

A RECENT LETTER FROM BEECHER.

Brooklyn, July 24th, 1874.

My dear Mr. Beecher:—Why should one be so glad to hear of you? You are the only one who is now rolling across the world? Your messenger came for the weekly article. One feels as if he were a mill and must grind regularly. Surely no better bag has ever been hung to catch the grain being ground than the *Ledger*. But why should even the *Ledger* be served on such a day as this?

The heavens are deeper than the thoughts can reach. Round and round the horizon the sun pours effluence which does not burn, but glows with a new life, and makes the old vital. I rejoice on these great days that seem limitless and unfathomable, full of cool heat and blue brightness. When clouds dare not come forth, and the pavilion above is without spot, or rift, or dim, and no shadows fall down on the mountain—[I remember]—I rejoice in the infinitesimal life that I see.

The population of the globe is not counted by the human family. Our country speaks of how many men live on the globe, as if that was the only thing worth thinking of. God is pleased to think differently. When he looks out of the heavenly window he sees a great many more people than he wants to see. But over and above and around them he beholds an immense life, various, versatile, infinitely equipped, and with one attribute in all, the pursuit of happiness.

At watching the ground, the bark, the old rotten log, the nooks and seams, the trees and leaves, and find that they are the swarming habitations of insect life. Beasts of magnitude are outside by the infinitesimal creation. They live together as if they were one, and some running away, some eating, and some being eaten, with every method of locomotion, with wonderful adaptation, not only with physical condition but with the microscopic, which men never think of. It is all along, and never think of it. I am doing nothing. Lying on your back is a useful employment. Sitting in the corner and watching the career of crickets, the stolid waitings of the quick darting spider is "as good as play," and a great deal more. I am not doing anything but dreamy gaze into the bosom of nature, to see how she tends her manifold children, is on the road to education.

Now, to think of sitting down to a table and writing homilies for the *Ledger*—No, I will not do it. You may write me a note for me this week, but I will not write for you. I am too busy to write for you. I am too busy to write for you.

Yours truly,
H. W. Beecher.

THE LABOURERS' MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

—Recently there has been a resolution passed by the Executive Council of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union which is of a most significant character. It is a declaration of the Farmers' Lock-out in the Eastern Counties. The Eastern Counties Committee cannot afford to justify in supporting them in enforced idleness indefinitely, nor can they seek public support continually while the harvest is waiting to be gathered. The Committee therefore, place migration and emigration at the disposal of the Labourers, with the alternative of depending upon their own resources. It is added that the Secretary will take measures to obtain additional facilities for emigration. For some time past it has been maintained that the Farmers' lock-out would be able to carry things almost as they desired, the scarcity of labour having stimulated them and the manufacturers to devise and construct instruments of industry which would save a considerable proportion of the labour previously employed. Besides, the Farmers of the Eastern Counties have been able to obtain a supply of labour on their own terms, which delivered them from dependence on the Union men. The two recent censuses would seem to indicate that in this section there was not a superabundance of population as a reserve fund for such contingencies as a lock-out, and on this, doubtless, the labourers counted as a powerful agent especially during harvest time, for bringing the farmers into submission. On the other hand, there are circumstances which make it probable that the supply of labour will be forthcoming. The population does not multiply as in other parts of England, but in all agricultural regions it is possible to do with fewer hands than are actually employed. The necessity of keeping the land in the hands of those who are earning nothing, has led to the employment of a greater number of men than are absolutely necessary for the work of the land.

The Farmers have strength in this particular, and has not been done to the knowledge of practical effect. Besides the declarations made by the union men at their meetings, instead of serving the labourers have aided the Farmers, inasmuch as they have given to the world the wants and offers of the Farmers as well as the wants of the labourers. Far and near it was published what the local labourer has refused, and what another man might get by taking his place. The time of trial was expected to be the harvest, but the men perceived that the Farmers have maintained themselves at a time when it was expected they would be beaten, and all hope of beating them must be given up. The Resolution is a confession of defeat.

