

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. II.—No. 51.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

ZION CHURCH, MONTREAL.
REV. A. J. BRAY, Pastor.
 SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER.
 Subject for evening discourse:—
 THE BIBLE AND TO-DAY.—No. III.

SPECIAL
FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

OUR PRICES ARE:
CARTES, - - \$3 Per Dozen.
CABINETS - \$6 Per Dozen.

NOTMAN & SANDHAM,
 BLEURY STREET, MONTREAL.

PIANOFORTES.
Steinway,
Chickering,
Dunham,
Haines.
 } *Squares,*
 } *Uprights,*
 } *Grands.*

A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT of PIANOS
 by the above makers are offered by us on the
 MOST LIBERAL TERMS.

New and Second Hand Pianos for Hire.
 Orders for TUNING and REPAIRING will receive
 prompt attention.

Dominion Agents for the above Pianos:
A. & S. NORDHEIMER,
 TORONTO, MONTREAL,
 11 KING ST. E. NORDHEIMERS' HALL.

BOSTON FLORAL MART.
 New designs in FLORAL, STRAW, WILLOW
 and WIRE BASKETS, suitable for presents.

BOUQUETS, CUT FLOWERS, SMLAX and
 LYCOPODIUM WREATHS and DESIGNS made
 to order.

GEO. MOORE,
 1369 ST. CATHERINE STREET,
 MONTREAL.

CHARLES ALEXANDER,
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
CONFECTIONER,
 391 NOTRE DAME STREET.
 HOT LUNCHEONS,
 Also, BREAKFAST AND TEA.

L. LAJOIE, FERRAULT & SEATH,
 ASSIGNEES & ACCOUNTANTS,
 66 & 68 ST. JAMES STREET.

TAYLOR & SIMPSON,
 Official Assignees and Accountants,
 353 Notre Dame street.

PERKINS & PERKINS,
 ASSIGNEES, ACCOUNTANTS
 and COMMISSIONERS
 60 ST. JAMES STREET.
 ARTHUR M. PERKINS, Com'r and Official Assignee.
 ALEX. M. PERKINS, Commissioner.

X'MAS PRESENTS
 IN
EVERY DEPARTMENT

MANTLES.
 Splendid shapes, nicely trimmed, \$2.75, \$3.50, \$4.50,
 \$5.00 and upwards.
 We are now showing a case
 (JUST RECEIVED)

DOLMANS, in leading styles,
MANTILLAS, and ULSTERS,
 From one of the first houses in Paris.

FUR-LINED CIRCULARS,
 In Cashmere, Sateen, Poplin and Silk.

DRESS GOODS!
 Persian Cord and Homespun, 10½c, 12½c and
 15½c.
 Sateen Cloths and Bervie Tweeds, 17½c, 20c and
 25c.
 Diagonal Satin Cloths, Chene Broché, Brocaded
 and Pompadour Dress Goods, 25c, 33c, 38c and 50c.
 Choice Colors in Silk and Wool, Japanese Cloths
 for Polonaises, Drapery, Vestings and Trimmings,
 75c, 95c, \$1.25 and \$1.50 a yard.
 Hand Embroidered Velveteen Garniture Lengths
 and Full Costumes.

LACE BIBS AND COLLARS.
 BRETON LACES, Black and White.

SPECIAL PURCHASE.
 One Hundred Dozen nicely Embroidered
 CORSETS!
 With or without Spoon Busk,
 ONLY ONE DOLLAR A PAIR.
 Best lot of Corsets ever offered in Canada.
 See our 45c, 65c and 75c Corsets for style, finish and
 quality.
 Our \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50 and \$3 Corsets are splen-
 did goods for the money.

We have just opened out a large assortment of the
 LEADING NOVELTIES OF THE SEASON.
 A choice lot of Striped Brocaded Ribbons, in all the
 newest shades.
 Also, a small lot of Plain Brocaded Ribbons, in
 every possible shade.
 A new lot of Ladies' Collars and Cuffs, in Plain and
 Fancy Crepe Lisse, Muslin, Blonde Frillings, in an
 endless variety.
 Our Chenille Striped Brocaded Ribbons, in all the
 newest shades, are selling fast.
 A very choice lot of Ladies' Silk and Satin Ties, in
 plain and Brocaded.

LADIES.
 Before buying Kid Gloves elsewhere, call and
 examine our assortment, and note our prices.
 EXAMINE STOCK AND PRICES
 —AT—

BROWN & COMPANY'S
THE RECOLLET HOUSE.
 Corner Notre Dame and St. Helen Streets.

Country orders solicited.
 Samples sent.

FANCY GOODS, TOYS, &c.,
 FOR THE HOLIDAY TRADE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, a beautiful assortment.
DOLLS, in Wax, Rubber, China, Composition &c.
TOY BOOKS, BLOCKS, GAMES, &c., &c.

CHILDREN'S SLEIGHS
 A SPECIALTY.
H. A. NELSON & SONS,
 Toronto House, 56 & 58 Front Street West.
 91 to 97 St. Peter Street.

"BEST IN USE."
 THE
COOK'S FRIEND BAKING POWDER
 Is the most popular Baking Powder in the
 Dominion.
 Because—
It is always of uniform quality.
It is just the right strength.
It is not injured by keeping.
It contains no deleterious ingredient.
It is economical, and may always be relied on to
do what it claims.
RETAILED EVERYWHERE.
 MANUFACTURED ONLY BY
W. D. McLAREN,
 55 COLLEGE STREET, MONTREAL.

CHRISTMAS CARDS,
NEW YEAR CARDS.
Duplex English Playing Cards.
POCKET DIARIES FOR 1880.
AKERMAN, FORTIER & CO.,
 Stationers, Bookbinders, Rulers, Printers, &c.,
 258 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.
James Sutherland's old stand.

BISHOP'S
VISITING CARDS
 AND
FANCY STATIONERY,
 169 ST. JAMES STREET.


ELECTRO-PLATED
SPOONS AND FORKS.
 Importing the very finest quality of Nickel Silver,
 and plating my Spoons and Forks here, thereby saving
 ten per cent. duty, I am in a position to sell the best
 goods that can be made at very low prices.
JOHN WATSON, Junr.,
 IMPORTER OF ELECTRO-PLATE,
 370 ST. PAUL STREET, MONTREAL.

Christmas and New Year Presents.
ARMAND BEAUDRY,
JEWELLER,
 AND IMPORTER OF
 FANCY GOODS, STATUARY, BRONZE AND
 SILVER WARE.
 Complete assortment of New Goods.
 269 NOTRE DAME STREET.

JUST RECEIVED
 A FINE ASSORTMENT OF
 SILVER-MOUNTED BRIARS,
 MIALL WOOD, AND
 BOG OAK PIPES.
A. ANSELL,
 TOBACCONIST,
 50 RADEGONDE STREET.

MARRIAGE LICENSES issued by
J. M. M. DUFF,
 Official Assignee,
 217 ST. JAMES STREET. P. O. Box 527.

HOLIDAY SUPPLIES
WILLIAM ELLIOT
 Begg to call attention to his large and varied Stock of
 FRESH GOODS, selected and imported expressly
 for CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRADE.
 Orders by mail carefully and promptly attended to.
 The following are a few of the leading articles
 required for the Festive Season.
TABLE RAISINS,
 Finest Dehesa, Black Crown, Black Basket, London Layers.
PUDDING RAISINS,
 Loose Muscatels, Sultanas, Valentias, Seedless.
 Currants, Candied Peels, Almeria Grapes, Turkey Figs, Grecian Fig Paste, Jams and Jellies, Deseccated Cocoanut, Keiller's Dundee Marmalade, Pure Spices, Dates, Valencia Oranges, Lemons, Shelled Almonds, Grenoble Walnuts, Sicily Filberts, Soft Shell Almonds,
Burnett's, Hearle's and Lyons Assorted Extracts,
PARTRIDGES AND QUAILS,
Baltimore Oysters, received daily during
the season,
 McEwan's Finnan Haddies, Kipperd Mackerel, Bloaters, Boneless Herring, Sardines in Oil, Sardines and Tomatoes.
WILLIAM ELLIOT,
Corner St. Lawrence & St. Catherine Sts.
 Agent for the Portland Kerosene Oil Co.

THE "BODEGA WINE COMPANY"
OF CANADA.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
THE "BODEGA WINE COMPANY" beg
 to announce, that, during the Christmas Holi-
 days, they will put up ASSORTED CASES OF WINES AND
 SPIRITS, at the following prices; delivery free in any
 part of the city. Orders left with the Manager will be
 at once attended to.
CASE ("A") \$5.00.
 CONTAINS:
 1 Bottle Champagne.....(*Carte Blanche*)
 1 " Sherry..... No. 2
 1 " Port..... No. 11
 1 " Claret.....(*Ludon*)
 1 " 5 Year Old Rye Whiskey.
 1 " Martell's Brandy.
CASE ("B") \$7.50.
 CONTAINS:
 2 Bottles Champagne.....(*Carte Blanche*)
 1 " Sherry..... No. 8
 1 " Port..... No. 12
 1 " Claret.....(*Ludon*)
 1 " 1869 Brandy.
 1 " 5 Year Old Rye Whiskey.
CASE ("D") \$10.00.
 CONTAINS:
 2 Bottles Champagne.....(*Koch Fils*)
 1 " Sherry..... No. 2
 1 " Sherry..... No. 8
 1 " Port..... No. 11
 1 " Port..... No. 12
 2 " Claret.....(*Clos des Meynards*)
 1 " 1869 Brandy.
 1 " Booth's Old Tom Gin.
 2 " 5 Year Old Rye Whiskey.
 N.B.—Any other assortment which purchasers
 may wish, as per price-list.
"BODEGA WINE CO.,"
 366 & 368 NOTRE DAME ST., Montreal,
 AND
 41 & 43 COLBORNE ST., Toronto.

ARMAND BEAUDRY,
JEWELLER,
 AND IMPORTER OF
 FANCY GOODS, STATUARY, BRONZE AND
 SILVER WARE.
 Complete assortment of New Goods.
 269 NOTRE DAME STREET.

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 A FINE ASSORTMENT OF
 SILVER-MOUNTED BRIARS,
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CHRISTMAS CARDS, a beautiful assortment.
DOLLS, in Wax, Rubber, China, Composition &c.
TOY BOOKS, BLOCKS, GAMES, &c., &c.

