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THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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THE CRITIC,

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to his journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The newest bogus thing is chemical milk, made from cheap sugar, water and drugs. It is claimed this product cannot be detected from genuine milk, and can be made at a cost of half a cent a gallon. Milkmen in some American States are said to be paying \$500 for the recipe. What next?

The railway commission which recently sat in Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, and other cities, has fully confirmed what the public has long believed, that is, that railways discriminate in rates between individuals, the largest shippers always obtaining the lowest charges. The right of railway corporations to thus give one business man an advantage over another, may well be questioned. It certainly has the effect of handicapping the smaller dealers.

Mr. J. T. Bulmer is fighting single handed the battle of Dalhousie, in favor of a site in keeping with the needs and future of the University. As the contract for the new building has already been let and work commenced in excavating for the foundation, Mr. Bulmer's efforts to attract the attention of the public are somewhat tardy. The iron is cold and unless Mr. Bulmer can, by the force of his blows, again bring it to white heat, he will only have to regret that an opportunity missed is an opportunity lost.

Amsterdam, Holland, is fast approaching a high rank as a city. Her trade with the Dutch East Indian colonies is assuming vast proportions, while her trade with America in Holland goods has, contrary to expectation, increased instead of diminished. In the colonies the raising of tobacco, although not carried on over ten years, is gratifying, the crops being heavy and the quality excellent. The population of Holland is now 4,000,000, and of the Dutch East India colonies over 22,000,000.

There are but two parts of the globe, inhabitable or uninhabitable, which still afford fields for the enterprising discoverers, and these regions are not the most promising fields for geographical research. The polar regions have been peculiarly fatal to the daring men who have sought to solve their icy mysteries, and the heart of the dark continent is not only difficult but dangerous of access. The latest item of interest from that region is that Hinklemann, an Austrian explorer, has been captured by a Zambezi chief and had his ears cut off and heart taken out. The trophies were presented to the chief's son. Explorers will soon take the North Pole by preference, if these episodes continue to adorn the history of African exploration.

The *Temp* says that England concedes to France a share in the financial administration of Egypt, in return for France's promise not to insist that a date be fixed for the withdrawal of the British troops.

We note that the farmers in Kent County, C. B., have, during the past season, forwarded an immense quantity of mushrooms to the London market, one individual having disposed of 446 baskets of them in one week at a good figure. Our farmers should note the fact and see if they too could not make money in supplying the Halifax markets with this delicate and nutritious fungus. Mushrooms grow in this country without cultivation, but when cultivated the yield is enormous.

Labrador is at best a most inhospitable country, and the people who inhabit it have to undergo untold hardships in securing even a scant livelihood. During the past few years they have undergone great privations, owing to the comparative scarcity and low price of fish, and famine has only been prevented by the assistance provided by Government or by the traders who annually visit the coast. It has been suggested that a colony of Labradorians should be sent to British Columbia, off the coast of which province extensive fisheries are known to exist. The suggestion we think a good one.

When will writers and printers agree on a sign by which the letter "n" can be distinguished from the letter "u"? In manuscript, the two letters, so far as the eye can determine, are exactly the same, and the only reason why compositors and "readers," in nine cases out of ten, carry out the author's intention, is because they use their common sense. But when they are dealing with proper names not familiar to them, they are obliged to make a random shot, and are as often wrong as right; and small blame to them if they shoot wide of the mark. For years the famous French dramatist, Sardou, was referred to as "Sardon."

There has been a project on foot for some time in France of cutting a canal between the ocean and the Mediterranean, and the present Government is studying plans. One of the inducements to sanction, and no doubt to subsidize this undertaking, is that such a canal, in the event of a naval war, would be of the greatest utility to France, whose ships would, in passing from one sea to the other, not have to run the gauntlet and pass under the guns of Gibraltar. In the meantime, Admiral Aube has determined to have some special railway tracks built for the conveyance of torpedo-boats from Cherbourg to Toulon. The torpedo boats to be thus carried are 33 metres long.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

There is a hum in the offices of the legal fraternity throughout the Province, and there is every prospect that business will continue brisk for many months to come. A New Glasgow man who, unwittingly but injudiciously, perpetrated a libellous joke, is to be sued by the injured parties for \$40,000 damages. Professor Sumichrast, of Halifax, has brought a suit against H. V. Hind, of Windsor claiming \$20,000 damages for the distribution of a circular letter containing statements of a defamatory character. The publishers of "Picturesque Canada" are suing those who have subscribed to that work, claiming the payment of the full subscription price, \$2, and producing orders for the work signed by the defendants. As these matters are all before the Courts, an expression of opinion would be out of place, but the litigation, however unprofitable to the interested parties, will prove a veritable bonanza to our lawyers.

Recently a calculation has been attempted in a German contemporary of the relative numbers of individuals engaged in industrial and agricultural pursuits in some of the more important countries of the world. For this purpose an "industrial pursuit" has been made to include the mining and building trades, and by a person engaged in an agricultural pursuit is meant anyone connected with agriculture, properly so called, forestry, cattle, rearing stock, hunting, and fishing. The numbers show that Scotland takes the lead in industries, 548 out of every 1000 thousand individuals being engaged in an industrial pursuit, whilst only 188 are employed in agriculture. The most agricultural country is Italy, with 626 persons out of 1,000, whilst only 228 are occupied in various industries. The following table gives the numbers for the chief countries from which statistics have been obtained:—

	Industry.	Agriculture.
Scotland.....	548	188
England and Wales.....	545	140
Switzerland.....	419	545
Germany.....	363	467
France.....	319	463
United States.....	244	473
Italy.....	228	626
Austria.....	222	598

The sum of these two numbers gives, in each case, the number of people out of 1,000 who have to rely upon "business," apart from a profession, for their incomes.

THE NEW SIXTH SENSE.

The scientific discoveries of the age have prepared the public mind for the acceptance of new and startling truths, but it is doubtful whether the Psychological theories advanced by the authors of a recently published work, entitled "Phantasms of the Living," will find the public prepared to accept as true the conclusions which they have arrived at, as to the existence of a sixth sense in human beings; but the work will, nevertheless, be eagerly read by the thousands who believe it possible for thought and feelings to be transmitted from the mind of one person to another by other means than through the recognized channels of sense. Many a person has, upon more than one occasion, been surprised to hear some one in the same room give expression to the very thought that had passed through their mind an instant before. The Psychological Society believe that there is a distinct sense by which the thoughts of one mind are transmitted to another, and they believe that they have collected sufficient data to show this sense may be cultivated. We notice the names of many distinguished divines and scientific men are enrolled upon the Society's list of members, among others, Professor Ballour Stewart, President, the Bishops of Carlisle and Ripon, Lord Rayleigh, and Professor Henry Sidgwick. "The Phantasms of the Living" is published by Messrs. Tribner. The work consists of two large volumes, containing upwards of 600 pages each. The authors hope, by the publication of numerous observed and verified facts bearing upon telepathy, to gain for it a legitimate place within the field of scientific research. Whether their object will be accomplished remains to be seen. It would certainly be phenomenal for the human race to discover that all the generations, from Adam down, have been living in profound ignorance of the new sixth sense. Voltaire evidently appreciated the need mankind has for a multiplication of the senses, for in one of his tales, he makes a traveller ask of one of the inhabitants of Sirius, "how many senses have you?" "Seventy-two," is the reply, "and every day we live we regret that we have so few."

RUSSIAN JOURNALISM.

The obstacles placed in the way of journalistic enterprise in Russia, and especially the system of strict governmental surveillance, render it well nigh marvellous that the Russian people enjoy a press of any description, not to speak of an independent one. The proprietor of a Russian newspaper must first obtain a license to print, then deposit 2,500 roubles (\$1,875) as caution money, and then submit to a system of admonitions, two of which imply suspension for two months. It is only by courting the protection of influential men that a paper can hope to survive the harassing of government censorship. Articles must be submitted to the censors at least three days before being printed, and as there are no censors in the provincial towns, the two capitals almost monopolize the very precarious pursuit of Russian journalism. Moscow and St. Petersburg themselves possess a considerable number of ably edited newspapers and reviews. The most prominent are the *Golos*, (Voice), the organ of the Czar's intimate friends; the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, published in French, under the ægis of the Chancellor; the *Invalid*, supported by the war office; the *Russian World*, supported by the Czarowitch; the *Odeon Messenger*, and the *Moscow Gazette*. It is in the literary reviews that one must look for that freedom of utterance in which the daily press dare not indulge. Under cover of a critical review most of the cutting social and political satire finds circulation. The government supervision is much less severe upon the reviewer than upon the journalist, and many a political leader of the most dangerous type is dovetailed into a piece of well-written literary criticism. Despotism is always a fertile soil for evasive strategy. Most of these reviews are reeking with infidelity and the most levelling social theories. The essayists are great admirers of Darwin and Renan, and in their political teachings will go a length which the writers who inspired them never dreamt of. The avidity with which atheistic and nihilistic views are welcomed by the readers of these journals is the most dangerous symptom in the social and political malady which makes Russia, in spite of her apparent strength, the second "Sick Man" in Europe.

THE WINTER PORT.

After many days of weary waiting, of that "hope deferred which maketh the heart sick," the problem has been successfully solved, and Halifax has become in deed as well as in name the Winter Port of the Dominion. In spite of its magnificent harbor, with its noble approach and great depth of water, allowing steamships of the largest class to load and unload at its wharves without being inconvenienced by the rising or the falling of the tide; in spite of its immunity from heavy gales, the cheapness of its port charges, its large coal supply, and its being the nearest port to Europe; in spite of all these great natural advantages Halifax has experienced a slow and fluctuating growth, while other Atlantic ports with only a tithe of its advantages have attained to enormous proportions and have become the centres of trade and commerce. There were two main reasons for this comparative stagnation: the want of a fertile and populous country in close proximity, and the absence of rail communication with Quebec, Ontario, and the other great farming countries of the West. The completion of the Intercolonial railway removed the last and by far the most serious obstacle to the city's advancement, and had due wisdom at first been displayed in the management of the road Halifax might have been enjoying for the past ten or twelve years the full benefits of the great through trade between the West and Europe, instead of, as now, just beginning to feel its influence. The railway had been constructed with the avowed object of building up the trade between the West and the Maritime Provinces, and making Hal-

ifax the Winter Port of the Dominion. For military and local reasons a long and tortuous route had been selected, which greatly increased the distance to Quebec and Montreal; but the road was a government one, with no shareholders to appease, built solely to foster interprovincial and foreign trade, and if the intentions of the promoters of the enterprise had been carried out a tariff of through rates to compete with Portland should have been adopted. But unfortunately Mr. Brydges, with his famous or infamous commercial policy, appeared on the scene, and under his management the Intercolonial became a mere local route, and the trade of Halifax was injured instead of being increased. Much was expected when a change of government took place, but although the new administration fulfilled its promises in regard to building the deep water terminus, erecting the elevator, and placing every facility in the way of the speedy and economical handling of freight, it was some time before it grasped the true situation of affairs. The Canada Pacific was in course of construction and the resources of the Dominion were being strained to their utmost to complete that great work. It was a life and death struggle. To halt on the way, to leave any portion of the road uncompleted, would have been a breach of its pledges, would have destroyed the utility of the undertaking, and would have likely brought about a grave financial crisis. With wisdom and determination that are worthy of unstinted praise the government pushed the work to completion. The successful opening of the Canadian Pacific and its purchase of rail connection to Quebec removed the last obstacle in the way of through trade over the Intercolonial. The Grand Trunk was interested in the success of its Portland branch, and had naturally thrown every obstacle in the way of the Halifax route. The competition of the Canadian Pacific neutralized this opposition, and nothing that the government could remedy stood in the way of Halifax becoming the Winter Port. Not only that, but through the liberality of parliament and the push of the directors of the Canada Pacific, a short line to Montreal is now being constructed. The government having done all in its power to make Halifax the Winter Port, all that was needed to reap the benefits was individual enterprise on the part of our merchants. The hour had arrived, and fortunately the man or men were forthcoming. The links had all been forged but they had to be united, and Messrs. Pickford and Black deserve the credit of having completed the chain. Their experience as forwarders and steamship agents had convinced them that, in order to divert traffic this way, through rates must be given direct from the point of shipment to the point of delivery. The Intercolonial has met them more than half way. According to Mr. Pickford's evidence before the commissioners of railways he named the rate at which the steamships would carry grain and the Intercolonial based its through rate on that, so, in reality, the railway authorities made the through rate. Mr. Pickford says: "We commenced with comparatively small shipments but they have been increasing year by year. This year we have been shipping grain all through the summer, and without referring to figures I should say we probably ship 30,000 bushels per month on an average." The importance of the facts disclosed by Mr. Pickford's evidence cannot be over estimated, as they prove that a new era has dawned upon Halifax, and that if the present through rates granted by the Intercolonial are properly taken advantage of the commercial supremacy of the city is assured. All that the most enthusiastic Halifaxians expected was that our city would become the winter port; Mr. Pickford's evidence shows that grain can be shipped this way even in summer. The low rates offered by the Intercolonial, which croakers claimed would prove unremunerative, have been shown in practice to act in the opposite way. The traffic of the road has largely increased, and the flour freights, which had been monopolized by Boston, now come direct by rail. The coal, fish and lumber trade have all been stimulated, and the soundness of the government's railway policy thoroughly proved. Mr. Joseph Seaton, from his long experience and matured judgment in business matters, was able to give the railway commissioners many useful hints, and he showed conclusively the necessity of a sliding scale of through rates to meet the exigencies of competition from rival routes.

The feasibility of making Halifax the Winter Port is now established beyond a doubt, and it is only necessary to perfect the details in order to reap the full advantage. Nature has cast our harbor in her grandest mould, and its great advantages can only be demonstrated by the use of the best facilities that the world affords. We need a line of the largest and fastest steamships, lightning express trains to shorten the time to New York and Montreal, and rapid transit for perishable freight. Give us these advantages and the ocean mails will be sent and received from and at this port, passenger traffic will be diverted this way, competing lines of steamers will give our importers the benefit of the lowest freights, and our city will soon become the greatest Atlantic port on this continent. We need fear no rivals. Our progressive sister city of St. John will be greatly benefited by the completion of the short line, but the great lines of ocean steamships will never consent to make her harbor their terminal point. Louisburg and Sydney are bound to do a greatly increased summer trade, but the masses of ice that block up the coast in winter and spring will prevent them entering the lists against us. We hold the key to the situation, and nothing but our apathy and stupidity can deprive us of it. All classes and parties should rejoice over the great future in store for us. Both Liberal and Conservative governments pushed on the work of completing the Intercolonial. No one party can claim it as its own. Mr. Thomas Kenny, of "bitter regret" fame, and the Hon. Alfred Jones, who, as member of parliament, stated that it was impossible to make Halifax the Winter Port, can now shake hands and confess the one that there is now no cause for regret; the other that he was wrong, as Halifax has become the Winter Port of the Dominion.

