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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Harnum's elephant Alice. Jumbo's illustrious consort, has been dissected at Bridgeport, Connecticut. In her stomach were found 300 pennies, part of a pocket knife, four walking-stick ferrules, and a piece of lead pipe. It is marvellous how the elephant held together so long with that irritating weight of miscellaneous Birmingham and Sheffield goods inside. No wonder that elephants are occasionally bilious and ill-tempered. Lead piping and bronze money may be warranted to withstand even elephantine efforts at digestion.

The effects of water drunk before meals, has been recently the subject of study to some eminent medical authorities. One beneficial effect is claimed for it—the washing away of the secretion of mucus formed during the repose of the alimentary ducts. This is particularly the case in the morning, when the gastric walls are covered with a thick and tenacious layer, which coats the food first taken, and retards its digestion. A glass of water before breakfast washes this out and strengthens the stomach. Cold water is best for those who have ample power of reaction, and hot for those who have not.

Lord Wolseley, in a recent interesting speech to volunteers, observed that "there was a great deal about the drill of the British Army as obsolete as the cross-bow." "If," says the *Broad Arrow*, "such is Lord Wolseley's opinion, why does he not hasten the process of elimination?" Well, Lord Wolseley is not only outspoken, but prompt and resolute in action. It can only therefore be surmised that as yet red-tape is too strong for him, powerful as he is. The drill book has been in process of revision for years. An immense discarding of useless manoeuvres took place in the famous issue of 1875, and the tinkers and cranks seemed daunted for a time. But subsequent editions began again to betray their handiwork. No sooner was something reduced to absolute simplicity and common-sense, than, apparently, some privileged military idiot, who had apparently the ear of the authorities, succeeded in relegating it to the old state of complication, or something as nearly approaching it, as the general advance of common-sense would allow. The *B. A.* suggests an instructional battalion at Aldershot, where all questions of Infantry Drill might be settled and determined.

Whatever may have happened to, or through, the fragments of the Big Raft, which have become a standing terror to mariners, one thing is certain, no such raft ought to be allowed to be put together and set afloat on ocean highways at a late period of the year.

English news contains an account of Mr. Gladstone having been snow-balled during his recent transit through London, on his way to the continent. The annoyance did not, probably, amount to much, but it was a disgraceful manifestation. If the venerable statesman's great reputation did not avail to protect him from vulgar insult, the fact that he was proceeding in search of rest and change to recruit over-worn strength ought to have sufficed.

The *London Spectator*, in an able article upon the negro race, arrives at several conclusions, which must have become patent to all close observers of this branch of the human family. These are—that the Africans advance intellectually more quickly upon intermarriage with other races,—that their civilization improves upon the adoption of some distinct form of religion, such as the Mohammedan, and that their social and moral elevation is dependent upon the adoption of the Christian Faith. The negro, as we know him in this country, although far from holding a leading position in society, is yet immeasurably the superior of his pagan brother in the dark continent, whose level of existence is but little higher than that of the intelligent brute creation by which he is surrounded.

The extent to which the public parks in London are becoming public forums, in which all sorts of doctrinaires, social, political, and religious, carry on a ceaseless Sunday propaganda, is the subject of comment in a portion of the English press. London used, from 30 to 40 years ago, to be one of the pleasantest, as well as one of the cheapest places to live in in the world. The difference to-day is wonderful. To the absentee of a few years foreign sojourn, it now conveys the unpleasant idea of a seething and swarming ant-hill, and the mass of its components strike the visitor as stunted, squalid, and brutal, to an extreme degree. All the parks and public places have, more or less, even on week days, lost their old charm of comparative quiet and solitude. On Sundays they are a repulsive babel of vulgar oratory. Socialist, anarchist, infidel, and ignorant bigot of every description, hold high carnival on the Lord's Day, and most of the hearers would almost as soon listen to the one as the other.

Hon. Mr. McLelan, Postmaster General, has been negotiating a parcel post arrangement between Canada and the United States, with Mr. Bell, Superintendent of U. S. Foreign Mails. A service which it was supposed would prove mutually advantageous to both countries, was agreed upon, but it is reported that the United States authorities have made some alterations in the original agreement, which, if accepted by the Canadian Government will result in the establishment of a parcel post between the two countries. From semi-official sources, it is gathered that the alterations will be accepted, and if so, the new service will go into the operation on February first next. The basis of the arrangement is similar to that now existing between Canada and Great Britain, excepting that larger parcels will be carried; and what is much more important, the rate of postage will be very much lessened. Four pounds is to be the greatest weight allowed, and the rate charged will not exceed 12½ cents per pound. The new service should prove of great benefit to both countries, and Postmaster General McLelan is to be congratulated upon his success in bringing the negotiations to such a fortunate issue.

A few days since, two lads—the eldest about 17—applied at the Police Station for shelter. Their story, which was apparently truthfully told, was, that they stowed away at Glasgow, G. B., in the *S.S. Austrian*, and that when they arrived here, they were put ashore to shift as best they might. While the steamship cannot be blamed for bringing stowaways over, it must be remembered, that if such persons were carried to a United States port, the steamer would be subject to a penalty for each, and be also compelled to take them back as "pauper immigrants." Therefore it is, that they were landed here, so that the responsibility of the steamer should cease. These lads will doubtless become a charge upon this city for a time at least. This is a most unjust imposition on the rate-payers of Halifax, to which we would call the attention of the City Fathers. If any organized body should assume the care and support of such waifs, it ought to be the Dominion Govt. and not this city. Now that steamers of many lines arrive here almost daily from foreign ports, any of which is liable to bring in it "pauper immigrants," Halifax is not safe from being obliged, under present regulations, to support as many outside paupers as those "to the manor born."

EUROPEAN POLITICS.

The quidnuncs in England are hard at work weaving theories of international politics. Lord Randolph Churchill's visit to Russia seems to have set speculation rampant, more especially on the continent.

Undoubtedly relations are so peculiar, and circumstances so complicated, as to furnish much ground for surmise, and it is hard to say what surmise may not at any moment be discovered to have been well founded. A Conservative Government, and, personally, Lord Salisbury, are, no doubt, distasteful to Russia, the chronic English distrust of her since the wretched Crimean War, having always been diligently kept alive by that party.

Again, a Conservative Government is unquestionably regarded with partiality in Court, and it would be a great mistake to imagine that Court prejudice and intrigue are past power and influence. The conduct of Russia towards Prince Alexander of Bulgaria is known to have been a sore point to the Queen, with whom family ties are very strong, and who is undoubtedly much attached to the Battenburg family.

It is said that the adoption of an increased frigidity of tone towards Russia coincided with the date of a recent visit to the English court by Prince Alexander.

However this may be, or whatever connection the visit of Lord Randolph, the head of the new departure in Conservatism, to Russia may have with the complicated nature of existing relations, Lord Salisbury's recent utterances have been such as might bear a tremendous significance if England should suddenly find herself involved in war as one of a real quadruple alliance. At Derby the Prime Minister warned the country that if a thunderclap of war should break, it would give no warning, and that if by untoward chance England were involved, her fate would depend upon her preparation in time of peace.

Coupling some ministerial indications with the perennial hatred of Mr. Gladstone entertained by Prince Bismarck, it has been surmised that English foreign policy may, during the recess, when it cannot be questioned in parliament, have been moulded in a shape not anticipated when parliament rose, and from which it may not be easy to divert it.

It would, indeed, seem difficult for England to escape one of the horns of a very puzzling dilemma. On the one hand, Russo-phobia is waning, and it is almost the only good point in Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy—in all other directions deplorably weak and ill-considered—to expedite its extinction. If, therefore, Mr. Gladstone should return to power, the quite unnecessarily strained relations of Great Britain with Russia might, and no doubt would, be ameliorated. But, on the other hand, the antipathy of Prince Bismarck, the soul of the triple alliance, to Mr. Gladstone, would not tend to improve the "enteinte" with the powers composing it.

After all, the possible complications might only result in the absolute neutrality of England, while Russia, and probably France, fought the triple alliance. But absolute neutrals often become the objects of intense hatred to belligerent parties, and who is to say how many of them might, after the "cruel war was over," unite to crush the power of which some of them, France chronically, and Russia, because she has been exasperated into unfriendliness, are intensely jealous.

Whatever the difficulties which may arise, they will be the legitimate outcome of two great blunders—the Crimean War, and Mr. Gladstone's policy in 1882. France, which then declined to aid in restoring order to Egypt, should have been boldly and sternly dealt with, and she would, from fear of Germany, have been easily kept from mischief; while, with France kept down, Russia could not, single-headed, venture on war with the other three powers. What changes may come over the scene from possible deaths or other fresh complication which may arise, none can say; but the existing jealousies and uneasiness seem to foreshadow a very lively state of things in the spring. It is, however, an ill wind that blows no good, and an European war, especially if Great Britain should become involved in it, would stimulate the agricultural interests of this continent in a very marked degree.

HIGH TREASON.

We fail to see either the necessity or the appropriateness of a good deal of very unmeasured abuse poured out on the head of Mr. Ellis, M. P. for St. John, and proprietor of the *St. John Globe*, for his open advocacy of Annexation. It is an idea which, in common, as we believe, with a very considerable majority of Canadian citizens, is utterly and absolutely distasteful to us, and a measure for which we consider there is no earthly necessity. But it is impossible to ignore the change in the spirit of the times, which no longer threatens with the penalties of high treason the open discussion of an abstract question, even when it involves the idea of a change of allegiance. It has indeed become very difficult, in the face of a broadening liberty of thought and utterance, to say what constitutes treason. Numbers of the most respectable persons in England to-day openly advocate republicanism, and no one is blind enough to imagine that the policy of the extreme nationalist party in Ireland points to anything short of independence. In the early years of this century the utterances of either would have been treasonable, and the Cato Street conspirators were hung for a feeble plot, ludicrously overshadowed by any one of the least of the acts prompted by the League. Yet we hear nothing to-day of death penalties for treason, and a man only comes within reach of the halter if, in the course of violent resistance to the law, or illegal demonstration amounting to a public nuisance, blood is shed in a manner which justifies an indictment for murder.

As between the component parts of a federation we have, within a quarter of a century, seen the question of what is treason sternly settled by the sword, and there is much virtue in an arbitrament from which there

is no appeal. If then, public opinion has changed and broadened in such fashion as to refuse to abstract discussion the old opprobrium of treason, it is childish to scream and rage because the age does not allow us (if we wish to be thought sensible) to brand what we dislike with a stigma which, except to our own imaginations, has lost its sting.

The general consensus of toleration of opinion was very strongly marked in the case of Sir Alexander Galt, which was adduced, as we think, with propriety by one of our city contemporaries in justification of Mr. Ellis.

Sir Alexander, at a time when he believed that annexation was not only in the end inevitable, but might also be desirable, declined to accept the order of St. Michael and St. George without first ascertaining whether the opinion he then held would be considered a bar to his availing himself of the proposed honor. He submitted the case without reserve, and the result can only be construed to indicate the tolerance of the British Government of freedom of opinion.

There is at least, to our thinking, the merit of straightforwardness about Mr. Ellis'urse. We are not disposed to like a man any the better for proclaiming himself an Annexationist; but, on the whole, we prefer outspokenness to the veiled Americanism which we cannot doubt to be the underlying sentiment by which some of our more restless politicians are animated.

But the day is long past at which we could pretend to burk the free discussion even of a question of such vital and national importance.

THE NEBULAR HYPOTHESIS.

The assumed operations of the "nebular hypothesis" to which THE CRITIC recently drew attention in connection with the theory brought before the Royal Society by Mr. Norman Lockyer, are so well explained in the following extract from the *Review* we then had before us, that we publish it as it stands, for the edification of those (we believe not a few) who take interest in astronomical speculations of the higher and legitimately scientific kind:—

"When gravity first begins to draw the meteorites together we have the beginning of a nebula or a comet, as the case may be—the comet, so far as we know, being a swarm of meteorites which has become entangled in the solar system. As the nebula condenses further it becomes an incandescent star, and passes through successive stages due to the increasing approximation of the meteorites composing it. Ultimately the separate meteorites are fused by collisions of increasing violence and frequency into masses of incandescent vapour, and when by the development of this process all the meteorites are volatilized, and the *maximum* of temperature that can be produced by the forces in operation has been evolved, the process of cooling sets in. Stars of the type of Sirius represent, so far as we know, this *maximum* of cosmical temperature. Our own sun represents the next downward stage in the process of cooling, and a further stage is reached in stars whose spectra exhibit certain flutings of carbon—an element which, at any rate in its terrestrial form, has never been observed, in the spectrum of the sun. The coolest stage of all is exhibited in the non-luminous companions which are known to be associated with more than one of the fixed stars. Sirius, for instance, has such a dark companion, whose presence is attested by perturbations in the proper motions of the bright star of the pair, and the variable star Algol undergoes changes which are best explained on the hypothesis of periodical eclipse by a similar dark companion. Thus we have a continuous series exhibiting the evolution and gradual extinction, so far as temperature and its associated luminous phenomena are concerned, of all the heavenly bodies. Experience and observation in recorded time give us no evidence whatever of any stage ulterior to that of a star so cooled down as to be entirely non-luminous. But imagination may possibly conceive such a catastrophe as the collision of two of the larger heavenly bodies, in which case one or both would be reduced once more to the condition of primordial meteorites, and the whole cycle might be supposed to begin afresh. To speculate thus, however, is not only to travel far beyond the utmost limits of the hypothesis propounded by Mr. Lockyer, but to pass from the known to the unknown in a fashion which is disallowed by all recorded experience. It is enough if we can trace the origin and read the history of the heavenly bodies. In any case their past has been so immeasurable that speculation on their ultimate future may be regarded as altogether beyond the range of sober science."

We supplement the list we gave last week of the ages of remarkable individuals by a few more, which we then omitted. His Holiness the Pope will be 78 on the 2nd March. Prince Bismarck and Sir John MacDonald were both born in 1815, and are, therefore, in their 73rd year. The birthday of the former is, curiously enough, the 1st of April, but the world is, we should suppose, pretty well convinced that there is very little connection between him and an April fool. Sir Henry Rawlinson, the great Assyriologist, will be 78 in April. The Ex-Empress Eugenie will be 62 in May. The Duke of Cambridge, Commander in Chief of the British Army, is three months older than Her Majesty his cousin, and will be 69 on the 26th of March. The beautiful Empress of Austria, who was the cynosure of all eyes in the English hunting field a year or two ago, is 57. Mrs. Bright is 76. The King of Holland is 71. The Emperor of Brazil, 63. The King of Denmark, father of the Czarina, the Princess of Wales, and the King of Greece, will be 70 in April.