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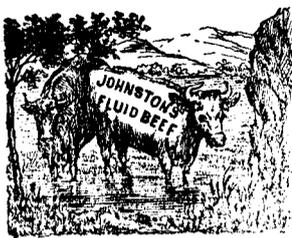
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 A SPECIALTY.
H. A. NELSON & SONS,
 Toronto House, 56 & 58 Front Street West.
 91 to 97 St. Peter Street.



EVERY PHYSICIAN knows that all essences of meat are merely harmless stimulants.

Johnston's Fluid Beef is a meat essence, according to the most approved formula, but in addition it contains the albumen and fibrine

(the flesh-forming or nutritious elements of meat), and that in a form adapted to the most impaired digestion. It is prescribed by every Medical Man who has tested its merits. Sold by Chemists and Grocers. Tins, 35c., 60c. and \$1.00.

CERTICURE.

This remedy is unequalled for **INDIGESTION AND DYSPEPSIA**

And attendant stomacic derangements, Heartburn, Flatulence, Palpitation of the Heart, Costiveness, Acidity of the Stomach, Giddiness, Headache, &c., &c. It is a powerful invigorator, and acts as a gentle laxative. A fair trial will convince the most acute sufferer.

One pill daily for a few days gives unbounded relief. The **CERTICURE PLASTER** is applied to the Pit of the Stomach in cases attended with internal pain.

Pills, 25 and 50 cents. Plasters, 25 cents.

For sale by all Druggists, and Wholesale by

LYMAN, SONS & CO.,
AND
KERRY, WATSON & CO.,
ST. PAUL STREET, MONTREAL.

WAX FLOWERS.

A full supply of **SHEET WAX**, finest quality, and every requisite used in the making of Wax Flowers always in stock, at **THE GLASGOW DRUG HALL.**

HOMOEOPATHY.

The largest stock of Genuine **HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES** and **BOOKS** in the Dominion; also **HUMPHREY'S SPECIFICS**, at **THE GLASGOW DRUG HALL, 400 Notre Dame street.**

FLUIDE D'HIVER.

HARTE'S WINTER FLUID is acknowledged to be the article in use for Chapped Hands, Lips and all roughness of the skin. Price 25c. Country orders promptly filled.

J. A. HARTE,
DRUGGIST,

400 NOTRE DAME STREET,

DOMINION EXHIBITION
OPEN TO THE WORLD.

CLENDINNENG'S STOVES

THE LEADER,

THE NEW CLENDINNENG FURNACE,

AND

CLENDINNENG'S STOVE FURNITURE,

TOOK THE

FIRST PRIZE

Against all Comers.

GEO. E. CAMPBELL,

Real Estate Investment and General Agent,
No. 124 ST. JAMES ST., Montreal.

Parties having properties to sell will do well to give me a call. Parties wishing to purchase are invited to call and inspect my list before going elsewhere.

LOANS NEGOTIATED.

\$50,000 to loan on good security. Special attention given to winding up estates.

GEO. E. CAMPBELL,
No. 124 St. James Street, Montreal

ENVELOPES.

The New Tariff is nearly 10 per cent. advance on these goods, yet I am selling my present stock at old prices:—

Manilla Envelopes at.....\$0.75 per M.
Buff Envelopes at.....0.90 per M.
Canary Envelopes at.....1.00 per M.
Amber Envelopes at.....1.25 per M.
White X Envelopes at.....1.25 per M.
White XX Envelopes at.....1.50 per M.
White XXX Envelopes at.....2.00 per M.
White Superfine Envelopes at.....2.25 per M.
White Extra Superfine Envelopes at.....2.50 per M.

JOHN PARLOW,
47 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET,
MONTREAL.

ROWNTREE'S PRIZE MEDAL ROCK COCOA.

The popularity of this **RICH** and **NOURISHING** preparation is due to the following facts:—

- 1.—That it contains *Cocoa and Sugar only, without any admixture of Farina.*
- 2.—That the proportion of *Cocoa to Sugar is exceptionally large.*
- 3.—That the *Cocoa used is not robbed of any of its nourishing constituents.*
- 4.—That the delicate flavour of the *Cocoa Nib is not hidden by any other flavour.*

Thousands are unable to take Cocoa because the varieties commonly sold are mixed with Starch, Farina or other farinaceous compound under the plea of rendering them soluble, while in reality making them *thick, heavy and indigestible*, consumers of which are actually imbibing the seeds of

DYSPEPSIA IN THE BREAKFAST CUP.

DETECTION OF ADULTERATION. Fortunately this adulteration may easily be detected. For if *Cocoa thickens in the cup it proves the addition of Starch, Farina or some other compound.*

ROWNTREE'S Prize Medal Rock Cocoa contains only COCOA and Sugar, and retains all the original richness of the Cocoa Nib, and is not weakened by admixture with Farina. It is therefore strongly recommended to all who require a

NOURISHING, STRENGTHENING AND GENUINE BEVERAGE

which will lie on the most delicate stomach, toning and stimulating, while others cause nausea and indigestion with all their attendant ills.

WM. JOHNSON & CO., 77 St. James Street, Montreal, Sole Agents.

1879. HOLIDAY GOODS. 1880.

SAVAGE & LYMAN, 219 ST. JAMES STREET,

Have received their selection for the Holiday Trade, consisting in part of

WATCHES, IN GOLD AND SILVER CASES, OF SWISS AND AMERICAN MANUFACTURE,

Gold and Silver Jewellery in the Newest and most Artistic Designs,

Including full sets of Bracelets, Brooches, Ear-rings, Locketts, Necklets, Rings, Scarf Pins, Studs, Cuff Buttons, &c., &c., &c.,

Also, a very fine assortment of **SILVERWARE**, from the celebrated **GORHAM** manufactory, put up in elegant cases, specially adapted for **HOLIDAY AND BRIDAL GIFTS.**

A LARGE VARIETY OF BRONZES.

MANTEL, HALL AND BEDROOM CLOCKS, IN MARBLE AND WOODEN CASES,

TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY.

And a fully assorted Stock of the

BEST ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ELECTRO-PLATED WARE,

Comprising **Tea and Coffee Sets, Trays, Entree Dishes and Covers, Castors, Cake Baskets, Jewel Cases, Ice Pitchers, Butter Dishes, Dixon & Sons' celebrated Spoons, Forks, Ladles, &c., Cases of Dessert and Fish-eating Knives and Forks.** An assortment of

ONYX AND JET JEWELLERY. SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES, in Gold, Silver, Steel and Celluloid. Diamonds and Precious Stones mounted, and Jewellery made on the premises.

SAVAGE & LYMAN, 219 ST. JAMES STREET,

N.B.—Goods sent on approval to any part of Canada by Express.

SPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO MERCHANTS AND BUSINESS FIRMS.

THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Has instituted a system of granting Insurances on the lives of the members of Commercial or Professional Firms, covering death resulting from accidental injuries, at the reduced rate of

\$25 per Annum for \$10,000 or smaller sums in proportion.

This form of Insurance especially commends itself to all Partnerships. An accident resulting fatally to a member of a firm may be of material financial moment to the surviving partners. Bad health and declining years CAN be seen advancing, and may be provided against; but **SUDDEN CALAMITY** cannot be discounted, and the unexpected loss of a valuable member of a firm, and consequent withdrawal of capital, may be of vital financial importance to the house—whereas, if the firm have made it a charge on their Estate to provide against this by this inexpensive system of Insurance, the difficulties which might arise are materially averted, and the trifling cost of the provision cannot be held a useless or extravagant expenditure any more than provision against Fire, which no prudent firm neglects.

Accidents occur much oftener than Fires—experience shewing that one person in every ten is during the year accidentally injured—and in not a few cases with fatal results.

The Insurance can be effected in a few minutes, no Medical Examination being required. Persons whose lives are uninsurable by ordinary Life Assurance can be covered by this system, whilst those who have been prudent enough to insure their lives against death by disease, should certainly shew further prudence by adding to the provision in case of their death being caused by circumstances of accident over which they have no control.

THE ACCIDENT

Is the only Company in Canada (or the United States) strictly confining itself to the business of Accident Insurance.

The number of Policies issued last year was more than twice those issued by all the Canadian Companies combined. It has paid over 800 claims, and never contested a claim at law, and it is the only **CANADIAN COMPANY** which has made the **SPECIAL DEPOSIT WITH GOVERNMENT** for the transaction of Accident Insurance in the Dominion.

President, **SIR ALEXANDER T. GALT, G.C.M.G.**
Vice-President, **JOHN RANKIN, Esq.**

Manager and Secretary, **EDWARD RAWLINGS.**
Head Office: **260 ST. JAMES STREET, Montreal.**

WEEKLY TEST.

Number of Purchasers during week ending December 13th, 1879..... 6,046
Same week last year..... 5,117
Increase..... 929

ANNUAL HOSPITAL WEEK.

A per centage of our sales from Dec. 15th until Christmas Eve will be given to the Montreal General Hospital.

It may be worth mentioning that the management of the Hospital has steadily improved ever since properly trained nurses were introduced.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Some useful article of Dry Goods is much better for a Christmas Present than an article that is ornamental only, and generally is much more acceptable.

DRESS GOODS.

- Go to S. Carsley's for Empress Cloth, at 18c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Homespun, at 22c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Scotch Serges, at 10c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Persian Cord, at 14c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Satin Cloth, at 19c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for German Cashmere, at 25c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Egyptian Cord, at 19c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for French Cloth Suiting at 22c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Russel Cord, at 22c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Worsted Serges, at 25c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for French Poplin, at 25c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Stripe Mohair, 22c yd.

SILK MIXED.