The Labourers of the Eastern Counties are informed that they cannot be any longer maintained in the position which they have assumed, and the distinction of the Union itself. The Committee cannot feel justified in supporting them in enforced idleness indefinitely.

This is rather hard on men whose need and distress were caused by their allegiance to the leaders of the Eastern Counties. Each of these recipients of the Union's dole might be receiving good wages at the present season had he not been influenced by the pernicious and denunciations which fall so thickly from the Union platform.

The Labourers have obeyed the instructions of their leaders, who have urged on him the duty of implicit obedience to their instructions, to be accomplished in the rejection of all offers of peace, in estrangement from those with whom he had lived in neighbourly intercourse all his life in the endurance of every suffering, and in the maintenance of his position as a martyr for an indefinite time.

He has obeyed, and finds that in the expected hour of victory his position is desperate. He is not only worn out by

MANITOBA ITEMS.

—Oats are reported \$2 per bushel in Winnipeg.

The stock of books of the Bank of Manitoba—capital \$500,000 in \$100 shares—opened on the 26th inst.

Of the 700 Manitobans on their way, it is probable some will explore the country further west before settling as a nucleus for next year's emigration.

Col. Shaw has selected a reserve of twelve townships on the Little Saskatchewan for Scotch emigration, to be brought over next year.

Thirty tons of wheat intended for presents to the Indians at the Qu' Appelle treaty, are in course of preparation at the furniture rooms of D. Scott & Co. These chests contain a full carpenter's set of tools each.

Most of the prairie land west of the Red River has been reserved, and is now settled upon by a first class of Ontario farmers who are breaking up large tracts for next season's cultivation.

The *Free Press* says:—Arrangements are being completed to have postal matter between this Province and Thunder Bay, and other places on the upper lake by Duluth and Lake Superior.

Mr. Peter O'Leary, the delegate on immigration from Ireland, has accepted an offer from Mr. James Mulligan of Winnipeg, of \$500 as the nucleus of a fund to assist tenant farmers to Ireland to settle in Manitoba. It is proposed to send the money together with any other money that may be raised, to be used only when immigrants arrive, in procuring seed, implements etc., for their use.

The little red maggot, which has been noticed in the wings of the female grasshoppers, has been found in the ovaries of the insect and is deposited in the egg along with the egg.

A gentleman recently examining some grasshoppers in the centre of the egg, and he appeared to be engaged feasting upon the same. The *Manitoba* thinks it likely that the greater number of grasshopper eggs that have been laid will be destroyed in this way.

Monday, Aug. 17—Judge James Smith, County Judge of Victoria, died at his residence here on Saturday evening after a lingering illness. His remains are to be interred at Port Hope.

HAWKSTOWN, Ont. Aug. 17.—On Sunday morning about 2 o'clock the Hawkstown grist mill, owned by Mr. John Williams, together with an old saw mill, were destroyed by fire. The grist mill was valued at \$4,000; no insurance. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

MONTREAL, Aug. 17.—Last night a woman named Eliza Cassidy, the wife of Wm. Nolan, threw herself into the water at the Longueuil ferry wharf, and has not been seen since. Mr. Nolan was married about two years ago, and ever since has led a very miserable life with a drunken husband. Last night she quitted her house, and on getting a little way from it, ran blindly to the water's edge, and getting to the water she gathered, without stopping, her dress about her, and made a jump into the river, crying: "I am lost—I am lost."

St. Louis, Aug. 18.—A desperate shooting affair occurred yesterday on the Tennessee side of the Mississippi River, near Point Pleasant, in which Albert Mall and a young man named Freeman were killed, and George Dorell mortally wounded, and Captain Coll and two brothers named Coe seriously wounded. The affray grew out of a rivalry which culminated in a law suit between Captain Cole and Mall, who run competing ferry boats.

SEAPORT, Aug. 17.—An accident which terminated fatally occurred about four and a half miles from here this morning. Dr. King, a resident of this village, was driving out in a double buggy when the horses took fright and in endeavoring to stop them he fell forward and becoming entangled, was dragged about a mile. The unfortunate young gentleman only lived a short time after being extricated from his perilous position.