Out of 700,000 passengers on British railways last year only 100 were killed; in addition 857 employees, trespassers, or suicides were killed.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription; or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

Don't fail to read the last page of this issue.

Ottawa is to have a literary weekly called *Every Saturday*.

Halifax exports for November were \$200,000 increase over November last year.

Owing to the repeated murderous attacks on the police of Montreal the city council of that place have decided to arm the policemen with revolvers.

The Manitoba provincial elections resulted in Norquay's (Conservative) government being sustained by a majority of seven.

Bishop Medley, of Fredericton, while caressing a pet dog was bitten by the animal upon the cheek. The Metropolitan is a man of eighty years of age, and is highly esteemed throughout New Brunswick.

Mrs. Frank L. Hazen, of St. John, while travelling on the train from Boston to New York, had her pocket picked of a purse containing \$1,000. No clue to the thief has been discovered.

Mr. McKie, of Prince Edward Island, has exported during the present season 300 horses. Island horses now find a ready sale in both Great Britain and the United States, and the trade is yearly increasing.

A Canadian cricket team will visit England during the season of 1887. Among those selected to "carry the war into Africa" are Messrs. W. A. Henry, of Halifax, and G. W. Jones, of St. John.

No one can afford to be without Belcher's Almanac, it is the only standard annual issued in Nova Scotia, and in its present convenient form—bound or unbound—will be found a ready book of reference for the thousand and one things we wish to know but never can remember.

An ex-director of the Exchange Bank, Montreal, states that the liquidators will shortly be able to declare a third dividend of fifteen per cent, which will make in all seventy-five cents on the dollar. He speaks very highly of the manner in which the liquidators have acted with the affairs of the bank.

We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Clayton & Sons on our third page. This enterprising firm fully understand the merits of advertising, and any one in search of bargains in boys, youths' and men's clothing should not fail to pay their establishment a visit. Their custom department is in charge of a most artistic cutter, and all the work turned out is of the best quality and at prices that defy competition.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of the School for the Blind was held last Saturday, and the reports of the board of managers, superintendent and treasurer were read. The finances of the school are in a healthy condition and the internal affairs of the institution on a most satisfactory basis. Parents of blind children should not be slow in availing themselves of the advantages which this special school offers for the training of those deprived of sight. Belcher's, McMillan's, and McAlpine's Almanacs contain just the information which applicants require.

The auxiliary branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society held its annual meeting in Halifax on Monday last. The report of the committee shows that a large number of Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed by the society, but its work is hindered from lack of funds, for which an urgent appeal is made. The Rev. Dr. Macgregor was actively connected with this society for the past forty years, and the late Charles Robson for thirty years. Mr. James Farquhar, the energetic secretary, will be glad to receive contributions from those desiring to assist the work.

The Dominion line steamer *Sarnia* arrived from Liverpool at 7 o'clock on last Tuesday night with the mails three days overdue. When off Pickford & Black's wharf, one of the longest on the harbor, a schooner was in the way, and while attempting to get clear of her the steamer collided with the wharf, carrying away about thirty feet. At the time of the accident it was quite dark, and there was no light on the wharf. The steamer was going slowly and when the wharf was noticed she was put full speed astern but too late to stop her headway, and she cut through the wharf as though it were made of paper. There was, of course, great consternation amongst the passengers, but it was soon allayed and the steamer did not stop until the deep water terminus was reached. A man standing on the end of the wharf barely escaped, by running, from being crushed in the wreck, and the crashing of the timbers made a thundering noise and created quite a panic in the vicinity. Several thousand dollars damage was done the wharf, and there is a good deal of speculation as to who is liable for it.

Messrs. Moir, Son & Company are making special efforts to meet the Christmas trade. With this end in view they have opened the Whitehall on the corner of Barrington and Duke Streets, where they will exhibit the largest and finest stock of confectionery ever seen in this city. A most interesting feature of the new venture will be the manufacture of all kinds of caudies in the long show windows in full view of the public. Plum puddings, rich cakes and Christmas requisites of every description in their line, will be kept in stock or made to order. Don't forget to visit the Whitehall.

The system of leasing crown timber lands in New Brunswick is perhaps the best on the continent. The territory intended to be leased is offered for sale at public auction in blocks of not less than two square miles each at an upset price of \$8 per square mile, the terms of purchase entitling the buyer to a yearly renewal for the period of ten years, on payment of \$4 per year for each square mile. The stumpage charged under these leases is \$1.25 per thousand feet B. M. which is about the same price as is charged by private land owners, and thus money which should find its way into the public treasury really does so; and but little chance for speculation in leases is offered to individuals, which in reality means the putting of money into their own pockets that should have gone into the public funds.

A large audience assembled at the Lyceum on Wednesday evening to listen to an address by the Hon. T. W. Anglin. The meeting was opened by Mr. W. C. Silver, who made an able speech on the questions of the day, his main theme being that the "government must go." He then introduced Mr. Anglin with some very neatly-worded compliments, and that gentleman was greeted with a storm of applause as he arose and commenced his speech. In an address of some two hours in length he touched on the leading political issues of the day, and gave a masterly statement of the Liberal policy and position. He was followed by Hon. Alfred Jones in his happiest style, and by the Premier, Messrs. Longley and Roche. It was half-past twelve before the meeting adjourned. As is usual in Halifax the best of order was preserved, and the different speakers were listened to with marked attention.

Pursuant to notice a meeting of rate payers was held in the Y. M. C. A. building on Tuesday afternoon to take the necessary steps for the organization of a ratepayers' association, with objects as follows: 1. An equitable working of the assessment laws, and a satisfactory system of valuation for taxation purposes. 2. Effective police and other protection to property. 3. Effective influence on legislation as to civic affairs, and in reference to city expenditure, etc., etc. The meeting was largely attended by prominent citizens, and B. G. Gray was appointed chairman and H. P. Burton secretary. The chairman and Senators Almon and Power spoke at length in favor of forming a ratepayers' association, and a motion to the effect that the association be organized was unanimously passed. An influential committee was appointed to arrange for holding a public meeting, and any one who wishes to join the association can do so by calling at Mr. Gray's office.

Mr. Sandford Fleming has received cable information that a Pacific Cable Company has been formed in London under the name and title of "The Pacific Telegraph Company, Limited," with a capital of £2,000,000 sterling, in £10 shares, for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and working telegraphic and other communications between Australia, New Zealand and other places in the Pacific Ocean, Africa and America. The articles of incorporation were registered in London during the present month. A subsidy of £50,000 per annum is expected from the home government, and it is expected that the various colonial governments will co-operate. It will be seen that the company, which is composed of the following, is a strong one:—Lord Milton, Sir J. P. Corry, M.P., Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., Lord Folkestone, Hugh G. Reid, Sir Alfred Slade, Bart., J. H. Heaton, M.P., Hon. E. M. Young, Sir Donald A. Smith, Sandford Fleming, Sir Samuel Wilson, E. G. Finch Hutton, Capt. Ed. Ward Palliser, Randolph C. Want, Sir W. J. Clark, P. Perkius, and Sir George Coote. The company are now awaiting replies from the various colonial governments before commencing operations.

Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, has sailed for England.

California's crop of walnuts this year is the finest ever raised there.

California raisin growers expect to make an average of \$400 an acre this year.

A member of the city council of Boston has introduced an ordinance to have the city purchase the street railroads and conduct them.

If New York will only be patient a few years, maybe France will present her with a monument for General Grant.

Speculation in mining stocks has lately been revived at San Francisco, and some of the old-time flurries and excitements reproduced.

The captured Apaches have been sentenced to life confinement in Florida.

During the year the health officers have seized a million pounds of diseased, decayed and adulterated food in the markets of New York city.

By the burning of a Mississippi steamer, the J. M. White, near Baton Rouge, several passengers and about twenty deckhands are supposed to have perished.

The wool clip of the United States and Territories for 1886 is estimated at 300,000,000 pounds, and the number of sheep at 48,500,000. There are fourteen States credited with 1,000,000 sheep and upward, Texas heading the list with 6,802,615 head, and California being a close second with 6,069,698 head. The estimated average weight of the fleeces varies from four to eight pounds. Arizona has the highest average, eight pounds; and Alabama the least, four pounds.

The condemned anarchists of Chicago have for a time escaped their just due, the lawyers having discovered a technical irregularity, which will probably result in their obtaining a new trial, with the chance of being acquitted.

Between the United States and Europe ply 125 steamships, great ferry boats. They cost \$100,000,000, employ 18,750 men, their coal costs \$1,000,000 a month; they carry 500,000 passengers per annum and from that source alone net \$22,000,000, exclusive of freight.

The Chicago Board of Education has just fitted up and opened workshops in connection with the High School for the purpose of affording such pupils as desire it a course of manual training, and this as a part of the public-school system.

Among the curiosities of the Charleston earthquake was the sinking of a piece of land about eight feet square, on which was growing a large peach-tree which was about sixteen feet high. It went down perfectly perpendicular, and the top branches were left just even with the surface.

Year by year the endowment of Harvard university is being augmented by the bequests of those who desire to leave their "footprint on the sands of time." The latest legacy which this wealthy university has received is that of Mr. E. Price Greenleaf, a wealthy miser of Boston, who bequeathed his entire fortune to the college, the amount being \$500,000.

The earnings and expenses of the elevated railways of New York city for the year ending September 30, 1886, were as follows. Gross earnings, \$7,426,216.28; operating expenses, \$3,960,191.51; net earnings, \$3,466,024.77; effect of reduction in fares to five cents for first seven days of November, 1886, as compared with the first seven days of 1885, showed an increased of receipts of \$21,953.30

A patent has been issued, according to information from Washington, to George Westinghouse, Jr., of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, inventor of the Westinghouse air brake, for a new system of distributing electricity to be used in lighting and for other purposes, which, it is said, will greatly cheapen the electric light and render it a more dangerous rival of illuminating gas than it has ever yet become. The new invention will, it is alleged, effect a saving of about 95 per cent. in the distributing main wires as compared with the Edison "three-wire system." In tests of the invention a single main circuit of wires less than one-fourth of an inch in diameter carried the current for 850 16-candle-power incandescent lights, all situated at a distance of three miles from the dynamo. The inventor claims that to light this number of lamps at an equal distance the Edison system would require from 90 to 100 wires of the same size.

Advices from Calcutta say cholera is decreasing there.

The Queen has decorated Prince Alexander with the Order of the Bath.

Twenty-one persons engaged in the recent riots at Amsterdam have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

Heavy rains are destroying the crops in the North-West provinces of India. The floods are causing much loss of life and damage to property.

Gen. Buller, annoyed at the assertions of Parnellite papers to the effect that he sympathizes with the Home Rulers, has authorized a statement that he is not in favor of Home Rule, and that he is a staunch Unionist.

The Glasgow Mail says it is authorized to state Gladstone did not approve the anti-rent campaign inaugurated by the National League and now in progress in Ireland.

The Belgian officials at Stanley Falls, on the Congo, have had a fight with Arabs and been compelled to abandon the place. Sixty Arabs and two Belgians were killed.

The majority of the powers have replied to the Porte's circular asking advice as to the solution of the Bulgarian difficulty. The replies are all evasive or indefinite.

A despatch from Constantinople says Russia has withdrawn her objections touching the validity of the elections for members of the Sobranje, but insists on a change in the Bulgarian Regency.

Negotiations between the Sultanate of Zanzibar and the German representative for the demarcation of the East African frontier have been concluded amicably.

In accordance with an Imperial order, all small towns and villages in Russia bearing German names will be given Russian names at the beginning of new Year. The Russo-German inhabitants bitterly resent this action of the Government.

The London police are on the track of the thieves who belong to the gang engaged in a number of mail robberies. Railway officials here recognize one of the suspected robbers by a photograph sent here. He returned to London on the night of November 27 and has since visited the receiver of stolen diamonds in that city.

100 female students concerned in the recent attempt to hold a memorial service at the tomb of the Liberal leader Dabralinoff have been deprived of their passports, to prevent their running away. Eighteen have already been expelled from St. Petersburg, without the knowledge of their ultimate fate. Others who belong to high families will probably not be molested.

By the death of Mr. Minghetti, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Depraise, loses his most dangerous rival, and the Vatican one of its most bitter adversaries. He was one of the most prominent supporters of Cavour in the unification of Italy, and accompanied the latter to the conference at Paris in 1856. He frequently held the post of Prime Minister, besides acting for a time as Ambassador to Great Britain and Austria.

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JOHN LOVELL,
Manager and Publisher.
MONTREAL, 4th August, 1886.

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TO

Corner of Sackville St. and Bedford Row.



NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS will be invited in a few days for the construction of the Section of the Cape Breton Railway extending from the Grand Narrows to Sydney, a distance of about 45 miles. This preliminary notice is given in order that Contractors desiring to tender for the work may have an opportunity to examine the location before the winter sets in.
By order.

A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Dept. of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 26th Nov., 1886.

RELIGIOUS.

METHODIST.

Last year \$190,000 were contributed by the Methodists of Canada for missions. An effort is being made to raise this year a quarter million dollars.

Revs. J. J. Teasdale, of Halifax, and J. A. Rogers, of Windsor, delivered missionary addresses this week in Yarmouth.

The last two issues of the *Witness* have demonstrated the wisdom of the General Conference in appointing the Rev. Dr. Latham to the editorship of that paper.

On the 2nd inst. six missionaries sailed from New York to join Bishop Taylor's mission. During the past two years sixty-four missionaries have gone to that field.

BAPTIST.

The Baptists of Scotland lately held their annual meeting. From the reports presented they do not appear to be very numerous, there being only 85 churches, with a membership of 9,930.

Rev. C. H. Spurgeon has been compelled to go to Mentone on account of ill-health. Since his connection with the Tabernacle, nearly 11,000 persons have been received into membership.

Rev. Dr. Galusha Anderson, for some time President of Chicago University, has been appointed to a similar position in Denison University.

The Baptist Churches at Bass River and Economy have secured the Rev. Mr. Havorstock, of Cape Breton as pastor.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The question of how best to commemorate the founding of the Colonial Episcopate of the English Church, is at present engaging the consideration of the authorities of the Church in the city of Halifax. Thus far, it has been determined to lay the foundation stone of a memorial Cathedral on Aug. 12, 1887, the centenary date of the consecration of Bishop Charles Inglis to the See of Nova Scotia. The Cathedral will probably take some years to build and complete, but it should be one of which the Church in Canada will not be ashamed, and would cost certainly not less than \$250,000. The site is not yet determined on, but it would probably be impossible to find a more suitable one than that of the present Bishop's Chapel. The elevation of the ground is good, the foundation solid rock, and the location as near the centre of the future city as can be. Appeal will be made to the Mother Church and the sister Church in the United States for aid, and most likely a special agent will be despatched to work up the matter in England. It is now in order for wealthy churchmen in Nova Scotia to show their patriotism and love for their Church by giving handsomely to the building fund.