- Go to S. Carsley's for Silk Mixed, at 33c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for French Foulard, at 33c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Striped Pompadour, at 40c.
- Go to S. Carsley's for French Brocatelle, at 44c.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Matelassé, at 60c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Diamantine, at 50c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for French Broché, at 48c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Silk Poplin, at 75c yd.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Homespun Broché, at 65c.
- Go to S. Carsley's for Silk Empress Cloth, at 75c.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

- Jackets, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$3
- Usters, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$3 50.
- Circulars, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$5.50.
- Dolmans, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$12.
- Circulars, lined with Squirrel Fur, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$27.
- Astrachan Fur Jackets, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$23.
- Knitted Shawls, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$1.75.
- Wrap Shawls, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$1.95.
- Black Fur Muffs, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$1.40.
- Black Fur Boas, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$2.
- Black Alpaca Costumes, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$5.50.
- Stuff Costumes, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from \$3.75.
- All kinds of Skirts, suitable for Christmas Presents, reduced prices, from 90c.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Sets made wholly of embroidery, Real Lace and other sets, Mourning and Fancy Sets.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Hundreds of choice fancy boxes, filled with Thimbles and the Anchor Brand Spools.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Cashmere, Wool, Cotton and Lisle Hose, in all sizes and newest shades.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Thousands of pairs of Ladies' and Children's Kid Gloves, lined and unlined, of the best and most choice makes.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Go to S. Carsley's for Corsets if you would improve your figure and see the latest novelties.

S. CARSLY'S PRESENTS.

Wool Goods of every description, hand and machine made, great novelties, amongst which is the Art Stitch Fascinator.

S. CARSLY,

393, 395, 397, 399 NOTRE DAME ST.

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. II.—No. 51.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

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DIAMONDS.	TRADE, FINANCE, STATISTICS.
THE CHARMING WOMAN.	CHESS.
A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.	MUSICAL.

THE TIMES.

THE COTEAU BRIDGE—PROS AND CONS.

The projected Coteau Bridge is still the subject of much controversy in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. As a public journalist, anxious to know and say what is right and just toward all parties, I invited a gentleman, who is as capable of giving a fair, judicial opinion, uninfluenced by local considerations, as any one in the Dominion, to tell the people of both Provinces what, in his judgment, is the real state of the case. The following is his reply:—

"SIR,—It is difficult for a citizen of Montreal to avoid being biased in his judgment on the question of allowing a bridge to be constructed over the St. Lawrence at the Coteau. In the controversy which has been recently carried on between the *Montreal Gazette* and Mr. Macmaster, M. P. P. for Glengarry, it seems not improbable that Montreal sympathy has been to a great extent with the *Gazette*. What seems extraordinary is that the Bill authorizing the construction of the bridge was not more strenuously opposed during its passage. It is, however, improbable that sectional opposition would have had much weight with Parliament. Mr. Macmaster has correctly defined the established policy of the Canadian Parliament to be the encouragement of free competition in our railroad enterprises. It was at one time believed that the Canada & Atlantic Railway Company, under another title, would be a feeder of the Grand Trunk, and that its traffic would be carried over that road to the seaboard. It has been found practicable to obtain a shorter line, and it would be felt by the population of the very considerable district of country which will be served by the railway to be a great hardship if it should be prevented from availing itself of the offered facilities.

"The question must be discussed without reference to the possible obstruction of the navigation of the St. Lawrence. That contingency has been fully provided for in the Act, and is quite beside the present question. It is difficult to comprehend upon what grounds the Dominion Government could venture to interpose any obstacle to the construction, by a chartered company, of a public work, which has been expressly authorized by Parliament, provided the Governor-in-Council shall be satisfied, after full examination into the question, that no serious objection exists to bridging the navigable channel at the point of location mentioned in the Act 35 Vic., Cap. 83. It would seem clear that the Governor-in-Council is bound to carry out the provisions of the Act of Parliament, subject only to the restriction already mentioned. Mr. Macmaster has advocated the cause of his constituents with great ability, but it must be admitted with strict impartiality. There is hardly a railway in the Dominion of those recently projected that has not been objected to on the grounds of its competing with established lines, but Canada at a very early period of her railway history adopted the policy of free competition. As Mr. Macmaster has pointed out, Montreal is at this moment strenuously advocating the diversion of the traffic of the Western States to the St. Lawrence, and the Grand Trunk lent its powerful aid in the construction of a bridge over the Niagara River to facilitate the diversion of traffic to the United States railroads. Under these circumstances it would have been scarcely possible for the Dominion

Parliament to have refused the Canada & Atlantic Railway Co. the means of gaining access to the seaboard by the most direct route merely for the purpose of benefiting the city of Montreal, or rather the Grand Trunk Railway Co., for it is far from certain that the city or its inhabitants would derive any benefit by the traffic destined for the United States seaboard, and that is the only traffic that will be taken over the bridge in the event of its construction. No reference has been made in the foregoing remarks to the obstruction of the navigation. There can be no doubt that the Minister of Public Works will take care that the plans for the contemplated bridge are subjected to severe criticism, but on the assumption that all engineering difficulties can be surmounted, the construction of the bridge would seem to be inevitable."

I agree with my correspondent, when he deems it "extraordinary that the bill authorizing the construction of the bridge was not more strenuously opposed during its passage." Everything that can be said against it now, might and ought to have been said then. The Editor of the *Montreal Gazette* was in his place, as member for Cardwell, and might have spoken had he chosen; the members for Montreal, as well as others representing constituencies in Quebec, were in the House, and should have been alive to the interests of the Province, but the bill was allowed to pass unchallenged. As Mr. Macmaster puts it:—"Quebec only began to exhibit its wares the day after the fair." For it is beyond reasonable question or doubt that an Act of Parliament was passed, authorizing the Governor-in-Council to grant permission to a chartered company to build a bridge across the St. Lawrence River at Coteau, "provided that the Governor-in-Council shall be satisfied, after full examination into the subject, that no serious objection exists to bridging the navigable channel." No other issues were raised, or contemplated, and the *Gazette* is seriously in error in attempting to include other objections under that clause. Talk about "absurdity" and "nonsense" does not alter facts.

But it is strange that it never occurred to the *Gazette* to suggest that an Act may be repealed or a law may be amended. The *Gazette* is "out of court" when it says that other objections besides the danger of interfering with navigation may be considered under the Act as it now stands; but it may bring itself within the pale of fair argument if it will say, The Act is passed, but it may be repealed. As soon as that is admitted, we have good reason for opening the discussion. And the discussion turns upon this: Will the good to be done to other lines, and to the Dominion generally, by building the Coteau Bridge, compensate for the injury the Grand Trunk will inevitably suffer? It is quite true that the bridge if built will give us another competing line and another means of gaining access to the seaboard, but what shall we lose by that? We cannot tell with anything like certainty, but we may be quite sure that Grand Trunk traffic would be very materially interfered with, and Mr. Vanderbilt would have a chance of working his will in Canada. What the Grand Trunk has done for Western, as well as Eastern Canada, may be judged from the fact that an average of 750,000 tons of freight per annum are carried by the Grand Trunk, realising a revenue of probably \$3,000,000, which freight would be more or less subject to competition should the bridge be built.

The Grand Trunk is a great institution in Canada—an institution without which Canada would be a scattered and disintegrated community; vast sums of English money have been spent upon it; all its works are conducted in Canada; every fresh development it makes is in the interest of Canada; it favours Canadian ports, and with unceasing enterprise "taps" the traffic of the States for Canada's benefit. Whereas, if we allow American lines to come in

and take our traffic to Europe by way of Boston, their men and their workshops will be at Boston, and they will simply run through Canadian territory. Granted that the people living between Coteau and Ottawa would be advantaged by the building of the bridge, it is a fair question to ask, in these days of national policy: Would not Canada lose more than Glengarry would gain? The Grand Trunk has mooted the question of a double track between Montreal and Toronto, but if we take measures to starve its traffic we shall necessitate decreased instead of increased facilities for travel and traffic. One thing is certain, Canada cannot afford to ignore the Grand Trunk Railway.

With one suggestion I will close: Why does not the Grand Trunk build a line from Coteau to Ottawa? That would satisfy all parties and settle the whole question.

A MOVE FOR TRADE RECIPROCITY.

Can it be that after all the United States will soon wake up to what we, at any rate, should call its proper senses, and offer Great Britain and Canada reciprocal trade relations? The following item from the *Exchange* of Dec. 14th, a financial paper, shows that commercial men are thinking seriously about it:—

"The House Committee on Commerce devoted two hours yesterday to another committee from the National Board of Trade, which appeared before it to urge upon Congress the importance of authorizing the appointment of a commission and inviting Great Britain to join this country in considering the subject of reciprocal trade relations between the United States and Canada. Mr. Kimball, the chairman of the Board of Trade committee, in referring to the abrogation of the old treaty, said it was brought about not on account of advantages received by Canada and the disadvantages resulting to the United States, but rather on account of the attitude of Canada toward the South at that time. Mr. McLaren, another member of the Board of Trade committee, referred to the increased extent of border line between the United States and Canada since the abrogation of the old treaty. Then reciprocity operated over 1,000 miles of border, while now it had increased to nearly four times that extent. The Canadians, he said, were more interested in the question than ever before, and they were endeavouring to find routes to carry their products from the western portion of Canada to the seaboard by the routes nature had selected as the best, and these routes—some of them—led through the United States. Mr. McLaren also made some suggestions in regard to the provisions which should be recognized and agreed upon in a new treaty. Mr. Hodges, of Baltimore, referred to the growing tendency to establish commercial treaties between the countries of Europe. France had taken the lead in this matter, and had already entered into reciprocal trade relations with a number of the continental countries. The system had worked well and advantageously to France, and he believed it would operate beneficially if adopted by the United States. The committee on commerce expects to hear, at its meeting next Tuesday, some of the objections of the railroad men to the provisions of Mr. Reagan's bill regulating inter-State commerce."

If the United States would undertake the work of bringing this about, and would act in good faith and keep promises when made, many problems would be solved and many difficulties would be removed, and the world be the richer and better; but the worst is that the world has learnt to distrust Uncle Sam, and believes that when any proposal comes from him it is because he can see a way of out-marching them to the tune of "dollars and cents."

GLADSTONE ON RECIPROCITY.

Mr. Gladstone in his speech at Dalkeith undertook once more to denounce the quack remedies for commercial depression and agricultural distress, including among them Protection and Reciprocity. Holding the creed he does, and considering the position of Great Britain, he was entitled to do that. But it may fairly be questioned whether or not he was entitled to insist so strongly as he did upon the inconsistency of those who, though believing fully in Free-trade as the best of all possible principles, and as an ideal to which they are willing to work up, are nevertheless, anxious to bring about, meantime, a Zollverein, or territorially limited Customs' Union, in which the Free-trade they would have, but cannot, on account of general perversity, may be put in force on a smaller scale. Although Mr. Gladstone held up the inconsistency of others to his logical scorn and contempt, he has not been able to keep himself entirely free from the sin he finds so shameful. He acquiesced in the commercial treaty with France, which clearly was a departure from the abstract principle of Free-trade; for

France retained the power to impose import duties up to 30 per cent. ad valorem, while England pledged herself to impose no duties whatsoever. The violation of consistency is just as marked in the one case as in the other; and if Mr. Gladstone lived in Canada, where four millions are shut out from the markets of fifty millions who live alongside, he would probably change his opinion and yield a little to stern necessity.