INVERMAY, Aug. 17.—The fire from the burning fallow of Mr. S. Telford, communicated with the premises of Mr. A. Neelands and Mr. Freeman, and destroyed fences to the amount of \$100 to Mr. Neelands, and a large amount of fence and lumber of Mr. Freeman. The fire is still raging. Various other houses, barns, crops, and fences are reported to have been completely destroyed in various parts of the township.

MOUNT FOREST, Aug. 17.—A road and fatal accident occurred this morning a short distance from this town. As Mr. John Quinn Sr., was driving over the railway crossing, a gravel train came in view, frightening the horses, which became unmanageable, running away and throwing the driver from the buggy and killing him almost instantly. The conductor of the train lifted the body and placed it on a flat car, and then backed the train up to the station. A coroner's inquest will be held to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—The loss of the boat at Astoria yesterday, caused by the explosion of a dynamite mine, will amount to over \$100,000. The passengers were in time rescued by a messenger on horseback, and escaped to the neighboring hills. The deluge was ten feet deep and it rained down the Conon. No lives lost.

Carp, Ont. Aug. 18.—On the first line of the march the fire has destroyed the buildings and fences of Alexander McCogan and William Rivington, and a barn and stable belonging to William Harper. On the second line it has destroyed the buildings and fences of Francis Johnson and John Kelly. On the first line of Huntley, the buildings and fences of Michael Kingston, and on the third line Thomas Oliver has lost about eight tons of hay, and on the second, Jas. Power has lost hay, the quantity I cannot ascertain.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN BROOKVILLE.

—The lumber merchant of the Kippewa intended holding a meeting in Ottawa to discuss the feasibility of improving the Gordon River, a small stream taking its miles from the river of the Ottawa at the Long Sault Rapids.

By making this stream so that timber can be brought down it, lumbermen will have several advantages. First that they will not have to incur the risk of drift log or clogging their timber over 15 miles on the Kippewa Lake; secondly, they will have a good rafting ground which had at the mouth of the Kippewa, owing to the depth of the water and the heavy winds, usually prevail on the Kippewa; thirdly, they will not be exposed to the winds on the long straits of the mouth of the Kippewa; fourthly, not only will the delay and danger on the Lakes and the hindrances on the rafting grounds be removed, but the new route will be shorter than the old one.

The Pembroke Observer says:—When we add to the above facts, that every man taking out of two thousand pieces of this lumber will save \$3,000 each season, the total amount of lumber to be sent to the market, there are about 20,000 pieces of timber annually produced on the Kippewa, therefore above, the improvements in the lumber trade, will have a balance of 15,000 pieces of lumber to be sent to the market, which will be a benefit to the lumber trade, and will be a benefit to the lumber trade, and will be a benefit to the lumber trade.

London, Aug. 18.—The *Express* in its weekly review of breadstuffs has the following:—The wheat harvest has prevailed throughout the past week, but our farmers have kept their hands off the grain. There is no report of sprout, though much wheat was stacked in condition in consequence of the same weather has been in the Continent. There is little difference in prices. Last reports, a though the tendency is downward. The wheat harvest has prevailed throughout the past week, but our farmers have kept their hands off the grain. There is no report of sprout, though much wheat was stacked in condition in consequence of the same weather has been in the Continent. There is little difference in prices. Last reports, a though the tendency is downward. The wheat harvest has prevailed throughout the past week, but our farmers have kept their hands off the grain. There is no report of sprout, though much wheat was stacked in condition in consequence of the same weather has been in the Continent. There is little difference in prices. Last reports, a though the tendency is downward.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED AGAINST BEECHER.

The *Brooklyn Argus* reports the following interview with Moulton:—"All the world knows," said Moulton, "that my honor has been injured, and I shall publish a statement in full, nearly as it was written at first. It is already in a printer's hands and he said his printer had promised him that everything should be ready in time for the statement to appear in the morning and evening journals of Saturday next."