The Shah of Persia sends a letter to the Pope, replete with good taste, complimenting His Holiness precisely where a tribute of appreciation is due.

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Expect nothing from him who promises a great deal.

Some one says the age of a political party may be told by its rings.

There is no use crying over spilled milk. It may be three parts water.

Why is a watch dog bigger by night than by day? Because he is let out at night.

The fellow that gets into a breach-of-promise suit, if not caught at first, is lassoed at last.

Things are sullen and will be as they are, whatever we think them or wish them to be.—*Cudworth.*

Fruitless is sorrow for having done amiss if it issue not in resolution to do so no more.—*Bishop Horne.*

A good word is an easy obligation; but now to speak ill requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.—*Carlyle.*

The bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you put upon it, the more it will contract.—*O. W. Holmes.*

One of the best rules in conversation is never to say anything which one of the company would rather you had left unsaid.—*Dean Swift.*

In England an ordained clergyman is disqualified from entering Parliament. There is something really beautiful in the care the English people take of their ministers.

AT HOME.—Attendant (to Mr. John L. Sullivan at his hotel)—Her majesty, the queen, sir, has expressed a desire to see you.

Mr. John L. Sullivan—Well, show de old lady up at once.

Mrs. Brown—"You told me that if I left my table-cloth out all night the fruit stains would disappear. Well, I put it out last night." Mrs. Jones—"Of course the stains were gone in the morning!" Mrs. Brown—"Yes, so was the table-cloth."

The guide leads a couple to the brink of a frightful precipice, and then says in a mournful tone: I brought a gentleman and his wife here last year. The lady leaned over too far and disappeared. The gentleman said it was one of the finest views he had ever seen.

"And why are you so surprised, Mr. Sampson," she said, drawing herself up with hauteur, "that I play the piano so well?"

"Because your hands are so small, Miss Smith, that you must find it difficult to strike an octave."

Then she played some more for him.

An Englishman was once grumbling against the land o'cakes. Said he: "No man of taste would ever think of remaining any length of time in such a country as Scotland." "Tastes differ," replied the Scotchman. "I'll tak ye to a place ca'd Bannockburn, no far frae Stirling, where throtty thousand o' yer countrymen ha' been for 500 years, an' they 've nae thoct o'leavin' yet."

A jibbing or balky horse stopped short in front of our window, the other day, and a crowd of interested spectators gathered round. The old horse showed a lively interest in the numerous suggestions made to produce locomotion again. These are some of the chunks of wisdom left lying round loose:—"Turn him about;" "Put pepper in his mouth;" "Twist his ears;" "Twist his tail;" "Back the trap on to him;" "Push him along;" "Back him;" "Pull his tongue;" "Light a fire under him;" "Kick his knees;" "Hold up one foot till he gets tired;" "Throw him down;" "Let him stand;" "Jerk the reins;" "Keep the reins still;" "Lick him;" "Lick him some more;" "Tie a rope around his tail;" "Shut off his wind;" "Pinch his nose;" "Give him some oats;" "Coax him;" "Hitch another horse in front of him." The horse's brain got confused, so he walked slowly on that he might get to his stable and think.—*Farming World.*

There is one lesson to be got from a visit of an hour or two to the British Museum, namely, the fathomless abyss of our own ignorance. One is almost ashamed of his little, paltry heartbeats in the presence of the rushing and roaring torrent of Niagara. So if he had published a little book or two, collected a few fossils, or coins, or vases, he is crushed by the vastness of the treasures in the library, and the collections of this universe of knowledge.

I have shown how not to see the British Museum: I will tell you how to see it:

Take lodgings next door to it in a garret if you cannot afford anything better—and pass all your days at the Museum during the whole period of your natural life. At three-score and ten you will have some faint conception of the contents, significance and value of this great British institution, which is, as nearly as any one spot, most vital of human civilization, a stab at which by the dagger of anarchy would fitly begin the reign of chaos.—*Dr. Holmes in the Atlantic.*

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page sixteen. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, have issued a very neat and pretty calendar. Another proof of their business enterprise.

Laurie Hennessy, twenty-two years old, was killed a mile west of Alton tank, on the Intercolonial R. R., by falling between the cars.

The *Toronto Globe*, *St. John Telegraph*, and other influential Liberal journals are repudiating and condemning Editor Ellis' annexation sentiments.

There were five Allan line steamers in port Saturday, and four Sunday. They were the *Polynesian*, *Peruvian*, *Nova Scotia*, *Circasian*, and *Austrian*.

We are indebted to M. B. Daly, general agent at Halifax of the Imperial Fire Insurance Co., for a very handsome calendar issued by his company.

E. F. Clarke was elected Mayor of Toronto on the 2nd of January by about 1000 majority. McLeod Stewart was re-elected Mayor of Ottawa on the same date by 300 majority.

S. G. Kerr & Sons' Vegetable Evaporating Factory at Canning was totally destroyed by fire, the evening before last. The loss to Messrs. Kerr is, it is feared, very heavy.

The unrevised statement of immigration for the past season shows the arrivals to be 143,000, an increase of about 45 per cent. over the previous season. The figures will represent about 80,000 actual settlers.

It is reported that the city of Montreal is shortly to obtain possession of Logan's Farm, for many years used as a Militia camp-ground. It is to be made into a park, and a large sum will be expended on its embellishment.

A fire in St. John, on New Year's eve, badly damaged a brick building on Prince William street, owned by Lewis J. Almon, and occupied by Thos. Bates, J. F. McMasters, A. R. McLean, and others, all of whom suffered more or less.

Sir Henry Grattan Esmonde, M.P., and Mr Arthur O'Connor, M.P., the delegates of the Irish National Land League, who have been addressing meetings in the United States and Upper Canada, will likely be in Halifax the middle of this month.

It is stated that Mr. Cochrane's majority in East Northumberland is 24, not 126. Intelligence has sometimes to be put in at the last moment, with no time for verification. If errors occur in this way, they are due to the unverity of partizan-journals.

Word has been received that the government has decided to locate the experimental farm at Nappan, and that the Roche and Pipes farms have been purchased, the price being about \$16,000. These farms are located about five miles from Amherst.

Sir John Macdonald, who has hitherto represented two constituencies in parliament, has resigned that of Carlton, and will hereafter sit as the member for Kingston. This will necessitate a new election in Carleton, which will take place in the immediate future.

The City Brigade of Militia is ordered to parade at 2 p.m. to-day in review order, with great coats, to attend the funeral of the late Lt.-Col. Milson, formerly Brigade-Major in the Lower Provinces, and afterwards in Toronto, whose death, on the 3rd inst., we regret to record.

The Hon. Senator Schultz, so well known in the early history of Manitoba as Dr. Schultz, and who narrowly escaped the clutches of the late lamented Mr. Riel with his life in 1870, has been appointed Lt.-Governor of the Province he has so loyally served. The appointment cannot but be popular.

Col. James Baker, a member of the British Columbia legislature, and a brother of the late Baker Pasha, has arrived at Ottawa from England, where he says he has been successful in inducing capitalists to assist in his scheme of colonizing alpaca goats, from South America in the mountains of British Columbia. Col. Baker confirms the report that a few days before his brother's death Her Majesty gave her consent that he should be restored to his rank in the British army, but the Pasha died before he heard the news.

There seem to have been few business changes in Halifax on the opening of the New Year. Mr. Alexander Keith has been admitted a partner in the firm of Gordon & Keith. Mr. W. A. Lyons, solicitor, has been admitted into the firm of Lyons & Mooney. And the firm of Twining & Twining, Insurance, has been dissolved. H. St. George Twining has formed a partnership with Russell Twining, under the name of H. St. George Twining & Co., and the new firm continues in business at the old stand. J. T. Twining will conduct a general insurance business at 22 Bedford Row.

The following shows the deposits and withdrawals from the Dominion savings' bank at Halifax for the year ending Dec. 31.—

	Deposits.	Withdrawals.
Jan. 1 to July 1.....	\$368,939 06	\$384,787 36
July 1 to Dec. 31.....	215,793 80	377,560 02
Total for 1887.....	\$584,682 89	\$762,347 38

The deposits for the last past six months are over \$150,000 less than for the former half year. This was occasioned by the limit of accounts being reduced from \$1000 down to \$300.

The members of the cabinet have for some days been discussing the advisability of postponing the date for the opening of parliament, owing to the fact that several of the ministers will be wholly engaged in connection with the fisheries convention during the present month. It is understood that the matter will be finally decided at the council meeting on Tuesday next. It is rumored that February 23rd will probably be selected.

A heavy rain set in on Monday, and continued all day, almost putting a stop to New Year's calling in Halifax. The Governor held his usual levee, which, considering the weather, was well attended, but otherwise there was little going on. Most citizens remained at home nursing their colds, which, unlike the weather, refused to moderate. The electric light, or rather the lines of the two rival companies, crossed on Salter street, and the result was that the city was left in darkness. Some severe shocks were communicated to passers by the falling wires, and by crossing with the Bell Telephone some of the telephone boxes were burnt out, and the switch-board at the central office set on fire. Fortunately, no serious damage was done.

The second concert of the Orpheus Club will take place on the 11th inst., when Gounod's "Redemption" will be given, one of the greatest and most suggestive works of this celebrated composer. Those who enjoyed its successful performance last winter will doubtless listen with increased appreciation. The parts sustained by Dr. Slayter, Mr. C. J. Ross, and Prof. Currie will, we conclude, remain unchanged, as they could not be in better hands. The choruses have been brought by their zealous and skilful conductor, Mr. C. H. Porter, to a point of careful finish, which disarms criticism, and is indispensable to this sublime work. The lovers of really good music who do not hear the "Redemption" next Tuesday evening may count it among their lost opportunities.

During the year 1887 there were 44 fires in Halifax. Many of them were very slight, several being extinguished without water from the department. The most serious conflagrations were the Heisler Bros', Granville Street fire on 6th January; Henderson & Potts' paint factory, North West Arm, totally destroyed, 14th April; Gibson's planing mills, Freshwater, totally destroyed, 18th June; Gordon & Keith's furniture factory, Donald Street, 23rd August; J. K. Bent's mineral water and soda works, Brunswick Street, 19th October. Two very serious fires occurred in Dartmouth during the year—Mumford & Sons' foundry and machine shops, and W. S. Symonds & Co.'s foundry and machine shops. The department is badly in need of a new fire engine, the present machines having outlived their usefulness.

The unfounded rumor of the death of the Emperor of Germany appears to have reached all parts of the civilized world, and to have considerably affected the stock markets in London, New York and Montreal. The originator of the rumor is, of course, not known, but it no doubt started in the brain of some speculator who wished to bear the market. It will be remembered that some years ago the bulls in the New York exchange reported the safe arrival of the *S. S. City of Boston*, which had been given up as lost, and thus gained a temporary rise in stocks. Speculators appear calloused to all those feelings which prompt most persons to have a regard for truth, and induce them not to spread rumors which are calculated to cause needless pain to those immediately interested, or to awaken false hopes in the breasts of those who think themselves bereaved.

The shipping interests of the Maritime Provinces continue to show a decrease in the number of ships built as well as in the registered tonnage. Nova Scotia has now 2840 vessels, with a tonnage of 503,125, being seventy-four vessels less than at the commencement of last year, with a decrease of 25,501 registered tons. New Brunswick has at present 1,026 vessels, the register showing 255,667 tons. Last year New Brunswick had 16 more vessels, and her registered tonnage being 13,657 greater than now. Prince Edward Island has, at present, 225 vessels, showing 29,031 registered tonnage. The number of vessels is the same as last year, while the registered tonnage shows a reduction of 1627 tons. Windsor, Yarmouth and Halifax, respectively, hold the first, second and third places as to the registered tonnage or shipping, while Halifax, Yarmouth and Windsor stand, respectively, first, second and third, as regards the number of the vessels owned. Shipbuilding operations are likely to be more brisk in Hants County than they have been for several years past. A number of large ships, as well as several barquentines and three-masted schooners, will probably be launched before the end of the year.

The performance, in aid of the School of Art and Design, of "Check-Mate," and "The Little Sentinel," by an amateur company on Wednesday evening, may be said to stand apart and above the general run of amateur performances. It was exceptionally good throughout, and none of the performers could be singled out as having failed to contribute a full share to the success. Mrs. A. E. Jones displayed great histrionic talent, and, in spite of the drawback of a severe cold, continued to merit the applause her grace and skill of impersonation in the character of Charlotte Russe, ensured her. Mrs. W. Tobin, always a favorite, played a difficult part in the pleasantest manner, and constantly "brought down the house." Major Bagot was excellent alike in each of the opposite characters of gentleman and groom. Mr. L. F. Fuller and Capt. Ross (Y. & L. Regt.) as groom and head-waiter at the inn, respectively showed great comic talent. The pieces were indebted, to the full extent and value of parts consistently well played, to Messrs. Daly, W. Duffus, Maule, and W. A. Henry; and last, but not least, to a bevy of damsels—fairer, it is said, than is usually seen together even in Halifax—who composed the household of Miss Charlotte Russe—Miss Duffus, Miss Meynell, and Miss Harvey. Mrs. G. Morrow and Miss Kate Kenny earned well-deserved applause in the "Little Sentinel," as did also Capt. Hunter and Capt. Boileau. The object of this unusually excellent performance is a most praiseworthy one, and an

exceptionally large and competent audience assembled at the Academy to show their appreciation both of the object and of the very attractive means by which it was sought to be advanced.

Professor Sumichrast has been appointed Professor of Modern Languages at Harvard University.

A sharp shock of earthquake was felt in Mexico on the morning of the 2nd inst. During the last three months there have been reported seismic disturbances throughout the country.

It seems to have been almost as difficult to procure a successor to Mr. Beecher at Plymouth Church as to fill the episcopal chair of Nova Scotia. The Rev. Lyman Abbott, a native of Mass., has, however, been elected.

Collectors of Customs at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, have been notified to prevent any violation of the alien contract law, in view of the threatened influx of 2,000 Belgian miners for the Lehigh region.

A tug sent in search of the big raft reports that it has broken up and that the logs are drifting southward. Experienced navigators are all of the opinion that the remains of the raft will long remain a source of the greatest danger to navigation.

From 25,000 to 30,000 coal miners are out on a strike in the Reading coal region in Pennsylvania. Austin Corbin was interviewed in regard to the strike, and said that everything, as far as he knew, was going smoothly and he feared no further trouble.

