

or not depends on circumstances. As a rule, antiquarians are a guileless race—very eager, and prone to see what they wish to see—consequently, fair marks for the attacks of designing scoundrels. No doubt the world would be astounded if it knew the amount of false antiquities at the present moment stored up with reverent care in thousands of cabinets throughout the country, and the sum of money they represent must be equally amazing. When a man has a hobby he generally runs it to death, and the archaeological hobby is notoriously a runaway steed. If any one doubts the genuineness of any article asserted to be of great antiquity, he can easily satisfy himself by a reference to the authorities at the British Museum, to whom never a day passes without some spurious piece of old iron or stone being offered at an exorbitant price; they are, therefore, well up to the tricks of impostors in this line, of whom the metropolis possesses a plentiful crop.—*Cassell's.*

Our Illustrations.

AFTER A STORM.

The scene our artist has depicted on the first page has been one of more than common occurrence this winter. Only a few days ago we were visited by a heavy snow-storm that kept the army of shovellers at work from morning till night, clearing the heavily-covered sidewalks.

THE BALL OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES, took place in the Music Hall, Toronto, on the evening of the 11th ult. A large number of gentlemen, including several officers of the corps were present, but the attendance of ladies was, unfortunately rather small, and consequently some of the gentlemen did not dance as much as they probably wished. Among the uniforms present were two of the 10th Royals and two of the Governor-General's Body Guard. The Hall was simply but tastefully decorated with colours and with two stars, composed of ramrods, bayonets, &c., one on the front of the gallery and one in the alcove in rear of the platform. On the platform a number of rifles were piled, with the drums of the fife and drum band arranged in front of them. The music was furnished by the string band of the regiment.

SIGNOR BOSCOVITZ.

Signor Boscovitz is well known throughout the whole of this country as a pianist of the highest order. In Europe—England, France and Austria—he has won a great reputation, and has obtained the most flattering encomiums from the press, as well as more substantial acknowledgements of his powers. The Paris *Figaro* gives the following account of his professional career: "Ferdinand Boscovitz is a native of Hungary, and was born in Pesth, Dec. 31st, 1837. Belonging to one of the oldest families in Hungary, has received a liberal education, and while pursuing his general studies, and at the early age of seven years, was placed under the celebrated Czerny, with whom he commenced the study of the piano-forte. In 1854 he heard Liszt for the first time, and was so impressed by the wonderful performances of the great master that he returned to Weimar with him, where he studied nearly six years under his direction. He afterwards proceeded to Paris, where he continued his studies under the celebrated Chopin. In 1860 he returned to Germany, and performed with extraordinary success in Vienna and all the principal German cities. In 1862 Mr. John Ella, of the Musical Union, in London, introduced the distinguished Hungarian to an English audience, after which he travelled over the greater part of the United Kingdom. But one ambition now remained for "the most ambitious genius," as our friend Alexandre Dumas used to call him, and that was to perform in Paris. Boscovitz came to Paris, and who does not remember the first concert at the Salle Hertz? In 1865 the King of Portugal, the most noted musical amateur among the crowned heads of Europe, invited Mr. Boscovitz to take up his residence at Lisbon, at the Palace Adjuda. On his arrival at Lisbon he was received with the greatest affability by their Majesties the King and Queen, and the day after his official presentation the King conferred upon him the Order of Knighthood, and invested him with the insignia of the Royal Order of Christ. As a pianist his delicacy of touch, immense power, and wonderful execution place Mr. Boscovitz among the few great pianists of the world. Highly esteemed as a gentleman, and considered a genius of art and profession, we are proud to add another lustre to our Parisian celebrities."

THE ST. PETER STREET FIRE.