The following letter was addressed by Morris & Pearsall, Tilton's attorneys, to Rev. H. W. Beecher:—"Rev. H. W. Beecher, Sir:—We have been retained by Mr. Tilton to commence a suit against you, you will please indicate to the attorney who is indicated to appear in your behalf, so that we may serve the necessary papers upon him, yours, etc., MORRIS & PEARSALL."

To the foregoing communication Sherman & Sterling, attorneys of Record for Mr. Beecher, this morning made the following reply:—"Messrs. Morris & Pearsall, Gent.:—Understanding that you contemplate the commencement of an action at law on behalf of Tilton against Beecher, we beg to inform you that we are authorized to appear for Mr. Beecher in all legal proceedings and that we request in his name the immediate service of the papers upon us at our office, or if service can be made before eleven a. m., at No. 61 Heck's street, Brooklyn, your obedient servants, SHERMAN & STANLEY."

The American team beat the Canadian at Halifax in one innings and 31 runs.

China has given Japan ninety days to withdraw its troops from the island of Formosa, and is meanwhile making extensive preparations for war.

Tara, Ont. Aug. 17.—A barn, driving house and contents owned by Mr. Wm. Kennedy, were destroyed by fire this afternoon, together with some sheep and pigs. The fire was caused by bush fires, which, by the prevailing high winds swept everything before them. James Hammel's barn and contents were burned, also Jas. Poll's, and a number of others in this vicinity.

Oshawa, Aug. 18.—The man Hase who made the attempt at murder in Guelph on Friday night, was arrested here last night at a hotel shortly after his arrival.

Fresherton, Ont. Aug. 18.—Fire is consuming the swamp and bush in all directions. Yesterday the Moore and barn belonging to Wm. Moore, Ardena, was burnt, having caught from the swamp, the building and nearly all the contents were burnt, including a new reaper. He only got in on Saturday last for \$500. A barn owned by Jas. Morrow was also destroyed in the same manner. Unless rain comes there can be no doubt that much loss and damage must occur, as there are so many swamps still in this country on fire. Some fields of grain have already been damaged and burnt, and there is cause to fear that many more will be destroyed.

Twedd, Aug. 18.—A horrible murder was committed about two miles from here, on Sunday last by Charles Moran, who shot his brother's wife. The cause is unknown, as the family was home at the time. The murderer was arrested this morning in his brother's barn.

LATER.

Twedd, Aug. 18.—The following is the confession of Charles Moran, the murderer of Mrs. Francis Moran:—"I confess to the murder of Mrs. Moran. I did not use a knife, but shot her once in the head, and then used the butt of the pistol. I had no hard feelings towards her previous to the murder. I am sorry for the crime. I was under the influence of liquor at the time. There was a little girl in the house at the time, and I threatened to shoot her if she did not keep away. You will find the revolver on my door in my house. It is not loaded."

Bramley, Aug. 18.—The village of Victoria was this place on Sunday. The wind is very strong. The village is going fast.

Kincardine, Aug. 18.—Bush fires are still raging here. It is reported that fourteen houses and barns were burned to-day in Huron township. No particulars obtainable.

THE LAMBERT OF PERSONS WHO ASSUME RISKY BUSINESS.

—Recently, on the Devonian, a case was tried which has a peculiar interest, and importance for that class of persons who, for the sake of making money, assume functions for which they are in no way fitted, and by which they imperil the lives of other people. It seems that at a recent picnic on the South Coast of England, several parties, to have a row on a boat, but a stone mason, who brought along a boat, and offered to row the parties, but insisted that there should be a good number of people, in order that the trip might be a paying one. Ten persons, in addition to the mason, crowded on board, sinking the boat very low into the water. Before they had gone very far, water began to rise in the boat. Its occupants entreated Payne to return, but he persisted in rowing out, affirming that they would be all right soon. So they were all right, as the sequel showed; the boat gradually sank, and the great part of the passengers were drowned. Among those saved was Payne, who was immediately arrested and brought to trial. His Lordship, in summing up the case, defined Payne's position in the matter, showing that what were the laws of the land, showing a person who, either for money, or even without such consideration, takes upon himself the charge of other people. They were as follows:—