The north and south bound Canuonball trains on the Cincinnati Southern railroad collided on Saturday afternoon at Summit, Ky., and eleven persons, including eight passengers, were killed, and many injured. Latest reports place the number killed at twenty.

A man-trap over a hole containing twelve human skeletons has been found in the hut of a Sioux half breed in Dakota Territory. The man's cabin was formerly a stopping place for Black Hill travellers. The man, who was wanted for horse stealing, had not been found.

Miss Phoebe Couzins has announced that she will be an independent Prohibition candidate for governor of Missouri in the campaign. Miss Couzins recently vacated the office of marshal of the eastern district of Missouri, which she successfully managed for several months after the death of her father.

An expert has discovered a mare's nest in the New Albany city treasury. No settlement has been had for twelve years. Discrepancies amounting to \$100,000 are said to have been discovered, but the treasurer, it is said, has credits which will reduce the amounts somewhat. Efforts are being made to hush the matter up.

The death is reported of W. D. Babcock, the inventor of the fire extinguishing apparatus bearing his name, who died at the almshouse at San Francisco, after a short illness. At one time he was in receipt of \$10,000 a month for royalty on his machine, but the money was soon spent and for some years he wandered about the State in a destitute condition. Six years ago he was admitted to the almshouse.

Erard's piano factory in Paris was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, fifteen hundred pianos being burnt.

The Birmingham Canal burst near Dudley. Hundreds of families were rendered homeless by the inundation.

Some rascal in Rome issued 30,000 forged tickets for admission to Pope Leo's jubilee mass, and the authorities were put to the trouble of making a second and distinct issue of genuine tickets.

Canadian cheese has been a prominent feature of London Christmas market. Some excellent makes are exhibited, and they have sold rapidly at ten pence per pound retail, being regarded as among the best Cheddars ever offered.

The Emperor William instead of being dead is in the best of health. In his remarks at his New Year's reception he avoided open political allusions, but in conversation with his military chiefs, he referred to the improvement in the general political situation.

In Greece and in many parts of Europe terrific snow storms are reported with damage to shipping, and railways blocked for days at a time. In Spain, as the Hibernian would say, the snow fell as rain. The Guadalquivir overflowed its banks, and the country for miles round was flooded. If the vineyards are injured, the supply of bona-fido sherry will be much reduced.

Advices from Massowah say that great activity prevails among the Italian troops there. Every preparation is being made to meet the advancing Abyssinian forces. It is reported that Ras Aloula overrated the Italian movements, in order to induce King John to advance. One column of Abyssinian troops, commanded by a son of the king, has arrived at Adowa; another column, under Ras Mikael, has reached Adigrat.

The Pontifical Mass celebrated at Rome on New Year's day, in honor of the Pope Leo's jubilee, was a grand success. Forty-eight cardinals and 238 archbishops and bishops were present at the mass, and it is estimated there were 30,000 persons in the audience. The pope prayed a long time in the private chapel, and he then received the homage of the court, cardinals in *sala ducale*. While assuming the sacerdotal vestments the pope was overcome with emotion and fainted. Strong salts were administered and he soon returned to consciousness. Just before he was fully vested for the altar he again fainted, remaining unconscious for a few minutes. Special masses were celebrated in cathedrals and other churches throughout Great Britain, and were largely attended.

SHE WENT ASTRAY.

Seeking Afar What May Be Found at One's Own Fireside.

The invalid proprietress of a wealthy estate in Scotland once visited the continent of Europe to get rid of her maladies.

She went to Baden Baden and tried those celebrated waters, then to Cautsbad and tried its mineral springs. She got worse instead of better, and in despair she said to a physician.

"What shall I do?"

His reply was: "Medicine can do nothing for you. You have one chance, in the waters of Pit Kealthly, Scotland!"

"Is it possible?" she replied, "why, those waters are on my own estate."

Invalids go tramping over the world, unsuccessfully seeking the relief that often lies right at their own doors.

Change of climate and travel is no doubt beneficial in some classes of disease, but it is impossible to secure, while travelling, the proper care and nursing, the cheerful comforts of home, which are often necessary adjuncts to medicine in promoting recovery.

In many ailments arising, as so many do, from derangements of those primary organs, the kidneys and liver, with the proper remedy to use, recovery is much more rapid at one's own fireside.

Major S. B. Abbott, of Springfield, Mo., was attacked with serious troubles, and after a long course of medical treatment, tried to find relief at Hardin Sulphur Springs in California, and visited a number of other noted health resorts, but all to no purpose. At last he went home—he was induced to try Warner's safe cure for his kidney troubles and soon became a well man.

Dr. Gustav Weber, a leading physician of Dessau, Germany, writes Warner's safe cure Co's branch at Frankfurt Sept. 12th, 1887 "For many years I have suffered from inflammation of the kidneys, and each year was obliged to visit Carlsbad for temporary relief. I have finished my fifteenth bottle of Warner's safe cure and have completely recovered."

The main thing is to find the right remedy, then recovery from all the many ailments that are the result of kidney derangement is most easily secured at home, surrounded by home comforts. There are few diseases for which travel is, on the whole, beneficial, but there are many which may be cured by putting the kidneys in a healthy state, thus driving the cause of the disease from the system.

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Consisting of Fourteen Leases, covering over Two Thousand Acres, through which the Iron Deposits have been traced.

The iron belongs to the owners of the soil, from whom leases have been obtained, extending over a period of sixty-five years. The deposit is of high grade magnetic or specular iron ore, which is present in unlimited quantities. From a shaft sunk 30 feet in depth on the range, 40 tons of ore were raised, which proved of the most superior quality.

Abundance of good timber and wood are at hand, and the celebrated Spring Hill and Styles coal mining properties are only a short distance away. There is a gradual descent from the farthest extent of the property down to a commodious shipping wharf, from which the ore may be shipped the year round.

Purchasers will be furnished with full particulars on application at

The Critic Office, 161 Hollis St., Halifax.

Valuable Coal Mining Property FOR SALE,

Situated in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia,

AND KNOWN AS THE

Styles Mining Company's Property.

This property consists of five square miles, and is only distant from the celebrated Spring Hill Coal Mines, seven miles. It is on the north dip of the Spring Hill coal basin, and the out-crop has been traced for two and a quarter miles.

Two seams have been developed, the upper being 6 feet in thickness, and the lower, which is separated from the upper by a thickness of strata of about twenty feet, being four feet in thickness.

The indications point to the existence of other seams on the property. The coal is of superior quality, and has been pronounced by consumers the

Best Coal for Domestic Purposes they have ever used.

For Gas and Steam Purposes, it is unequalled.

The late Mr Hartley, a most efficient member of the Geological Survey of Canada, reported as follows:

"The analyses show the coal to belong to the class known as highly bituminous, in fact, cooking coals in character very similar to those of the North of England, known as North Country, or NEWCASTLE HADLEY COAL."

"The high rate of volatile to fixed combustible matter should render the coal in common with the Newcastle Coal, which it resembles, an admirable gas coal, while in the amount of sulphur it falls much below the average of Newcastle Coals, (which contain about nine tenths of one per cent., as determined by the Admiralty Steam Coal Tests), therefore the gas obtained from it should be very easily purified."

"The coke of the coal appears in every way well adapted for iron smelting, as it is firm and rather compact, and in content of ash and sulphur, will compare most favorably with that from any coal in the Province."

The position of the Styles mining areas is very advantageous in relation to the opening up of the seams, and also of connection with the Intercolonial Railway, which passes within a mile and a-half of the property.

The Spring Hill Mine is acknowledged to be more advantageously situated for shipping its coal than any other mine now being worked in the Province. The Styles Mine is quite advantageously situated, and commands the coal markets of Montreal, Quebec, the United States, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

The new tariff has given an impetus to the manufacturers of iron, and as the coke of the Styles seams is specially adapted for iron smelting, the probabilities are that in a few years a home market will be found for most of the output.

Parties desiring to purchase will be furnished with full particulars on application at

THE CRITIC OFFICE, 161 HOLLIS ST.

OUR CANADIAN FATHERLAND.

TO THE AIR OF "WAS IST DES DEUTSCHEN VATERLAND."

Canadensis sum et nihil Canadense a me alienum puto.

I.
What is our young Canadian land?
Is it far Norimberg's strand?
Or wild Cape Breton by the sea?
Quebec? Ontario? Acadia?
Or Manitoba's flower-docked plain,
Or fair Columbia's mountain chain?
Can any part--from strand to strand--
Be a Canadian's fatherland?
Nay! for our young Canadian land
Is greater, grander far, than these;
It stretches wide on either hand
Between the world's two mighty seas:
So, let no hostile lines divide
The fields our feet should freely roam;
Gael Norman, Saxon,—side by side,
And Canada our nation's Home;
From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

II.
Where'er our country's banner spreads
Above Canadians' free-born heads,
Where'er the story of our land
Enshrines the memory of the band
Of heroes, who, with blood and toil,
Laid deep in our Canadian soil,
Foundations for the future age,
And wrote their names on history's page,
—Our history:—From strand to strand
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!
So each to each is firmly bound
By ties each generous heart should own,
We cannot spare a foot of ground
No part can, selfish, stand alone!
So Nova Scotia and Quebec
Shall meet in kinship loyal and true,—
Now Brunswick's hills be mirrored back
In fair Ontario's waters blue!
From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

III.
Where'er Canadian thought breathes free,
Or wakes the lyre of poetry,—
Where'er Canadian hearts awake
To sing a song for her dear sake,
Or catch the echoes, spreading far,
That wake us to the noblest war
Against each lurking ill and strife
That weakens, now, our growing life,
No line keeps hand from clasping hand,
—One is our young Canadian land!
McGeo and Howe she claims her own
Here all her eastern singers' bays,
Fr chettes is here, and in her crown,
Ontario every laurel lays:—
Let Canada's our watchword be,
While lesser names we know no more,
One nation, spread from sea to sea,
And fused by love, from shore to shore;
—From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

FIDELIS, in *The Week*.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

FEDERATION.

On July 29th, 1884, a conference on Imperial Federation was held in London, the result of which showed that a strong feeling existed amongst thoughtful and loyal men of all shades of politics that some means must be devised to make the bonds between the Mother Country and her Colonies permanent, and that the different portions of the Empire should be drawn into closer union for the general welfare and safety, for the preservation of peace, and for the advancement of wealth and civilization.

When this idea of complete Federation first began to take hold of the minds of thinking men, much discussion was evoked as to the possibility of leading it to some tangible form and results. On all sides criticisms by the press and otherwise, were made on the subject to the effect, generally, that the idea was no doubt excellent in sentiment, but that the difficulties of really bringing the Mother Country and her Colonies into closer union were so immense that many years must elapse before such a union could be successfully consummated. It will now be both interesting and instructive to take a glance at the wonderful strides that the movement has already taken, and at the growing desire for such closer connection that has shown itself throughout the Empire during the past year, one that must be ever memorable as the Jubilee of our beloved Queen, and that in which the first Colonial Conference has been held. After the Colonial Exhibition in London had proved itself an unmistakable and unparalleled success in 1886 a deputation from the Imperial Federation League waited on Lord Salisbury to propose that a conference should be convened in London during the Jubilee year, and be composed of members from each of the self-governing Colonies; the object of the convention of the conference being to consider certain matters of common interest to all parts of the Empire which would be submitted to it. This Imperial Conference was immediately and gladly agreed to by all the Colonial governments, and met on the 4th April last. The result has been the practical welding together of the first important parts of the mechanism by which the great British Empire will eventually be consolidated as a power far more splendid than any which the world has ever seen, and by which, with the aid of the other great English-speaking nation, the civilization and command of the world will be obtained.

The real point from which this great Imperial Conference saw at once that a start should alone be made was that of *mutual defence* for the whole Empire, and this subject may be said to have monopolized the whole of its attention. What portion of the Empire, it may be asked at this point, is more concerned in the object of defence than the Colony which boasts of its mercantile marine and inexhaustible fisheries?

The conference appreciated at once how erroneous was the idea that the Colonies had no direct interest in the foreign policy of Great Britain. The fact is that the *foreign policy*, so called, of the Mother Country for the last 300 years has been essentially a *Colonial policy*; it is becoming gradually more and more so, and the more the Colonial Empire grows so much the more must it continue to be so. Not earlier than 1836 Cobden wrote to English taxpayers, "What have we to show for our national debt but the Colonies?" It is argued by some that the great obstacle to closer union throughout the Empire is that the Colonies take a comparatively small interest in European affairs to what England does, that no colonist could be expected to care about continental politics, and that it must be a matter of supreme indifference to him who rules in Bulgaria or at Constantinople. Great Britain has rarely, during the last 300 years interfered in continental affairs by force of arms, except as they may have affected her Colonial Empire. At the present time the Suez Canal, Egypt, and the so-called Eastern Question only affect England and her Colonies as a block to their inter-communications. British statesmen, no more than Colonial, care who rules in Bulgaria or Constantinople except as it may affect the freedom of the route between Great Britain, India and Australasia; so also British statesmen, no more than Colonial, care for Russian aggression, or extension, in the East, except so far as it may affect India and the command of the Pacific Ocean by dangerously interfering with the route between British Columbia, Hong-Kong and Australia. With the expansion of trade, consequent on the use of steam and electricity, the whole centre of foreign policy of the Old World has been radically affected by that of the new to such an extent that the consideration of all the problems that are likely to affect the peace of Europe are such as affect the Colonial portion of the Empire almost as much as the Mother Country herself. The more closely the subject of the community of trade interests, foreign relations, or of the standard toast—"Ships, Colonies and Commerce"—is considered, the more intricate will be found to be the network of interwoven interests that binds the great English-speaking colonies to England, and England to them. Their present life—social, political, commercial—is the outcome of a long series of inter-acting causes; the slowly developed result of the ages that have gone before. We cannot reverse the decrees of fate and providence, why should we not do all in our power to accelerate them? In the future, that will follow orderly from the present and past, for weal or woe we are all one, linked together indissolubly by every imaginable tie of interest and affection.

Perhaps the most important sequence of the conference held last year in London, and to which reference has been made, has been the unanimity by which the "Australasian Naval Forces Bill" was carried, at the end of November, in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. In one night the bill was passed unanimously through all its stages, and by it provision is made for a joint defence of Australasian commerce by the navy of the British Empire.

At this rate of progress in the grand idea of *Imperial Federation*, the day is not far distant when foreigners, contemplating an attack upon British interests, will reflect judiciously on the motto of "Nemo me impune lacessit."