One of the most destructive fires which have occurred in Montreal broke out on the morning of the 31st ultimo, on St. Peter street, in the premises occupied by Messrs. Nelson, Wood & Co., broom manufacturers and dealers in fancy goods. Despite the efforts of the fire brigade, the flames spread to the boot and shoe manufactory of Messrs. Ames, Millard & Co., adjoining, and both of these buildings were completely gutted. The morning was intensely cold, and the firemen, as they worked, were speedily converted into living icicles—the water with which their clothes were drenched freezing, and thus incasing them in a suit of icy armour. On the day after the fire the ruins presented a most picturesque appearance, covered as they were with ice, and with huge icicles depending from the windows and doors. For the last ten days the rubbish has continued to smoulder. Strange to say, large quantities of Eddy's matches (for which Messrs. Nelson, Wood & Co. are agents) which were stored away in the cellars have escaped unharmed, though in many cases the boxes were charred. This fact is a striking confirmation of an opinion recently pronounced by Dr. Edwards with regard to the incombustibility of these matches. He says that they differ materially from many cheap matches, and especially from common English matches, in not containing in their composition the oxygen necessary for their combustion, and that for this element they are dependent on a free supply of air. From a chemical point of view they are, therefore, as safe for storage or transit as candles, tallow, oils, or grease, which are only combustible in contact with abundance of oxygen. Secondly, he has ascertained by actual experiment in the open air, that by the ignition of this material in the mass of a single box, the wood and the paper is not burned by the composition. It is only when separated that the necessary temperature is obtained for the ignition of the wood, therefore any ignition of the material by a crash could not in fact cause the destruction of the packages, still less communicate fire to the surrounding goods. The products of the combustion of the

chemical materials are of themselves of a nature to extinguish fire and prevent the ignition of wood, and referring to the manner in which they are put up he says that the boxes are so packed that they may be treated as soap and candles, and are not more combustible or more likely to originate or spread fire. Messrs. Nelson, Wood & Co.'s business was founded by Messrs. Nelson & Butters, who, in December, 1840, hired a store in McGill street, and commenced operations the following spring as dealers in brooms and woodenware. They soon after extended their line of business to the general fancy goods trade. For some years the business was necessarily a small one, but it gradually increased until it became the most extensive in that branch. About twelve years ago the premises on McGill street were found to be too small, and the firm, in connection with the late Edward Evans, purchased the Exchange Hotel on St. Peter street, which they pulled down, and on the site erected two buildings, one of which they occupied themselves, and leased the other. In the spring of 1869 Mr. Butters retired on account of ill-health, selling out his interest in the business to Mr. Wood. In 1866 Mr. A. D. Nelson was admitted to the firm, which then assumed its present style and title. Three of Mr. Nelson's sons now have a share in the business. In addition to the general woodenware trade, and the business of importers and dealers in European and American goods, the firm are large manufacturers of corn brooms, with which they supply all parts of the Dominion, and lately have exported largely to Europe. Four years ago a branch house was established at Toronto, which has increased so largely as to necessitate removal to more commodious premises than those hitherto occupied. A new and fine stone building is now in course of erection on Front street, which will be completed this year. Immediately after the late disastrous fire Messrs. Nelson, Wood & Co. moved to No. 4 Lemoine street, where they are now prepared to execute orders as before.

The business now carried on by Messrs. Ames, Holden & Co. was established in 1855 by Silas D. Childs and Francis Scholes, who were joined in 1857 by Mr. E. F. Ames, senior partner in the present firm. In 1859 Mr. Childs died, after which the business was carried on by Messrs. Scholes & Ames until, in 1864, Mr. Robert Millard bought out Mr. Scholes' interest—at which time they were doing a business of \$225,000 a year—since which time it has steadily increased until it has got to be one of the largest establishments of the kind in Canada, employing between 300 and 400 hands, and doing a business of nearly half a million dollars a year in goods of their own manufacture. The quality of the goods manufactured by this firm have always been very superior their aim having been to supply the first class retail trade. In December, 1872, Mr. J. C. Holden, of Belleville, Ont., well-known to the mercantile community as one of the most energetic and successful merchants in Ontario, bought one-half of Mr. Millard's interest, and only four weeks before the fire he took the balance, and at the same time sold to Mr. Andrew Jack, brother of Mr. James Jack, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Sinclair & Jack, one-fourth of his interest; so that the firm now consists of Mr. E. F. Ames, Mr. John M. Ames, Mr. J. C. Holden, and Mr. Andrew Jack, all practical business men; and although heavy losers by the fire, still nothing daunted, they are determined to be second to none in their line in Canada. As an example of their enterprise and energy, we may state that only one day elapsed—and that a holiday—after they were burned out before they were again located in a very much finer and more commodious premises than those consumed, they having bought the entire stock, machinery, furniture and fixtures and good-will of the business belonging to George James & Co., in Sir Hugh Allan's building, No. 600 Craig Street, on the corner of St. François Xavier Street, known as the *Gazette* Building.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

