-court, and turn all the birds of the air into water-wagtails." Truth, Mr. Dean, most worthily put, but you should have made acquaintance with some of the water-wagtails in Toronto during your recent visit here. Many of them would forbid you exercising even the arm of the pump on one day of the week.

THE CAPTIOUS ONE.

DR. LEANDER S. JAMESON,
As he appeared before Sir John Bridges at Bow-street Police Court.

EDUCATIONISTS TO MEET.

Arrangements For the Thirty-Fifth Annual Gathering of the Ontario Educational Association.

The programme of the Ontario Educational Association, which meets in Toronto April 7th, 8th and 9th, has just been issued. This is expected to be the most important gathering of Educationists ever held in the city. The general Association meets on Tuesday evening, April 7th, in the Chemical and Biological buildings of the University, where extensive preparations are being made by Professors Wright and Pike and their respective staffs, for the entertainment of the members and friends.

Among the important addresses to be delivered are noted the following: Addresses of welcome by President Loudon and Hon Geo. W. Ross, LL.D., with reply by Professor Baker, president of the association; "How Canada is Governed," by Dr. Bourinot; "Educational Advantages," by Dr. Wm. Kingsford; "Canadian Schools in their relation to National Sentiment and Character," by Dr. G. R. Parkyn; "The Work and Wants of the Provincial University," by Dr. Burwash; "Higher Education in Ontario," by Professor Wm. Dale and "The Provincial School of Pedagogy," by I. M. Levan, M.A. All these are before the general association.

The other minor associations are the College and High School, the Modern Language, the Natural Science, the Mathematical, the Historical, the Commercial, the Public School, the Kindergarten, the Training, the Inspectors' and the Public and High School Trustees' Departments. All of these have their own special programmes.

All the meetings except that of the first evening are held in the different halls in connection with the Education Department, St. James' Square. Any information will be furnished by R. W. Doan, secretary, Toronto.

Progressive Euchre Party

A progressive euchre party was given by Mr. and Mrs. W. Woodley at their home, 85 Baldwin-St., on Friday evening of last week. Among the friends present were: Mr. and Mrs. N. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Donagh, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Chanter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Home, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Irwin, Mr. and Mrs. T. Bewley, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Cadow, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Lovey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Donagh, Mr., Mrs. and Miss J. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Domelle and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bennett. After a very pleasant evening the prizes were awarded to Mrs. Martin and Mr. W. Donagh.

Killed His Daughter and Himself.

Yonkers, N.Y., March 14.—Shortly before 9 o'clock this morning Alexander Nimity, 37 years old, a Hungarian butcher, shot his step-daughter, 16 years old, through the heart and then shot himself. Both the girl and her murderer died almost instantly. Mrs. Nimity, the Hungarian's wife, says Nimity made advances to her daughter, which the girl rejected, and that he then killed her.

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

INCREASED SPECULATION ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES.

The Money Markets Are Steady—Accommodation Paper—Commercial Cable is Higher—Wheat in Farmers' Hands—Immense Amount of Corn—Trade Conditions.

The money markets have been quiet and featureless this week. The general rate for call loans at Toronto is 5½ per cent., with fair offerings, and prime commercial paper is discounted at 6 to 6½ per cent. There are brokers who expect the market to remain steady and perhaps become more stringent before the end of the month. A little more firmness is noted in New York, where loans were made on stocks the latter part of the week at 4 to 4½ per cent. The sterling exchange market at New York is firm, and within a cent of the rate at which it would be profitable to ship gold

ACCOMMODATION PAPER.

A Montreal paper refers in this wise to the large amount of accommodation paper that is floated into the discount line of Canadian banks: "In one notable instance the paper under discount of a suspended firm amounted to about $100,000, and of this no less than $30,000 was accommodation paper. It is said that some of our banks pay very little attention to the makers of notes as long as they get the endorsers' names, which constitute double named paper. We are assured upon the highest authority that the makers of notes are not sufficiently scrutinized in many instances, as has been amply demonstrated by recent failures. It is stated that some of those who have lent their names as makers of accommodation notes are making desperate efforts to disclaim their liability; but, when a merchant gives his note purporting to be for value received and payable at a certain date, it will be a very difficult matter to evade the responsibility of such strong documentary proof, even if the maker did not receive any pecuniary benefit, and the banker was aware of the true nature of the note. But it would be hard to prove that the banker discounting it knew the class of paper he was dealing in, and besides, the party discounting it would never tell the banker it was accommodation paper, for fear he would not get it cashed."