"That the accused intended to harm or kill any body it was impossible to imagine, or that he had any clear thought of the consequences of what he did. He was not a regular boatman; he was a mason by trade, but he seems to have taken upon himself the occupation of a boatman for the purpose of making a profit for himself, assuming as he does to exercise a somewhat skilled trade. A man undertakes a legal charge, and is to exercise ordinary skill and ordinary care. If he is a man, not accustomed to the trade, and he must know that—but nevertheless undertakes it and does not exercise ordinary skill and care then he falls in his duty. This man having chosen to undertake the trade of letting out boats to passengers, was asked by a party of persons to be taken out in his boat, but he refused to do so because at 6d per head that would not have been enough, so he insisted upon having more. Others were persuaded to join, and eventually ten persons went in the boat. There was a nasty, slippery sea at the time, and there is evidence that he was wholly unfit to carry so many people in such a sea. If that was so, there arose the question whether it was not a gross want of skill on his part, and a gross want of care also, to insist upon taking ten people, he not being accustomed to a boat. But he was bound to know what the boat could carry, and what his condition was. He rowed the passengers out, the waves appeared to have broken over the boat, and the natural consequence was that the women became frightened and alarmed. Payne then asked to take them in shore, but he seems to have got the boat back to the position at which he started, and the result, as it seemed to him (the judge), was inevitable to a person unaccustomed to boats—the boat filled and was swamped, and several of the occupants were drowned."

We may add that a verdict of manslaughter was brought against Payne, who was committed to prison for six months.

MR. QUINLET'S NEW SCHOOL LAW.

—Copies of the law introduced last session by Hon. Mr. Quinlet to regulate the schools of the province of Quebec are now in circulation. It will be recalled that the Bill was withdrawn from the understanding that it would be reintroduced at the approaching session. Most of the provisions are the same as in the present, the following being the principal additions:—"The privilege of providing education for children belonging by right of nature to their parents, they can confide this duty to professors, teachers, guardians, or any other persons whom they may choose. All the public schools in the Province will belong exclusively either to the Roman Catholic or Protestant Faith. The public schools called Roman Catholic are those which are under the direction or control of ecclesiastical, trustees, principals or other masters, directors, or Roman Catholic bodies. Those called Protestant are the public schools which are under the direction or control of similar institutions or Protestant officials. All literary, scientific or other teaching that will be given in the R. C. public schools will be in every particular in conformity with the doctrine and the directions of the Roman Catholic Church. No teacher, professor, lecturer, principal, or director of a R. C. public school will be able to take possession of his charge without the authorization of the R. C. Bishop, or of the chief ecclesiastic, or superior, or continue his functions as such Bishop, chief, curé or priest opposes. The Council of Public Instruction will select, or cause to be published, the books, maps, and globes, which will be employed to the exclusion of all others, in the schools under the control of the commissioners or trustees, having regard in the selection to the schools where instruction is given in French, and to those where instruction is given in English. Nevertheless this power shall not extend to the selection of books treating of religion or morals, which choice shall be made as provided by Sec. 223; but the curé, priest or minister will have the exclusive right of choosing the books that relate to religion and morals for the use of the schools attended by children of their religious belief."

A melancholy accident occurred near Petrolia on Wednesday; a young man named Solter was out deer shooting with two companions. Solter was in a thicket, about fifty yards from the others, one of whom mistook him for a deer, and shot him; no hopes are entertained of his recovery. The gun was charged with buckshot, and grains of lead were lodged in his spine. Medical attendance was promptly obtained and six shots were extracted, but he died.

A shocking occurrence took place on the Gatineau on Wednesday, when three little children sat in a barn and perished in the flames, their mother, who endeavored to effect a rescue, also falling a victim.