Messrs. Mellor and Wolcott, of the C. and C. Church Society, and Mr. Lancaster, of St. Augustine College, will (D. V.) be ordained to the Diaconate in St. Paul's Church on Sunday next.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Presbyterian Church at Bridgewater have extended a call to the Rev. John Ferry, of Glenelg.

Another Presbyterian Church has just been established in Boston, and efforts are being made to obtain the Rev. S. C. Gunn, of Springside, Upper Stowiacke, as the pastor.

A call from Prince St. Church, Pictou, to the Rev. A. Falconer, has been accepted by that gentleman, and he will be inducted on the 28th instant.

The agent of the Presbyterian Church has issued an urgent call for money, the Foreign Missionary and other funds being considerably in debt.

Since the retirement from the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Kittridge, the Third Presbyterian Church of Chicago, one of the largest in the denomination, has been without a pastor. It has issued a number of calls to the Rev. Dr. Withers, of Boston, and that gentleman has at last accepted.

Next Sunday the new Presbyterian Church at Baddeck will probably be dedicated.

CATHOLIC.

The total membership of the Catholic Knights of America is over 16,000 and is rapidly increasing. It has the endorsement of His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, eight archbishops and thirteen bishops, and many clergymen are members.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has given away in charity about twenty millions of dollars.

The Pope has given \$2,000 to the Chinese Christians who are now undergoing a terrible persecution.

The Cardinal Primate of Hungary has lately celebrated his ordination jubilee. He was the son of a poor shoemaker, and crowned the Emperor of Austria as King of Hungary.

Rev. George Washington Brown, an Episcopalian clergyman and assistant rector of St. Paul's, Baltimore, has entered the Catholic faith with a view of studying for the priesthood.

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons will shortly proceed to Rome to receive the "red hat" from the hands of the Pope in public consistory.

Mr. John Chisholm, of Antigonish Co., and a graduate of St. Francis Xavier's College has recently received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the College of the Propaganda, Rome. We congratulate Dr. Chisholm on his acquired distinction.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

While clearing the ground for enlarging the buildings of the National Bank in Rome, the workmen discovered the remains of a Roman house in good preservation, with paintings on the walls, which is pronounced as having been built in the third century.

In Chili, the tram-conductors are usually young women, of twenty to twenty-five years of age, dressed in a uniform of blue flannel, with Panama hats and white pinafores, in the numerous pockets of which they keep their tickets and change.

The Agricultural Bureau estimates that 180,000,000 bushels of corn are required for human food, 621,000,000 for working animals, 20,000,000 for seed, 100,000,000 for the production of spirits and glucose, 65,000,000 for export, and upward of 900,000,000 for the food of meat producing animals; in all, 1,889,000,000 bushels. But our crop this year is only 1,650,000,000 bushels. Where is the balance coming from? From the stock of old corn left over, we suppose.

W. A. Croft tells in the *Washington, D.C., Post* a story which he says was told him at dinner by a member of the Hilton family about A. T. Stewart's body. It is that two years after the stealing of the body Mrs. Stewart paid \$25,000 for its return. The bones were delivered to Mrs. Stewart's representative at a secluded spot in West Chester County, and the money paid over to a masked man. The representative had to go alone. The whole affair was enveloped in mystery, and every precaution taken to prevent the betrayal of the thieves. The remains were then taken to Garden City on a special train at night.

A carpet merchant of Vienna has a curious collection of ancient woollen and linen cloths, including more than three hundred specimens. Many of them have been taken from tombs, and are stretched on folios of cardboard to preserve them. Some of the fragments are only a foot square, but the larger ones make up an entire Roman toga, which is said to be the only one in the world. There are a great many embroidered dresses, and a deal of knitting and crewel work. Double chain stitch seems to have been as familiar to the Egyptian seamstress, sewing with bone needles, as it is to modern women. There are some very quaint and unusual designs in the old collection of cloths, but there are also some very common things. It is curious to find that the common blue check pattern of our dusters and workhouse aprons was in general use among the Egyptians more than 1,000 years ago.

When Mr. C. A. Marshall, of Wythville, Va., who has been sojourning for the past three months in the Big Horn country, took the train for his home in the Old Dominion, he was accompanied by his famous Maltese cat, Driver, says the *Cloyne Leader*. This animal weighs about twenty-five pounds and is a marvel of intelligence. At the Big Horn ranch, where Mr. Marshall was sojourning, it was Driver's regular evening duty to go after and drive up the milch cows. There were twelve of those cows, and Driver was never known, except on one occasion, to leave one of them behind. The occasion referred to is a very good illustration of the sagacity of the Maltese. He found one of the best cows in the bunch so badly crippled that she could not get home. Driver drove her as far as possible and then, leaving her, hurried the others home on the lops. Arriving at the corral, he impatiently waited until the calves were turned with the cows, when he selected the one belonging to the absent cow, and started on the back track with it. He was curiously followed and was seen to take the calf straight to its mother. Here he seated himself on his haunches and benignly purred, while the stricken mother suckled her offspring. He then drove the calf back to the corral, and doubtless enjoyed a tranquil and unbroken night's rest. All this and much more Mr. Marshall proudly related of his favorite, who, with an appreciative cast of countenance, gravely listened to the sounding of his praises. Driver displayed his usual perspicuity at the depot. He gave vent to frightful meows and swelled his tail to the size of a club when an expressman perpetrated an overcharge upon his master, thereby frightening that extortionist into a fit of at least a week's honesty, and when the train pulled out Driver was seen perched upon the back of a seat, looking over his master's shoulder at a time-table, with an expression that would have been a revelation to the modern tourist.

A new industry has sprung up in Delhi. Some enterprising natives, the *London Graphic* says, are taking advantage of the government's offer of two annas for every snake killed to trade on the old traditional tree and serpent worship. August 4 is the great serpent-worshipping day, and every Tuesday the pipal tree is worshipped by Hindoo women. Taking advantage of the reverence paid to snakes, a large number of men have set to work catching these reptiles. Then, taking them into the streets where pious Hindoos most abound, they announce that they are on their way to claim the reward, but that they are quite willing for a piece or two more to release the reptiles, and so save themselves from the sin of snake murder, which their poverty would otherwise drive them to commit. The appeal is invariably successful.

A French physician announces that distressing or excessive palpitation of the heart can always be arrested by bending double, the head down and the hands hanging, so as to produce a temporary congestion of the upper portion of the body. In nearly ever instance of nervous or aortic palpitation, the heart immediately resumes its natural function. If the movements of respiration are arrested during this action, the effect is still more rapid.

THE PLOW-BOY'S INSPIRATION.

He had followed the plow, this youth, for days,
From early morn till evening's shade,
And the loosened earth, turned up to the rays
Of the sun, in many a furrow laid.

But now he turns from the plow away,
Pausing to listen again and again,
What melody charms the youth to day,
Is it cow bells tinkling adown the lane?

O, is it the coo of the turtle dove,
Woefully calling her wandering mate—
"Come back, come back to your own true love;
Don't elsewhere seek for a happier state?"

No, no; but his listening ear has caught
The sound of music from far away,
Inspiring him with the glowing thought
That burdens the new-found minstrel's lay.

And this is the strain of the minstrel's lyre:
"For toil there is recompense; labor is meet;
But the seats of honor reach higher and higher,
And the humblest may rise from seat to seat."

Though the cowbells tinkle down the lane,
And the dove sings woefully up in the tree,
The bell's tinkle, and the doves refrain,
Charm never so much as that melody.

But hearken, youth, in the full of that song,
"This chorus comes to the tutored ear,
With a mawkish cadence floating along,
A sad interlude to the strain you hear:"

"To the worthy, seat'd on Honor's throne
The statesman filling the chair of state,
The judge on the bench, little rest is known,
Mock-rose and flattery woo the great?"

The seekers for glory have seldom found
In hard-earned honors more pleasures than pain,
But hearken again from seed in the ground
Will grow abundance of golden grain;

And yearly the sheaves in the farmer's barn
Be piled till they up to the rafters climb,
And the scented hay and the ripened corn
Be stored away for the winter time.

The farmer is promised a new reward,
In the fruits of the field and the orchard and stall;
With heaven's blessings on land and lord
To mortal no happier lot could fall.

In his peaceful home, in a quiet nook,
Away from the world's turmoil and strife,
With friends and plenty, and little to brook,
The proudest might envy him such a life.

Inspiring the strain of the minstrel's lyre:
"For toil there is recompense; labor is meet;
But the seats of honor reach higher and higher,
And the humblest may rise from seat to seat."

But sweet the refrain of the turtle-dove,
Woefully calling her wandering mate.
"Come back, come back to your own true love;
Don't elsewhere seek for a happier state?"

—Scribble.

ACCLIMATISATION.

Our failures in the acclimatisation of vegetable life have almost always been due to sentiment. The useful plants and trees have, as a rule, flourished admirably. For example, Mr. J. A. Froude states in his "Oceana" that the oats, barley, peas, beans, and potatoes were produced in such luxuriance in Ballarat that he could believe Herodotus's account of the crops grown on the plains of Babylon. A reaping machine had stopped in a field of oats, the stems of which stood up like a wall, and seemed as if no horse could force a passage through them. For seventeen successive years the ground had been cropped, and not a particle of manure had been put upon it. The strangest point about it was that there were no weeds, and Mr. Froude offers the rather bold suggestion that "weeds are said to be a product of high civilisation, and do not exist in nature."

Almost the only failure in useful plants has been the watercress. Introduced some years ago in New Zealand, it has spread as rapidly as did the "American weed" in our own country, choking up the rivers, and involving the annual outlay of many thousand pounds in keeping the rivers sufficiently clear for navigable purposes. Otago and Canterbury have been severe sufferers from the watercress. Sentiment, however, has always been a deadly foe to the colonist: for example, some thirty years ago a Scotch emigrant to Australia took with him a thistle in a flower-pot. Great were the rejoicings among the Scotch colonists, a dinner was given in honor of the national plant, and it was then carefully transferred to the soil. Now it has played the same part on land as the watercress in the rivers, and has rendered whole tracts of land useless. It defies all attempts at expiration, and great sums of money are paid yearly in restraining the once welcomed plant. That the thistle would probably become an injurious plant ought to have been anticipated, and the very seeds should have been prohibited as relentlessly as we prohibit the Colorado beetle. But who would have thought that the sweetbriar could do any harm? At home we are only too glad to have it in our gardens, and a sweetbriar hedge is a thing of joy and an object of justifiable pride. No one, therefore, would have blamed the missionary and his wife who took with them a plant of sweetbriar as a fragrant memorial of their garden in the old country. But when set in the fresh rich soil of Australia the plant grew with almost savage fury. It drove great roots into the ground, developed itself from a shrub to a tree, and spread with such alarming rapidity that it is quite as troublesome as the thistle. Tasmania, which is to be the mainland of Australia what the Isle of Wight is to England, has suffered terribly from the sweetbriar. New

Zealand has fared no better; Mr. Froude states that it is a worse foe to the agriculturist than the native fern. "At home so chary of growth, it expands here into vast bushes, becomes a weed and spreads like a weed. It overruns whole fields in two or three seasons, will turn a cleared farm into an impenetrable thicket, and has to be torn out with cart ropes and teams of horses."

The reason for this astonishing growth of the thistle and sweetbriar is the same as that which accounts for the fecundity of the rabbit and sparrow. The rich and fertile soil affords the plants abundance of food, and the native flora is so feeble that the sturdy intruders have no rivals to check their progress. Another remarkable point in the history of acclimatisation is its effect upon previously existing animals. The Chinese soldier, when rebuked for running out of an assaulted fort, replied logically, "No two piecy man can stand in one piecy man's place. If he will come I must go." The aphorism is equally applicable to the animals. When the flocks and herds of the white man enter upon a new land the previous occupiers must make way for them. So, in America, the bison is disappearing in exact ratio with the increase of sheep, swine, and oxen. Of course the depredations of hunters have some effect on the bison, but the rapid and steady decrease in its numbers is not due so much to the rifle bullet of the hunter, whether red or white, as to the continual increase of sheep and cattle, which crowd it out of its pasture lands. Similarly, in Australia, the kangaroo has been forced to give way to the sheep and horned cattle. No "two piecy" beast can stand in "one piecy" beast's place, and the inferior must needs retire before the superior.

Now comes the question of Reciprocity. We have given much to other lands, but we have taken a little in exchange. From New Zealand and the Pacific Archipelago we have received nothing. There are no mammals more than a few inches in length, and the only large bird, the moa of New Zealand, has long disappeared down the throats of the natives. Neither has Australia given us anything, inasmuch as the mammals are all marsupials, for which our climate is not suited. There are certainly a few gallinaceous birds, such as the brush turkey, the jungle fowl, and the leipoa (or "native pheasant"), but these birds need too much space to be useful in this country, where every yard of ground has its value. From America we have received the turkey, a bird which has withstood acclimatisation so well that, like the barn-door fowl (which came from Asia), it has long been considered as a British bird. This is the more remarkable as the bird belongs to a different continent. Like most acclimated creatures, it has undergone some changes of form and color, and has nearly learned to abandon its wild ways, such as straying and concealing its nest. The two greatest gifts, however, which we have received from America are the potato and tobacco. How the latter plant would thrive in this country it is impossible to say, as the law prohibits its cultivation. I believe, however, that it would be perfectly successful, and, indeed, the very fact of its prohibition infers as much. As for the potato, it is now as completely a British plant as the wheat or the barley, and has been again acclimated over the greater part of the earth's surface. Maize (which in America is invariably called by the name of "corn") has not succeeded in this country, but has been thoroughly successful in South Africa, where it thrives wonderfully under the name of "mealies," and now forms the chief nourishment of the various tribes which are called by the collective name of "Kaffirs."