Telegrams.—LONDON, December 15.—"It is understood that the Council held at Windsor Castle to-day will further prorogue Parliament till February."

"The Viceroy of India has asked for five thousand troops from England."

That is a good illustration of the happy-go-lucky style of statesmanship which the Earl of Beaconsfield has adopted—and, as it seems, popularized. The House is to stand adjourned and five thousand men will start for Afghanistan; or, as another telegram has it—"The Viceroy will require no more troops." At any rate, England is at last landed in a most terrible war, which can yield neither riches nor honour. The old story comes back to the memory of how our fellow-subjects—men, women and children—were murdered by the ruthless Afghans some thirty years ago. Is the tragedy to be acted over again? It looks very much like it. General Roberts, with a mere handful of troops, is shut up in Cabul—a strong city for defensive purposes, but the inhabitants are hostile to everything British—waiting for reinforcements. How they are to get to the rescue is not clear. No country in the world is more difficult of access than Afghanistan, on account of its terrible passes; and all those passes are in the hands of the Afghan soldiers. They are well-trained, and well-armed men; and although General Roberts will probably prove to be as skilful as we are sure he is brave, it may very well happen that his small army will be utterly annihilated before help can reach him.

So England will, in all probability, have to pay a great price for the few days rejoicing it had over the fascinating fiction of a "scientific frontier." Lord Beaconsfield's fine phrases are turning out to be most expensive luxuries, and it is to be devoutly hoped that he will soon find it impossible to fight against public opinion at home, and fierce enemies abroad.

The truth is that England will have to give up her peculiar ideas as to the "missionary" work she is called upon to do in the world. No sooner did Cobden and Bright convince the people of England that Free-trade was the best possible policy for England than at once England became the zealous apostle of Free-trade to all other nations of the earth; but on the whole the effort has been a lamentable failure. It was a "missionary" case which caused England to fight against, and practically demolish Abyssinia. The leading spirits in the Imperial Parliament fancied that England had a mission to fulfil in Turkey, and straightway sent her fleet to the Dardanelles. Sir Bartle-Frere conceived the brilliant idea that the Zulu king had no right to rule according to his own and his people's notion; so Cetewayo was made a prisoner—after his army had done much, and received more mischief, and Zululand was broken up—John Dunn being entrusted with the honour of representing English morals and religion. And last of all, Lord Lytton—ineffective shadow of the defunct Owen Meredith, set his heart upon a "mission" at Cabul; the imagination of the Earl at home was fired by the idea—it had every appearance of a "spirited policy"—it would be setting a watch upon designing Russia—perhaps it would prove a checkmate—at any rate it would place a few soldiers a few hundred miles nearer Herat—which, like the parade of Indian soldiers at Malta, was at least a most imposing show, and made it plain that England would stand no nonsense on the part of anybody, be it Russian Czar or Afghan Ameer. But the thing has proved a blunder and a failure in every phase of it, and it is time that England began to learn what her real mission is. Let her send out missionaries by all means, who shall teach nations how to live in righteousness—but let her put away the notion that armies must enforce the doctrine. Men who go out to declare a gospel of light and truth should not count their lives as dear unto them, nor think overmuch of the British flag; while politicians should learn that there is a "higher law" which forbids wanton war and spoliation, although they enrich the story of rule and annexation.

ONTARIO WANTING MORE TAXES.

Ontario, it would seem, is also resolved to enter for the race the other Provinces are running—the goal of which is reached when expenditure largely exceeds revenue, and investments in Public Works—permanent investments they always prove to be—have arrived at that bourne whence no revenue returns. This lugubrious train of thought has been suggested by an announcement in the Toronto Government organ that new buildings for the accommodation of that political nursery, the Ontario Parliament, are to be erected, at an estimated cost of one million dollars. This is a severe tax upon one's credulity. A period of, at least, one year will be necessary for the interested and the paid to arrive at a decision as to where it shall be built; it will take two years more to build it—and every one knows that in less than five years, if the march of enlightened opinion in Canada continue, Provincial Parliaments will have ceased to exist.

The new Parliament House—if built—will stand alone and solitary, labelled “to let.” Would it not be better “to let” it alone now? The present building is antiquated and undergoing a process of decay, but it will outlast the institution it now shelters. Good people of Ontario, be advised, and spend your hard-earned money to better purpose.

One of the many Committees which govern the United States proposed the other day that Congress be requested to suggest to the British Parliament a change in the Irish land laws;—that will be allowed to pass for what it is worth in England, and that is not much. But what effect do the Irish of Montreal imagine their representations to the Imperial Parliament are going to produce? The meeting called for Saturday—to which resolutions, drawn up by four clergymen, are to be submitted, discussed, and probably passed—is a proof of patriotism and a concern for their kith and kin over the sea, but beyond that it is not worth the time it will cost the gentlemen attending it. Any petition that they may send, or suggestions they may make, will trouble the official head not at all. England thinks she can manage her own affairs, and look after Ireland, and will not heed the interference of any number of colonists.

Last week, in an allusion to the Mechanics' Bank, I was, by a simple error—the dropping of an “s” in “persons”—made to say:—“The name of the institution and the person associated with it attracted a number of the workmen of the Grand Trunk and other shops, who took stock at the time the bank was started.” I intended to speak of the general body of the Directorate and to imply that they were men in whom the artizan class had confidence. The Directors when the Bank commenced operations were:—Walter Shanly, President; Alexander Molson, John Atkinson, A. W. Ogilvie, and Hon. T. D. McGee. At first the Bank appeared to succeed well, as it paid 8 per cent. dividend for several years, and the stock was at par for a long time.

The Consolidated Bank statement just issued is somewhat cheering. There seems some possibility of a five to ten per cent. salvage for the shareholders if the assets be carefully handled. In this juncture would it not be wisdom to remember that the first estimate of the present Acting Manager, Mr. Campbell, was—considering the changed aspect which the fact of the Bank's suspension must have given to many of the securities—a marvellously close one. The estimated surplus was at first placed by him at over a million and under one and a half million. Now the apparent surplus is said to be \$1,200,000, of which \$380,000 have become totally bad. Liquidation by those who have thus shown themselves sound in judgment at a time of great difficulty will probably be decided upon by the collective wisdom of the shareholders and their creditors. These latter ought to pause before they force the ruin of insolvency on those who thereby would in many cases lose their all.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AGAIN,

What I said a fortnight ago about the stamping of weights and measures by Government, has called forth the following letter from a gentleman who is well informed and can speak with authority:—

DEAR SIR,—Immediately upon the passage of the law concerning Weights and Measures the Department commenced a series of experiments entailing an enormous expense upon the country, and a system of regulations was adopted which had no precedent in English history. So serious was the disaffection among the people that the Government of the day took the matter in hand, and brought order out of chaos, and the language of the Commissioner, written at that time, was never more applicable than now. “As the Deputy Inspectors seem to act in a manner which creates great dissatisfaction, especially among those in the trade, they are hereby restricted from insisting upon the inspection of any except such as are actually in use.” That is a good English law, from which the Commissioners have again departed. Now, the merchant who may wish to purchase a stock of scales, or weights, to hold in stock, and may not wish to invest the additional capital required for stamping, is under the necessity of ordering direct from England, or the United States—literally forcing the trade away from the commercial centres, a state of things which may be truly said to have no parallel in commercial history.

And it is a remarkable fact, that a system which has been found, after long experience in other countries, conducive of fraud, has not only been adopted, but made absolutely imperative in this. The inspection of scales in a factory, and the Government certificate that they are correct for weighing purposes (when these scales are taken apart, and packed in large numbers for distant shipment, in a promiscuous manner), is a delusion and a snare.

To show your readers the correctness of my conclusions, take the case of the Patent Agate Scales, made in Birmingham, composed of twenty-five different pieces, and brought out to this country in large quantities. Any inspection of those scales before they left England would be no guarantee of their correctness after they reached this country, unless they were properly put together, and the English law so considers it, for they are sent all over the world without inspection. And the law as at present enforced simply prevents Montreal from doing what every other city in England and the United States can do without let or hindrance.

Make the penalty for making, selling or using fraudulent scales as heavy as possible, but do not insult the intelligence of the people by sending out with a box of casting a Government certificate guaranteeing them correct scales for weighing purposes for two years, which in fact is not worth the paper upon which it is written, as far as protecting the public against fraud is concerned.

If the law is intended for revenue, then let it be so applied as not to discriminate against the wholesale merchant and manufacturer, or deceive the purchaser by giving the impression that his Government certificate guarantees the correctness of his scale,—a fact that can only be arrived at by careful inspection after it has reached its destination and has been properly adjusted.

Edmund Yates of the *World* is responsible for the following general remarks, and particular story, which deal with the manners of a certain, and numerous, class of Americans who still persist in carrying their natural bluntness into civilized society:—

“A downright vulgar American is about as vulgar a man as you could meet with anywhere. And perhaps the flower of American vulgarity is to be found in the thriving city of Chicago. The lion of a fashionable dinner-table, at which I happened to be present the other evening, was a Chicago banker, so enormously rich that he might have said with Mr. Anson in *Courtship*, ‘Wealth, I woller in it.’ He carried the outward signs of it about him, in several massive rings, and a watch-chain which hung in ropes of gold about his waistcoat. He was tall, lean, and yellow, and abominably over-dressed; but mothers with marriageable daughters could not make enough of him. He did not talk much, and would have got through dinner well enough but for one unlucky slip into which the kindness of his host betrayed him. He ate but little, and refused one dish after another; and the hostess, after trying in vain to tempt his appetite, said she believed she must give him up. ‘Wal, yes, ma'am, I believe you'd best,’ said the banker. ‘You know I'd trust you with my purse and my topcoat; but I guess I'll be boss of my own stummick.’”

IMPROVING THE GUNS.