THE STOCK MARKET.

There was considerable activity on the stock exchanges last week. Prices advanced during the first few days, but a reaction set in later, owing to realizing in the speculatives. Commercial Cable rose from 161 to 164, declined to 161½ and closed at 162⅝. The reported earnings of this line still continue to show large increases. The dealings in Toronto Railway were on a very limited scale, with little change in prices. The demand for Postal Telegraph has ruled active, and the stock in consequence is higher. It rose to 87½ on Friday morning, and closed yesterday at a reaction, 86¾. Assurance stocks steady, and Canadian Pacific very dull.

Bank shares are strong and in some instances show higher, notably Dominion, Commerce, Imperial and Hamilton. These stocks are being bought for investment. Loan company stocks are dull and in some cases lower. It is very difficult to sell loan company stocks having a liability. Building and Loan sold down to 65, and London and Canadian to 100, their lowest prices.

WHEAT IN FARMERS' HANDS.

The wheat reserves in farmers' hands amount to 26.5 per cent. of the crop, or 123,000,000 bushels. Of this amount 4.0 per cent. is reported as coming over from 1894, or before. The proportion of wheat sold beyond country lines is 58.5 per cent. The trade put a very bearish construction upon the Government report, notwithstanding some of the estimates lately have run as high as 150,000,000 bushels, and the average of the four highest private authorities, which was recently published, made the amount 125,000,000 bushels. The highest of these, Thoman, said 157,000,000 bushels, and the lowest was "Bradstreet's," with 99,000,000 bushels. Snow, in the "Orange Judd Farmer," estimated 135,000,000 bushels, and the Chicago "Trade Bulletin" 100,000,000 bushels. As compared with the Government's figures last year (75,000,000 bushels), the report was decidedly bearish, but nobody accepted the Government a year ago, for it was obviously too low.

The year before the Government made farm reserves of wheat 114,000,000 bushels, and in 1893 estimated 135,000,000 bushels on a crop of 516,000,000 bushels. In 1892, with a crop of 612,000,000 bushels, the reserves were 171,000,000 bushels. Attention is called to the fact that, barring last year, the average amount in farmers' hands for eight years has been 135,000,000 bushels, or, including last year's 75,000,000-bushel estimate, the average for nine years has been 125,000,000 bushels, so that this year's figures are considerably under the average. In view of all the agitation about a short winter wheat crop last year, the present reserves, as estimated by the Government, seem pretty large and rather point to a confirmation of the claim set forth by some of the observant bears that farmers are holding back a good deal of winter wheat that the public knows nothing of.

The amount of corn yet held by the farmers is 49.8 per cent. of the total crop, or 1,072,000,000 bushels. Proportion and total farm reserves are both unprecedented. A year ago the stock so held was but 476,000,000 bushels. The amount to be sold outside the county is estimated at 21.9 per cent., last year's percentage having been 13.4. The merchantable proportion is 88.1 per cent., against 82.4 last year. Average value of merchantable corn 25.6c, and of unmerchantable 15.4c.

TRADE CONDITIONS.

The only conspicuously favorable feature of the general business situation is found in Bradstreet's report of February gross railway earnings throughout the country. Receipts of 126 companies last month were larger, with a single exception, than in any preceding month for more than three years, the February total for 1896 being $34,484,000, a gain over last year of nearly 14 per cent. The week's total bank clearings, $943,000,000, continue their see-saw movement without special tendency. Contrasted with a week ago this week's total is 11 per cent. smaller, but 5 per cent. larger than in the second week of March, 1895. General trade in the States shows no marked changes. Distribution of merchandise is most active for drygoods, hardware, shoes and millinery, paints, oils and heavy chemicals, but has been unsatisfactory. Jobbers report spring trade of a waiting character, due to belated snowstorms and unusually cold weather. Collections, with a few exceptions, are no better, and in many instances less satisfactory, which tends to retard the movement of merchandise. Business failures in the United States this week fully maintain the ratio of commercial embarrassments reported of late, with a total of 282 for six business days, ending with March 12, compared with 270 in the preceding week and 266 in the corresponding week one year ago.