The great fish question is far too large for more than a casual mention, and we will proceed to what I will venture to call the Reflex question—*i. e.*, the effect of the indigenous animals upon those which have been imported, and its reciprocal action on themselves. We have seen how marvelously the sheep has increased in New Zealand, where exists no carnivorous beast or bird that could check the increase of the flocks. But the introduction of the sheep has caused the development of a carnivorous bird far more destructive, because more plentiful, than the eagle itself. This very unexpected foe is one of the long-beaked parrots peculiar to New Zealand (*Nestor notabilis*), popularly called kia, or mountain parrot. Just as the sparrow abandoned insects for fruits, grain, and flowers, the kia has reversed the process, and abandoned its normal vegetable diet in order to become a sheep-killer of the most confirmed atrocity. Like other criminals it is a nocturnal bird, and not easily seen on account of its dark-green plumage. In 1868 it was noticed that the kia was in the habit of visiting the carcasses of sheep which were hung up for consumption, and eating the fat around the kidneys. Finding this fat very much to their taste, but not being able to procure a sufficiency of it, the birds took to attacking the sheep while living, never doing more than perching on the backs of the unhappy animals, tearing away the skin, and digging out the kidney fat with their pickaxes of beaks. In a few years this formerly harmless bird has become the curse of the sheep-run, and not long ago out of three hundred fat sheep two hundred were killed by the kia within five months. The natural consequence is that war has been declared against the kia, which in all probability will be exterminated. A more bizarre result of acclimatisation could never have been anticipated. The part which has been played by acclimatisation in the modern history of the world cannot be overrated. Our vast and numerous colonies—"Greater Britain," as they have been happily called—would have been impossible had we not been able to take with us our beasts, birds, cereals, and fruits. We cannot imagine Australia or New Zealand without cattle, sheep, horses, grain, and fruit. We have made some mistakes, but not so many as might have been made, and we can at all events take warning by those failures, so as not to repeat them in the future. Of this we may be certain. For successful acclimatisation it is necessary to be thoroughly acquainted with the animal or plant which is to be transferred to a new soil. It is also necessary to understand the climate and other conditions of both countries; and, lastly, no animal or plant should be imported which cannot be kept within the control of the breeder or agriculturist.—*Longman's Magazine.*

OUR REPORTER'S XMAS RAMBLINGS.

"Let us take a walk down Fleet Street" said Dr. Johnson, and every one can imagine how enjoyable a stroll in such excellent company must have proved. With such an illustrious example before him a reporter of THE CRITIC, while debarred from witnessing the sights and scenes of the world's great metropolis, determined, in a more humble way, to take a stroll through the principal business streets of Halifax, and to record for the benefit of THE CRITIC's thousands of country subscribers the preparations made by our leading wholesale and retail merchants to meet the demands for holiday goods.

It was a bright, clear afternoon, with no prospects of the thaw that has since, like the plague, come upon us. The sleighing was excellent, and as the reporter slipped into Hollis Street and started south at a brisk pace he felt that glow of health and that exuberance of spirits always imparted by cool, bracing air and bright skies.

Entering the establishment of Mr. W. H. Johnson the well-known dealer in pianos and organs, he found that it was being well patronized, and that Mr. Johnson and his obliging clerks were busy in explaining the merits of a very large stock of the finest instruments in the market. A well known amateur was seated before a Knabe playing some brilliant selections, and the nobility and power of tone of the instrument, its elasticity and security of touch were fully demonstrated. The reporter was here guilty of an unheard-of act, one for which he is deserving of grave censure. Notwithstanding that he had no intention of investing, and regardless of the fact that a number of *bona fide* customers were waiting, he managed to monopolize the attention of one of the clerks for some ten minutes. He asked the price of a Chickering, and thumbed away at its keys till it groaned in protest. A Wheelock, a Hallet and Davis, and a Stevenson were all priced and tortured in turn. Then he upset and nearly ruined a piano stool, at the same time giving an ugly dent to the case of a handsome Bell organ, and then, without apology, he took his departure, saying he would "Call again next week." (Chestnut). Was the like ever heard of before?

North on Hollis Street past Harrington's long window, with its tempting display of Christmas edibles, he hurried, but fast as he was going a young city belle, with rosy cheeks and flashing eyes and countenance all aglow with health and happiness, passed him like a flash. Her jaunty sealskin cap, her sealskin cloak, her little, (no, we can't write that, Halifax girls are not noted for their little feet), her well proportioned feet cased in fur-topped boots, proved that she combined that most desirable requisite—wealth—with beauty. On she went, but there was a sudden halt in her pace, she came down to a dignified and stately walk, and a few seconds afterward bowed most charmingly to some one across the street. Glancing across, the reporter noticed half a dozen officers grouped around the club steps, and found that she had been undergoing military inspection.

The reporter had been so engrossed in watching this little scene that he had passed Smith's and Egar's drug establishments, with their large assortments of Christmas cards, fine perfumes, rare toilet articles and nauseating medicines, without notice, and only recovered himself in time to turn into Freeman Elliott's. Here he feasted his eyes on an array of cosy dressing gowns, Turkish smoking caps, stunning neckties and gentlemen's requisites of every description. But he only feasted his eyes, as he carried the proverbially empty wallet of the reporter. Leaving temptation behind he still continued north. The sidewalks were crowded with pedestrians, sleighs with merry jingling bells dashed past, their bobbed and befurred occupants beaming with good-natured enjoyment. All was life, gaiety, excitement, and a horse car dragging slowly by with its four toiling horses, seemed decidedly out of place.

On went the reporter, just pausing to glance into Sievert's window with its array of smokers' requisites, Indian goods, snow shoes and shining skates, passed Mylius' drug store and the great wholesale establishment of Burns & Murray, until George street was reached, where a turn was made and a visit paid to the business premises of Messrs. W. & C. Silver. Space forbids him from more than mentioning the great stock of dry goods and clothing to be seen in this establishment. There the richest and poorest meet, the one, it may be, to purchase silks and satins, the other, good cheap prints, warm blankets and comfortable woollen goods, but the same courtesy is extended to all.

What a surging crowd pours down George Street, and how many pause at Mitchell's. The reporter was struck by the total absorption of one little fellow who, with nose pressed against the window pane, was taking in with great wondrous eyes the fruit, the toys, the rich confectionery and luscious fruits displayed within. It reminded him of the happy days when Santa Claus was a reality to him, when a copper was a fortune and a ten cent piece a bonanza.

From Mitchell's to Sarre's is but a step, and here the reporter met a few would-be dudes, who puffed fragrant cigarettes and imagined that every pretty girl who went by was "clean gone" on them. Sarre has his usual well selected stock of smokers' requisites, snow shoes, skates, &c., &c., but doesn't know where to advertise them to the best advantage.

But the reporter had special friends of THE CRITIC to see, to whom he was bound to give a Christmas greeting, and so he hurried around Knowles' corner into Granville Street. Gossip's book store and Albro's lured him in, but he passed on to Macgregor & Knight's, pausing at Anderson, Billing & Co.'s, to heave a sigh of regret that the kindly head of that establishment had been taken from us. It seemed but yesterday that he had been walking in our streets. His bright smile, his gentle courtesy, his neat attire, all so well remembered, and yet he has gone forever. Truly, "in the midst of life we are in death." How many of our old merchants are leaving us! Will the new and pushing generation be able to acceptably fill their places? The young and enterprising stationers and booksellers, Messrs. Macgregor

& Knight, have rapidly risen to favor and the reporter found that they were being awarded a liberal patronage. With a large selection of books to suit every taste, grave and gay, learned and unlearned, heavy treatises and bright works of fiction, works of travel, beautifully bound and finely illustrated editions, bibles, prayer books, church literature, in fact everything in this line that could tempt the Christmas purchaser is to be found on their tables and shelves. Fancy goods of all descriptions are here, and the reporter lingered so long over the literary feast spread before him that twilight had deepened into darkness before he left.

The shops had been lighted up, the brilliant glow from the electric lamps dazzled the eye as it was reflected from the snowy streets, the air had taken on an icier edge and pedestrians were hurrying along with bowed heads, and above the jingle of the sleigh bells the shrieking of the runners of the sleighs was distinctly audible. Nothing more was to be seen that night, so the reporter hurried home, but will continue his rambles on another occasion.

One morning in October, between eleven and twelve, while running his train over the Delaware division at a high rate of speed, about two miles this side of Parker's Glen (New York), engineer Merritt Turner saw a handsome buck deer on the track about a quarter of a mile ahead of him. The track at this point runs for miles along the side of the mountain, its precipitous sides being on the south side and the Delaware River on the north, 30 feet below the level of the track. The deer could not climb the mountain, and evidently did not relish the idea of making the 30-foot jump; so it increased its speed, and bounded away down the track ahead of the approaching train. Engineer Turner took in the situation, and, throwing his engine wide open, started after the affrighted animal. It was lungs and wind against steam and axle-grease, and the latter won. The deer was overtaken, and the locomotive threw the poor creature with great force against the rocks, fatally injuring it. The trainmen cut the animal's throat, threw the carcass on the pilot of the locomotive, and brought it Port Jervis. The trainmen feasted on venison for a week.—Iron.

COMMERCIAL.

The volume of trade being considerably checked by bad roads and unseasonable weather, has been somewhat restricted. There is little change to note in the general condition of wholesale business. The demand for fancy and holiday goods has been good, and considerable trade has been done in those lines.

The general feeling is one of confidence in the future and trade manifests healthy symptoms. Payments are perhaps a little less prompt than might be desirable, but, on the whole, they have been satisfactory.

Our remarks in the last issue of THE CRITIC on the sad mismanagement of postal matters has, we are happy to say, attracted the attention of the persons to whom the people have intrusted the conduct of this important branch of the public service, and we have been assured that every effort will be made to grant the reforms asked for. The remarks that we felt impelled by the circumstances to make were not intended to impute any blame to the local postal authorities—who always do all that they can under their instructions to meet the desires of the public—but were written in view of the fact that the Dominion Government is bound to give the business portion of the community every facility of inter-communication. That government is about to negotiate a new contract with some steamship company to carry the mails between Canada and Europe, and the rights of business people should be duly weighed, as well as those of the contracting company, in arranging the details of the agreement. It appears to us that this is a matter in which the Board of Trade should move for the general interest. A representation from that body would, doubtless, have its due effect, and a reform in postal matters might, and probably would, be attained through them.

While treating of postal matters it is not out of place to note that the postal system of the United States is far more liberal than that of Canada. In the neighboring nation two cents will carry a one-ounce package not only through their own territories but also to any place in Canada. A Canadian desiring to send a letter has to pay three cents for every half-ounce. The Americans also propose to reduce their rate of postage to one cent per ounce, and the proposition is likely to receive the approval of Congress. Why does Canada stick to the old ruts? This country cannot afford to be behind the age. The ancient idea that the postal department should be a direct source of revenue was exploded long ago; and all nations except Canada have recognized the fact, and have adopted their laws in accordance therewith. The indirect revenue derived by any government through other channels more than counter-balances any apparent loss by the postal department. The time is not far distant when the mails will be—like public highways—absolutely free.

BREADSTUFFS.—Markets are firm with a marked tendency to advance. Wheat in grain centres has gone up from 6 to 8 cents within the last month, and flour from 10 to 25 cents per barrel. Still the local supply being fully equal to the demand it has been difficult for city dealers to push prices up and we do not materially alter our quotations. As stated in previous issues we do not think that any permanent advance may be confidently counted upon. The present rise seems to be purely speculative and does not appear to have any real basis, so that a collapse may be looked for before long.

DRY GOODS.—Retailers complain that trade is very dull, but impartial opinion is that a fair volume of business is doing for this season of the year. Commercial travellers are preparing to go out again, and wholesale men are in receipt of as many orders as they can conveniently fill. Cottons and woolsens continue to be very firm and all advances made are held.

PROVISIONS.—Trade in this line is very quiet. There is a steady country demand for both beef and pork, but figures remain unchanged.

BUTTER.—An active demand exists for choice qualities, which are scarce. Ordinary and inferior brands are slow and hard to sell.

CHEESE is very firm and in good call. The world's supply of this article is evidently far below the average and fancy prices are imminent.

SUGARS AND MOLASSES.—The sweet market continues to be very sluggish. Large cargoes are held in importers' hands and difficulties are experienced in disposing of them at paying figures. It is hard to believe that better prices than now prevail can be reasonably anticipated. The production of both cane and beet sugars has this year been so enormous, and the improved processes of refining are so cheap that the probabilities are largely in favor of a further reduction.

TEA AND COFFEE.—The demand has been active and prices have ruled firm. In England and New York an advance has been made in teas. Coffee is difficult to secure at quoted prices in central markets, owing to the fact that the product this year is not much more than half the average of preceding seasons.

LIVE STOCK.—A large quantity of neat cattle has arrived from Antigonish and Cape Breton since our last report. Most of it has been slaughtered and sold at auction at very low prices. Still, as the care of these animals involves a merely nominal expense, their raisers find money in sending them here.

REAL ESTATE.—Only two or three transfers of real property have transpired during the week. Several others are pending and may be closed any day. The divergence in the views of buyers and sellers prevents the consummation of many proposed contracts. It seems hard to persuade holders of building lots that the prices that they paid for land some years ago, when there was a "boom" in real estate, are not those that prevail now. In time it is possible that figures may recover, but meanwhile the interest on investments in this line piles up, and it is not at all probable that it can be met by sales in the future.

FISH.—Our fish market seems to be in a strange kind of a way, particularly for mackerel. We are quite certain that the catch of mackerel is very short of previous years, both on the U. S. coast and our own. We also know that the stock of mackerel in the U. S. markets is much less than at any time for many years. Yet there seems to be no sale for certain kinds of mackerel, and some of the reasons that are put forth for no sale are the following: Consumers in the United States are looking for cheap fish. Pork and beef are very low and likely to remain so for some time. The frozen codfish and frozen herring season is now about commencing, those being so much cheaper than No. 1 mackerel that the latter are almost unsaleable. Good extra 1's and also good No. 2 large can be sold. Another reason is that according to our fish inspection law a No. 1 mackerel is really a third-class fish—as first comes mess, then extra, then No. 1, then No. 2 large. The No. 1's are culled too closely to get all out of them that can possibly make an extra mackerel, then the No. 2 large are culled too closely to get all the No. 1's that can be possibly got out of them, making those inspected No. 1 and No. 2 large look too poor; they are so much alike that in the American markets No. 1 and 2 large are only about the same price. There seems to be little or no enquiry for mackerel in this or the American markets at the present time. We hope that later on there may be some more in them, but we do not expect to see high prices for fat mackerel again this season.

We think there are very few fish of any kind now on the coast to come to market except bank codfish. Hard shore codfish of really good quality have advanced and have been sold readily at an advance of last sales. Some herring are coming in from the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, which will help to fill the gap made by the short catch of fall herring on our coast. There are but few mackerel selling in our market at present, on account of the recent dullness and decline in the U. S. markets. Those that have any still on hand prefer holding for a while expecting an advance later on, but we think the prospect for the large advance that some holders are looking for will not come, and particularly for No. 1 and 2 large mackerel. Any that are now sold is because holders are not in a position to hold. Fat split July herring are about cleaned out of the market, and very few fall split remain unsold.