To annexationists, demagogues, to the unworthy descendants of those grand U. S. loyalists, to those mercenary individuals whose love for lucre transcends their love of country, we would recall the feeling in Nova Scotia in the days of the Crimea, and the sentiment of Canadians generally whenever our British brothers have fought for the Empire and the Empire's glory; we would remind them that "blood is thicker than water," and assure them that the time will never, can never, come, when Canada, for the speculative idea of a chance for more gold, will throw away its share in the glories of old England, and cease to be a portion of the already grandest Empire the world has ever seen. The history of the Empire is the history of every colonist; Her way has been a worthy one, and Her future can be ours. In *one navy, one army, one flag*, a bright and glorious future lies ahead.

BRITON.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The good people of Moncton appear to be stirring. They talk next year of making a good harbor, and also of starting a jute mill.

Cotton still continues to advance in price notwithstanding constant fluctuations, consequent upon speculative influences. Many well-advised parties look for it to reach 12 cents per pound next year.

All of the Lower Province mills don't seem to have been as fortunate as the Nova Scotia Cotton Mill, as we hear that Mr. Gibson's Mill at Marysville has more than once been stopped for cotton lately.

The Magog Textile and Printing Company has given their order for carding engines to Messrs. Ashworth, of Manchester, England, for the remainder of the card-room machinery to Messrs. Aea Lees & Co., (L'td.), Oldham, England; for their spinning machinery to Mr. Sam Brookes, Manchester, England, and for their looms and preparation machinery to Messrs. H. Livesey, (L'td.), Blackburn, England. The machinery is now being erected. It is quite refreshing to find a western company who recognises the fact that English cotton machine makers produce the best

machines in the world. Too many of the western mills have purchased American-made machinery to their shareholders' loss, overlooking the very patent fact that the Americans themselves are importing as much English machinery as they can procure, although they have to pay 60 per cent. duty upon it.

ST. JOHN COTTON MILLS.—This firm is composed of Wm. Parks & Son, (L'td), cotton spinners, dyers, bleachers, and manufacturers. Two mills, both in St. John, N. B., one named the New Brunswick Cotton Mill, and the other the St. John, N. B., Cotton Mill. The New Brunswick cotton mill was established in 1861 in a small way, and is the oldest mill now running in Canada. It is running upon cotton yarn of different classes, shirtings, cottonades, sarsuckers, and goods of that class; turns 20,000 spindles, with a production of 30,000 lbs. weekly. The St. John cotton mill has now running 12,000 spindles, with room for 8,000 more, and 300 looms, with a production of 20,000 lbs. a week, nearly all grey cottons, and the number of hands employed altogether is over 500 in the two mills, drawing weekly wages to the amount of \$2,500. Goods are sold all over the Dominion, and a small quantity exported, export trade gradually increasing. Their production, next to the Hochelaga Mills, claims to be the largest in the Dominion. They dye about 20,000 lbs. a week.

In a general way the cotton business is in a healthy condition; there is no over-production, and the Association does not intend there shall be. The mills are shut down at present for a fortnight, and the object is rather a precautionary one than one of necessity, as all the mills have orders ahead for some time to come, and think it better to restrict production for some little time to come.

The cotton industry alone employs about 10,000 hands, at an average weekly wage of \$5, and it is safe to say there are about three or four others dependent on each of these wage-earners, which gives 40,000 people dependent on this branch of industry, who draw a weekly wage of \$50,000.

Owing to the increase in the production of cotton goods during the last ten years, and the competition that has taken place among the different mills, the consumers are getting their cotton goods twenty-five per cent. cheaper than they were getting them ten years ago under a seventeen and a-half per cent. tariff, and raw material about the same price as it is to-day.

The Halifax Manufacturing Co., to be known in the future as the Halifax Shovel Co., E. L. Fenerty and S. M. Brookfield, proprietors, are sole makers in Canada of Fenerty's patent socket shovels. They have only had their goods on the market for a little over one year, but have met with the most flattering success. Their shovels having already an established reputation in the Maritime Provinces, where they are steadily displacing the welded. They have been carefully perfecting the shovels and methods of manufacture, and are increasing their facilities with a view of ultimately reaching all parts of the Dominion, the demand from the Lower Provinces being such as would not warrant them in attempting to supply the western markets without increasing their capacity. This is a thoroughly native industry, and we hope to give a fuller account of it in the near future.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

ABOUT EATING WITH YOUR KNIFE.

The other day I sat down to dinner in a second-rate hotel, which, as the conversation of my table companions soon revealed, was much affected by railway employees. These worthies were prolific in derogatory witticisms at the expense of the "old man," personally the district superintendent, and found abundant cause for boisterous jocosity in the peculiarities of conductors, passengers, engines, and other objects immediately associated with their daily experience. But it was not so much their conversation, however brilliantly it may have coruscated before their eyes or mine, which impressed me, as the serene skill with which they, one and all, utilized their knives for the purpose of filling their ample mouths. They were indeed adepts at the art. Their proficiency was clearly borne of long and untrammelled usage. Never a qualm of conscience or twinge of propriety had ruffled the placid composure with which from time past the glittering blade had been covered to its fullest carrying capacity, and thrust bravely in between the gaping jaws to discharge its nutritious load. And on this particular day, when the viands upon our plates happened to be of a peculiarly evasive character, (I do not recall exactly what they were), I could not forbear casting half obnoxious glances at my fellow-feasters as they deftly and swiftly transferred their plates' contents to their internal economy.

Clearly I was at a disadvantage. While they had two instruments to work with, I had only one, and my inferiority became painfully apparent when the advent of the pudding found them quite ready, although I was still toiling along with my plate only half emptied.

After they had appeased the worm within them, and noisily clumped out of the room, leaving me in solitude and silence, I fell to thinking that there was something to be said in favor of eating with your knife after all, and I asked myself the cause of the stern prohibition against the public use of that very efficient utensil in polite circles. Not being able to extract a satisfactory answer from myself, I would really feel grateful to any one who can inform me just when eating with one's knife began to be tabooed, for that at some by-gone time it must have universally prevailed is clearly shown by the fact of its invariable occurrence among the uncultured classes of the present, in whom we naturally expect to find relics of our primitive barbarism. What Beau Brummell or Lady Holland first dared to insinuate hints as to its propriety, or boldly inveigh against its elegance? Possibly some social archaeologist may have an answer ready for me, or it may be found hid away somewhere among the dusty pages of that

treasure-house of antiquarian lore, the *Gentlemen's Magazine*. I would like at the same time to inquire what were the precise reasons that led to the knife's ostracism. Was it the not unnatural apprehension lest in unguarded moments our mouths, which nobly can deny are quite big enough already, should become further enlarged; or because the knife itself did not seem to permit of being handled with quite the same grace as a fork or a spoon? My desire for enlightenment upon these points is intensified by the fact that it seems to me that the disuse of the knife places the cultured classes at a great disadvantage as compared with the uncultured at feeding-time, which is no trifling matter in those days of ceaseless rush and struggle, when busy men grudge every moment they are compelled to spend at the table. If we must, in deference to social sensibilities, forego the use of our knives, we ought surely to have some satisfactory reason for our self-denial.

J. MACDONALD OXLEY,
Marine Department, Ottawa, Canada.

COMMERCIAL.

The tone of general trade continues to be quiet, and the markets do not afford any special room for comment. Considering the circumstances the movement of merchandise has, however, been fair, though prices have been without change.

Locally regarded the results of last year's business are almost universally described as satisfactory, and it is generally admitted that when the balances are struck the outcome will demonstrate that the year has been a much more profitable one than its immediate predecessors.

Tables of the shipping of the Maritime Provinces have been published, and show a continued and steady decrease, both in the number and the tonnage of vessels owned therein. The summarised statement for the three provinces is as follows:—

	NEWLY REGISTERED		STRUCK OFF		TOTAL NO. VESSELS		TOTAL TONNAGE		INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TONNAGE	
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	Dec. 31, 1886	Dec. 31, 1887	Dec. 31, 1886	Dec. 31, 1887	Increase	Decrease
Nova Scotia.....	111	13015	188	4852	2914	2610	328679	303125	805	2546
New Brunswick.....	42	7612	58	2125	1012	1026	262231	253567	2231	17998
P. E. Island.....	19	1638	19	3280	225	225	30658	29000	.....	1627
Grand Total.....	172	21310	265	65135	1141	4001	328518	305723	3056	4381
Total Decrease.....	.....	.....	90	40705	.....	.....	40705	.....	.....	40705

On the face the statement appears unsatisfactory, and, doubtless, is so, but it must be remembered that the course of our foreign traffic has largely changed during the recent years. We build none but wooden sailing vessels, while these are being supplanted in the carrying trade of the world by iron and steel ships propelled by steam. No closer and certain is the communication by modern methods that, as a ship-master remarked in our hearing not long since, "a vessel often saved more by lying at her wharf than she could earn by going to sea." Those recognized facts discourage the construction of wooden vessels. Besides this, the fact that we are cut off practically from our "natural markets" in the United States for our fish, lumber, vegetables, etc., by their high tariff, militates against the money-earning capacity of our coasting vessels. Again, a considerable portion of our tonnage has been, during the past year, transferred to British Columbia, and has been consequently "struck off" of our registry. If due and proper weight is given to all these causes the effect is not surprising.

To the surprise of most people only three firm changes were announced at the opening of the year in this city. This is a much smaller number than has been customary for many years. It looks as if our young men were becoming more conservative than their predecessors, and, consequently, more cautious about "striking out" for themselves.

An order-in-council has been passed making the close season for lobsters on the Atlantic coast, from Cape Canso to the United States boundary, from the 1st of July to the 31st of December this year, and in the remaining waters of Nova Scotia, and in the waters of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec (including the Magdalen Islands and Anticosti) from the 25th day of July to the 31st of December this year; also that it shall be unlawful to catch or sell at any time any lobster less than nine inches in length, and any so caught must be put back in the water alive.

The failure of the Central Bank appears to have been complete and irretrievable. It is charged by the directors that Cashier Allen loaned money right and left to irresponsible parties without the knowledge or consent of his principals, and that this course of conduct caused the great smash-up. This may or may not be true. But, assuming that it is true, is it not a striking commentary on the usefulness of directors when a subordinate can lend to outsiders all the funds that a bank is worth, and, in addition, all that can be raised on its credit? It is evidently time that the government took some efficient steps to secure at least the holders of Canadian bank notes from loss in case of the failure of the bank. All over the world the notes of any bank in the United States are accepted by business men at their face value, while bank notes emanating from the Dominion are refused, and even those issued by the government are viewed with suspicion abroad. This state of things is not creditable to us, and it is the imperative duty of Canada to put a stop to it.

The *Montreal Gazette* publishes an interview had by one of its reporters with Mr. W. K. Anderson, who represents one of the steamship companies that are tendering for the direct mail and passenger service between Great Britain and Canada. Mr. Anderson's idea seems to be that it is for the interest of Canada to heavily subsidize a swift line. This will be attractive to passengers, and will allow the rapid conveyance of perishable goods,

such as poultry, fruit, etc., so as to arrive in good condition. He says that his company proposes putting steamers of about 7,000 tons register on the route if the contract is awarded them. The proposed maximum speed of these steamers is to be 20 knots, and they are to be fitted to carry, besides freight, 425 cabin and intermediate passengers, and 1,000 storage passengers. If this company can do all that they promise, and the subsidy demanded is not too large, there can be no doubt that the establishment of such a line would give a "boom" to immigration, facilitate the despatch of mails and perishable freight, and very largely increase the volume of the foreign trade of Canada.

The following are the business changes in this province during the past week:—Gordon & Keith, furniture, Halifax, admitted Alex. Keith to partnership; W. W. Shaw, food, Halifax, sold out to Robt. A. Croucher.

DRY GOODS.—A fair retail business has transpired, but the wholesale trade is nearly at a standstill. Yet some fair sales of spring goods for future delivery are reported to be making.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron and hardware branches have a firm tone, and prices are pointing in an upward direction. Finished iron is unchanged, but firm at previous prices. Late advices show a heavy advance in English steel plates. The metal markets have continued strong, and late cables state that prices continue to advance. Tin and copper in London have further advanced, and values are now very high, tin being cabled at £167 10s., and Chili bars at £81 17s. 6d. Glasgow warrants are cabled at 41s. 8d.

BREADSTUFFS.—In flour business here has been quiet, but the market maintains a steady tone, though the demand is and continues to be moderate. An ordinary amount of trade has transpired at unchanged prices. Beerholm's cable reports:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat firm, and corn steady. On passage and for immediate shipment, wheat hardening, and corn steady; No. 1 California wheat off coast, 35s. 6d.; do for prompt shipment, 35s. 6d.; do, nearly due, 34s. 6d. French country markets steady. Liverpool spot wheat firmer; do corn, firm; standard California wheat, including club white, 6s 9d. to 7s.; American spring wheat, 6s. 8d. In Paris wheat and flour are firm. Minnesota first bakers' flour, 25s." There has not been much life in the Chicago wheat market, but a stronger feeling has prevailed, and prices have slightly advanced. Quotations are January, 78½c.; February, 79½c.; May, 85½c. Corn has been unchanged, except the May option, which has been easier and fell off slightly, standing at 49½c. for January; 49½c. for February, and 54½c. for May. Oats were weak and declined somewhat, quotations being 30½c. January; 31c. February; 34½c. May. The New York wheat market was stronger, and advanced to 91½c. January; 93c. February; 94½c. March; 95½c. April; 95½c. May. Corn improved to 62½c. January; 62½c. February; 63½c. May. Oats there stood at 38½c. January; 39½c. February; 40½c. May. At Toledo wheat is weaker and declining, while at Milwaukee wheat was stronger, and has advanced.

The estimated wheat production of all India, as officially given, is 251,690,880 bushels in 1883-4, against 238,885,947 bushels in 1886-87, and the average yield for the period 251,037,511 bushels. In 1884-85 the average yield per acre was newly 11 bushels, and last year a fraction under nine bushels. The wheat exports from January 1st to December 31st, 1887, according to *Bradstreet's*, have been 27,672,000, comprising 13,984,000 to Great Britain, and 13,688,000 to the continent of Europe, against 41,232,000 total export for the corresponding period of 1886. The decrease for the eleven months of 1887 is 13,560,000 bushels. The Indian wheat crop now in the ground will be harvested in March, 1888. It is expected to be an average crop, which is about 262,000,000 bushels, of which 35,000,000 to 45,000,000 will be exported. Good wheat land in India is abundant, but the methods of cultivation are of the crudest kind. The native farmer scratches his land with a stick of wood, reaps his grain with a sickle, thrashes it by having horses and cattle tread upon it, and winnows it by swinging a large piece of cloth moved up and down by two men. Lastly, he markets his wheat with much of dust and gravel included. The production of wheat in India is now only about one bushel per head.