MID LENT.

Great Fun in the Mi-Careme Leap Year Cotillion.

For a mi-careme leap year cotillion of course all the ballroom traditions are reversed in favor of the feminine element, and industrious figures during the past ten days have been busily fashioning suitable favors. The prettiest of these are made almost wholly of creped paper, because it is at once the cheapest and most effective medium.

For a dance to be given this week the men will be favored in one figure with sun bonnets after the good old farmers' wives' fashion, but all contrived of charming pink and white, blue and white, or lavender and white checked tissue paper. In the same figure the women will receive top hats, high and black, and bordered with ribbons, each one provided with a hat pin and both sorts of headgear must be scrupulously worn during the figure and waltz.

Next on the program for this same dance toy swords are provided, bound with red ribbons and showing huge knots of paper poppies at the hilts. The women fall heir to these, while the men are to be favored with dainty tissue paper aprons, frilled and showing pockets, strings and bows. For the third round huge scarlet, black or yellow coneshaped hats such as the witches wore and ornamented with the symbols of a witch's trade are ready for the masculine element, while the momentarily dominant feminines will pop on their heads huge lawyer's wigs, made of profusely curled white paper.

Again the women are going to get bows and arrows, wreathed with pink roses and strung with gold and silver cords, while to the men must fall hearth brooms, their sticks gilded and tied about with dusters of gay silk, that in reality are the prettiest of handkerchiefs. One comical exchange is to be made when the women favor the men with painted paper needle books and wee pincushions, receiving in return tiny brocade silk bags filled with collar buttons.

When, however, the true leap year features are laid aside and the dance, will fall into orthodox lines once more, the newest favors will be exchanged in the shape of pocket wallet bonboniers. These are made of paper grained and tinted like the light colored leathers, finished with gilded clasps and filled with chocolates, stamped in the form of coin, and overlaid with gold and silver foil. Huge hat-shaped screens to hang on lamp shades are red silk figures of Mephistofeles, with big black paper wings spreading from his shoulders, and the women who get these give the men picture frames decorated after a novel fashion.

Amusing favors, wonderfully popular at the latest winter germans, are tiny gray, black and tortoise shell cats. The animal's form is printed on bits of worsted and when sewed together and the body stuffed, a spring is so inserted that by pulling pussy's tail a melancholy yowl breaks forth. These favors a troup of ungallant young men brought to one of the early leap year germans, whereat the pretty damsels took no offense at all, but adopted the cat as a permanent favor for all cotillions.

Leap year dances sometimes turn, however, to the slightly sentimental, and tiny pairs of turtle doves, pigeons and love-birds are now distributed among couples, unseen at first, a long, fine silk thread unites every pair of birds, and when the young lady has fastened her fowl coquettishly on one lace-clad shoulder, while the young man pins his bird to his coat lappel, they find themselves still united, and must dance the next figure together. Until the last, however, do the presiding geniuses of the cotillion reserve their prettiest favors. These are follies. For the women they are long staffs, tied with ribbon and topped by curly-looking dolls' heads. On the heads fit pink and blue silk peaked caps and from the throats fall away silk and muslin flounces, edged with tinsel and streamers finished with tinkling bells. The men get sticks, only a few feet long, topped with dolls' heads, wearing jockey caps and skirts entirely composed of ringing ribbon ends. The result will be a musical final waltz with which to rightly end the fleeting mid-Lent galeties.

ELLEN HARRISON.

In the Kit-Cat Club

Did it happen in a Canadian court room? That I don't know, but this is the way it was told me:

"You say, Mrs. Smith, that you have lived with the defendant for eight years. Does the Court understand from that, that you are a married woman?"

"In course it does."

"Have you a marriage certificate?"

"Yes, your honor; three on 'em—two gals and a boy."

TOMELAH.

On one occasion an actress grew tempestuous with Perrin, the Parisian manager, and gave him a stormy quarter of an hour. "And what did you do, my dear Perrin?" asked Febvre. "I said nothing and watched her grow old-"

SAN FRAN.

The Rev. Samuel E. Pearson of Portland, Me., was a witness in a divorce case the other day. "Mr. Pearson," asked the Judge, "were you on this bench in my place and acquainted with all the circumstances of this case, would you grant this divorce?" "Most certainly, your honor," replied the minister. "But how do you reconcile this statement with the injunction, "What God has joined together let no man put asunder?" "Your honor, I am satisfied that the Lord never joined this couple," replied the clergyman.