There have been no alewives offering for some time, and this description of fish seems very scarce indeed, we think much more so than for quite a number of years.

Late advices from the Boston fish market are about as follows: "The fish trade during the past week has been very light, what there is doing is mostly in codfish and herring. Mackerel continue dull and prices remain firm. Dealers are not anxious to buy, while holders do not seem anxious to sell. There is at present more mackerel in Boston than at all the rest of the New England ports combined, and they still continue to arrive quite freely from Nova Scotia, a cargo of about 300 bbls. having arrived this day (10th inst.) from Port LaTour. Herring are arriving more abundantly, the bulk of the receipts during the week consisting of Eastport round which are selling about \$2.75 per bbl. Other varieties of barrel herring are in light receipt, and prices remain firm at last quotations. A limited quantity of frozen herring are arriving—last sales \$1.50 per 100 fish. It is now about time for them to arrive fast enough to supply the demand. In codfish there is a better trade than usual at this time of the year. Receipts continue large and dealers are now supplied with both dry and pickled. There are now from 10,000 to 12,000 qtls. afloat here, the largest proportion of which are dry. Quotations are as follows: Large dry Bank \$2.50 for Quereaux, and \$2.75 for Grand Bank, medium \$2.25. Large Bank pickled \$2.25 for Quereaux, and \$2.37 for Grand Bank, medium \$2.12.

Fresh fish have been scarce, and are now selling 4 to 6 1/2 cts. for haddock, 4 to 5 cts. for cod and 10 to 13 cts. for halibut."

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. We intend devoting special attention to our Commercial and Financial Articles, and to our Market Quotations, and to this end have secured the co-operation of several persons thoroughly conversant with questions of finance and commerce.

GROCERIES.

SUGAR.		
Cut Leaf.....	8 to 8 1/2	
Granulated.....	6 to 6 1/2	
Circle A.....	5 1/2 to 5 3/4	
Extra C.....	5 1/4 to 5 1/2	
Yellow C.....	4 1/2 to 5	
TEA.		
Congou, Common.....	17 to 19	
" Fair.....	20 to 23	
" Good.....	25 to 29	
" Choice.....	31 to 33	
" Extra Choice.....	35 to 38	
Oolong—Choice.....	37 to 39	
MOLASSES.		
Barbadoes.....	30 to 32	
Demerara.....	30 to 35	
Diamond N.....	40	
Porto Rico.....	31	
Tobacco—Black.....	37 to 48	
" Bright.....	42 to 58	
BISCUITS.		
Pilot Bread.....	2.60 to 2.90	
Boston and Thin Family.....	5 1/2 to 6	
Soda.....	6 1/2 to 5 1/2	
do in 11b boxes, 50 to case.....	7 1/2	
Fancy.....	8 to 15	

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

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints.....	20 to 25
" " in Small Tubs.....	20 to 24
" Good, in large tubs.....	19 to 20
Store Packed & oversalted.....	10 to 12
Canadian Creamery.....	24
" Township, Fancy.....	22 to 23
" " Finest.....	20 to 22
" " fine.....	18 to 20
" Morrisburg and Brockville.....	17 to 19
" Western.....	13 to 16
Cheese, N. S.....	12
" Canada.....	13

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

FISH FROM VESSELS.

MACKEREL.	
Extra..... as to quality.....	16 00
No. 1.....	14 00
" 2 large.....	9 00
" 2 large.....	7.50 to 8.00
" 3 large.....	5.50 to 5.75
" 3.....	5.50 to 5.75
HERRING.	
No. 1 Shore, July.....	3.00
No. 1, August.....	none
" September.....	4.00 to 4.25
Round Shore.....	3.75
Labrador, in cargo lots, per bl.....	4.50
ALEWIVES, per bbl.....	none
CODFISH.	
Hard Shore.....	2.80 to 3.00
Bank.....	2.10
Bay.....	none
".....	16.00
SALMON, No 1.....	2.00 to 2.25
HADDOCK, per qt.....	2.10
HARR.....	none
CUSK.....	none
POLLOCK.....	none
HAKE SOUNDS.....	15 to 50c per lb.
COD OIL A.....	29 to 30

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

LOBSTERS.

Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing).	
Tall Cans.....	4.00 to 5.00
Flat.....	6.00 to 6.50
Per case 4 doz. 11b cans,	

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Pine, clear, No. 1, per m.....	25.00 to 28.00
" Merchantable, do do.....	14.00 to 17.00
" " No 2 do.....	10.00 to 12.00
" Small, per m.....	8.00 to 10.00
Spruce, dimension good, per m.....	9.50 to 10.00
" Merchantable, do do.....	8.00 to 9.00
" Small, do do.....	6.50 to 7.05
Hemlock, merchantable.....	7.00
Shingles, No 1, sawed, pine.....	3.00 to 3.50
" No 2, do do.....	1.00 to 1.25
" spruce, No 1.....	1.10 to 1.30
Laths, per m.....	2.00
Hard wood, per cord.....	4.00 to 4.25
Soft wood.....	2.25 to 2.50

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

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Ex. Mess, duty paid.....	11.00 to 11.50
" Am. Plate.....	11.50 to 12.00
" Ex. Plate.....	12.75 to 13.00
Pork, Mess, American.....	new 13.50 to 14.00
" " " " " " " "	old 12.00 to 12.50
" American, clear.....	15.00 to 15.50
" P. E. I. Mess.....	new 13.00 to 13.50
" " " " " " " "	old 12.50 to 12.75
" P. E. I. Thin Mess.....	10.50 to 11.00
" " Prime Mess.....	9.00 to 10.00
Lard, Tubs and Pails.....	10 to 11
" Cases.....	12 to 12 1/2
Hams, P. E. I.....	none
Duty on Am. Pork and Beef.....	25 per bbl.

Prices are for wholesale lots only, and are liable to change daily.

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Wool—clean washed, per pound.....	15 to 20	
" unwashed.....	12 to 15	
Salted Hides, No 1.....	7 1/2	
Ox Hides, over 60 lbs, No 1.....	7 1/2	
" " " " " " " " " "	under 60 lbs, No 1.....	7 1/2
" " " " " " " " " "	over 60 lbs, No 2.....	6 1/2
" " " " " " " " " "	under 60 lbs, No 2.....	6 1/2
Cow Hides, No 1.....	6 1/2	
No 3 Hides.....	5	
Calf Skins.....	8 to 10	
" Deacons, each.....	25 to 35	
Lambskins.....	25 to 70	

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

APPLES, (No. 1 Gravensteins) per bbl.....	2.50 to 2.75	
" " " " " " " " " "	Other No. 1 Varieties.....	1.75 to 2.25
Oranges, per bbl, Jamaica (new).....	6.00	
" " " " " " " " " "	Valencia.....	6.00 to 6.25
Lemons, per box.....	3.50 to 3.75	
Cocanuta, per 100.....	5.00 to 5.50	
Onions, American, per lb.....	2 1/4 to 2 1/2	
Foxberries, per bbl, new.....	3.90 to 4.00	
Grapes, Almeria, kegs.....	5.75	
Raisins, New Val.....	6 to 7	
Figs, Elmer, small boxes.....	12 to 15	
Pines, Stewing, per lb.....	6 1/2	
Dates, boxes, new.....	7 1/2	

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

POULTRY.

Turkeys, per pound.....	11 to 15
Geese, each.....	40 to 65
Ducks, per pair.....	60 to 90
Chicken.....	40 to 60

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Steers, best quality, per 100 lbs. alive.....	4.00
Oxen.....	3.50
Fat Steers, Heifers light weights.....	3.00
Wethers, best quality, per 100 lbs.....	2.75 to 3.25
Lambs.....	2.25 to 3.00

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

Written for the Critic.

"YSONDE."

TOLD BY AN OLD WOMAN.

Continued.

It was with feet and trembling that I saw Clement was going to look for me. It was full of love I thought I saw Hugh the next spring, and I saw the first lady before being

sed so bright and brilliant that I said Ysonde, and was I'm. Perhaps it was possible, so when he came and sat on the bed his glass had a hand against my forehead his short, silky hair, while I told him I would go back to London and forget

and finished, then he turned his head towards me, he said, "I have just seen your wife. I was with her, she was very well, she said for me a little too, and if they should all have to go to the

him to be thought a honorable to take his betrothed wife from him. I couldn't let Clement think I had Hugh in his absence. "Yes," he said, "I was wrong; no consideration on earth could make people who care for each other as

quite, but there was nothing to be said to the old people, or Clever had it wishes

me. I was sitting on a little balcony window from my balcony. She knew

she would usually find me there on summer mornings, so she found her own way up. She got a little wicker chair and came and sat close beside me. How slim and willowy she was, yet stately with a certain dignity of her own that became her well. I could see the bright color ebbing and flowing under the dark transparent skin, and her eyes, that were very like Clement's, dark and deep, were glowing with a deeper light than usual.

There was not a shade of embarrassment in her manner, though I must confess I had a slightly uncomfortable feeling myself, though I hope I did not betray it.

"Clement has told you," she said, with a slight impatient accent, when she had seated herself.

"He told me last evening," I answered, without further comment.

"If I were not so entirely happy," he went on, "I should feel troubled about Hugh. I'm going to write to him to-day and tell him all about it. He will understand that I cannot marry him now and probably he will soon console himself with some one who will make a better clergyman's wife than I."

I noticed that she wished to compress in on Hugh as if a girl would have done. She never overtook her, and my own belief is that she expected Hugh to accept her change of philosophy, with the reflection that there are as good fish in the sea as ever were caught, but I do not think any man could have loved her and given her up easily. There was an indescribable charm about her stately, yet winning manner. To strangers and mere acquaintances she was rigid as ice, but among the few whom she knew well, and loved, she was all brightness and sweetness.

It is hard to fathom entirely some characters. She was puzzling at times. Probably that was one reason why she had such an influence over us all. Anything that we completely understand soon ceases to be interesting.

She stayed about an hour with me and when she rose to go she put one hand on each of my shoulders. I caught her bright dark hair now and her deep eyes that always had about a magnetic effect upon me, gleaming so near my own.

"Good-bye," she said, "I may call you my mother now, may I not? I shall always think as much of you as if you were really my mother."

"My dear I am more pleased than I can tell you to have you for my daughter," I said. "I have never had one of my own and you shall take her place."

Then she laughed, said something about us both becoming mordinately vain if we continued this mutual complimentary strain. I smiled too. I told her we happy animals would never know whether we really appreciated one another or not if we were not informed of it occasionally.

Then I watched her as long as I could, as she glimmered in the dress through the trees in the distance.

The next week Clement returned to town. He had been away a month and it would not do to let his business suffer now that he was going to set up an establishment of his own, and he was not rich yet.

We had long rambles through the green haze of lanes and park, Ysonde and I. By the way, I do not think I ever told you her family name. It was Hugo—Ysonde Hugo—a quaint name was it not? Her family was a branch of the same from which the original Hugo is descended. Her christian name was an ancient one in Brittany I believe. So Ysonde was of French descent, her mother had been an English woman, but she was dead, and Ysonde's home in the winter was now with her father in a villa

on the Riviera, not a great many miles from Monte Carlo, which place rumor said old Colonel Hugo had got into the habit of visiting too often for his own or his daughter's peace of mind.

Lady Kedston had been a great friend of Ysonde's mother, and had invited her to spend this summer at Ellersley. She usually travelled with her father in the summer time. The season before they had crossed to America. They had already travelled over the greater part of Europe. This summer Clement came down for a day whenever he could get away, till the season was on and the leaves began to turn yellow and fall, and then it grew chilly, and my daughter, for as such I had grown to think of Ysonde, was to return to her father.

It was a raw gusty day when she went, and George Kedston drove her to the station. They passed my solitary gates on the way to the station, and Ysonde came up to bid me good-bye. She had started early on purpose she told me, so I should be the last person she said good-bye to. I asked her if she meant to omit that civility with George. "Sh," she said, "I do not believe he would notice whether I omitted it or not, except merely as a civility. I meant the last person who cared about me at all, but I must not keep George waiting so long," and she was off. I saw him help her into the trap beside him and drive off. Her father was to meet her at Charing Cross, it was not much more than a two hours journey by rail, so George put her in a compartment, took her hand in his for an instant, nodded she would have a pleasant journey, raised his hat, and the train shrieked and glided off like a huge jointed reptile.

If Ysonde had seen his face with the frown between his brow as he drove home through the gusty air, she would have wondered what disturbed the usually serene heir to Ellersley.

The pulse of life beats slowly here at best and after Ysonde left the days dragged rather wearily for a time. In about a week I heard that she had arrived at her home safely.

The next time I heard from her she seemed to be troubled about her father, he spent so much of his time at Monte Carlo. He was tolerably wealthy now, but how long would it take for him to lose perhaps all he possessed if he still yielded to the fascination of the gaming tables. George Kedston had left home too, to travel on the continent for a time, and had found his way to the alluring rouge et noir au cabaret, and Ysonde told me when her father was not absent he came over for a game of cards after dinner, and though the colonel was no mean player, still he was not a match for the skill and acuteness of the younger man.

Stul, though George found that the old man almost always lost, he kept up the play with diabolical persistence, and the colonel would not cry "enough" till he had his revenge or lost all his money.

I had a letter from Ysonde about this time, it was very short, I still have it and will let you read it for yourself.

My Dear Mr. Weymouth: I don't know how I can write you this letter when my heart is simply broken. Papa told me this morning that he had played away everything he possessed and that we were positively without a sou in the world. The consequence is that I am to marry George Kedston next month and papa's debt will be forgiven. Papa thinks it is a very satisfactory way to settle it, because George is wealthy and he thinks can make me happy by giving me everything I want, and it is not in my heart to let papa leave his home when he is old and has no way of getting more money when I can prevent it. But I can't realize it just yet, I cannot even think of it, my life will all be so different I sometimes think I cannot bear it and at the last I shall refuse to do it after all. Surely some thing will happen before the time comes, but don't think too badly of me, indeed I sometimes hardly know what I should do. Good-bye dear Mrs. Weymill. I have written to Clement and told him about it.

That was all. She had forgotten to sign it.

George had never been a favorite of mine, he was very clever, but very subtle and rather more unscrupulous. I always thought there was consistency with a gentleman when his own ends were to be served and certainly his latest escapade savored of handish unscrupulousness.

The next day Clement came home, his face was white and haggard, it was late when he arrived, so I did not talk to him much but made him go to bed. I thought the rest might make him feel better.