What is this absurd rumour about altering and enlarging and perfecting “our guns” at Quebec, St. Helen's Island, Kingston, &c.? The guns may be ornamental, but they certainly are not useful, and are never likely to be. Who are we going to fight with our improved cannon? Perhaps the Indians of the Northwest—or the defunct Fenians—or, perhaps, the wild ducks which frequent the regions round about Glengarry. But, in all seriousness, surely we can find some more sensible and profitable way of spending our money; and surely the Government will not be guilty of such gross folly. If it wants to put those guns to some useful purpose, let them be run down to make sewing-machines, or stoves, or rails.

EDITOR.

FATHER RYAN'S LECTURE ON IRELAND.

A meagre assembly in Nordheimers' Hall was recently favoured with the first of a series of lectures undertaken to be delivered by the Rev. Father Ryan at the instance of St. Patrick's Society in this city. The performance, although it may not be readily accepted as a "masterly summing up of the situation," stands in favourable contrast to the vulgar vehemence of an ecclesiastic who, on a former and somewhat similar occasion, is said to have elicited applause from the "cultured" Catholics of Montreal. With what is known as "The Irish Land Question" for his subject, the lecturer would naturally enlist a large share of the sympathy of his countrymen; but, as they do not happen to constitute "the entire enlightened world," and are, perhaps, a doubtful portion thereof, it may be assumed that in the wide range presented by the current exigencies of human society there are social and political problems not less absorbent of interest than the immoral aspirations of Irish demagogues and paupers.

In consenting to deliver an address Father Ryan says he was embarrassed by fear of himself and fear of his audience. The first, doubtless proceeding from a mixture of modesty and reluctance to refuse a request, is creditable to his feelings; and if it may not be the opinion of everybody that he has achieved a decided success, he has at least proved himself free from the national failing which seems less observable in the facility of granting requests than in the non-performance of promises so frequently incurred. His apparent perplexity, however, touching the character of his prospective reception, seems less easy to explain. It is not to be imagined that, in a moment of weakness, the reverend gentleman would so far forget himself as to say anything that his sensitive compatriots might construe into approbation of England or of Englishmen,—a course not usually successful in propitiating a Celtic assembly. True, the "natural tendency" of its criticism is to be "sharp, quick," and sometimes inconveniently demonstrative; but Orators, habitually unfavourable to the powers that be, may safely rely upon the kindness and generosity of the Hibernian heart for those conventional "bursts of applause" that so aptly suggest the story of the Irishwoman who meeting a funeral joined the professional criers, and having cried her cry, requested to be informed for whom it was she had been crying.

From the definite character of the advice given by Mr. Parnell to his countrymen—neither to pay arrears to their landlords nor surrender the lands for the use of which they had agreed, but failed, to pay rent—it is difficult to repress a feeling of curiosity as to what in the opinion of Father Ryan might constitute the "suspicious surroundings" of which he undertook to strip the programme of that popular leader. Had this information been substituted for those apocryphal "glories" that seem to be inseparable from Irish orations, "writers in the English press," unacquainted with the peculiarities of the Hibernian habit of reasoning, might cease to give to the proceedings of Mr. Parnell that "Communitistic colouring" his language would naturally suggest.

With a section of the inhabitants inaccurately designated "the people of Ireland" Father Ryan thinks the time has arrived for what he calls a "just, wise, and generous settlement of the land question." So far as it may be possible to measure the solidity or meaning of Irish agitation, that question seems to be whether there shall take place a transfer from one body of Irishmen proprietors, to another body of Irishmen occupiers, of a great part, if not the whole, of the island; but at what stage of the process proposed it might be deemed possible to discern its justice, wisdom or generosity is beyond the wildest conjecture. The present proprietors are a class not likely to have been engaged in treasonable practices, and the time and conditions having, happily, long since passed away when clerical incendiaries might have incited them to open rebellion, they must be held as having incurred neither forfeiture nor fine. Stress is laid on the absence of intention to seize their estates without giving them reasonable indemnity; but to force men to sell what they might be unwilling to sell would be but a modified form of confiscation, and notwithstanding the probably theoretical reasonableness of the indemnity, would become a dangerous precedent. Deficiency of crops, disastrous seasons, and unfavourable prices—confessedly not within the power of legislative control—may, and doubtless will, happen again, when once more the "entire enlightened world" will be commanded to stand still, to contemplate a new phase of the "plundered rights" of Irishmen.

It has been clearly demonstrated by Father Ryan that land being considered the only source whence it is possible to procure the means by which life is sustained, it essentially differs from all other forms of what is known as property; but he has not said anything that could be accepted as conclusively proving that this difference—great and important as it undoubtedly is—should render ownership of land less absolute than of commodities not so essential to existence; nor has he made it by any means clear that land, the ownership of which is absolute, should not be hired like anything else that is usually hired. A man might own a number of fields and a number of ships for which he would have no present use. The former he refuses, and the latter he is willing, to offer for hire. The fields and the ships are essential to those who would hire them; the former to enable the intending tenant to live; the latter

for the purposes of commerce; but the refusal to hire the fields could not be justly regarded as a deprivation of the applicant's right to a living. A reason for not letting the fields might be that tenants already in possession either would not, or could not, pay their rents. They might plead that the land was necessary for their existence. Being also necessary to the owner's existence, to admit such a plea for retaining land without payment of rent would strongly resemble the first step to anarchy and confusion.

The landlords generally possess their lands by purchase, by grant from the Crown or by inheritance, and their absolute right to those lands must be acknowledged. To take from a man without his consent that which he lawfully possesses is to rob him of his rights even where full compensation is given. He would prefer keeping his land, but the taking thereof is a foregone conclusion, and rather than get nothing he accepts the value of it in money and suffers a wrong. For the purposes of railways, canals and the like, land has to be expropriated, but such furnishes a feeble parallel indeed to wholesale confiscation with what would be called remuneration. Tenants, in common with all men—except those under just sentence of death—have a right to live, and so have their landlords; but to vindicate the rights of one class of men—the tenants—by destroying the rights of another class of men—the landlords—is a proposal in which it is in vain to seek for justice, wisdom, or generosity.

Two men may be supposed to own land; the landlord permanently, and the tenant temporarily. Both rely upon it for their means of living. The tenant holds either by lease or "at will," the latter meaning with the consent of the owner from term to term. The land in Ireland, although remarkably fertile, does not commonly yield more than one crop per annum, consequently no farmer would be likely to take, nor be asked to take, a farm for any period of less than twelve months, generally commencing from the first of May, rent being payable half-yearly. This being understood as the holding of land "at will," it is improbable that a tenant so holding could be "liable to disturbance at any moment" when he would be "driven from his home, having no home to go to." The sense of insecurity which tenancy "at will" inevitably engenders must seriously retard any desire to improve cultivation, and a term of years would seem preferable. The system, however, has been for many years in operation and does not seem to have worked badly until now, when a series of bad seasons has brought a part of the people to the brink of starvation. Assuredly there should be in Ireland what there is in England—viz., freedom of contract. In the latter island when a tenant is dissatisfied with the terms on which he holds his acres, and the landlord refuses any acceptable modification, he either emigrates or tries some other mode of living. But in Ireland to exact rent that was agreed to be paid is to oppress. To evict for non-payment of rent is to paint the accustomed picture of "the mother and her little ones" turned out on the road by the "land robber," and his "crow-bar brigade." A noticeable feature of these lectures is their one-sided character. The Government is to blame, and the landlords are to blame, and the seasons are to blame; but although blame falls in showers all round, not so much as a drop reaches the God-fearing pikemen. Not a word about drunkenness, nor improvidence; not a word about the significant quiet that prevails all over Scotland and England and Northern Ireland. But there is the insidious and never-failing inculcation of hatred of England. Be the subject what it may, Carthage must always be destroyed. Well know the orators and lecturers that whilst English men sincerely regret such a feeling, they thoroughly despise it.

Why drag the Penal Laws into the lecture? Does Father Ryan imagine that all history is for him and his side of the story? what was it that stamped out the reformed faith from Spain and from Italy? what was it that extinguished the Roman Catholic religion in England and in Scotland? Is the Rev. gentleman quite certain that, had the "infamous code" been as strictly carried out in Ireland as it was in England, he would not to-day be the pastor of some Protestant flock instead of being a distinguished member of the Society of Loyola. The Penal Code was a barbarous code, but the times and the circumstances that necessitated such laws were also barbarous. The law by which a man forfeits and loses his life or liberty may be called barbarous, but who would deny that it is essential to the security of life and all that makes life dear?

The Penal laws were designed to repress and extinguish a religion, the members of which were constantly plotting against the Sovereign and Government to whom they owed allegiance. To this they were continually incited and encouraged by the ministers of their church, who, with characteristic heroism, braved danger and death in a cause they conscientiously believed to be right. Wholesale confiscation without remuneration is spoken of as a system of the past, but there is a prudent silence respecting the causes which led to loss of estates. The O'Neills, the O'Donells, and the Desmonds, hearkening but too faithfully to the counsels of their spiritual advisers, broke out into open revolt against the Sovereign to whom they had sworn to be loyal. Forbearance with them had its usual effect. Rebellion after rebellion was speedily crushed. Defeat followed defeat; after which came confiscation. In the confusion, and owing to the rapacity of needy and unprincipled adventurers doubtless, many innocent persons were unjustly deprived, but such formed no part of a system.

The Rev. Father and his countrymen are willing to forget the wrongs of

Ireland upon specified conditions. But are they certain that the leopard can change his spots, and do they pretend that all the forgetting is to be theirs? Are there not just a few pages of history which it would be as well had they never been written? Ireland is the country that is now spoken of. Her orators are fond of dilating on what they call her glories. What did those glories for mankind?—glories far back among the cobwebs of antiquity, where nobody can find them.

It needs not the evidence of Spenser the Poet to prove that Ireland was rich and beautiful; but, to believe that before the arrival of Strafford it was "flourishing, wealthy and happy," would require a poetic imagination indeed. In 1636 "the natural wealth of Ireland began for the first time to reveal itself. Fields fenced and drained grew yellow with corn; the vast herds of cattle that wandered at will were turned to profitable account. Population which had remained stationary for a thousand years began to expand. When left to themselves the Irish had killed each other down in their perpetual wars, and children had died for want of food." This is what is read in history. Edmund Spenser may be conveniently quoted, but the lecturer did not mention how soon he grew tired of the modest three hundred acres which, as an "undertaker," he owned on the banks of the Blackwater, in that "beautiful and general country," and there are other things said by the Poet which Father Ryan did well to omit.