A special reverence and interest is attached to St. John—the "disciple whom Jesus loved"—because he outlived all his brethren and coadjutors in the Christian ministry and was the only apostle who died a natural death, expiring peacefully at Ephesus in the year of our Lord one hundred; thus, as Reedy observes, making the first century of the Christian Era and the Apostolical Age end together. There is a tradition that in his last days, when the Evangelist was unable to walk to church, he used to be carried thither, and exhorted the congregation in his own memorable words, "Little children love one another,"—an exhortation, if followed by those who commemorate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, whether as Christians or Freemasons, there would not be so many instances of that great bitterness of feeling and want of charity, as well as hastiness in judging, which is to be deplored in the matter of Church Government and the Rulers of the Grand Lodges of the craft. Partly in reference to the angelic and amiable disposition of St. John, partly also, apparently, in allusion to his having been the youngest of the apostles, this Evangelist is always represented as a young man, with a heavenly mien and beautiful features. He is generally represented holding in his left hand an arm from which a serpent or some demoniacal figure is escaping. Domenichino, in the picture from which our illustration is taken, has introduced the cup with the serpent escaping therefrom. This device appears to bear reference to a legend which states that a priest of Diana having denied the divine origin of the apostolic miracles, and challenged St. John to drink a cup of poison which he had prepared, the Evangelist, to remove his scepticism, after having first made on the vessel the sign of the cross, emptied it to the last drop without receiving the least injury. The purging of the cup from all evil is typified in the flight from it of the serpent which caused sin to come into the world. In Canada the Festival of St. John the Evangelist is the day for the gathering together of the brethren of the "Mystic Tie", although in Scotland the eve of St. John the Baptist is a great day among the Freemasons, when the venerable Abbey at Melrose is the chief point of attraction and resort, and as the mystic torch-bearers thread their way through its mouldering aisles and round its massive pillars, the outlines of its gorgeous ruins become singularly illuminated and brought into bold and striking relief. What we have chiefly to notice is that the Feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated by the Latin and Anglican churches, and that these anniversary Festivals date from the days of Polycarp, who was a disciple of St. John, and that the directions of both churches as to the observance of these days is imperative; at all events, they serve in the fact that they are the means of bringing men together in order to reconcile themselves charitably with their neighbours and relieve the necessities of the poor and sick.

Miscellaneous.

Seven thousand men deserted from the British army between the months of January and October last year—being at the rate of a whole battalion a month.

It is said that the Queen has addressed an autograph letter to the Lord Chief Justice of England expressive of Her Majesty's warm and cordial acknowledgment of his great services at the Tribunal of Geneva.

In the coming trial of the Tiebborne claimant, Mr. Digby Seymour, Q. C., will be the leading counsel. He receives 1,000 guineas retainer, and 50 guineas a day "refresher" during the continuance of the trial.

It is pretty generally believed, says the *Court Journal*, that Mr. Gladstone has determined to adopt the "leveling down" policy with regard to Trinity College, Dublin, and that that institution will have to share the fate of the Irish Church. It will be disendowed, and its endowments will be given, in all probability, to a university, which will be simply a testing and examining body, with fellowships at its disposal for the reward of the more successful candidates.

Everything that enters Paris has to pay octroi duty. For many weeks an elegantly-attired gentleman drove a well-appointed dog-cart from the outskirts to the city, being attended every evening by a neat-looking groom. One night the dog-cart was upset in the presence of the gendarmes, who, on going to the rescue, noticed that the groom had not moved from his seat. "Come," said one of the men. The groom preserved a dignified silence. "Come down," cried they angrily, "don't you see your master is hurt?" "Is he drunk or stupid?" The groom preserved his English sang-froid, and the employes, giving him a shake, dismounted to their unutterable astonishment, that he was made of zinc, and contained 150 litres of cognac!