He came to my boudoir about eleven the next morning, he knew he was always welcome there. It was a small holy of holies to which no one was admitted but my very particular friend. His face looked calm and composed in the bright morning light, and he sat on the little ottoman by my feet in the old boyish way.

"I have something very odd to tell you," he said. Then he paused a moment and went on, "do you believe in the supernatural?"

"Of course not," I replied, "if you mean do I believe in ghostly visitants or anything of that kind, what makes you ask me?"

"Mother," he said, "last night when I went to my room I did not sleep. I lay watching the moon streaming in at the window. I had been awake for hours, I did not know how long, when suddenly I saw a figure standing between me and the window. I thought you had come into my room for something with me hearing you, and I spoke. The figure turned, the back was toward me when I spoke, and it was—his breath came in a little gasp—"it was Ysonde." She stood there for about one minute and looked at me very earnestly but did not speak. I was about to speak again. I had been too much astonished at first when her form seemed to melt away into the noobams and there was nothing but the light streaming in at the window."

"My dear boy," I said, "Your mind was occupied with Ysonde and your imagination conjured up her form. You have heard of such vivid conceptions being formed in the mind that they appear to the vision."

But he would not alter his belief that it was her spirit that he had seen. In the afternoon we received a telegram from her father saying that she

had died at one o'clock that morning. "That was the time," Clement said, "my watch was beside me and I glanced at it. There is a theory that the instant the soul leaves the body it can be in whatever place and visible to whom it desires, no matter what the distance may be, but whether Ysonde's spirit really was visible to Clement at that moment or whether it was merely his imagination that pictured her form, must remain a mystery.

Clement always adhered to the conviction that she had come in the spirit to bid him adieu and to show him that she was always true to him however appearances had been against her. Though I am a little skeptical in such matters, I can scarcely help believing that it was so.

If Ysonde had lived I am sure Clement would have had vengeance of some kind upon George Kedston. Probably they would have met and one or the other fallen, as it was nothing was said.

We lived on as usual for a few more years, Clement coming down whenever his work would permit, and once he came down and never went back again. He was seized with a fever from which he never recovered.

I had lost my son as well as my daughter,

I am a lonely old woman now and have outlived all that made life sweet in the past. I have seen my husband, who was my life and my better self, laid away in the cold earth, then my daughter almost as soon as I had found her, and lastly my son. Surely I have been taught it is vanity to place our affections on the things of this world.

"For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are unseen are eternal."

Time heals a great many wounds and resignation comes after some years. I think I am resigned now, but there is a difference between resignation and content. I am not so old in years yet, though my hair is silvery white, only three score of my allotted three score and ten have been accomplished. I suppose I must say cheerfully as Mary Somerville did at eight, that 'the blue Peter is flying at the foremast and I must soon expect the signal for sailing.'

But alas I can feel truly that

"Those I loved are gone and I alone in life
To wait, and wait, and wait, till death shall end the strife,
Until once more I join the friends that loved me best,
Where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

It has made me sad to tell of this. Some day I will tell you a brighter story of my life long before these things happened.

Annapolis, N. S.

J. L. C.

JOSH BILLINGS ON MARRIAGE.

There is a great moral grip to marriages—it is the mortal that holds them together.

But there ain't but darn phew foaks who could set down and give a good written opinyun why on arth tha come to did it.

There is a great proof that it is one of them natural kind of axidents that must happen jist as birds fly out of the nest when tha have feathers couff, without being able to tell why.

Sum marry for buty, and never discover their mistake; this is lucky.

Sum marry for money, and don't see it.

Sum marry for pedigree, and feel big for six months, then very sensibly come to the conclusion that pedigree is no better than skim milk.

Sum marry bekaws tha hav been histed sunwhere else; this is a cross match, a bay and a sorrel; pride my make it endurable.

Sum marry for love, without a cent in their pockets nor a friend in the world, nor a drop of pedigree. This looks desperate, but it is the strength of the game.

If marrying for love ain't a success, then matrimony is a dead beet.

Sum marry bekaws tha think wimin will be scarce next year, and live to wonder how the crop holds out.

Sum marry to get rid of themselves and discover that the game was one that two could play at and neither win.

Sum marry the second time to get even, and find it a gambling game—the more they put down the less they take up.

Sum marry to be happy, and missing it, wonders where all the happiness goes to when it dies.

Sum marry they can't tell why, and live they can't tell how.

Almost everybody gets married, and it is a good joke. Sum think it over carefully fust, and then set down and marry.

Both ways are wright if they hit the mark.

Sum marry rakes to convert them. This is a little risky, and it takes a smart missionary to do it.

Sum marry coquettes. This is like buying a poor farm heavily mortgaged, and working the balance of your days to clear off the mortgage.

Married life has its chances, and this is just what gives it flavor. Everybody loves to fool with chances because everybody expects to win. But I am authorized to state that everybody don't win.

But after all married life is full as certain as the dry goods business.

No man can tell exactly where he will fetch up when he catches calico.

No man can tell just what calico has a mind to do.

Calico don't always know herself.

Dry goods of all kinds is the child of circumstances.

Sum never marry, but this is just the same with another name to it.

The man who stands on the bank shivering and dassent is more apt to catch cold than he who pitches his head fust in the river.

Marry young is my motto.

I have tried it, and I know what I am talking about.

If anybody asks you why you get married, say you don't recollect.

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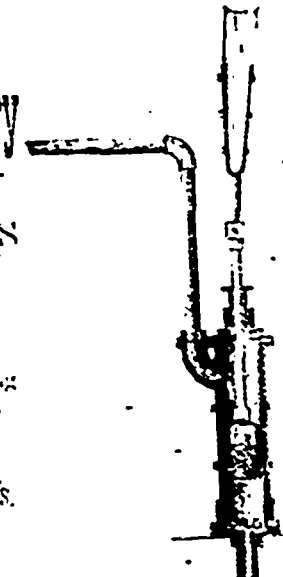
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MINING.

ANALYTICAL DEPARTMENT.—To meet a long felt want THE CRITIC has made arrangements with a competent Analyst, who will determine the quality of all specimens sent to be tested. The fee charged will be from two to eight dollars, according to the difficulty and expense incurred by the analyst in making the analysis. The strictest secrecy will be observed, and the result of the analysis will only be known to the operator and the sender of the sample. Send samples by parcel post or otherwise, with a fee of two dollars to "Analyst," care A. M. Fraser, Business Manager of THE CRITIC. Should a larger fee be required, the sender will be notified.

The best proof that a reliable analyst was needed lies in the fact that, since THE CRITIC advertised its arrangement with a competent gentleman, ore samples have been received from all parts of the Province. If business continues to increase in a proportionate ratio the analyst will be furnished abundant employment.

MINING ASSOCIATION.—Time is passing rapidly away, the old year is near its end and it seems an appropriate season for THE CRITIC to remind its mining friends of the necessity for taking some action in regard to forming a mining association. The majority of the mining men in the Province have signified their desire to join such an association, many of them have signed a list with that intention, and yet month after month has rolled by and still no decided action has been taken. The Mines Department have shown every desire to help the mining community in reforming any defects that may exist in the present mining act, and THE CRITIC has striven by all means at its command to lay before its readers all the points of the law that require remedial legislation. The Department's hands should be strengthened in any proposed reforms by the united backing of our miners and mine owners, and if it receives this support there can be no doubt but that an amended mining act would be passed and confirmed by the next local parliament. There is no time to lose and it behoves all interested to move at once. Some radical and sweeping reforms, doing away with the present vexatious royalties are mooted, and they should be now receiving the careful attention of our miners. What is "everybody's business is nobody's business," and unless a move at organizing an association is soon made, the time will slip by and the present act, with all its defects, will still remain unaltered on our statute books. THE CRITIC will place its offices at the disposal of any parties interested in mines who may wish to hold a preliminary meeting to start the organization, and in the meantime we should be glad if our friends would send us suggestions as to the time most suitable for a meeting and of the business the association should undertake.

CARLTON, YARMOUTH CO.

To the Editor of the Critic.

I hail you this time from the land of gold and sawdust, but you must bear in mind that the latter is most conspicuous at the present moment. Still I shall be greatly surprised if I do not soon have the pleasure of sending you news of big returns. The Wiswell crusher is now fairly at work and is in charge of one of the best amalgamators in the Province. In my judgment the mine is showing up well and steady progress is being made, the ore increasing in richness as depth is reached. The main shaft is now down seventy-five feet—length of stop fifty feet. The west shaft is down 50 feet and stoping has been carried the same distance. You see that the miners in this camp have not been eating the bread of idleness, as the month of August was well advanced before actual mining operations were under way. The formation of the belt is well defined, and yet presents peculiarities, such as I have not before encountered in this Province. What most particularly attracts my attention are two waves or horsebacks, centering in the main shaft at about 50 feet from the surface. One dips at an angle of 45 degrees west, the other with the same angle dips east. Here you have a complete chimney and a study for the curious geologist and mining engineer. Instead of the frequent horizontal rolls which you find in most mines, here you will discover them almost perpendicular with a slight easterly inclination, giving strong indications of carrying gold to a great depth. In the course of another week hoisting and pumping will be done by steam power, giving increased satisfaction to owners and miners.

SNOKS.

LAKE CATCHA DISTRICT.—John Anderson has let out his seven inch lead on tribute. Messrs. Archibald and Fraser are pushing work on the Cogawell areas west block, and are meeting with every encouragement.

MALAGA LAKE.—Mr. Christie, the well-known surveyor in the employ of the Department of Mines, has just returned from a visit to the westward, where he laid out the Malaga Lake District. He reports that all the properties to the westward are looking up, and has a very high opinion of the Carlton Mine. Parties wishing the services of a thoroughly competent man either to make surface or underground surveys of mines, or to examine and report upon mineral properties, would do well to consult Mr. Christie's advertisement in THE CRITIC. We take pleasure in recommending him.

M. Geo. W. Stuart, the well-known mine owner, paid us a visit and we are glad to find that he coincides with THE CRITIC in the necessity for some radical changes in the mining act. We should be glad to meet our mining friends when they come to town, and we trust that they will not fail to visit us and furnish all the mining news possible.

A RARE MINERAL.—Kryolith or ice-stone can be used for a variety of purposes—for instance, for the manufacture of lye and caustic sodas, for aniline colors, and recently for the porcelain-lined hollow-ware so popular for kitchen use, and for the manufacture of the milk white lamp globes.

The mineral years ago was only found in isolated instances in the Ural

Mountains, Russia, and a piece was worth its weight in silver, mostly for cabinet purposes. About 1857 the Danish Government sent scientific men to their ice bound possession with instructions to gather up specimens of the clothing, weapons, fishing tackle, utensils, etc., of the Esquimaux for an exhibit in the Danish Museum. When this collection arrived in Copenhagen, a savant discovered that all the fishing nets were weighted with a peculiar stone. He examined the same and found them to be pure kryolith of great value. A company was at once formed for the opening of a mine, but this first company failed because chemistry had not succeeded in extracting the valuable properties of the mineral at a paying cost. It cost about \$1.03 to obtain \$1 worth, and the enterprise was doomed to failure, when Prof. Thompson made a discovery by means of which kryolith became of immense value to various manufacturers, and the mine was re-opened. The mine has now reached a depth of 400 feet, but the kryolith taken out at that depth seems to be as good as that found on top, and from calculations made the present visible supply will last forty or fifty years. The mine can be worked only in the spring months. When the average quantity has been obtained the ocean is let into the mine. An ice crust of ten feet thickness forms quickly and thereby protects the mine. When spring approaches a hole is bored through this crust and the water pumped out. If this precaution were not taken the mine would be lined with ice and could not be worked at all.

The great value of kryolith has led to many searches for its existence in this country, and an inferior quality of the mineral was found at White Peak. The president of a Philadelphia company, which uses a great quantity of the mineral, offered as high as \$5000 for a ton, but that weight of kryolith could not be collected at White Peak, and manufacturers have still to depend on the Greenland mine for supplies. Is there any kryolith in Nova Scotia?

WHITEBURN, QUEENS COUNTY.

The Philadelphia and Caledonia Mining Company are about starting their new 10 stamp mill at Whiteburn. They have been taking some very rich ore from an eight inch lead on their property. The president of the company, Mr. Parker, is at the mines and intends taking a fine brick home with him to Philadelphia. It is now in order that a fern be planted to mark the resting place of one who has sacrificed his earthly existence trying to injure the mining interest at Whiteburn.

CRANK.

The following interesting item on the state of the Nova Scotian coal trade, appears in a recent issue of the *Canadian Trade Review*: "When we had a reciprocity treaty with the United States, the Americans were the principal purchasers of Nova Scotia coal. In 1865 and 1866, out of an average of 595,000 tons mined, about three-fourths of the entire product went across the border. After the abrogation of the treaty, the American import duty upon bituminous coal of course interfered with the sales to the United States, and gradually those sales have decreased, until last year the Americans took but 34,000 tons, only a thirty-eight part of the entire product. We then protected our coal miners, and the manufacturing industries. The first movement gave the miners an extended home market, the second increased the consumption and consequently the demand for coal. Now, instead of mining only 595,000 tons annually as in 1866, or 700,000 tons as between 1871 and 1880, the Nova Scotia output has reached 1,352,000 tons, at which it stood in the year 1885. Of this quantity Nova Scotia, owing in part to the increased demand for manufacturing purposes, used 450,000 tons, while New Brunswick took 150,000. The Upper Provinces took 493,000, and the remainder was taken by Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the West Indies. The total sales of Nova Scotia coal in 1879 reached 688,624 tons. The total sales in 1885 reached 1,250,000, and the output 1,350,000. Thus the business has doubled since 1879. The total sales to Ontario and Quebec in 1881, two years after the introduction of the National Policy, were 268,000 tons. The total sales to the same provinces in 1885 were 493,000 tons, an increase of not quite one hundred per cent. in five years."

A Goldenville correspondent says: Malcolm Cameron, who has been searching for a large lead for the past two months, succeeded in finding it, and on Saturday he mined some quartz that showed some gold freely. This is a new lead that was never worked before. The prospects are that it will pay handsomely, and we earnestly hope that it may, for men with the pluck and perseverance of Mr. Cameron, deserve to be rewarded for their efforts in keeping up the mining industry.—*Herald*.

Gold has been discovered in the country bordering the Straits of Magellan, and 2,071 claims have been taken there since August.