PROVISIONS.—A fair amount of business in small jobbing lots has been accomplished, and there has been a good enquiry for green hams, shoulders, and flanks. The demand for lard has been moderate at steady prices. In Liverpool lard has been stronger, and advanced 31. Quotations per cask were:—"Lard, 40s. 3d.; pork, steady at 66s. 3d.; bacon, 33s. to 40s. 9d.; tallow, 23s. 8d." The Chicago provision market was active and stronger, and pork moved up 5c. to 10c., being quoted at \$15 65 for January, \$15 20 February, and \$15 65 May. On the other hand lard was weaker, and dropped 5c. to 7½c. It stood, \$7.75 January, \$7.85 February, and \$8 12½ May. There was no trading in meats. The Cincinnati *Price Current* says: While the past week has further widened the difference in the packing this season as compared with a year ago, the decrease has been less marked than the preceding week; the ton leading points have fallen 94,000 behind corresponding week last year, and all points about 100,000 hogs. The aggregate packing from November 1st is now about 3,525,000 hogs, against 3,800,000 a year ago—a decrease of 275,000. The packing a year ago now was 59 per cent. of the total for the entire season; should the remainder of this winter show a falling off in the same ratio as the packing to date, the season's deficiency would be 465,000 hogs—implying a total of 5,975,000, against last year's 6,440,000. There are ten weeks remaining to the close of the winter; if the deficiency should be as great as 465,000, the average falling off for the remainder of the winter would be 19,000 hogs per week. We regard the chances in favor of a smaller shortage than those figures, unless farmers should abandon feeding hogs to keep the corn, to a considerable extent, thus holding back stock for later marketing, which otherwise would be slaughtered during the winter season.

BUTTER has continued quiet and steady. Trade has been local in

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES

Our Price Lists are corrected for us each week by reliable merchants, and can therefore be depended upon as accurate up to the time of going to press

character, and chiefly in small lots. Fancy fall makes have been in good demand at good prices, but otherwise very little is doing.

CHEESE.—The market is steady, and although no activity can yet be reported, there are not wanting signs that before long we shall experience a good movement. Buyers on the other side of the Atlantic are reported as ready to become active operators if holders on this side would grant slight concessions in prices.

APPLES.—Sales of good winter varieties have been made in small lots, but holders of choice fruit show no anxiety to dispose of their stock. Our advices from Chicago state:—"There is a good stock of apples here, consisting largely of consignments. The quality is very irregular, and the supply includes a great deal of ordinary and poor stock. Apples that were only fair originally, and also of stock which had not been keeping well. The demand continues slack, and considerable complaint of light trade is heard. In prices no essential change appears. Good to choice apples are quotable at \$1.50 to \$2 per bbl., but they are not selling with readiness, the market being dull. There is some extra nice stock on the market, for which a shade over the quotation is asked. There is a good deal of ordinary stock on the market which sells mainly to peddlars at \$1 to \$1.25 per bbl., and more or less poor stock is found that has to be closed out from 75c. down to 15c. to 25c. per bbl., stock at the inside going mainly to cider or vinegar makers"

DRY FRUIT.—The market for dried fruit has been quite irregular. Valencia raisins have ruled weaker, but late London cables quote that market looking up after a decline of 2s. The supply of currants is light, and, in sympathy with other markets, prices are very firm.

SUGAR has been fairly active and firm, with an upward tendency. Granulated and yellows have somewhat improved under a good demand. Raws have increased in strength. The Havana Weekly Report says:—"Now sugars have already been received in small quantity at the greater part of shipping ports, and the number of estates on which sugar making has not as yet commenced is quite limited. The weather continues favoring grinding operations, but the precipitation with which the crop has been inaugurated on many estates has given scope to several boiler explosions, which have caused the death of five or six persons, besides a few cane field fires have also been reported from the country, but in most cases the cane, if immediately ground, can be made to produce sugar" The imports of raw sugars at Halifax during 1887 aggregated 13,736 hbls., 490 tacs., 4,011 bbls., 297,150 bags, and 51,619 mats.

MOLASSES has been quiet, but firm, with a fair demand. In 1887 there were imported to Halifax 11,110 puns, 600 tacs., and 1,419 barrels.

FISH.—The local market continues extremely dull. Absolutely nothing whatever is doing in either the lines of receipts or shipments. Trade in this department cannot be expected to recover before the end of this month. It is reported that herring are quite plentiful in the Bay of Islands, and on one or two other points in Newfoundland, but that it is useless to take them, because, so far, there has not been sufficient steady frost to freeze them, and to keep them so. The exports of fish from Halifax to the West Indies in the year just closed were 240,458 qtls. dry, and 30,905 bbls. pickled fish. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, January 3.—"There is a steady market for green fish, although the volume of business keeps within small compass, and prices range from \$4.25 to 4.50 per bbl. for No. 1 and large. Dry cod continues quiet at \$4 per quintal. The salmon market is dull, with prices quoted at \$13 to 14 per bbl. Labrador herring are slow sale, and prices range from \$4 to 4.25 per bbl." Gloucester, Mass., January 3.—"Mackerel in light stock. We quote floaters at \$27 to 28, 1s at \$18. 2s at \$15.50, and 3s at \$13.25 to 13.50. Prices for fancy mackerel compare favorably with last year's, while 3s are from \$1.50 to 2 per bbl. higher. Codfish are also considerably higher, say \$1.25 for prime Georges, \$1 for choice Bank, \$1.37½ for dry bank, and \$1.25 for large Shores. Haddock and hake are also bringing better prices than at this time last year, while pollock and cusk are selling at about the same prices. Last sales of halibut, 10 and 5 cts. per lb. for white and gray, cargo lots. Prime Georges codfish are selling at \$5 per qtl. for large, and \$3.62½ for small; Trawl Bank, \$4 for large, and \$3.37½ for small; Hand line Western Bank, \$4 62½ and 3.75; Shores, \$4.50; Large Dry Bank, \$4.12½ to 4.25; medium, \$3.75. Cusk, \$3; pollock, \$2, slack-salted do., \$3; haddock, \$2.50, and hake, \$2.25 Boneless and prepared fish, 3½ to 5 cts. per lb. for hake, haddock and cusk, and 5 to 6½ cts. for codfish, as to style and quality. Smoked halibut, 6 to 9 cts. per lb.; smoked salmon, 15 cts. per lb.; haddock, 6 cts. per lb. Medium herring, 14 cts. per box; tucks, 11 cts.; lengthwise, 12 cts.; No. 1s, 12 cts. Boaters, 65c.; Smoked mackerel, 11 cts. per lb. Canned do., fresh, \$1.50 per doz.; canned trout, \$1.50; fresh halibut, \$1.25; salmon, \$1.75; lobsters, \$1.75, clams, \$1.75. Labrador herring, \$5 to 5.25 per bbl.; medium split, \$3.60 to 3.75; medium gibbed, \$3.37½ to 3.75; Shore, \$3.25 to 3.50; Eastport, \$2.75; pickled codfish, \$5; haddock, \$1; halibut heads, \$3.25; tongues, \$6; sounds, \$11.50; tongues and sounds, \$8; alewives, \$3.25; trout, \$14.50; Halifax salmon, \$17." Havana, December 24.—"As we anticipated the demand for codfish has continued good this week, and liberal sales have been made at \$6.50. The weather the past few days has been extremely hot, and more like our summer than winter, except for the absence of rain. Unsold stock, 900 drums. As the stock of haddock was very small, we have been able to move it off at better prices and quote at \$5.75 to \$6, with a good demand. The demand for hake is light at the advanced prices we are asking of \$5.25 to 5.50, but in view of the light supply and higher prices for jerked beef, we think buyers will have to pay the above values, and we anticipate a good demand in the immediate future." Demerara, December 9.—"The demand at present is small, and there few sales to report. Of Liverpool and Halifax cures there have been hardly any sales, holders asking \$21 and \$22 respectively. Boxes, \$5.50. Old stock of Newfoundland is being sold at from \$8 to 18, as to quality."

GROCERIES.

Table listing various grocery items and prices, including Sugar (Cut Leaf, Granulated, Circle A, White Extra, Extra Yellow, Yellow C), Tea (Congo, Common, Fair, Good, Choice, Extra Choice), Molasses (Barbadoes, Demerara, Diamond N, Porto Rico, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Antigua), Tobacco (Black, Bright), Biscuits (Pilot Bread, Boston and Thin Family, Soda, Fancy), and other items.

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Quotations below are our to day's wholesale prices for car lots not cash Jobbers' and Retailers' prices about 5 to 10 cents per bbl. higher than car lots. Markets quiet and steady Breadstuffs are sold fine. Cornmeal scarce, 10c. to 15c. dearer.

Table listing breadstuffs and other provisions, including Flour (Graham, Patent high grades, medium, Superior Extra, Lower grades), Oatmeal (Standard, Granulated), Corn Meal (Halfax ground, Imported), Bran per ton (Wheat, Corn), Short, Middlings, Cracked Corn, Oats, Feed Flour, Oats per bushel (34 lbs), Harley, Peas, White Beans, Pot Barley, Corn, Ifay per ton, Straw.

The above quotations are carefully prepared by a reliable Wholesale House, and can be depended upon as correct.

PROVISIONS.

Table listing various provisions, including Beef (Am. Ex. Mess, dutypaid, Am. Plate, Ex. Plate), Pork (Mess, American, American, clear, P. E. I. Mess, P. E. I. Thin Mess, Prime Mess), Lard (Tubs and Pails, Cases), Hams (P. E. I.), and other items.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Table listing butter and cheese products, including Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints, in Small Tubs, Good, in large tubs, Store Packed & oversalted new, Canadian Creamery, new, Township, Western, Cheese, Canadian.

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer in Butter and Cheese.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Table listing fish from vessels, including Mackerel (Extra, No. 1, 2, 3 large), Herring (No. 1 Shore, No. 1 August, September, Round Shore, Labrador, Bay of Islands), Alewives, Codfish, and other items.

The above are prepared by a reliable firm of West India Merchants.

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Table listing wool, wool skins, and hides, including Wool-clean washed, per pound, un washed, Salted Hides, Ox Hides, Cow Hides, Calf Skins, Lambskins.

The above quotations are furnished by WM. F. FOSTER, dealer in Wool and Hides, Connors' Wharf.

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Table listing various fruits, including Apples (Gravensteins, No. 1 Varieties), Oranges, Lemons, Cocoanuts, Onions, Dates, Raisins, Figs, Prunes, Stewing, Grapes, Almeria.

The above quotations are furnished by C. H. Harvey, 10 & 12 Sackville St.

LOBSTERS.

Table listing lobster products, including Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing), Tall Cans, Flat.

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Table listing various lumber products, including Pine (clear, Merchantable, Small), Spruce (dimension good, Merchantable, Small), Hemlock, Shingles, Laths, Hard wood, Soft wood.

The above quotations are prepared by a reliable firm in this line.

POULTRY.

Table listing poultry products, including Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Chickens.

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot

Table listing live stock, including Steers, Oxen, Fat Steers, Heifers, Pats, best quality, Lambs.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

SADDLE AND SABRE.

(Continued.)

"Besides," urged Norman, "it's no use thrashing him for his sins of five or six months back; the poor little beggar will doubtless commit himself again before long."

The jockey burst out laughing.

"Well, Mr Slade," he cried, "you are an ingenious advocate, but I'd as lief you weren't arguing for my defence. Don't hang him now, because you'll have another chance before long. Well, there's something in it, and I promise to let the young villain off this time."

"Thanks, it's very likely all for the best: nobody has the faintest idea that you hold a trump card in your hand. I want you to have another spin with them Saturday morning, and ride Belisarius yourself—it'll do you more good than all the doctor's bill if you find him what I think; don't ask him to do a heartbreaking thing; but still, let us ask Belisarius the question in real earnest."

"Right you are, Mr. Slade; I shall be perpetually on the fidget till I know the worst, as old John Day always puts it."

There was an eager discussion that night at dinner between Slade and his host as to what weights should be apportioned to Knight of the Whistle and Belisarius. The Knight was a five-year-old, who from his youth upwards had always been a fairly good horse. He was by no means first-class, and his chief merit lay in his being a consistent performer. If he didn't win when he was expected, still he was always there or thereabouts; and on the training-ground, as Bill Smith always said, you might thoroughly depend on what a gallop with him told you as regarded the young ones. Slade insisted upon it that if Belisarius could beat the old horse, in concession of a stone, it would be quite good enough for the present, and then it would be time enough to try him a little higher later on, whilst Smith was for asking the sterner question at once. However, after much discussion, Slade's proposition was agreed to, and it was determined that the trial should come off on the Saturday morning.

Eight o'clock on that day, consequently, saw the little group gathered together at the mile-post as on the first morning Slade had gone up to the moor, with this rather important difference, that old Bill Smith himself, his throat enveloped in many folds of a silk handkerchief, was on the back of Belisarius. Tom Parrot was down at the mile post to start them, while Norman took up his favorite position half-way up the ascent which terminated the gallop. All three boys had their orders, the best lad in the stable being put on Knight of the Whistle. At the word "Go!" one of the three-year-olds rushed to the front and made the running at a smart pace, the Knight lying second, while Belisarius was last of all. A quarter-of-a-mile from home the leader had shot his bolt, and the running was immediately taken up by the other three-year old, the Knight still lying second, and Belisarius last. As they neared the ascent the Knight assumed the command, and Belisarius crept rapidly up to him. Just before reaching Norman, the brown colt, pulling double, reached the Knight's quarters.

"It's a monkey to a mousetrap on the young 'un," muttered Norman Slade, with a flush of exultation in his dark eyes, when suddenly Bill Smith stopped riding, eased his horse, and left Knight of the Whistle to gallop in two or three lengths in front of him.

"By Jove, it has been too much for him!" exclaimed Slade, as he hurried across to speak to the jockey. "What's the matter, Bill? Are you faint or sick, or what is it?"

"Hush; nothing is the matter," replied Bill Smith, as he bent over his saddle-bow. "He's a flyer. I could have won the length of a street if I had gone on, but it would have been a sin to show him up."

This concluded the work for the morning. Belisarius was handed over to his boy, and Slade and his host, getting into the trap which had brought them up, made the best of their way home to breakfast. A very merry meal was that. The two men were very jubilant over the event of the morning.