A CORPS OF COMMUNISTES.—It is proposed, we understand, to establish in Montreal a Corps of Communistes in the same way as those established and in operation in London. In 1859 Captain Edward Walter, formerly of the 8th Hussars and 44th Regiment of Foot, conceived the idea that the best system of rewards for state services was the employment of soldiers, after they had left their regiments, in some positions of trust. He accordingly formed the Corps of Communistes a body of old soldiers, which in London and several other of the English cities while adhering to a semi-military organization, subject to superior officers have secured their living as letter-carriers, messengers, watchmen, &c., in fact in almost any capacity. They are uniformed, live in barracks, and are responsible for their actions to their superior officers. The institution, since that time, has taken somewhat of a wider turn, as will be seen by the proceedings of a meeting held at the United Service Club, on the 16th Feb., 1871.

Proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, seconded by Mr. J. A. S. Sir J. A. S. Trevelyan, M.P.:—"That the appointment of soldiers and sailors—who have served their country with credit—to the various subordinate situations in the public establishments would be highly conducive to the interests of the nation, as furnishing both an inducement to, and a reward for, military service. It is, therefore, recommended that soldiers and sailors of good character, who have completed a sufficient period of service, and are able to pass the necessary Civil Service examinations, should have a preference for appointments in the public departments."

Proposed by General Sir W. Mansfield, seconded by Rev. K. Gleig, M.A. [Chaplain General],—"That a short period of military service furnishes the best training for large classes of civil appointments, the most important qualifications for which are not high intellectual requirements but good health, implicit obedience, and the habit of faithfully, and exactly performing any duty that may be given them in charge, and that the position of the country for defence would be improved if the larger bodies of men employed in the Customs, Excise, Police, Post Office, and other public establishments, consisted in great part of trained soldiers."

The approaching meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, in the city of Montreal, is an event of some significance in the religious history of our Dominion. It was a great day for Canada when it was for ever decided, in the matter of the Clergy Reserves, that religion should be unconnected with and unfettered by the State; that no ecclesiastical system should be laid as a burden on the young and growing nation, to stunt its development and hinder its growth and progress. It marks another era, when we see the voluntary association of the Christian denominations to declare that, while they rejoice in their liberty, and love their individuality, yet that they love also their common relationship, and rejoice in their substantial unity.

The Union between the Wesleyan and New Connection Methodist churches may now be regarded as an accomplished fact. A special meeting of the New Connection Conference was recently held at Milton for the purpose of making final arrangements for the carrying out of the Conference arrangements regarding Union. The report of the special Committee was unanimously adopted. A number of ministers and laymen were elected delegates to the first General Conference of the United Church which will take place in Toronto in September. It will be comprised of ministerial and lay delegates from the New Connection, the London, Toronto, Montreal and Eastern British America Conferences. The General Conference will meet every four years and the others annually.

England, France, Germany, Austria, Holland and Italy have recognised the Spanish Republic, and it is reported that the Pope will soon "recognize Serrano as President" of that country. The Spanish Government has thanked Germany for taking the initiative in the movement for recognition. The *London Times*, in an editorial article, says England would have recognized Spain some time ago, but the reluctance of France and the indifference of Germany prevented. The *Pell Mall Gazette* says that Russia hesitates to recognise the Republic, because doing so would strengthen the cause of Republicanism in Europe. Fighting still goes on in Spain, but is not decisive. Some Republican victories of no great importance are announced.

This is a trying time for young trees. Those that were set this Spring, and have appeared to be doing well thus far, may succumb to the long continued drought and heat of midsummer. It is safest to mulch all young trees; but where this has not been done, all those that show signs of suffering should be attended to at once. A timely mulching may save the tree. It makes but little difference what material is used so that the soil around the roots is prevented from losing its moisture by evaporation. Stones, if most convenient, will answer as well as anything. If the trunk is fully exposed to the sun, it should be protected from intense heat, a couple of boards tacked together like a trough and set up against the trunk, will furnish the required shade; or the trunk may be bound with a hay rope, or be loosely strewed up as for winter protection.