The lecturer in Nordheimers' Hall called on Irishmen in Canada to prove that "even under England's rule," they can be prosperous. It is the fashion to say that in the Dominion there is the utmost liberty compatible with order, and that its conditions are highly favorable to the development of wealth,—a state of things not at all uncommon in countries under England's sway. But it would appear that it requires those wonderful men, called the Sons of Erin, to prove that even in Canada they can prosper, that even there they never cease to howl for "their rights."

For the fact that Irishmen prosper under the rule of the Saxon, it seems not necessary to come all the way to Canada, that despite the British government, the "land-robbers," the "oppression," the "plundered rights," the cruel laws that require people to pay their debts, Irishmen prosper in "suffering, calumniated Ireland." That during the last thirty years the course of her affairs has been one of advancing prosperity," proved by increased number of superior dwellings and diminution in pauperism and crime. During that period the ordinary wages of the labourer averaged about two shillings a day, and his daily food, "even in the most backward districts, was bread and tea, potatoes and bacon and porridge." But now that bad harvests, low prices, and their share of human improvidence have overtaken them, "the entire enlightened world" resounds with the usual howl of justice to Ireland, death to the land-robbers, and a declaration that the only way out of the difficulty is "the legal formation of a peasant proprietary" which alone can prove acceptable. This last has in Italy proved a disastrous failure. In France it is said to succeed. How far a system suited to the industrious thrifty and conservative provincial Frenchman would suit the hardworking, slovenly, improvident, open hearted and volatile Hibernian, may fairly be questioned. With the incentive to pay rent might cease the incentive to exertion, Patrick O'Toole finding himself a landed proprietor might feel inclined to take it "azy," and would probably find it convenient to let his acres to his neighbour O'Dowd, neighbour O'Dowd having already several estates, and in a few years there would be a new generation of "land-robbers."

But however the experiment might turn out, there seems something grotesque in the proposal of men to purchase an estate of which they are unable to pay the rent.

Of course the British Government would have to find the money and might recover the first payment, and then Irishmen having recovered "the lands of their fathers," their "plundered rights," would be advised to retain them, and the government endeavouring to get back for the cruel and heartless English tax payer the money advanced would become a fruitful theme for lectures and orations, and impassioned appeals for justice to Ireland.

Saxon.

THE PESTILENT SPY FOR THE PRESS.

"Interviewing" is a phase of newspaper conduct of purely American invention, and several recent illustrations of it serve to prove that it is not a complete success. It may perhaps, be said, that, kept within bounds, it might be a legitimate and proper way of getting information. The men to "interview" are those whose views the public desire to obtain, and who are willing to take the public into their confidence in this way, but the whole system is so full of anomalies and dangers that it would be well to stamp it out at once. Our "modern instances" are simply evidences of the dismal failure of the whole institution, possibly if it can only be realized, how utterly worthless and unreliable any information furnished in such a shape, must of necessity be, the thing will fall of its own rottenness. One example, on this head, will suffice; Sir Hugh Allan was recently interviewed at Halifax with reference to the capacity of that port for winter shipment of grain. Does any man outside Beauport

asylum, (except perhaps the interviewer), imagine that an astute man of business like Sir Hugh would furnish to an irresponsible stranger any really important disclosure? The questions were necessarily puerile, serving to show how little the questioner knew of what is going on with reference to the question about which he was trying to talk. The answers gave no information and we can only express surprise that Sir Hugh had the patience to endure the "interview." He was too much of a gentleman to tell his questioner that he was a fool, but his terse replies and his retorts by asking other questions would have shown any one but an ordinary reviewing reporter that his victim was both annoyed and disgusted. That any one possessing a particle of common sense should publish how he had been snubbed, is incomprehensible.

Unfortunately, the "interviewing" reporter thinks his questions quite as important, if not more so, than the answers, whereas the public do not want to know what the reporter said, or thought, or did. If they want to know about the matter at all, it is what the great man said, and that they want to know as briefly as possible.

It is still fresh in our memories that the Duc de Morny was victimized in this way, when in this city, and he declared over his own signature that *he did not say* what the reporter said *he did say*; Mr. Thos. White, too, when he returned from his holiday trip to Manitoba, was pestered, and he was driven to hope that he might not be taken to have said what the "interviewer" put into his mouth; and the *fiasco* with poor Mr. Proctor the lecturer is too recent to have passed from our minds. Here we have four prominent cases in which the "interview" business proved eminently unsuccessful, and they all tend to show that the information thus obtained is not worth a button.

The interviewing of Mrs. Scott-Siddons and Miss Emma Abbott too were scarcely worth all the trouble taken; it is true that in the former case the reporter rose to the height of calling her a "delicious" woman, and we were told of Miss Abbott that the "fair cantatrice tapped her boot with a small cane,"—not very wonderful information to impart, surely.

Some of our contemporaries are busily engaged in endeavouring to show how the system may be made decent, and the suggestion is made that the reporter's notes should be read over to the unhappy victim so as to ensure verification. It may well be doubted whether any man with a grain of sense in his head, or a spark of character at stake, would submit himself to such an inquisition; however, *chacun a son gout*, if any extraordinarily vain and silly individual fell into such a man-trap, we might read of it with "a margin."

It will be well if we pause before the system sinks to a lower depth; it is difficult to tell where the interviewer ends and the spy begins. Hatred of spies is innate in the English breast. It is impossible to imagine any country so degraded that it would tolerate such creatures with impunity. Russia is said to be a hotbed for them; France has from time to time had a good experience of this evil, alike under Imperial and Republican rule. Every country, in fact, has suffered from this curse, which has sometimes been accepted as an inevitable evil, but has never ceased to move the people to sullen and bitter indignation.

And this must inevitably be so. The instinct of self-preservation revolts against the spy. No one is safe within the range of his baleful influence. It is necessary for his loathsome ends that he should ingratiate himself with those whom he means to betray, so as to get into their circle and worm out their confidence; and thus his position is ever the part of an enemy playing the part of a friend. Can anything be more despicable? And lest any element of degradation should be wanted, it is furnished in the fact that the professional spy is almost inevitably driven to supplement treachery by false witness. He must do something for his money.

So honest is public feeling in this matter, at the bottom, that, as I recollect, there was a strong protest when it was proposed to add a Detective branch to the English Police. It might be necessary, it was admitted, but it was dangerous. It was a leaf out of the book of despotic countries. In a word, it was un-English. Events came in time to justify this protest, for this reason: A man's character is influenced by his calling, and you cannot make him a spy and keep him at the kind of work which that involves, without lowering his self-respect, deteriorating his moral fibre, and so fitting him to become just what the famous Detective trials showed that the Detective force had become. False to everybody else, it was folly to suppose that they would be true to their employers, or even to themselves.

Notwithstanding that espionage is so hateful, it is startling to find a "Society" journal in England giving the results of an advertisement in the way of obtaining the services of a spy moving in high society. The communication is highly interesting and instructive. The writer, in *Mayfair*, was speaking of the number of Private Inquiry Offices which have sprung up—a bad sign of the times—and the question arose how the Private Inquirer would proceed if he were required to obtain information which could only be got from persons of the very highest rank, moving in the very best society, and suggested a direct application, offering a sum of money for the information. The following advertisement was inserted in the *Morning Post*:—

"WANTED, a person to conduct a special inquiry. Gentleman or lady having the *entré* into society indispensable. Fixed terms, and if successful, handsome bonus."

To this nine answers were received, and very remarkable they were, judging from the samples published :

One was from a lady, wife of a gentleman in good position, the mother of children, and herself the daughter of a lady, "who is very wealthy, entertains a great deal, and her receptions are among the best and the largest in the best London society; her ball last season was one of the most brilliant given, and greatly talked about." Yet she and her husband were ready to conduct a "private inquiry"—to become spies, in effect—among their own and her mother's friends for money offered by an entire stranger! The low moral tone which could prompt a woman to contemplate such a thing is terrible to reflect on, and the side-light which it throws on the rottenness of society seems to justify its most virulent assailants.

The answer of an officer in the army, and member of three first-rate clubs, who is ready "to prosecute any inquiry which can be followed in society," is not remarkable, because he admits that he had "held an important position in the Indian police," presumably the Detective branch, and therefore he could not be expected to have many scruples left. A lady whose "position in society would utterly prohibit her from ever being known in anything of this kind" is equally shameless, but most circumspect. She has mastered the Eleventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not be found out." Quite ready to do a base, a contemptible thing for a little money, she is only afraid of detection. Society cannot keep her honest; but it has just sufficient influence to put her in the category of those wives of Venice whose virtue it prompted them "not to leave undone, but to keep unknown." A third lady is bolder and more unscrupulous. She gives an utter stranger her name and address, implicates her husband, who "knows nearly everybody, is much liked, and very clever," her married daughter, who "might be of great help," wants to know beforehand the terms of the infamous bargain. She does not hesitate to admit that she has played the spy before, yet "her circle of friends are very great—she is on terms of close intimacy with a large number of the aristocracy." What a charming friend, and how favoured the aristocracy must be to have in closest intimacy a creature prepared to accept their confidences only to abuse them, ready to worm out their secrets to sell for ready money, and generally to betray them to a stranger, who may be influenced by the blackest and most infamous of motives!

It is a pity that the rest of the offers from amateur spies could not have been published; but they seem to have been of such a reckless and compromising nature that "nothing short of mutilation, which would render them almost unintelligible, would prevent the detection of the writers by their friends." One cannot help feeling that this would be a just punishment. The offence is a very grave one. As the writer of the article remarks, "Here are nine persons professing to move in the highest circles of society who are willing, for hire, to convert the privileges which their peers have conferred on them in virtue of their birth and social status into a sinister and venomous weapon against society." Nothing can be more base, nothing more disgraceful, and it is to be regretted that exposure should not overtake them.