E. R. C.

The old pal's letter dropped from Jack's hand, he frowningly adjusted his eye-glass and became as grave as a two pound revoke at the club.

"'Tis a great crushing trouble that has fallen upon poor Dick, considerate husband, devoted father, good fellow that he is, Arthur," he said.

"What's biting him now?" replied the unsentimental companion.

"His girl—the only woman who enjoyed his love, barrin' his wife—has gone crazy, and phwat d'ye think?"

"Dunno. What?"

"The she-devil, in her lunacy is reading poor Dick's letters over to her husband."

P. A. R.

Bismarck, when a young man, was for some time an official reporter for one of the courts of justice. In those days his temper often got the best of him, but on one occasion, at least, his ready wit saved him from disgrace. One day he was questioning a witness, and the latter replied with an insulting retort, whereupon Bismarck exclaimed angrily: "If you are not more respectful I shall kick you out of the room." "Young man," said the Judge, interrupting the proceedings, "I would have you know that this is a dignified court of justice, and if there is any kicking to be done the court will do it." "Ah, you see," said Bismarck to the witness, "if you are not more respectful to me the Court will kick you out of the room."

PIRATE.

A German gentleman one day received a telegram from the proprietor of a hotel in the south of France, informing him of the death of his aunt, and asking for particulars as to the disposal of the body. The gentleman begged that the body might be sent to Cologne, and, after telegraphing to the deceased's relations to assemble in that city, traveled thither himself. In due time the coffin arrived. On being opened it was found to contain the body, not of an aunt, but of a Russian General in full uniform. Further telegrams elicited the information that the coffin containing the body of the deceased lady had been forwarded in error to the relatives of the Russian General at St. Petersburg. Urgent telegrams were despatched to St. Petersburg, and, after three days of anxious waiting, this answer was received: "Your aunt has been interred with full military honors." Whereupon the relatives of the deceased lady decided to solemnize their funeral without further delay.

CLIPPER.

This is an English elaboration of the old Chicago girl story:

They made their escape from the stifling ball room unnoticed, and stepped upon the broad verandah.

She shivered as the cold night air struck her shoulders.

"I fancy," His Grace was saying, "that blood doesn't count for much in your country."

The Chicago pork packer's daughter turned suddenly, and her neck gleamed in the moonlight like a column of alabaster.

"Duke," she answered earnestly, "you do us an injustice. In my country not only does blood count——"

There was a gentle reproach in her manner.

"—— but the bristles and hoofs as well—at least in pa's firm. Everything is utilized, Duke, everything."

Out of the trees a gentle zephyr soughed up and played about their heads.

PICK-ME-UP.

Mr. Thomas Alfred Edington has bequeathed $700 to the Protestant Orphans' Home.

In Paris a woman in a ball go
no longer said to be decollete.
en peau (in bare skin). This
term for the feminine apparel is
of the indelicacy of s
which has usurped latter
manners in the Old W
It is quite in line with the slan
pression in vogue in Ireland,
young ladies humorously refer to
selves as going to a ball "stri
Fortunately indelicacy of languag
not pervaded our sounder Canadi
ciety to the same extent as it
tainted the conversation of
Old World drawing rooms.
are those who believe in stra
forward language and we
fer that a "leg" should be c
a "leg" and a spade a spade, b
not understand the reason why c
subjects hitherto tabooed should b
cussed in ordinary conversation
England, however, we are told th
a dinner party men have no scrup
talking about their special ailmen
the most frankly disgusting man
You will frequently hear some
detailing the ins and outs of his "h
to a young woman, and as for
word "stomach" it is quite comm
used, while the most revolting de
of medicine and surgery are frequ
dealt with in polite conversation.
ugly old women and obese, ro
matrons delight to chatter about
own and their friends' illnesses i
old story, but that men should d
casually in a mixed company is a
and repulsive phase of social j
course. The reason for this stat
affairs is that the women in the
Country endeavor to imitate the
too closely. Of this danger let us
that the Canadian women will bew

Toronto society seems to be get
through Lent tolerably well. Din
galore are being given during this p
tential season of f