"You are quite right, Mr. Slade; that colt is a good deal beyond the common. The horse would have a chance for any one of the big races that could beat the Knight at a stone. I could not only have beaten him this morning, but had a lot in hand besides."

"We know enough about Belisarius now," rejoined Slade, "at all events, to ensure your not parting with him with the other two for five hundred pounds. Now, nobody suspects you of owning a good horse at present. So you can back him to win you a good stake for a very trifling outlay. You stick to the colt and leave the commission to be worked by Radcliffe and myself. The horse is very forward, so I suppose you'll run him for the Two Thousand?"

"Certainly, if a" goes well," rejoined the jockey. "It's a big stake, and the opposition don't threaten to be throug. It's never any use keeping a good horse in the stable when he's fit to run."

The next day was passed in much talk of bygone racing lore. Bill Smith was highly elated at discovering that amongst what he had deemed his worthless string there was probably one very high-class racer. Money was scarce with him at the present moment, but it may be doubted whether five thousand would have induced him to part with the horse just now; and both he and Slade knew well that there were many men in England who would gladly have given that sum for Belisarius on hearing the result of that morning's gallop. Everything was arranged between the jockey and his guest during that last evening.

Bill Smith had settled how much he could afford to trust his horse with for the Two Thousand Guineas, and either Slade or Radcliffe was to do that commission for him on the former's return to town.

To those three the secret of Belisarius' prowess was as yet, if possible, to be confined. On Monday Bill Smith drove his guest to the nearest station, and Slade, to use his own expression, returned to town with the winner of the Derby in his pocket.

There was not a little curiosity at Tattersall's the succeeding Monday, when Sir Ronald Radcliffe lounged in a little before five, and asked, in his languid way, what they were betting on the Two Thousand.

"Three to one on the field," exclaimed one of the leading speculators.

"What do you want to do, Sir Ronald—do you want it to money?"

"Thank you, Cookson," was the reply. "I don't want to back the favorite. What is Chelmsford's price?"

"Six to one," rejoined the bookmaker, promptly. "What shall I put it down to?"

"You needn't put it down at all," rejoined Sir Ronald, carelessly.

"Who'll make me a bid against one not mentioned in the betting?"

"What is it, Sir Ronald?" inquired two or three bookmakers, eagerly.

"Belisarius," replied the baronet.

"Beli, what?" cried Cookson. "How do you spell it?"

"There's the name," rejoined the Baronet, as he showed a page in his betting-book, upon which Belisarius was clearly written. "What will any one lay me to a hundred?"

"Never heard the name before," rejoined Cookson, sharply. "And it's not a very good betting-race; but if you like to have three thousand to a hundred, Sir Ronald, you can put it down."

"All right!" replied the Baronet. "Does any one want to do it again?"

There was some little sparring, but eventually the same odds were laid to the same amount twice more. Then one of the speculators produced a "Turf Guide" from his pocket, and exclaimed, "Why, it's a dark colt of old Bill Smith's. Here's twenty to one, Belisarius, to a hundred. Who will have it?"

Sir Ronald simply shook his head, and, saying, "that he had got quite sufficient," sauntered out of the subscription-room in his usual indolent manner.

The sudden appearance of Belisarius in the betting was much talked of for a day or two in racing circles; and all sorts of mild rumours were current concerning old Bill Smith's dark three-year-old. But as no authentic information regarding him came to hand, and, in spite of the liberal offers of the bookmakers, nobody seemed to have the slightest inclination to back him, Belisarius faded once more out of the betting. And it was only now and again at intervals that here and there a very crafty speculator dribbled a little bit on him at long shots, on the sole grounds, as he explained, that Sir Ronald Radcliffe wasn't a fool, and that there might be something in this dark colt at all. Still, at the rare intervals that the name of Belisarius cropped up in the betting, it was always at very long odds. As for Sir Ronald, he was a reticent man concerning his Turf transactions; and with a few intimates, who felt entitled to question him on the subject, he simply replied "that he had never seen the colt in his life; but that he believed those connected with him considered that he had a good chance for the Two Thousand."

In the meantime Belisarius strides away over the Yorkshire wold in grand style; and old Bill Smith, who has entirely shaken off his gout, grows "sweeter" day by day.

CHAPTER XIX.

IN THE "GAZETTE."

"—TH HUSSARS. Charles Devereux, gent., to be Cornet, vice Langley, promoted. October 14th." I wonder if there is any man who has once worn Her Majesty's uniform who cannot recall the exultation with which he once read a similar notice in the *Gazette*. It is, in all probability, the first time he has ever seen his name in print; and, lightly though he may affect to take it, he still, whenever he can possess himself of the paper, reads that announcement furtively for the next day or two. If he does not carry his head a trifle higher, and feel inclined to put on some slight amount of swagger amongst his youthful acquaintance, then most assuredly he is not of the clay of which soldiers should be kneaded. Most of us, I should think, could remember the fever-heat of those few days after our first appearance in the *Gazette*; how anxiously we made ourselves acquainted with all the braveries of our regiment; and, for the matter of that, dedicated much time to the costumes of the British Army generally. What special designation our corps might be known by in the slang of the service was also the subject of much delight and congratulation. Whether we were the Slashers, the Springers, the Red Lancers, or the dirty Half-hundred, whether Black Watch or Cameron Highlanders, was a distinction which it was maddening that our civilian friends (we had begun to call them so by this time) failed to comprehend the importance of. Then came all the fun of the outfit. The trying-on of our uniforms (that first experience of the pomp and circumstance of glorious war); and, though we have a dim recollection of getting our sword between our legs, of feeling exquisitely uncomfortable in the unaccustomed dress generally, and of a tendency to snigger, on the part of the tailor's young man, at the awkwardness we displayed in our new cloth and broideries, still, upon the whole, it was a joyous time, with life and the career of our choice all opening before us.

Charlie Devereux was delighted with the official letter that confirmed his appearance in the *Gazette*, and further informed him that he was granted leave of absence until the 31st of December, on which day he was requested to report himself to the officer commanding the —th Hussars, at York. Old Tom Devereux had been much pleased with his son's appointment. He authorised him to draw for a very liberal sum on

account of his outfit, and further promised to make him a present of Polestar for first charger, as soon as that gallant animal had fulfilled his engagement in the autumn steeplechase at Lincoln. About this latter there was considerable excitement at North Leach. The young one had no doubt come on a good deal during the year, and was a very much better horse than he had been in the spring. Charlie was once more to ride, and was sanguine about turning the tables on his successful antagonist of last March.

"I rode very green then," he cried, "and allowed myself to be gammoned out of the race. Whether I could have quite won I don't know, but I ought to have been much nearer, I am sure. I was looking after George Fletcher, when all the time it was Jim I ought to have been sticking to."

"Given the same animals, and you ought to have the best of them this time," said John Devereux; "but there's no knowing what those Fletchers will run; and, remember, they are as full of dodges as an old dog-fox. Next time, Master Charlie, ride your own race, trust your own judgment, and don't hang upon them."

To fight the spring battle of the Carholme over again would be to weary the reader. Suffice it to say that Polestar fully justified the improvement claimed for him by his friends, and that Charlie, when they turned into the straight, having satisfactorily disposed of Jim Fletcher, felt like sailing in an easy winner, but half way up the distance George Fletcher, who seemed to Charlie to have dropped from the clouds—as he had seen nothing of him after the first half mile—challenged, and a desperate race home ensued between the pair; but Charlie this time had ridden his horse carefully, and Polestar had a good bit left in him to finish with. Holding George Fletcher's riding in great respect, Charlie determined to let him get no nearer than he could help; he was a length to the good when the final struggle began, and in spite of all George Fletcher's efforts he could never quite get up, and Charlie was returned the winner by a good neck, to the great glory and jubilation of North Leach.

New Year's Day saw Charlie Devereux installed in his new quarters in the barracks at York; his baggage had been sent on in advance, and Bertie Slade had duly seen to the fitting-up of the two rooms destined to become his domicile for the present. He was in high spirits, disposed to everything, and to make light of such disagreeables as are the inevitable portion of a soldier's novitiate. Recruit drill and the riding-school are necessities, but he must be a very enthusiastic soldier who can describe them as pleasures. He had been a little dashed by the confidences of a brother cornet, who was still undergoing the discipline of the school.

"I shan't mind the riding-school," remarked Charlie, confidently "I've been more or less on the top of a horse from my childhood, and was good enough to just win a steeplechase this autumn."

"So much the worse for you," rejoined his new chum. "Our riding-master will tell you that it's the fellows who think they can ride who give all the trouble. Same way dismounted drill; the sergeant always says it's the gentlemen who thought they learnt it at their private tutor's that there's no getting it into. I thought that it would be a good thing to learn as much as I could before joining, and now my persecutor says, 'You see, Mr. Sparshot, there's so much to knock out of you before we can put anything into you.'"

"Well," replied Charlie, laughing, "I'm ignorant of everything, except having learnt to ride, well, we'll say in my own fashion."

Charlie Devereux commenced his military career about three months before Norman Slade made that remarkable discovery on Bellaton Moor, but neither Bertie Slade nor himself were even aware of Norman's presence in Yorkshire.

Amongst many other people who had seen Charlie's name in the *Gazette* were the Kynastons. They were both of course aware that it was impending, and they both regarded it as a point to be utilised in their respective games of life. The Major had again taken on "The Firs" as a hunting-box; it suited him in some respect first and foremost, he got the place cheap. It was not every one who cared to take a hunting-box in Lincolnshire, where neighbors ran scarce, and there was little but the sheer sport to rely upon for amusement. Dick Kynaston was undoubtedly very fond of hunting in his own way; he took his pleasure leisurely in this respect now, but he gave the idea of a man who had been able to "ride a bit" in his youth. He was a constant attendant at the cover-side, and, though he always laughingly said his riding days were over, yet now and again when fortune favoured him, and the country was not too stiff, he could hold his own with the best in a fast thing.

As for Mrs. Kynaston, as before said, she rode in somewhat similar fashion, taking the rôle of a mere spectator for the most part, but some two or three times in the season showing that when she chose the best lady in the hunt would have to do all she knew to beat Kate Kynaston.

In these country quarters the Major always looked forward to doing a bit of horse dealing, and though, whether in the wolds of Lincolnshire or those of Yorkshire, experience had shown him how difficult it is to get the better of the natives in the matter of horseflesh, the Major was still keen as ever about picking up bargains in that way; then again there were always Tally Ho Stakes and Gone Away Plates to be compassed, and it afforded the Major infinite amusement, if not profit, as witness his disappointment at Lincoln Spring Meeting, to pick up a horse that he fancied capable of carrying off such races.

In spite of his resolutions in the early part of the year he had supported Charlie once more in the Autumn Hunt Steeplechase, and won a very nice little stake upon Polestar.

(To be continued.)

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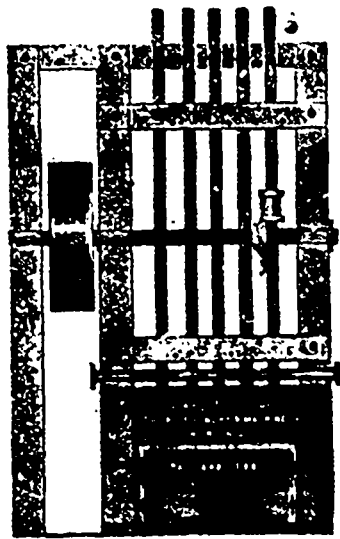
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MINING.

The letter of "Ex-Nova Scotian" which we publish below proves that thinking men everywhere see the great benefits that may be derived from the formation of the Nova Scotia Gold-Miners' Association. The preliminary difficulties have now been overcome, and we trust that at the first annual meeting, which will be held at 2.30 p.m. on February 3rd next, there will be a full attendance of members. A great deal depends upon the selection of good officers, and, as the elections are to take place at the annual meeting, there should be a large attendance. The correspondent's remarks about our mining laws are open to criticism, and we hope to hear from some of our gold miners in reply.

OXFORD MINE.—*The Financial and Mining Record*, the well-known and most influential mining journal of New York, asks the following information of THE CRITIC in its issue of December 24th last:—

"[We shall be obliged to THE CRITIC for a specific statement of the dates and amounts of each of the dividends of the Oxford paid this year: also, the monthly product if possible, also the total number and amounts of all the dividends which the property may have paid up to 31st December, 1887.—*Ed. F. & M. Record.*"]

Also of the Lake Lode Co.:—

"[Will THE CRITIC do us the favor to state number and amount of dividends paid by the company during the present year of 1887, as also of any anterior dividends?—*Ed. F. & M. Record.*"]

Will the management kindly furnish us with the required information as speedily as possible?

The sworn returns in the Mines Office show the monthly yield; what we desire are the dates and amounts of each dividend.

HELENA, MONTANA, Dec. 17th, 1887.

To the Editor of the Critic:

I have lately received several numbers of THE CRITIC, and am much pleased to note that you are still showing up the mining interests of the Province, and that your suggestion of forming a Gold-Miners' Association has been acted upon, and, before this time, is no doubt in running shape.

It is certainly a step in the right direction, and the gold-miners of N. S. are under obligations to you for evincing so much interest in their welfare.

No other N. S. paper that I can call to mind has ever given more than a passing notice to this branch of industry, and this especially so of Halifax papers, where one would think they would be anxious to encourage, show up, and direct attention to the different and rich gold districts. No they would rather fill their columns with their miserable political bickerings.

By a concerted movement of the Miners' Association, such pressure can surely be brought to bear as to result in the revising and amending of the present mining laws, and thus getting rid of the worst features of the present objectionable system. For, to my mind, any law or set of district rules would be preferable to the law now in force, allowing, as it does, the "land shark" to take up a large block of ground in a mining district for mining purposes, when he does not know that mineral exists, and probably has never been on the ground.

If the Association take the revision of the law under consideration, they would, if I may be allowed to express my opinion, do well to look up the Mining Laws of the United States, with the special acts of the different mining States and Territories.

No doubt this will be done, as I notice you report two or more American gentlemen, who are prominent in mining circles, as being present at the first meeting.

I will take the liberty of giving you a condensed view of the chief features of the mining law of Montana.

When a lode, vein, or deposit is discovered, the discoverer has twenty days in which to find the walls, define the boundaries, erect stakes or monuments on such boundaries, and record his location in the County records. The "claiming notice" is, of course, put up at time of discovery and one has the ensuing twenty days to put up a proper "location notice," describing on it the boundaries, monuments or stakes, direction the vein: running, and extent of claim.