Below will be found the complete official returns of quartz crushed during the month of November:—

District.	Mill.	Tons.	Ozs.
Sherbrooke.....	Miner's.....	64	22½
".....	Goldenville... ..	289	45½
".....	Crow's Nest.....	37½	38
East Rawdon.....	McNaughton's	404	195½
".....	Rawdon.....	250	180
Carribou.....	Caffroy.....	21	5
".....	Moose River G.M.Co.	222	62½
Pleasant River Barrens	Pleasant River.....	146	248½
Salmon River, Dars' Hill	Dufferin.....	955	297
Stormont.....	Tributers.....	27	18½
Whiteburn.....	McGuire.....	31	102
Leipsigato.....	Duluth G. M. Co. ...	108	49

THE MARITIME PATRON, AND ORGAN OF THE Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity—In Non-essentials Liberty—In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREEB, M. D., Newport.]

We are favored by our Maritime Provincial Grange Deputy with reports of a very pleasant trip to Toronto, and of the sessions of the Ontario Provincial Grange and the Dominion Grange, held in that city. As we anticipated, these sessions have resulted in the amalgamation of the Dominion Grange and the Ontario Provincial Grange, and in the virtual independence of the Maritime Provincial Grange of the present day.

The Ontario Provincial Grange continued in session from the morning of the 22nd to 11 o'clock p. m. on the 25th ult., adjourning for a short time on the latter day, to permit of a *pro forma* session of the Dominion Grange, at which it was decided to adjourn until Saturday the 27th ult., which arrangement, it was supposed, would allow the thirty days notice required by the Constitution. At 9 o'clock, a. m., on that day, the Grange again assembled, and was opened in ample form in the 4th Degree by Worthy Master Robert Wilkie. After the usual opening ceremonies and routine business, a number of committees reported—among the number one appointed to prepare replies to questions submitted by the Trades and Labor Congress. The report of this Committee elicited a long and interesting discussion. The subjects presented for consideration by this Congress should receive extended notice in a future issue.

The Master's address was very favorably received by the Grange, but excited some adverse criticisms from outsiders who, naturally enough, object to the independent anti-partizan sentiments expressed in the address. On Monday, 29th ult., the Committee on Constitution and By Laws reported, recommending radical changes in the Constitution of the Order which were formulated and adopted.

We quote the 6th clause of this report in full as adopted: "The Maritime Provincial Grange, or any Provincial Grange hereafter to be organized, shall have control of its own affairs, including the framing, altering, or amending its own Constitution, and making its own laws, but shall not change the names of the officers, the rituals, or the unwritten work, without the consent of the Dominion Grange. Provincial Granges shall pay no capitation tax or membership dues to the Dominion Grange, but shall pay a nominal sum for each Charter granted for the organization of Subordinate or Divisional Granges within their several jurisdictions, and shall purchase rituals from the Dominion Grange at a price that will cover the cost of publication. Provincial Granges shall receive from the Master of the Dominion Grange the annual Word, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to the sessions of the Dominion Grange, whose expenses shall be borne by such Provincial Grange." We understand that the Dominion Grange may also send one delegate to attend sessions of the Maritime Provincial Grange.

Radical changes in the Constitution, affecting the Order in Ontario exclusively, were also made. A resolution was passed confirming the amalgamation of the Ontario Provincial Grange and the Dominion Grange, which had already been decided upon by the former body. Representation to the amalgamated body, which is to be known as "The Dominion Grange of Canada," shall be direct from the Subordinate Granges of Ontario—one representative from each Subordinate Grange. Division Granges may also send one delegate, but must pay the expenses of such delegate.

The Subordinate Granges of Ontario are to have the power to reduce the initiation fee, but not below the sum of one dollar.

Whether these changes will result in the extension of the Order and in increased efficiency or the contrary, will depend, as far as this jurisdiction is concerned, upon the wise or unwise use the Maritime Provincial Grange makes of the legislative powers conferred upon it.

(Owing to the length of the address of the Master of the Dominion Grange, which follows here, we are compelled to hold over the balance of this article until next week.)

DOMINION GRANGE—MASTER'S ADDRESS.—Worthy Master R. Wilkie read the following address:—

We have again met together in this the 12th annual meeting of the Dominion Grange. In looking back over the past year we have many reasons to feel thankful to the Great Master of the universe for the favors we have received. The earth has supplied us with a fair yield of its fruits, and we have escaped the devastations of floods and storms and other commotions of nature, which have swept away the hopes and expectations of many of our fellow men, and left want and desolation in their track. With these blessings and advantages, and with the labors of an industrious and intelligent people carefully directed, our country cannot fail to enjoy a fair degree of prosperity; and perhaps in no country is there to be found less poverty and real destitution than in the agricultural districts of Canada. The necessaries of life are cheap, and there is work for all who want it at such wages as the farmer can afford to pay. There is therefore no reason why any should want, unless through misfortune or infirmities they are unable to work. And just here I would like to call attention to the fact that in many sections of this country no proper provisions for the care of this class of unfortunates have been made, and while the criminals of our country are comfortably cared for, the honest poor are unprovided for. We are told that the poor we have always with us. This being the case such of them as are really needy should be properly cared for at the public

expense. However, while there is no reason why any should want who are able to work, this is nevertheless a country where man must labor to live, and the wealthy amongst farmers are comparatively few. Fact, good management and a degree of frugality are indispensable to success. There has been far too much boasting about the condition of the farmers in this country, and the result is that a false impression has gone abroad of the wealth which exists amongst them. It is said that in addition to their valuable farms large amounts lie to their credit in the banks. But the money thus deposited is very often intended to meet mortgages which are coming due, and other liabilities of a like nature which are maturing against their property, and which they are struggling to wipe out. Doubtless a very large amount of capital

IS INVESTED IN FARMING,

but much of it belongs to capitalists and is only loaned on the land—a very large proportion of which is under mortgage, much greater than most of people suppose. And much of it is hopelessly sunk. The only hope that still remains in many cases is that the land may be sold for something more than the amount of encumbrance. If any one doubts this, let him turn to the number of advertisements of farms for sale. The newspapers are full of them, and hundreds of land agents throughout the country are furnishing long lists free to any expectant purchaser. The owners of these lands are not men who are retiring on their fortunes, nor are they men who desire to engage in other pursuits. A large proportion of them are men who are selling to save the little which still remains, there being no longer any hope of saving the farm. A great deal of the money loaned on Canadian farms belongs to men in other countries, and is loaned by agents and monetary institutions. In such cases the capital invested does not all belong to the farmer; in some cases his interest in the land is very small, the balance belonging to the money lender, the farmer having the right to repurchase, or call it redemption if you like. But who pays the taxes? The farmer pays it all—pays taxes on the full cash valuation, whilst the money-lender, if he pays anything, pays only on the interest he collects. But there is a great amount of capital invested in land, stock and implements which belongs to the tillers of the soil of this Dominion. The actual return from this investment, after counting out the value of labor expended and contingent expenses of farm operations, is perhaps less than from the same amount invested in any other industry. There is nothing more uncertain than the returns of the farm. It may be tilled in the very best manner, the crops may be sown with the greatest judgment and care; but the misfortune of a wet season or a protracted drought, or the ravages of insects, may render the whole unprofitable. But the work has to be done. The crop must be harvested. What there is must be taken care of, for "half a loaf is better than no bread," and if there is but little there is more need for it. The price of produce has much to do with the profit of the farm, and the farmer has the option of taking the dealer's prices or keeping his produce. For what he buys he pays the price fixed by others, and for what he sells it is the same. In both cases it is often fixed by rings and combinations, and all he can do as an individual is to submit. It is not easy to find a remedy for these difficulties, if any can be brought about

IT MUST BE BY ORGANIZATION.

Singly and alone, the farmer can never cope with the overwhelming odds that are pitted against him. The world of to-day seems to be run by rings and monster combinations. Every class is organized. The laborers are organized. The mechanics, the dealers, the doctors, the lawyers, all trades, occupations and professions have their active organizations of some kind, and are keenly alive to their advantages. The farmer alone seems to be the only man who looks on with indifference; and with amazing innocence he argues that there is no necessity for these organizations, that the world is none the better for them; that there was no such nonsense in olden times, and he will neither aid nor countenance the like. He does not seem to realize that the world of to-day is not like the world of olden times, nor that the net is weaving around him. Immense amounts of capital are gathered together and thrown into huge enterprises. And these again are amalgamated and placed under one board of management, being more easily controlled in this manner, and competition reduced to a minimum or entirely destroyed. Some instances of such combinations will be fresh in everyone's mind. The salt monopoly which existed prior to the opening of the Grange Salt Works at Kincaidino had forced the price of salt up to \$1.50 per barrel, but as soon as the Grange works opened it fell nearly to one-third of that price, and the salt trade has been completely demoralized ever since. Last summer there was a ring or combination amongst the manufacturers of binders, and during its existence nothing less than \$200 would purchase a binder; but it went to pieces when they found they could not sell at these prices and were likely to be left with a large number on their hands, and in some instances they were sold for about half that price. Lately a combination has been perfected amongst the cotton manufacturers, and prices have materially advanced, and it may be long before they are so low again as the late prices. Amongst

THE RINGS OR COMBINATIONS

we might almost class the lawyers, or the law which we get at their hands. Our legislatures, which are composed chiefly of lawyers, have tinkered and amended and enacted laws until they are so perfect that they are a perfect uncertainty. They are like the man's tree that stood so straight that it leaned the other way. The law has become a terror to the poor man, for in most cases to him it means ruin. This has become so well understood that thousands suffer grievances rather than appeal to the tribunals which ought to enforce justice, for "when they ask for bread they receive a stone." The courts are conducted much on the principle of a debating club, the chairman

of which decides according to the arguments brought before him, quite irrespective of right or wrong. And those who are dissatisfied may appeal to another tribunal, and continue the argument, if they can stand the expense, and in the end they will discover that law and justice are quite distinct. The railways, though of great utility, are perhaps the most grinding monopoly in this country. Hundreds of millions of the people's money have been given to assist in their construction, much of it on specific conditions which have been systematically disregarded and tantalizingly set aside and the people's rights completely ignored. They do as they like and charge as they please, but always against local trade and traffic, charges often being so high as to preclude the possibility of profitably shipping over their lines between local points. Our Parliaments are composed largely of the hirelings of railway companies, and the laws are made to suit the purposes of their employers. All railroad law is made in the interests of the railroads, so any appeal to the courts is all but useless, and if they are beaten in one court they carry it to the next, so nothing but corporations or wealthy individuals are able to stand the expense. How long are such abuses to continue? How long will farmers continue to fill our legislative chambers with professional men, whose interests run opposite to their own, and who are paid to deprive them of right and justice? In every county are to be found men well qualified to represent the agricultural interests of the country, men who have no conflicting interests with the farmers, men whose interests are identical with their own, and who would represent them with fidelity and ability. Why are they not selected for this purpose? The answer, I fear, in many instances, is to be found in too strict an adherence to party politics. Rather than support one who had not been identified with their own political party they support one less suitable, or whose services may be engaged against their interests.

PARTY POLITICS

are the bane of the country. It is often said there must be two political parties always. I cannot see it in this light. Political parties in Canada have not always been divided by principles; they have been divided by men. Measures should divide irrespective of where they come from, and this is not always the case. Experience has shown it to be seldom the case. The people should support the right, irrespective of where it comes from. No party is always right, nor no party always wrong, and right and wrong will be found with both parties. The people, as a body, honestly desire to support what is right. Why, then, is there so much contention—so much bitter party feeling on this subject more than any other? When our intentions are alike why cannot we see alike? The reason, I believe, is because we are differently informed; we draw our conclusions from our information and they are not the same. Our people are an intelligent people, and a reading people; but their reading is largely from party newspapers, which unfortunately are so biased that they mislead their readers. And thus their knowledge of party men and matters is drawn from an over zealous partisan press from month to month and from year to year, until they become so prejudiced that they will believe nothing else nor hear anything else. Were we only to use a little common sense we would notice that in all other respects men of both parties are about alike. The men who support one party are about as good and intelligent as those who support the other, and if we could only get at the honest, naked truth, without coloring or distortion, we would be very likely to arrive at very nearly the same conclusion, and could with feelings of greater confidence uphold what we believed to be right and condemn what we thought wrong. But the information we can at present gather from the political press of either party is so garbled, warped and one-sided that any unprejudiced mind must receive it with great uncertainty. If we could only cast aside this party nonsense, and break loose from that partyism, with which most of us are more or less (perhaps unwittingly) affected, and work together for our common good and the good of our country, instead of in opposite directions, how much more good we could accomplish. The Grange has done some good in this respect, but much more yet remains to be accomplished; and I am happy to know there is a growing feeling of weariness and a distinction with the unfair and bitterly hostile course pursued by the partisan press of this country. In this connection I wish strongly to recommend to your generous support the Grange press of both Canada and the United States, which furnishes an abundance of good, sound, non-partisan reading for all. None carefully peruse these papers without improving their minds, and gathering ideas useful to them in the pursuit of their calling as tillers of the soil. They are also the best means of disseminating Grange principles, strengthening the order, and carrying to the thousands both within and without our gates the true principles we are contending for, as well as the best of the many who contribute to their columns.

To frequent and painful disease, rheumatism, can be permanently cured by Salvation Oil.

Thirty-three years have passed since the introduction of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup and it still stands unrivalled. Get the genuine. Price 25 cents.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS. Are you distressed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children's Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferers immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children's teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Beware of cheap imitations. Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, and take no other kind.

A CARD

To all who are suffering from the effects of indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of vitality, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. ISAAC, Station D, New York City.

IRA ETTER, To Gold Miners!

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Explosives, Detonators, Fuse, Steel, Candles, Picks, Shovels, Quicksilver, Copper Plates, Woven Wire and Russia Iron Screens, Dynamite Heaters, Washing Pans, And everything required for

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Surveys and Plans of Mining Properties, Underground Surveys and Plans, Levelling Surveys for Mill Power, Drainage, Tramways, Flumes, &c. Mining Properties Examined and Prospectus Reports written.

Address by letter or telegram— F. W. CHRISTIE, Bedford Station, Halifax Co., N. S.

What the Druggists Say!

We, the undersigned druggists, take pleasure in certifying that we have sold Puttner's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil, &c. for a number of years and know it to be one of the oldest as well as (especially of late) one of the most reliable preparations in the market for the cure of consumption, bronchitis, asthma, coughs, and all lung diseases. The sale of it (Puttner's Emulsion) is steadily increasing, and is larger than for all other preparations of the kind in the market combined. We know of no article that gives greater satisfaction to those who use it, and we do not hesitate to recommend it.