But the most serious point is—how far does this kind of thing go? If nine, how many more? Is society so rotten, so utterly unsound root and branch, that it only hangs together by a veneer of the slightest character, and is ready to collapse at a touch? There will always be black sheep; but these letters, so far as published, do not imply that their writers consider themselves as doing anything particularly gross or infamous. They are anxious to guard against discovery, not by the man addressed—who, by the way, stranger as he appears, might actually be one of their own set, ready to take advantage of the confidence so imprudently entrusted to him—but by those around them. This is, however, only natural. If it should become known that they were paid spies, there would be an end of their opportunities for getting information. Moreover, only the worst of human beings would disclose themselves in a light so utterly odious. But it is clear that they do not feel worse than their neighbours, or suspect that they are doing what anyone would not do if they got the chance. This is the worst of it. Moral dry-rot has undermined the fabrics. They are hopeless. But do they stand alone? Are they exceptions? It is not a pleasant reflection, but it is clearly the business of those interested to take every pains to show that it is not so. The only claim that an aristocracy can have to its existence in a country is that of meriting the country's regard. When it forfeits this—when "society" becomes utterly hollow and debased, the sooner it is swept away the better; and it must be admitted that a pretty strong sign of degradation, not to say latent infamy, is afforded in "Society" spies.

In conclusion, to return to our modern interviewer for a moment, it is said to be an American invention. Let us hope it may remain so, and that it may never take a firm root in our soil, though it may perhaps drag on a miserable existence for a time. It was playfully said of Smithfield, as a live cattle market in the heart of the city of London that it would never be abolished until an alderman had been tossed by a bullock, so the interviewer may exist until some indignant Englishman who refuses to accept the system kindly, shows the pestiferous creature the door, or possibly a more speedy means of exit through the window.

Quædo Redivivus.

IMPENETRABILITY vs. POLITENESS.

Popular Science applied to popular uses is one of the special boasts of this age. Nor is it quite an idle boast; for Science does apply itself, more than ever, to the popular gain of material substance. So far, well; yet Science, ere it becomes really useful to the populace, must either elicit or point the way to moral gain of moral substance. Then there will evolve a moral science from the physical; and one of its branches will be a science of Politeness.

That property of matter known as "Impenetrability" is replete with moral instruction. The learned reader will feel quite hurt to be reminded that the basis of all science of Statics and Dynamics is "Impenetrability," or

the discovery that "no two portions of matter can occupy the same space at the same time"; yet it is needful to bring this truth prominently before the mind's eye ere we can reason from it towards "social" statics and "polite" dynamics.

If it be indeed a natural law that no two portions of matter can occupy the same space at the same time, how comes it that any one portion of matter of the male species can hope to occupy the only dry track on an extremely muddy street-crossing, and at the same time leave a clear and mudless path for another portion of matter of the feminine genus? Yet a dense obtuseness to this inevitable "condition of our environment" with mud, each Fall and Spring, does, unhappily, prominently invade Canadian social habits. "Impenetrability" is a melancholy but conspicuous fact also on street cars, omnibuses, and all manner of public conveyances. The voice of the "strong-minded female" cries in vain from without for its abandonment by those within. The aged and infirm become aware of this law of matter by sad experience. An ignorant and uneducated public thrust this wisdom upon them with a vehemence alike convincing and, to them, irresistible.

A further illustration of this law of Impenetrability is to be found on the streets of our great cities where men—and women too—try to walk and hold conversation in knots of two, three, or four. When two such groups, tending in opposite directions, on a comparatively narrow pavement, approach each other, the difficulties of impenetrability become painfully apparent. One of two things must result. Either one of these conglomerated forms of "matter," animated by what philosophers call "force," must undergo a rapid and organic change of "form" to accommodate it to its "environment," or a result must ensue similar to that from which Colonel R. G. Ingersoll traces the creation of all material things,—viz., collision. Yet this would be an "effect" from which other forms of "force" are eminently likely to be developed. The "force" developed is selfishness, and the "effect" is that "the weak must go to the wall."

Are men always and everywhere to be creatures of circumstances?—the slaves of law? Can't we invent some force—such as politeness, unselfishness, charity, consideration for others—to neutralize in some degree this misguided action of raw impenetrability? Can't we even have such a simple suggestion framed upon our street lamps as "right hand to the wall" to aid a mutual accommodation of each other in the matter of perambulation?

The thought suggests "*perambulators*"; and another becomes too deep for utterance. Let us fly to the church for refuge.

Alas! even the Church, with its gorgeous external beauty of ritualistic formalism—High Church, Low Church, Broad Church, or Dissenting—follows this law of impenetrability with a Methodism which is a constant tribute to that fateful force whose outcome is the duty of self-protection. The correspondence of spiritual law with natural seems to be read backwards, and impenetrability, in the physical realm, is mistaken for the mental co-relative of prudent care for number one. It is not understood to correspond to that unselfishness which avoids, for the highest and best of reasons, that intrusion of one upon the place of another, which is the actual meaning contained within the physical fact. Churches and pews are, it is true, *not* like matter; they *are* penetrable. But the scowl which too often follows penetration into one of the latter, already rented, only a lack of penetration can make impenetrable.

Nor does impenetrability confine its action to the world of matter only. If it did it wouldn't so much matter. It rises higher—into the mental world, as already hinted at—and becomes a quality of the mind. The perverted view of its teachings causes intellect to stalk on unmindful of the presence of other intellects till awakened, by the rude clash of mental antagonism, to a realizing sense of the existence of this law. Science tries to ignore science. One religious creed attempts to walk over or through another creed; and does *not* succeed, because of this beneficent law of impenetrability established by a wise and loving Providence to preserve the individuality of the creature He has made. This law exists also on a still higher plane. Truth and Goodness themselves are subject to it—say, rather, act by it. Truth and falsity cannot occupy the same space in the soul at the same time. Men and Churches must displace error, by desire of their own free will, ere Truth can find place with them. Men and Churches must avoid or shun their evils of life, by desire and longing of their own free will, ere that Goodness, which *is* God, and proceeds from God, can find entrance into their being. Into every faculty it *will* flow the moment the heart's desire is to purge it from its evil.

Then will men learn everywhere to respect the individuality, the just impenetrability, of their fellow-men. They will come to know how utterly vain it is for anyone to attempt to occupy for himself the standing room on the world's platform allotted to others, and gather something of that wisdom taught by Nature's law of impenetrability which says in *deed* and in truth to each and to all, that exactly as to matter it matters not where or how each atom is placed so long as it preserves its individuality and fills its appointed place in the cosmogony of the universe; so to man, to forget *self* and become only a useful part of the vast human framework of society is the whole duty of the human entity.

The day may be far off, but we shall know it when it comes by a reversal

of those outward signs of impoliteness and entire lack of consideration for others so conspicuous at present in almost every rank on our social structure. And we shall know that the fevered frenzy of a selfish past contained within it a promise of the future.

Hope.

DIAMONDS.

The diamond is considered the "most precious of all possessions," and was well known to the Romans during the time of Cæsar. According to Pliny there were six varieties, of which two were probably real diamonds, the others being sapphires. Pliny tells the fiction about the infrangibility of the diamond, which most people yet believe, whereas the fact is that a diamond can be split by a small blow in the direction of the layers which are parallel to the original faces. The ancient sources of supply were the mines of Golconda and Cooloun, in which were employed, at the time of Tavernier's visit, fully sixty thousand persons; these have long since been exhausted. At present, Brazil furnishes the most, though the gravel (cascalhao) in which they are found is nearly worked out; some are obtained from South Africa, and we occasionally hear of some of considerable weight being found there. It is found in various tints, the colourless tint being usually considered the most valuable, though it is questionable whether they are the most beautiful. Pliny's observation, that diamonds are always found with gold, has been established as perfectly true, many being discovered with gold actually adhering to them. As is well known, diamonds are composed of pure carbon crystallized, and they are the hardest substances known, the word itself signifying untameable originally. It was formerly spelt *diamant*, which form with *adamant* "are in fact only two different appropriations of one and the same Greek, which afterwards became a Latin word. The primary meaning of *adamant* was first given to steel, as being the hardest of metals, afterward transferred to the most precious of gems. This word was first so used by Theophrastus in Greek, and by Pliny in Latin. The identity of these two words, *diamant* and *adamant*, explains Milton's use of 'diamond' in *Paradise Lost*, b. 7, and also in his *Apology for Smectymnuus*: "Then zeal, whose substance is ethereal, arming in complete *diamond*." (Trench, "English, Past and Present.") The art of cutting diamonds was unknown in Europe until the fifteenth century, and it is said to have been introduced by Louis Berghen, of Bruges, who made a polishing wheel, fed with diamond powder instead of corundum used by the Chinese and Hindoos. In rubbing two diamonds together in the rough, he observed the polishing effect; hence the plan of using diamond dust. The art is kept up at present only in Holland. On this continent (in New Jersey, I believe) a cutting factory was established some years ago with operatives taught in Holland, but I am not aware whether it is in operation at present or not. They are cut into brilliants and rose diamonds, the former being for the most part cut from the octahedral crystals, and the latter from the spheroidal varieties. They are highly electric, attracting light objects by friction, even before cut,—a peculiarity possessed by no other gem. It was a common opinion in the sixteenth century that the diamond lost its lustre by too much warmth, for this reason persons possessing diamonds were in the habit of placing them in water at times. Diamonds were always worn by the Romans in their native form. Some of the tests given are as follows:—If, when touched by a fine file, the slightest scratch is made, the crystal is not a diamond; also, by noticing whether the rays of light which pass through other gems, are in the case of the diamond refracted: if the diamond happens to be a minute one, it may be placed between two pieces of money and pressed with the thumb and finger, and should it remain uninjured it is genuine, otherwise it is an imitation. An infallible test for detecting pastes is that they may be scratched by a splinter of obsidian. The value of diamonds may be computed by the following formula for brilliants: Square the weight in carats, multiply by eight, and this will give the value in pounds sterling. This formula will only answer for brilliants under a certain weight, say twenty carats, as the price of large brilliants is determined by the competition amongst purchasers. In ancient times many curious virtues were ascribed to gems; the diamond had the virtue of resisting poison, yet if swallowed was said to be a deadly poison. Cellini tells us how the son of Paul III. attempted to poison him in the Castle St. Angelo by ordering diamond powder to be mixed with his salad, and Cellini attributes his escape to the fact that the person employed to pulverize the stone had stolen it and had substituted glass for it. It is also related that diamond powder was given to Sir T. Overbury in the Tower of London. It was believed (the diamond) to have the power of baffling magic arts, dispelling fears and giving success in lawsuits—to be serviceable to lunatics and those possessed of devils—to repel the attacks of phantoms and nightmares—to make the wearer bold and virtuous. The ancients also believed that it controlled the magnet; a belief, it is unnecessary to say, that was nonsensical. It is worn in so many different ways that it is impossible to enumerate them; it may be said, however, that it probably appears to best advantage when contrasted with black articles.