The extent of a quartz location, when not curtailed by adjoining claim is 1500 by 600 feet, that is 1500 feet on line of lode and 300 feet on each side from center of lode. This comprises all spurs and angles, and all other veins or deposits that come within the boundaries of the lode located on. The locator must have at least one wall to his own vein or lode.

One hundred dollars worth of labor must be expended on the location before the end of each year (Dec. 31st.) If this is not done the claim is "jumpable," or open to re-location on January 1st.

One instance will show you the longest period a claim can be held without any labor or representing; that is, of course, unless the owner takes the risk of having it re-located.

A claim located in January, 1887, will hold until Dec. 31st, 1888, without any further expense than that incurred at time of locating. These are a few of the principle points of the law in force in Montana, and, as you can see, they do away with that monopoly of mining ground, which is such a detriment to the miners of N. S.

You will also notice that no ground can be taken up under the mineral act, unless the presence of mineral has been verified, and the discoverer of such mineral has the first claim to location. This proves that holding and claiming of lodes by men whose only right to do so is the speediness—acquired by long practice—in which they reach the Mines Office. Under such a law these men would either have to find and locate their own lodes, or hire some one to do it for them.

MINING.—Continued.

I notice a decision in yesterday's paper (Helena), when a party had filed on a piece of ground under the mineral act, his right to do so was disputed, and the decision went against him, the court holding that "the proof showing the land to be mineral land was not sufficient."

Montana is increasing her yearly output of mineral, and is expected to take the front rank in the value of her minerals over any other state or territory. We have had a cold snap, the Ther. falling to 13 degrees below, but at present the weather is very fine, Ther. averaging 15 degrees above. This is a splendid climate for consumptives.

I have probably taken up too much of your time already, so, trusting that your efforts to give the gold mines of N. S. a fair representation, will bring forth good results. I am yours, EX-NOVA SCOTIAN.

The London Times of Dec. 20th, 1887, publishes a list of 90 gold-mining companies in Transvaal, South Africa.

The additional information is also given that "new companies are being formed so rapidly that no list obtained from materials a few weeks old can be correct." A gentleman who left the Transvaal last June has kindly analysed the list for us, and he suggests that if any persons challenge the analysis, they should produce figures denoting both the export of gold in ounces from South Africa for the past three years, and her import of English sovereigns and half-sovereigns during the same period. Dollars, at the rate of five to £1, are substituted for the benefit of our readers:—

	Aggregate Capital	Average capital per Company.
3 Companies, very good.....	265,000	\$8,330
16 " good.....	3,140,000	196,250
2 " doubtful.....	2,750,000	1,375,000
20 " bad.....	3,985,000	199,250
14 " deliberate swindles.....	10,918,000	779,285
35 " no information.....	3,198,750	91,393
90 "	\$24,248,750	

The Times neglects to mention the finest gold mining company in South Africa, viz., the Forbes Concession, with a capital of \$500,000, in Swaziland. The analysis presents some other peculiarities besides the curious comparison of average capital. The "swindlers" have their headquarters either in Kimberley or in London.

Wake up Nova Scotia! If South Africa can attract capital amounting to \$15,000,000 to be expended in air, can you obtain nothing more than the paltry sum at present invested in mining your valuable minerals with such extraordinary facilities for getting at them? or must we import some Jews, and all their attendant horrors?

NEW BRUNSWICK MINING ITEMS.—Since writing you, which has been quite a long time ago, mining matters in this Province have been somewhat dull as to actual operations, while, on the other hand, negotiations for the purchase of several properties are under way.

At the Mineral Vale Mine, in New Ireland, work has been carried on in an experimental manner, and the indications are still good. It is understood that negotiations, with a view to a sale of the same to some reliable capitalists, are in train at the present time.

The work of development is at present being carried on at what is known as the Munro property, at Waterford, by some American capitalists. The mineral is a combination of copper and other metals, showing good evidences of being gold-bearing.

Operation are still being conducted on the "Glebe" manganese mine in the Dutch Valley. The quality of ore from the property is of a very superior nature. A quantity of the ore was recently shipped to the States.

The celebrated Stockton manganese mine on White's Mountain, Sussex, so it is said, has been sold, and for a very handsome figure. Negotiations have been pending for some time, which, it is said, will probably result in a final transfer of property. The capitalists who propose purchasing have, with their expert, visited the mine, and, it is reported, are perfectly satisfied. Further particulars later on.

A discovery of a new and large pocket of manganese at the Queen Manganese Mining Works, Markhamville, is reported. The owners of this property are to be congratulated on their new discovery.

The work of development is still being carried on in the vicinity of Springfield in search of antimony.

Boring for coal near Weldford Station, in Kent County, is being carried on by the company formed some time ago for that purpose. At latest accounts nothing definite had been determined.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Elm Tree Galena Mine, in Gloucester County, are now in train. The mine was recently pumped out, and a thorough examination made by a competent mining engineer. The matter looks very satisfactory indeed, and the chances are that a sale will be made in due course of time, and the property worked by men of skill and capital.

The late move in organizing a Gold-Miners' Association, is one well worthy of praise, and it is to be hoped the future operations of the organizers will help smooth out many of the points in the Mining Laws of N. S., which seem to be stumbling blocks in the way of fair and legitimate mining. Your correspondent expresses his regret that he could not spare time to have attended and become identified with the movement, but hopes to be yet recognized in the ranks, unless something occurs to prevent, which he is not at present aware of. With the Compliments of the Season to THE CRITIC Staff, one and all. Yours truly, ***

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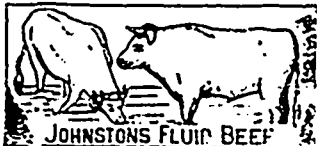
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HOME AND FARM.

This department of *The Critic* is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in *The Critic* a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

We deem it our especial duty to the honest and honorable packers of our great apple-growing districts, to draw particular attention to the facts embodied in a letter to the *Halifax Herald*, which appeared in its issue of the 29th ult., bearing the signature of Anton Tozer.

Mr. Tozer states that he bought a barrel of apples from Mr. Outhit a short time ago, and sent them to his brother in London. They were sold as "King of Tomkins." When opened, there were a few fine apples on the top, but all beneath were, though of fair size, not "King of Tomkins" at all, but apples of quite an inferior flavor and quality. As Mr. Tozer's brother had children, there was consumption for the apples, but the barrel was a palpable swindle. No blame is attributed to Mr. Outhit, who was no doubt himself the victim of an imposition of a very mean description.

But though the fraud is of a despicable nature, it is impossible to speak too strongly in condemnation of it, as calculated to engender distrust of a most valuable and important Nova Scotia industry.

CRANBERRIES—Believing the culture of the Cranberry to be well worth the careful attention of the Nova Scotia farmer, we append some information contained in an account of his experience in this line, by Mr. A. J. Burr, of Olympia, Washington Territory, where the soil and climatic influences are by no means dissimilar to those in many parts of our own Province:—

"In 1877, I planted three beds fifty feet square each of New Jersey vines. One bed I sanded six inches deep, one three inches, and the other on the natural peat. I took the sand out of the bottom of a creek that ran through my bog; it was pure white sand, but very fine. Those sanded six inches did not do well; the vines were puny, and the weeds choked them out. Those sanded three inches did much better, but were kept back by weeds. The vines planted on the natural bog have done much the best; they are stronger vines and less liable to be weedy.

The third year after planting I gathered three gallons of berries on the three beds; the fourth year I gathered two large sugar barrels full on the same ground; the fifth year I gathered on the natural bed, 50 by 47 feet, five barrels of 37 gallons each; and on the two sanded beds five barrels of the same size; making in all ten barrels or 370 gallons, which I sold for 75 cents per gallon, wholesale, amounting to \$227.50. I have never flooded these vines. In the winter season there is more or less water on them, but in the summer season the water is six or eight inches below the surface.

On my Oyster Bay bog I have out about six acres. This is a sag in the hills, with no large stream running into it. In the winter it is covered with water from six to eighteen inches. About the first of May I let the water off down below the surface, but not entirely off the bog, leaving it on the low places and ditches around the edges of the marsh.

I at first put out vines near the outlet, on well decayed peat. They grow thriftily, but do not bear well.

Near the middle of my bog is a pool of about one-eighth of an acre, with pond lillies and other water plants growing in it. The peat or moss near it is now and more spongy. This is where my vines are doing best and bearing best. I am transplanting from the decayed peat to the new peat. Although they grow splendid on the old peat, they do not bear well; they grow too thrifty. In the spring when the water is let off, it must be below the surface, as it will become warm and scald the vines and kill them. The new moss acts like a sponge, and retains all the moisture they require in the summer season.

When preparing the ground for planting, the top should all be taken off below the roots of all the vegetation, such as buck brush, wild tea, &c. In preparing my ground, I first dug a ditch through it nearly to the pond lily pool, draining it thoroughly. In August of the same year I burned it over by digging holes about thirty feet apart, and building hot fires in them with fir bark. In a few days they burned until they connected. They then milled along about two feet a day until I had about 12 acres cleared. It will burn as deep as vegetation goes, and no further.

In clearing this away you must not slash or cut the brush down in the least. As the fire mulls along the brush will fall over and help to keep it burning. Where the brush has been slashed it becomes dry, and will soon catch fire, and burn over the marsh. A surface burn is no good. After clearing in this way, rake over the ground with a garden rake, making it as even as an onion bed. Then force the vines into the muck about four inches with a wedge shaped dibble. Cut off a broom handle close to the broom, make a thin wedge of the small end, cut a crescent in the lower end, and you have an A I dibble.

Plant the vines about one foot apart each way. Plant any time from October to June. I consider the fall the best, as they will make root all the winter, and start off with vigor in the spring, thus making almost a year's difference in their growth.

You probably would like to know why I do not have more berries for sale. The reason is this: I have been cutting off my vines for sale, and to plant out myself; therefore I have but few vines bearing. I have this year five barrels of berries from vines that were cut off three years ago. I shall sell no more vines by the barrel, but will have a small lot of vines to sell by the thousand.

I send this with a sample jar of berries.

A. J. BURR

P. S.—The best piece of ground for cranberries I have seen in the Ter-

ritory is Mr. I. N. Wilcoxon's, on White River, under the hill back of Van Dorrion's. That kind of ground, put in proper shape, will raise fine berries.

A. J. BURR.

This letter is valuable in that it relates facts ("experience and incident") as to this important branch of agriculture.

H. JOHNSON.—You cannot restore rancid butter to a sweet good article. It may perhaps be a little improved by washing it first in new milk, and afterwards in cold water. A thorough washing in salt and water may do some little good, and yet another plan is to beat up a quarter-pound fresh lime in a pail of water, let it stand for an hour until any impurities have settled, then pour off the clear portion, and wash the butter with it. But care in the making is worth all doubtful remedies when the mischief is done.

It is not always the large hog that pays, but the one that makes the largest quantity of pork in the shortest time, and on the smallest amount of food. If a pig comes in during April he has nine months during which time to grow by the end of the year. If he is well bred, and from a good stock of hogs, he should easily be made to weigh 250 pounds during the nine months of his life.

Put a few lumps of rock salt into the manger, and leave them there for the horse to suck. Crib-biting is often produced by irritation of the stomach, which the salt will correct.

The wheat average per acre in Minnesota, U. S. A., is 12½ bushels; in Dakota, U. S. A., 15 bushels; and in Manitoba, Canada, 28 bushels.

John McOut, Stony Mountain, Manitoba, had 740 bushels of potatoes from one and a-half acres of land—or over 22 tons.

Jacob Lopppe, near Emerson, Man., took 904 bushels of wheat from nine acres of land.

A Brandon farmer has 12,000 bushels of oats from 200 acres.

OUR COSY CORNER

A SERVICEABLE SCRAP BASKET—Serviceable scrap baskets are made by adjusting a strip of matting to a round bottom of stiff pasteboard or wood. The place where the edge join is concealed by the trimmings, consisting of a large bow and many loops of ribbon. Do not line a scrap basket. It is unnecessary and the lining soils very easily.

Another on the same subject says differently as to lining, but as both look as though they might be useful and good, we insert them: A pretty receptacle for scraps, whether bag, basket or pail, is a necessary adjunct to a sewing room. Here is a description that requires very little time and skill for its construction. Select a small wooden pail, which on account of its weight is not as easily upset as a basket, and hence preferable. Paint or wash the outside with liquid bronze, or gild it, then line with silesia, red or blue or buff, depending on the other adornments of the room. Turn in the top an inch, and lay it in plait, fastening each one with a gilt headed nail. Cover the bottom with a plain piece, and fasten the lining carefully, deepening and carrying down each plait from the top. Paste a pretty scrap picture on the outside, or paint a spray of flowers. Tie a bow of ribbon on the handle, and you have a very fancy pail, which I am sure will be of great utility.

A very pretty and simple dress is of Gobelin blue cashmere, the plain skirt trimmed with a deep row of brown braiding of the sort that comes in patterns ready to be applied. The long curtain draperies are of the untrimmed cashmere, and the plain bisque bodice has the brown braid applied back and front in V shape, the collar and cuffs being also braided.

There is a strenuous effort being made by the milliners to introduce large bonnets and hats made of shirred and pleated velvet. All these hats and bonnets are of eccentric shape, and a few with bizarre tastes are encouraging the attempt to popularize them, but they are not neat and trim enough to suit the taste of those who dress with care, and they are not likely to have a long lease of favor.

Onions may be prepared without the usual accompaniment of tears by peeling them under water.

GREASY DISHCLOTHS.—Some physicians say diphtheria will result from using greasy dishcloths; "a word to the wise—"

Coachman coats of tan-colored livery cloth and large black felt hats are prettily worn together by blonde girls of eight or ten years, while for petite brunettes are long red coats, with towering high red felt hats with black ostrich plumes and black watered ribbon loops. Some of the newest large hats have the sides tied down over the ears by a ribbon passing over the crown.

The coachman's cloaks so much worn by children are long enough to conceal the dress beneath and are made double-breasted, with two large double box pleats in the back, with square pocket-flaps on the sides and a deep cape-like collar or else they have separate collars of fur, which may be black with either tan or red coats, or may be of beaver.

A pretty rest for a ba-que is formed of many rows of picot-edged ribbon, with the edges lapping over each other.

RELIGIOUS.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The St. George's Church Army gave a tea to about 400 poor children on Tuesday last. The young ones were entertained at a concert afterwards. The Army in Windsor is doing a good work, under the sanction and approval of the Rector.