A correspondent from Ashton informs us that the fishery laws are openly violated in his neighborhood, by individuals setting nets in the River Jock. He says the outrage is not confined to boys or ignorant persons—that magistrates, men to uphold the majesty of the law, have themselves been taken in the very act of its violation. Where are the fishery officers now? Do they want the names of the parties?

ALCOHOL.—As the result of the chemical changes which sugar undergoes in passing downwards towards a dead, inorganic condition, a substance is produced which has been the cause of more sorrow, crime and suffering than all other evil agencies that have afflicted the world. It has caused tens of thousands of murders, and uncounted instances of robbery, theft, arson, incest, and suicide; it has brought misery and want into millions of households; it has filled almshouses and asylums with wretched victims; it sends a never ending procession of crime-stricken men and women to prison and the gallows. What an awful indictment this is to bring against a substance which stands so closely allied in chemical relationship to innocent sugar? Alcohol is not a natural product; it can only result from a spontaneous change which is excited in saccharine liquids under the influence of a ferment. If in the order of things this chemical change had been impossible, the human race would have been saved from shedding tears, the aggregate volume of which reaches to that of a mighty river. But alas! atoms of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen are permitted to group themselves in a way to form the maddening liquid, and the great enemy to human happiness confronts us in all our domestic, industrial, and commercial relations. If through disarrangement of Nature's laws the vinous fermentative process should suddenly cease, and not another drop of any kind of spirituous liquors be produced, no sensible harm would come to any industrial or art process, and no absolute want in medicine would be encountered. Carefully viewing the matter from the standpoint of the chemist, physician, and artist, we unhesitatingly declare that the world in its present advanced stage has no need of alcohol; it is simply convenient, but not necessary. Why not then make a determined effort to rid the country and the world of the monster? Although alcohol results, as we have said, from spontaneous changes, yet the aid of man is necessary to form the various liquids containing it into attractive and permanent beverages. The fermentation of the juices of grapes and other fruits produces alcohol; but if left alone, Nature will not allow the spirit to remain except for a brief space of time. Nature abhors not only a vacuum, but manifestly one of her products, for alcohol is so unstable in its attenuated combinations that, if left to itself, it speedily runs down into the harmless form of acetic acid.

If man ceases to interfere in the series of natural changes which saccharine liquids spontaneously undergo, alcohol will not survive long enough to do mischief. Why not then compel the great army of men engaged in isolating and compounding the agent to let it alone?—Alcohol is a poison; it acts intoxicatingly with vital processes in the animal organism. In its purest and best form, it slowly undermines the constitution, and hinders or arrests metamorphosis of tissues; in its vile associations as presented in these modern times, it kills with certainty, and almost with the rapidity of strychnine and arsenic. We ask again why not attempt to arrest its production, and thus strike a blow at the root of the evil? There is virtue and moral force enough to compel governments to pass laws prohibiting its importation in any form; and there is virtue and moral force enough to compel legislatures to enact laws prohibiting its manufacture. This is the point to which we must sooner or later come. All the laws ever made, or that ever will be made, conjoined with all the prayers of all the well intentioned women of the country, will never stop the gainings of human appetite, or prevent its gratification, so long as rum, whiskey, wine, malt liquors, &c., are imported and manufactured under the sanction of law. Alcoholic beverages must cease to exist, before the world will be released from the terrible thralldom which they exercise over human appetites. In making a remedy for the enormous evils caused by alcohol, nothing absurd or impracticable is associated with the suggestion, and the time is not far distant when the poison will be placed under a ban, as regards its importation and manufacture, which will give enforced emancipation to tens of thousands of slaves now in subjugation to the monster.