The Brooklyn Tabernacle, Mr. Talmage, pastor, has been the victim of an ingenious system of robbery. For some time past the trustees have been mystified at the disappearance of money, in sums varying from \$25 to \$100, from the collection boxes. These boxes, eighteen in number, are placed in receptacles, or "pigeon-holes," made for the purpose in the front of the pastor's platform. The "pigeon-holes" extend through the platform nearly three feet, or the length of a box and handle. A few Sundays ago one of the deacons, who was sitting in front of the platform, made a remarkable discovery. The collection had been taken up, and the boxes returned to their places. The deacon's eyes happened to be resting upon the "pigeon-holes," when he was startled by the sudden disappearance of one of the handles, which had protruded a little from the hole. He rubbed his eyes, but kept them fixed on the place. Presently another handle disappeared, and then a third. This little incident necessitated the services of police detectives, who, after a couple of weeks, discovered the robber, who had been accustomed to crawl under the platform through the organ-room, remove the back part of the "pigeon-holes," and empty the boxes.

Lieutenant-Colonel Strange describes his idea of a ship of the future:—She shall be built solely with a view to great speed and the most perfect sea-going qualities, whether under canvas or under steam, and to render her capable of turning handily she should have twin-screw propellers. She should be not an inch larger than is necessary for these purposes and for carrying one large-turreted gun mounted, with two or three spare ones in the hold in case of accident. To secure these qualities in the highest perfection she must be encumbered with other no armour at all or, possibly, a little on her bows only. My notion is that these small ships should never act singly; we could afford to have little squadrons of them." Mr. Bessemer's anti-rolling system applied to this vessel. Colonel Strange thinks a great ironclad would have no chance with it. The new ship would scarcely miss a shot; the big ship, with an angle of roll subtended 23° feet, would make a very poor score on her diminutive and active assailants. It can hardly overrate powers of vessels like these—able to sail to their destination at high speed, thus saving their coals for fighting; deadening the blows of the heaviest ordnance with almost the precision of a light field-piece; so quick in their movements and so small in their size as to be a very difficult mark for even the stationary artillery of land fortifications; vessels which, acting in concert in numbers, would represent enormous aggregate attacking force, which could only be silenced bit by bit; the loss of each one, though trifling in itself, being probably as difficult to bring about as the destruction of a much larger antagonist of the ordinary description.

The statement that Germany has decided to appropriate a part of the French indemnity to the construction of a ship canal across the peninsula of Jutland is of considerable importance. It is well known that this canal has long been contemplated, but it is only lately it has taken the form of a definite project, and in it we find an explanation of the sudden anxiety of Germany to acquire from England the island of Heligoland, which commands the mouth of the Eysar. The commercial importance of this canal will be very great. During the long winter season, the narrow strait between Denmark and the Scandinavian peninsula is so closed with ice as to render navigation impossible, and the trade of the Baltic has no outlet by water until the channel re-opens in the spring. This is a very serious matter, considering the magnitude of the trade in grain, ores, timber, hides, tallow and hemp thus held in-jockeyed during four or five years, or forced to seek an outlet overland, with heavy attendant expenses of increased freights and costly transhipments. With the opening of the proposed canal, the trade of the Baltic will not only find a shorter, safer and cheaper outlet to the ocean than is now afforded, but as it is intended to keep the channel open by artificial means the year round, a continuous trade with England, France, Holland and Spain can be maintained, giving constant and profitable employment to shipping, which must now be idle during a great part of the year. The canal also possesses a considerable importance to Germany, in affording a means of moving its navy to and from the Baltic in winter, and affording its merchant marine a chance to escape to safe anchorage in case of war with any neighbouring power. Concerning the engineering difficulties to be overcome, we have as yet no detailed information, but the work will be costly; and it is understood that, under the most favourable conditions, several years will be needed to complete it.

OUR DIGESTIVE ORGANS—The result of much scientific research and experiment has within the last few years enabled the medical profession to supply to the human system, where impaired or inactive, the power which assimilates our food. This is now known as "Morson's Pepsine," and is prescribed as wine, globules, and lozenges, with full directions. The careful and regular use of this valuable medicine restores the natural functions of the stomach, giving once more strength to the body. There are many imitations, but Morson and Son, the original manufacturers, are practical chemists, and the "Pepsine" prepared by them is warranted, and bears their labels and trade-mark. It is sold by all chemists in bottles 3s., and boxes from 2s. 6d., but purchasers should see the name