The Rev. Canon Holo, Vicar of Causton, England, who was one of the gentlemen suggested as the Bishop of Nova Scotia, has been appointed Dean of Rochester. The Canon is perhaps the most effective platform speaker in the church of England, and working men will go in crowds to hear his witty and eloquent speeches. He is 66 years old, and will do good work yet for the church.

A letter has been received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, containing little more than what was contained in his telegram of ten days since.

METHODIST.

The watch-night services, held in the several Methodist churches of the city, were well attended.

The closing exercises at Mount Allison, held recently, were exceedingly interesting. The total number of students, including the Academy, Ladies College, and the University is, we learn, 216. The Methodists of the Maritime Provinces may well be proud of their educational institutions.

The salary of the Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States is \$3,500, with an allowance for rent, which brings it up to \$4,500.

The finest church edifice in Albany, Ga., is the one now being built by the colored M. E. church of that city. The congregation comprises the negro aristocracy of the place, an aristocracy said to be based more upon education, refinement, and morality, than upon any pecuniary success.

At the recent Methodist Conference Secretary McCabe said there was a man in New Jersey, the owner of three sawmills, and worth \$40,000, who subscribed for all the benevolences of the church the sum of ten cents.

PRESBYTERIAN.

On account of illness in his family, the Rev. J. M. Allan has tendered his resignation of the pastorate of Grove church in this city. During the time that he has been in charge, the congregation has made satisfactory progress.

Principal Grant will in all probability be the next moderator of the General Assembly, which meets next June in Halifax, a number of Presbyteries having already nominated him for the position.

Last Sunday the Rev. D. M. Gordon commenced work as pastor of St. Andrew's church, preaching at both services. He is a fluent and earnest speaker, and will be a great help, not only to the congregation with which he is connected, but to the denomination in Halifax.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in the Lower Provinces collected during the past eighteen months over \$5,000 for missions.

Most of the Presbyterian churches in the province will hold their annual meetings this month.

Last Friday evening the Sabbath School in connection with St. Andrew's church held a very successful anniversary. Quite a large number of prizes were distributed to the scholars.

BAPTIST.

The Baptists of the Upper Provinces have agreed to accept Mr. McMaster's bequest of three quarters of a million dollars on the testator's terms. The money is to be used in founding a university. With a view to this end a charter has been granted by the Ontario Legislature for the union of the Toronto and Woodstock colleges. Whether the new university shall be located at Toronto or Woodstock is to be determined at a special session of the Board of Home Missions.

Signs increase, not only of union of the missionary churches in foreign fields, but of a kindly purpose not to interfere with the established missions of other denominations. A proof of this has just been furnished by the Baptists of the United States, as represented by their Missionary Union. A committee was appointed to consider the question whether the Union should establish a Mission in America, where the American Board have been engaged in work. The committee came to the conclusion that it would not be wise or expedient for the Union to enter that field.

Rev. Archibald G. Brown, of the East London Tabernacle, has notified Dr. Booth, the Secretary, of his withdrawal from the Baptist Union. Mr. Brown publicly announced his retirement from the pulpit on Sunday, and in the step he has taken he has the full sympathy of all his deacons.

The Baptist denomination is making rapid progress in Russia, in St. Petersburg and vicinity. While it is considered an offence actionable by government, for a member of the Established Church to adopt any other religious belief, there are as many as 2,000 Russian Baptists, besides a large number of German Baptists, residing in the Czar's dominions. The Baptists are treated with more leniency than any other body, which is the reverse of what is true in any other country. The reason is that the Established church of Russia—the Greek—practices immersion, and seeing that Baptists immerse, they think our religion must be very like their own. A wide field is thus offered for effort to evangelize the Russians. A separate Baptist Union for Russia has been formed—Russia was previously included in the German Union—and representatives sent to America for help. The Foreign Mission Board in Boston have made an appropriation, and are disposed to foster this work.

REVISED LIST OF BOOKS FOR THE MILLION. STANDARD AND POPULAR WORKS ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

Read the following list and send us the numbers of the books you desire:

1. The Widow Hedott Papers. This is the book over which your grandmothers laughed till they cried, and it is just as funny to-day as it ever was.
2. Winter Evening Recreations, a large collection of Acting Charades, Tab eaux, Games, Puzzles, etc., for social gatherings, private theatricals, and evenings at home.
3. Back to the Old Home. A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay author of "Hidden Perils."
4. Dialogues Recitations and Readings, a large and choice collection for school exhibitions and public and private entertainments.
5. The Standard Letter Writer for Ladies and Gentlemen, a complete guide to correspondence.
6. The Frozen Deep. A thrilling Novel by Wilkie Collins, author of "The Woman in White."
7. Red Court Farm. An interesting Novel by Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne," etc.
8. The Lady of the Lake. By Sir Walter Scott. "The Lady of the Lake" is a romance in verse.
9. In Cupid's Net. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
10. Amos Barton. A Novel. By George Elliot, author of "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss."
11. Lady Gwendoline's Dream. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
12. The Mystery of the Holly Tree. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
13. The Budget of Wit, Humor and Fun, a large collection of the funny stories sketches, anecdotes, poems and jokes.
14. John Bowerbank's Wife. A Novel. By Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman."
15. The Gray Woman. A Novel. By Mrs. Gaskell, author of "Mary Barton," etc.
16. Sixteen Complete Stories by Popular Authors, embracing love, humorous and detective stories, stories of society life, of adventure, of railway life, etc., all very interesting.
17. Jasper Dane's Secret. A Novel. By Miss M. E. Braddon, author of "Aurora Floyd," etc.
18. Fancy Work for Home Adornment, an entirely new work upon this subject containing easy and practical instructions for fancy baskets, wall pockets, brackets, needle work embroidery, etc., etc. profusely and elegantly illustrated.
19. Grimm's Fairy Tales for the Young. The finest collection of fairy stories published.
20. Manual of Etiquette for Ladies and Gentlemen a guide to politeness and good breeding, giving the rules of modern etiquette for all occasions.
21. Useful Knowledge for the Million, a handy book of useful information for all, upon many and various subjects.
22. The Home Cook Book and Family Physician, containing hundreds of excellent cooking recipes, hints to housekeepers, telling how to cure all common ailments by simple remedies.
23. Manners and Customs in Far Away Lands, a very interesting and instructive book of travels, describing the peculiar life, habits, manners and customs of people of foreign countries.
24. Popular Ballads. Same size as sheet music. Words of all the old and new songs.
25. Called Back. A Novel. By Hugh Conway.
26. At the World's Mercy. A Novel. By Florence Warden.
27. Mildred Trevanion. A Novel. By "The Duchess," author of "Molly Bawn," etc.
28. Dark Days. A Novel. By the author of "Called Back."
29. Shadows on the Snow. A Novel. By H. L. Farjeon, author of "Bread-and-Cheese-and-Kisses."
30. Leoline. By Mary Cecil Hay, author of "Brenda Yorke."
31. Gabriel's Marriage. A Novel. By Wilkie Collins, author of "No Name," etc.
32. Reaping the Whirlwind. A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay, author of "Old Middleton's Money," etc.
33. Dudley Carlton. A Novel. By Miss M. E. Braddon, author of "Lady Audley's Secret," etc.
34. A Golden Dawn. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne," etc.
35. Valerie's Fate. A Novel. By Mrs. Alexander, author of "The Wooling O'it," etc.
36. Sister Rose. A Novel. By Wilkie Collins, author of "The Woman in White," etc.
37. Anne. A Novel. By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne."
38. The Laurel Bush. A Novel. By Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," etc.
39. Robinson Crusoe. A thrilling narrative by Daniel Defoe.
40. How to Make Poultry Pay. A practical and instructive series of articles by Mr. P. H. Jacobs, Poultry Editor of "The Farm and Garden."
41. Parlor Magic and Chemical Experiments, a book which tells how to perform hundreds of amusing tricks in magic and instructive experiments with simple agents.
42. Gems of the Poets, containing charming selections from Tennyson, Longfellow, Whittier, Byron, Shelley, Moore, Bryant, and many others.
43. Building Plans for Practical, Low-cost Houses, a full description and plans of Eight modern houses, ranging in price from \$300 to \$1200. Illustrated.
44. Anecdotes of Public Men—Washington, Franklin, Webster, Clay, Tilden, Lincoln, Scott, Grant, Garfield, Gladstone, Butler, Hancock, Lee, and all the leading men of the century.
45. Esop's Fables. The work of an ancient genius.
46. Romeo and Juliet. By William Black. An exquisite sketch of two foolish lovers, who mingle tender sentiment with the ludicrous in a way to make everybody smile.
47. Enoch Arden and other gems. By Alfred Tennyson. For purity of style genuine sweetness and touching pathos, the great poet has never surpassed his "Enoch Arden." In this poem of human affection he is at his best, and one cannot know the poet's estimate without knowing it.
48. Cardinal Richeieu. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. This is a masterpiece of dramatic composition.
49. Paul and Virginia. By Bernadin de St. Pierre. This elegant household classic renews its freshness and beauty with every reading. Part I.
50. Part II of above.
51. Miss Toosey's Mission, and Laddie, two of those rarely conceived and charmingly told stories of home and duty which refresh and inspire.
52. Peg Woffington. By Charles Reade. This masterpiece by the great novelist is one of those exquisite novellas with which great minds ornament their work. Part I.
53. Part II of above.
54. Money. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. Whoever read Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" should read Bulwer's "Money."
55. Rastelas. Prince of Abyssinia. By Dr. Samuel Johnson. It is a story of the human heart in its happiest moods, earnest longings, and noblest aspirations. Part I.
56. Part II of above.
57. William Shakespeare: How When Why and What he wrote. By H. A. Taine. There never has been compressed into such brief space so much about the immortal "Hard of Avon" as in this work of the brilliant French author.
58. Doom! An Atlantic Episode. By Justin H. McCarthy. A powerful and thrilling story of life on an American liner.
59. Julia and Her Romeo. By David Christie Murray. This author is always ingenious and racy.
60. The Lady of Lyons. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.
61. The Cricket on the Hearth. By Charles Dickens. One of the sweetest and tenderest things ever written by Dickens.
62. Stubbled in the Dark. By E. Lynn Lytton. A strong, stirring story of the old Neapolitan days. Part I.
63. Part II of above.
64. Calderon the Conrier. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. Full of graphic situations, quick action, and rare information.
65. She, or, Adventures in the Caves of Kor. By H. Rider Haggard. This unique and popular story is a new departure in the field of fiction. Its production has carried the author into fame as a writer and artist. Part I.
66. Part II.
67. Part III.
68. Part IV of above.
69. Bulldog and Butterfly. By David Christie Murray. A spicily told story of human character, yet not a bit overdrawn.
70. The Coming Race, or New Utopia. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. A thrilling history of life among an ideal people found in the centre of the earth, where the oceans are Arabian, the form perfect, the thought pure and motive free. Part I.
71. Part II of above.
72. Duty Unto Death, or Life and Work of Rev. George C. Haddock. Apostle of Prohibition in the Northwest. By his brother, John A. Haddock. Part I.
73. Part II of above.
74. The Trial of Pickwick. By Charles Dickens. This is the first time the entire story of the gallant Pickwick's adventures with the impressionable Mrs. Bardell has appeared in connected form.
75. All'an Quatermain: the latest and best novel from the pen of the popular H. Rider Haggard. In this story of African adventure, the author surpasses the glowing descriptive vigor, startling situation and thrilling activity that made "She" such a revelation in fiction. Part I.
76. Part II of above.
77. Part III.
78. Part IV.
79. The Knightsbridge Mystery. By Charles Reade. One of those ingeniously devised and thrillingly told stories which immortalized Reade. The plot is a work of art.

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A. M. FRASER,
MANAGER OF THE CRITIC, HALIFAX, N. S.

CHESS.

All communications for this department should be addressed to CHIEF EDITOR, Windsor, N. S.

Owing to the non-arrival of our chess-type, we were unable to print a problem in this issue of THE CRITIC, but we hope to be able to do so next week.

In coming for the first time before the players of Nova Scotia, the editor would like to say a few words by way of introduction. Chess-play being still in its infancy in this Province, it is obvious that our column, to be successful, must take this fact into account, and hence, for some time, we shall aim principally at interesting elementary rather than advanced players. While, however, the bulk of our space will be devoted to this purpose, we shall at all times endeavor to report matters of general interest to Chess-players at large, and hence we confidently hope to gain the good-will and support of all.—FLORENT CAISSA.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. E. BRICE.—Received your letter with enclosures. Many thanks.

T. B. R. (Dublin.)—Many thanks for your kindness in forwarding slips.

H. WHITE.—Received your end-game. Shall be glad to hear from you again.

W. H. RICHARDSON, (Crowe)—Very pleased to receive your papers. Hope you will continue.

CONSULTATION GAME.

QUEEN'S KNIGHT'S OPENING.

(For the systematic introduction of this opening into modern Chess we are mainly indebted to Herr Hampo and Major Jaenisch.)

Table with chess moves: WHITE (Chess Editor) and BLACK (The Atlas). Moves include 1 P to K 4, 2 Kt to Q B 3, 3 P to K B 4, etc.

Instead of this move, the "Hand-buch" gives 3 P to Q 4 as best for Black.

Table with chess moves: 4 P to K 5, 5 P to Q 4, 6 B to K 2, etc.

Evidently not foreseeing the next move.

Table with chess moves: 16 Kt takes Kt's P, 17 Q to R 5, 18 B takes Kt, etc.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Chess Association will be held, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor General, at the rooms of the Quebec Chess Club, on Monday, Jan. 16th, and following days. There will be a tournament open to the whole of the Dominion, in which three valuable prizes will be awarded. A silver medal of the value of \$120

is offered to the player who shall twice in succession take the first prize at this annual meeting. The secretary of the Quebec Chess Club will be glad to furnish any additional particulars.

The Hants County Chess Club, Windsor, N. S., began its first winter session on Dec. 12th. The club meetings are held at present on Tuesday evenings, at the houses of the members in rotation. The Hon. Sec. will be glad to hear from any other clubs, with a view to arranging matches, &c.

We have just received a printed copy of the rules of the Collegiate School Chess Club, Windsor, N. S. Judging both from the present number of members, and from the amount of work accomplished during the past session, in matches, tournaments, &c., this club seems to be in a most vigorous and flourishing condition. We trust that similar clubs will ere long be established in many other schools throughout the Maritime Provinces.

We hear from a reliable source that there is some probability of a Chess Club being established among the undergraduates of Kings College, and a short time ago we received similar information with respect to Acadia College, Wolfville. We wish success to both undertakings.

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