The value of autographs and manuscripts is directed, no doubt, by the same general laws which regulate the prices of other articles placed on the market. There is, nevertheless, something curiously interesting in the process by which a piece of paper with a few words written on it (not being bank paper or at all akin to it), on which the writer sets no value, on which, perhaps, for years after it has been written on, no person sets any particular value, becomes, at last, a precious commodity, for the possession of which rich men vie with each other, and the purchaser of which becomes an object of envy to his friends. Such documents are often of no use whatever, being simple curiosities, but by literary virtuosos they are no less prized. Not long since at the sale of Sir Wm. Tite's library in England, which lasted for sixteen days, autograph letters of the following personages were bought for the sums attached to their respective names: Lord Bacon, £21; Burns, 25; Oliver Cromwell, £106; Nell Gwynne, £28; Charles Lamb, £14 5s.; his dissertation on "Roast Pig," £34; Mary, Queen of Scots, £95; Rabelais, £62; Voltaire, £5 5s., etc., etc. Many of these letters were of intrinsic, as well as conventional, interest.

A correspondent from Ashton informs us that the fishery laws are openly violated in his neighborhood, by individuals setting nets in the River Jock. He says the outrage is not confined to boys or ignorant persons—that magistrates, men to uphold the majesty of the law, have themselves been taken in the very act of its violation. Where are the fishery officers now? Do they want the names of the parties?

THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.—Recent investigations in regard to the nature of cholera, when regarded from one point of view, are by no means reassuring. Physicians of repute are not at variance in the opinion that in giving pandemic extension to the disease the power of human intercourse is not irrespective of important qualifications in regard to time and place, but they hold also that these qualifications granted, human intercourse is the essential agent in the propagation of this most terrible disorder. Dr. Simon, the medical officer of the English Local Government Board, has recently shown that for European Russia, and probably for all Europe—as for America also—the infection is slowly assimilating itself in this respect to the typhoid fever, a bowel infection of by no means rare occurrence. The probability of having cholera a common and unpreventable disease cannot be regarded except with dismay, although as it shall become more frequent in its attacks it will be likely to become less virulent and be more easily dealt with by sanitary regulations. In regard to its approaches England has abandoned quarantine as useless, and in other countries has been proved to be more or less futile. Proper defences against it consist only in judicious sanitary regulations such as every city and town is competent to carry for itself. Such defences have done much to lessen the frequency and virulence of typhoid fever, and will be equally valuable as against cholera. It is well for us to think of such things in time.

The loss which Canada has suffered from forest fires must now be something enormous, and it is time that some effectual means were taken to stop the destruction, which is now a matter of annual recurrence. It is everywhere the same: along the north shores of Huron and Superior; in the Muskoka District; on the line of the Northern Railway and in the Ottawa Valley; evidence of the great loss which the country has sustained is to be seen in the shape of miles upon miles of blackened and blasted pine stumps. The law at present in force is practically a dead letter, for the simple reason that there is no one to see it enforced, and violations of it are almost always incapable of being brought home to those guilty of them. The most sensible suggestion which we have yet seen on the subject is that of an Ottawa contemporary which proposes that the Government should appoint forest rangers, each being allotted his own district and held responsible for the suppression of fires in it. The appointments need only be made for the two or three summer months during which the danger exists; and a comparatively small outlay would no doubt result in effecting a very large saving.

At a meeting of the Chaudière mill owners held on the 21st inst., at the office of Levi Young, Esq., it was unanimously resolved that their saw mills be shut down on Saturday, 26th September, next. This action has been rendered necessary by the scarcity of Piling Ground, and the desire on the part of the Mill Proprietors not to further overstock the markets, which are at present glutted at all the principal lumber depots.

The people of Provancher met a few days since and unanimously agreed to nominate Reil as their candidate to represent the constituency in the Dominion Parliament. The nomination is to be held on the 26th prox. A telegram states that indications of difficulties appear among the former friends of the ex-President. The *Frederic Press* of Quebec is almost a unit in favor of Reil's re-election.

A convention of Teachers was held at Vankleef Hill on the 10th inst. A "Teachers' Association" was formed for the county of Prescott, T. O. Steele, J. P. S. President; Jas. Ray, Secretary. The exercises were lively and interesting.