- Brown & Webb, Wholesale Druggists.
- John K. Bent, Wholesale & Retail Drugst.
- J. Goffrey Smith, Disp'g & Family Chem.
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- Jas. R. Gordon, late R. N. Druggist.
- Thos. M. Power, Disp'g & Family Chem.
- Geo. Irwin, Dispenser and Family Chem.
- W. H. Hamilton, Man'gr Apothe Hall.
- Forsyth, Sutcliffe & Co., Whol. Druggists.
- Henry A. Taylor, Disp'g & Family Chem.
- Avery F. Buckley, " " " "
- A. A. Woodill, " " " "
- R. A. Nisbet, " " " "
- J. H. Margeson, " " " "
- Brown Bros. & Co., " " " "
- R. McFartridge, M.D., " " " "
- W. H. Simson, Ph.G., " " " "



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on FRIDAY 29th JANUARY, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails three times per week each way between

ROMAN VALLEY and St. Andrews.

Under a proposed contract for four years from the 1st APRIL next.

Printed notice containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices at Roman Valley and St. Andrews, and at this office

CHARLES J. MACDONALD,

Post Office Inspector's Office, Halifax, 16th Dec'r., 1886.

Letter from FRANZ LISZT,
"The King of Pianists."

TRANSLATION:

MESSES, CHICKERING.

It is very agreeable to me to add my name to the concert of praise of which your Pianos are the object. To be just, I must declare them perfect (perfectissimus, superlatively perfect.)

There is no quality which is foreign to them. Your instruments possess, in a supreme degree, nobility and power of tone, elasticity and security of the touch, harmony, brilliancy, solidity, charms and prestige, and thus offer a harmonious ensemble of perfections, to the exclusion of all defects.

Pianists of least pretensions will find means of drawing from them agreeable effects: and in face of such products—which truly do honor to the art of the construction of instruments—the role of the critic is as simple as that of the public; the one has but to applaud them conscientiously and with entire satisfaction, and the other but to procure them in the same manner.

In congratulating you sincerely upon the great and decisive success obtained at the Exposition at Paris, I am pleased to anticipate the happy continuation of the same in all places where your Pianos will be heard, and I beg that you accept, gentlemen, the expression of my most distinguished sentiments of esteem and consideration.

ROME. (Signed) F. Liszt.

W. H. JOHNSON,

Sole Representative of the CHICKERING PIANO in Halifax.

High Grade Pianos

W. H. JOHNSON

Has the largest stock of FINE PIANOS in the Maritime Provinces, in Grands, Squares, and Uprights, cased in various kinds of choice woods, the makers include "KNABE" and "CHICKERING," the two oldest and most reliable Piano Manufacturing firms in America.

Also, the celebrated "WHEELLOCK," "HALLÉT & DAVIS," "STEVENSON," "NEWCOMB," and "DOMINION," etc.

Special Prices and Terms to end of year.

"BELL" Organs.

A Car Load of these famous Instruments just opened. Also, a Car Load of the celebrated DOMINION ORGANS, which received the Gold Medal over 132 competitors at the World's Fair, Antwerp, 1885.

Don't fail to write us for Prices, and you will save money and be sure of a first-class article.

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Are Second to NONE in the Maritime Provinces.

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Importers and Dealers in Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Tobacco. PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES of all kinds.

Happy is the man who is blessed with good sight. To be blind is he who is sightless. How fortunate was one wearing Lorraine's Glasses, which impart a clear and perfect vision. But if there are some to whom a Spectacle would be of no benefit, being deficient in an optic. Their personal appearance would seem more natural with the aid of an Artificial Eye an assortment of which has just been received at the

London Drug Store, 147 Hollis St. J. GODFREY SMITH, DISPENSING CHEMIST, PROPRIETOR.



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Can be applied to any vehicle in 20 minutes time by any ordinary mechanic. They are economical as well as useful, and no carriage is complete without them. It is economy for everyone to have them applied to their carriages, for the following reasons—

1st. You can save the wear of your axles 50 per cent: they are practical and are fast coming into general use. 2nd. You can run your carriage 200 miles with one filling. 3rd. Water, sand, mud and dirt cannot get in upon the bearing of the axle, hence the necessity of frequent oiling and the continual wearing is avoided. 4th. Grease and dirt are not continually oozing from the axle bearing. 5th. They are cheap and durable. One set will last a life time, but if necessary can be easily replaced with little expense. 6th. The first and only Sand Box ever invented to go on over a solid collar.

Livery-stable keepers generally are adopting them as a matter of economy. Every mail brings unsolicited testimonials from parties using these valuable improvements. Write for inducements, descriptions and cost of the Adjustable Sand Box and Improved Conical Axle: if your dealer does not have these goods in stock send your order direct to me and I will forward promptly. DO NOT BUY A VEHICLE WITHOUT THE ABOVE ATTACHMENTS. Address

A. F. MILES, STANSTEAD, QUE.

- 50 half chests Tea. 50 bbls. P. B. I. Pork. 50 qtls. Table Codfish 75 bbls. Cornmeal. 50 bbls. Flour. 15 ptm. Molasses. 25 tierces Molasses. 100 Canadian Cheese. 100 tubs Butter. 25 bbls. Sugar. 25 bbls. Beans.

The quality of the above goods is highly recommended. For sale by

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IN STORE AND TO ARRIVE—

2,500 Packages Choice

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BEST VALUES IN MARKET.

J. E. MORSE & CO.

TEA IMPORTERS, 77 Upper Water St., Halifax, N. S.

Piper Heidsieck Champagne. 50 baskets of Piper Heidsieck's Celebrated Champagne, in quarts and pints.

Graham's Port. 10 bbls. Graham's One Star and three Star Grand Port. Just received per S. S. Milanese.

Plymouth Gin. 25 cases Coates' Celebrated Plymouth Gin. Just received per S. S. Milanese from London.

Hennessy's Brandy. 15 cases Hennessy's V. O. and V. S. Brandy. Just received per S. S. Avlona from Charente.

Lerond's Brandy. 25 quarter cases and 30 octaves and 260 cases Lerond's Brandy. Just received per S. S. Avlona from Charente.

Martell's Brandy. 150 cases Martell's V. O. and V. S. Brandy. Just received per S. S. Avlona from Charente.

Bass's Ale. 100 bbls. Bass's Pale Ale. Bottled by Paterson & Hilditch, in quarts and pints. Just received per S. S. Milanese.

Islay Blend Whiskey. 150 cases Colne, Mackie's and Williams' Islay Blend Whiskey. Just received and for sale by

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EMINENT

THROAT AND LUNG SURGEON,

Having Removed from the PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA, TEMPORARILY, owing to the fact of litigation pending, regarding his right to practice in the Province. He M. D. after a while will learn to treat a Medical CONFERRER as Medical ETHICS fully demanded in a civilized country.

With the above EXPLANATION, Dr. Washington asks all who may desire to consult him, to correspond, when a full list of QUESTIONS, ESSENTIAL to the case, will be forwarded to fill out, and returned, as the case requires.

DIS-EASES TREATED. Catarrh, Nose, Head and Throat, Chronic Bronchitis, Loss of Voice, Sore Throat, Asthma, Consumption, etc., etc.

125 Yonge Street, TORONTO. Inhalation of Cold Medicated Vapor the principle of Treatment.

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ORDERS FROM THE COUNTRY ATTENDED TO.

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JOHN A. POND --- Proprietor. Shirts, 10 Cents. Shirts, with Collars, 12 Cents. Cuffs, 4 Cents. Collars, 2 Cents.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

A CALAMITY AVERTED.

I have just returned from spending a pleasant evening with my old friend, Tom —, and my gloomy bachelor quarters seem all the more sombre in contrast with the bright home scenes I have witnessed. As I was ushered into Tom's drawing room I came upon a gay family party. The oldest boy, a fine lad of ten, and his two bright, pretty sisters, were seated at the table busily preparing Christmas decorations while little Jack, the two-year-old baby and pet of the family, on mischief bent, was going from one to the other and doing all the mischief that lay in his power. The mother was seated at the piano playing some sweet Scottish airs, but stopped as I came in to welcome me in her charming, cordial way. Tom, who in slippered feet was sitting before the glowing grate and pretending to read the paper, while in reality listening to the music and the merry babble of the children's voices, was too lazy to rise, but greeted me in his usual off-hand manner, and motioned me to a seat by his side. As I glanced around the cosily furnished room, at his wife and children blooming with health and the happiness that is impossible without it, at Tom himself, the picture of content, I mentally contrasted the pleasant picture with the gloom that had hung over the same household only a year before, and gave a sigh of relief at the recollection that what had threatened to be a great calamity to them all had been happily averted.

A year ago in September Tom and I had been called to England on business in which we were both interested. Tom consented to go with great reluctance, as his wife had not been in very good health, but she assured him that it was nothing, only a slight cold that would soon wear off, and with some slight misgivings he joined me on the steamer. We were absent over two months, during which time Tom constantly heard from his wife, and as she always wrote in her pleasantest style and seemed to be in the best of health and spirits, he ceased to worry about her, and looked forward with pleasure to the time when they should again be reunited. It was a happy day for him when, in the latter part of November, we steamed up to the wharf in Halifax, and he could hardly restrain his impatience while the lines were being made fast, so eager was he to disembark and hurry home. But a great shock awaited him. His wife met him at the door—but she was only a shadow of her old self. A hacking cough and a hectic flush on her wan cheeks proclaimed too clearly that consumption, that fell destroyer, had marked her for a victim. With her usual self-sacrificing spirit she had kept the secret from her husband, knowing that it would rob him of all peace on his travels. Poor Tom was utterly prostrated by the blow, and greatly blamed himself for having left his wife, more especially when he found that she had neglected to call in the family physician. She had attempted to take cod liver oil, but the nauseating stuff had been too much for her weak stomach, and she had not persisted in any regular course of treatment. The family physician was at once called in and he pronounced her case to be serious, but still held out hopes should his directions be strictly carried out. He gave careful instructions for the care and diet of his patient, and prescribed a long course of Puttner's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. Tom was astonished, as he had a prejudice against proprietary remedies, but the doctor explained that it was the medicine usually prescribed by all the leading physicians for pulmonary consumption, general debility, wasting diseases, &c. and that its ingredients were well known, the proprietors of the Emulsion making no secret of them, only claiming to excel in the manner of combining the various substances. The succeeding Christmas was a gloomy one in Tom's household. His wife found the Emulsion quite palatable and easy to take, and from the first it gave her great relief, still it was a life and death struggle, and some months rolled slowly by before the disease was conquered. Gradually the wonderful remedy worked its cure and Tom's wife grew stronger and stronger, her eyes lost their unnatural brilliancy, the hectic spots on her cheeks disappeared, and I had seen her only a few hours before the picture of health and happiness. Tom now swears by Puttner's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, and little Jack, who is given an occasional dose, takes it with as great a relish as he would a custard. The medals and diplomas given to Mr Simson for Puttner's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil at the great exhibitions of Canada are sufficient of themselves to justify its wide reputation. Sold by all druggists and dealers. Ask for Puttner's Emulsion, and take no other.

Joe Edwards, the well-known conductor on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, is as obliging as he is witty. Just as the train had left Windsor the other day, and Joe was passing through the cars, he was stopped by a handsome girl who was in company with an old man, evidently an invalid.

"Are we near Windsor?" she asked.

"Just past it," said Joe; then seeing a look of consternation come into the girl's face, he came to the conclusion that she had intended to stop off at Windsor, and without a word he hurried into the baggage car, signalled and stopped the engine, and in a very few seconds the train was backing into Windsor.

This unusual move caused a commotion amongst the passengers; windows were thrown up, heads poked anxiously out, and one ancient damsel, shrieking "There is going to be a collision!" was only prevented by main force from flinging herself out of the window.

Just as the excitement had subsided by the train's coming to a standstill at the station, Joe entered the car and rushing up to the girl said: "We are back at Windsor; you must hurry and get off."

"We are going through to Annapolis," she exclaimed with her sweetest smile; "the doctor prescribed two bottles of Simson's Jamaica Ginger for

uncle's dyspepsia, and told me to give him a dose at Windsor. He has just taken it." Joe wilted, and did not smile again until he had confiscated a "commercial tourist's" flask in the smoker.

Simson's Jamaica Ginger possesses all the valuable properties of Jamaica Ginger; and is particularly recommended as a tonic. To the aged it will prove a great comfort, to the dyspeptic it will give relief. Price 25 cents.

Neglected Coughs and Colds. Few are aware of the importance of checking a cough or common cold in its first stages. That which in the beginning would yield to a mild remedy, if neglected, soon preys upon the lungs. Simson's Tolu and Aniseed will afford speedy relief.

An Irishman and a German were lost in the woods and were on the verge of starvation. An eagle flying over dropped a piece of raw beef that fell almost at their feet, and they seized upon it with great avidity. They both laid claim to it, but as it was only enough for one they agreed that each should take an end of it in his teeth, and that the first to let go should lose the meat. They did this, and the Irishman, setting his teeth deep in the meat, muttered "Aro ye riddy?" "Yah," answered the German, and the Irishman had the prize. No one can say "yah" with his mouth closed. Try it.

For a good tonic and appetizer use *Chemical Food* manufactured by W. H. Simson.

The present seems to be the age of adulteration, and no articles of modern use are so easily palmed off on an unsuspecting public as impure and worthless spices and flavoring essences. Every house wife knows how discouraging it is to have her best dishes spoiled by the trash that is ground up and sold as cloves, pepper, &c., or her custards and puddings rendered unpalatable by impure flavoring extracts. It should be remembered that Brown Brothers & Co.'s Flavoring Essences are articles of true merit, and that their spices are the purest in the market.

Symptoms of worms in children are often overlooked. Worms in the stomach and bowels cause irritation, which can be removed only by the use of a sure remedy. Abbott's Worm Tablets are simple and effective.

Abbott's Diarrhoea Cordial is a superlative remedy for diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera morbus, &c.

Of all the tortures that human flesh is heir to, toothache is one of the worst. Why it should be endured is a mystery, as Brown's Toothache drops are an infallible cure.

How often do we meet persons for the first time and receive a pleasant impression, which is immediately changed to disgust when their mouths are opened, showing dirty, neglected teeth, while a whiff of bad breath that nearly knocks us down is blown into our faces. Fisk's Lavodent is a delightful, fragrant and elegant tooth and mouth wash, and is an indispensable article for the toilet table. Manufactured by Brown Brothers & Co.

At this season of the year, when colds and sore throats are so prevalent and the dangers of diphtheria are so great, it is well to remember that Brown's Astringent Gargle is a reliable cure.

No more suitable and acceptable present could be given than a bottle of Mayflower Cologne. It is a refreshing and fine flavored perfume.

Simson's Golden Eye Water for weak eyes is invaluable.

Young man, if you wish to capture your girl every time, just give her a bottle of Mayflower Hair Gloss.

Remember the place to get the best

DRUGS, CHEMICALS,

Pure Spices, Flavoring Essences,

DYE STUFFS, PATENT MEDICINES,

AND ALL KINDS OF

Druggists' Sundries,

IS AT

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