"Its fitting setting, so sages have told
Is the pale silver or the glowing gold
And let the jewel in the bracelet blaze
Which round the left arm clasped attracts the gaze."

S. Ely.

THE CHARMING WOMAN.

We must not confound the charming woman with the fascinating woman. They are different types, and belong to a different genus.

The charming woman is not a deep nature. She is not always patient: she is not, as a rule, a good family woman. She must have the little element of vanity to sustain her through the necessary schooling. She has a good deal of knowledge of human nature and has entirely pruned down the egotism that makes a woman utterly unfit for society. She is naturally of quick sympathies, and has an amazing power of withstanding *ennui*. In point of fact, she is more trained and disciplined than many a higher nature. She has a genius for making the best of everything and of everybody, and would put the world in good temper with itself. She has a deal of good nature, and consideration for others, and a talent for investing trifles with an attractive form, like a skilful *cuisinière* who can make a *soufflé* out of any small materials.

The term may be most applicable to an accomplished hostess. The flock of delicious little inconsistencies about her make the day go by, harmonise conflicting natures, and animate the household. She has an excellent tact, toning into harmony the sympathies and antipathies of those around her. She need not necessarily be gifted, but she lends herself to the gift of others—by turns elicits and suppresses them, and keeps a table in perfect tune. She can deftly turn a subject that is disagreeable, and lead up to a subject that can gratify. She has the eyes of Argus, watching over her guests' comfort, yet always appears at ease. The charming woman is not what is understood by the term a good listener, although she can give the intelligent smile and the responsive glance that are occasionally more eloquent than words; but long stories and conversational essays are against her creed. She loves to make the conversation ripple; she is attracted by the discussion of the smaller aspects of life—those that lend themselves to epigrammatic maxims and witty sayings; she knows how to make much of the brighter nothings that are said; and she also excels in the art of kindly taking down a bore.

She never offends in dress; she lags behind somewhat in adopting the newest fashions; she is never at the height—but she is never out of fashion. There is a flavour of individuality in her costume, for she is well aware of the strong points in her personal appearance; and with a subtle coquetry, she makes the most of them. She enhances them, but she does it without emphasis. It is one of the tenets of the charming woman never to be emphatic. She never offends the taste, and holds it as the greatest sin to the feelings. She never drives one into a corner; never asks a direct question; never pays a direct compliment; she has a delightful fashion of insinuating that she is pleased and interested: and always displays a genial appreciation of her kind. She does not, however, belong to the tragedy of life, and you must not exact from her enduring sympathy. Her eyes will grow dim and her voice soft when she hears a tale of woe; but she will not weight her life with any emotion beyond that of the passing moment. She cannot carry a burden. You must not put a high-bred racer to draw a waggon. She has nothing of the heroine about her; yet there is a certain pluck and determination in the way she carries out her philosophy of life, for it requires both to remain bright and light hearted as years go on, without showing any trace of hardness, and the charming woman is always and essentially feminine.

She never loses her individuality, however; never merges into that of the man she loves. She is never subdued or humbled by her affections, but sways her sceptre with grace, and compels obedience to her rule. One of her most potent spells is that she ignores the possibility of her will not being law. She keeps up the fiction with all her energy that the world is the happiest place, and her house a paradise. She is so convinced of this, that her faith is catching, and ugly cares and chilling anxieties seem unnatural anomalies near her. We grow ashamed of them. There may be in the background a sense that this *insouciant*, summer-day feeling is all an illusion; but, as it is, we accept it gratefully, from her, and hug it.

The charming woman is not common in England, but she thrives on the Continent. She is especially to be found in those Parisian *salons*, the fame of which dates from the *salon bleu* of Madame de Rambouillet.—Queen.

A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.

A Paper read before the Numismatic and Archæological Society of Montreal, by
Thomas D. King.

PART III.

Without the engraver's art, many of the grand conceptions of these great artists would have been lost. Greatly indebted as we are to an art which has placed so much of the beauty and poetry of Nature, the heroism of man, the loveliness of woman within our reach, yet there are lovers of the beautiful in art who are not touched or moved by the best prints, and derive neither amusement, nor enjoyment, nor information from the contemplation of them. Again, there are others who will be spell-bound at the sculptures of Canova, Flaxman, Bailey, Gibson, and Foley, yet will reduce the noble profession of an engraver to a mere mechanical trade, ranking it in the scale of photography.

Prints have also this advantage, they familiarize the eye with the artist's method of delineating and foreshortening his figures, and the disposition of his draperies. The greater advance made in the study of prints, the more correct will be the judgment of the works of the Old Masters, and the knowledge of their design and style.

Cicero, in one of his orations, speaking of the *Belles Lettres*, remarks "that they nourish us in our youth and invigorate old age; they embellish the most fortunate situation and console us under disaster and persecution; they accompany us night and day in our journeys and in our retreats from the world, and even when our minds are not disposed to profit by their instruction, we ought still to hold them in a just admiration, finding that, to those who possess them, they afford the most delicious gratifications." These sentiments of the great orator, and accomplished rhetorician, may be employed to "engravings." Most persons are pleased with good prints, they are not "caviare to the general"—they please the multitude—their universal popularity is indeed, readily accounted for; they possess qualities calculated to allure all tastes. To the lover of art, they present faithful translations of the works of the great painters of all ages and countries, works dispersed over the whole civilized world, and never to be seen except through the medium of the art of engraving; they present portraits of the illustrious and remarkable persons of all times and nations, of all professions and pursuits; they embody and realize the great and interesting events of history, and give substance and form to the imaginations of poetry and romance; they present the scenery of far distant countries, the cities of the world, the habits, ceremonies and features of all the inhabitants of the earth; nay, they are the only medium, indeed, of presenting to the eye the representation of every object of art and Nature which words are inadequate to describe. St. Augustin called pictures and statues *libri idiotarum*, or the books of the simple. Have not the prints in our Bibles, Missals and books of Common Prayer visibly set forth the great rudimental facts of Christian doctrine? The simple narrative of Scripture, through the print or engraving, is manifest to the child before he can read or understand the text. As early as 1470 to 1475, the first pictorial Bible, the "*Biblia Pauperum Predicatorium*," was published, and, in the same century, the "*Speculum Salvationis*." These may be called "A history typical and antitypical of the Old and New Testament." They were the first fruits of that revolution, occasioned by the multiplication of type and block printing—of text and picture, which superseded the manual labours of the patient scribe, illuminator and miniaturist of the English, Flemish and French MSS. of the 13th century, with their quaint but expressive symbolism, and most beautiful ornamentation, composed of exquisitely and delicately painted flowers, fruits, birds and insects intertwined with or springing from twigs and tendrils of vine-leaf.

This revolution had nothing of irreligion in its nature. To the printer's and engraver's art may be truly applied the motto: *Esto perpetua!* The printers and engravers are not iconoclasts; they have not destroyed the temples of the gods, the painted images of the prophets, saints and martyrs. They are iconographers and ichnographers. Without their aid, what should we have known of the ancient temples and shrines with their images and statues, paintings in fresco, and mosaics, architectural monuments of which scarce a vestige now remains, all gone to "rack"—Karnac and Dendera with their sculptures and hieroglyphs, carrying us back to the reign of Cleopatra, confirming the truth of the Scriptural chronology, and giving us the legends of the Roman Emperors from Augustus down to Antoninus Pius, inclusive.

To the engraver's art we are indebted for our knowledge of the Temples of Minerva and Theseus, both for matter and art, the most beautiful pieces of antiquity remaining in the world, and as masterpieces of architecture unparalleled. We are also indebted to it for our knowledge of the magnificent buildings at Rome; the Basilicas of St. Peter, and St. John Lateran; the Mausoleum of Hadrian, now called the Castle of St. Angelo; the Colliseum; the altars—from that of Jupiter to which Priam fled for protection after the taking of Troy, or those to which Polyxena, who was to be sacrificed to appease the ghost of Achilles, was advised to go, down to those of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar.

Prints have made us familiar with the beauties of Venetian, Moorish and Gothic architecture, giving to us the Palaces of Palladio and the Moorish Kings of Granada, the abbeys, monasteries and cathedrals of the Middle Ages, and other architectural antiquities. As early as the 16th century, Albert Durer's Apocalypse, the History of the Virgin, or Christ's Passion, appeared, and from that time both wood and copper-plate engraving have been used with more or less success for illustrations of the Bible, sacred narrative, and song, and perhaps never with so much labour and cost as in the celebrated Macklin Bible, which Bowyer expanded to forty-five folio volumes, including examples of prints from six hundred different engravers, at a great cost in time, during the years 1798 to 1824, and at a cost in money of nearly £4,000 sterling.*

Some, like myself, may possibly remember how much in their boyhood they enjoyed Martin and Westall's illustrated Bible with wood cuts, from their

designs, by Branston, Jackson, Landells, Williams, and Green. Also, the supposed adventures, the wily tricks and the arch sayings of the animals introduced by Bewick, the father of wood engraving in England, into the instructive volumes of *Aisop*; or Major's Edition of Walton's complete angler with wood cuts by Thompson, White, and others; or the Children of the Wood illustrated from designs by Wm. Harvey a pupil and great favourite of Bewick; or the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green with wood cuts by Nesbit; or a work entitled Religious Emblems with wood cuts by Nesbit, Clennell and Branston, from drawings by Thurston. Amongst this galaxy of wood engravers, Bewick will always be pre-eminent, and those competent to judge say "that nothing of the same kind that wood engraving has produced since the time of Bewick can bear a comparison with some of the cuts in the British Land Birds. By his skilful management of light and shade, perhaps no wood engraver or designer, either ancient or modern has employed them with greater success. Mr. F. T. Palsgrave says of his works:—"They cannot be too carefully studied: they have a directness in reaching their point, a breadth and largeness in style analogous to the qualities of Velasquez. So little are perfection and greatness in art dependent upon size or material."

Charles Kingsley, than whom few have shown greater love for or appreciation of Natural History, says: "all good boys ought to know their Bewick. If they want to describe a finished young gentleman in France, they say of him, "*Il sait son Rabelais*." But if I want to describe one in England, I say, he knows his Bewick. And I think that is the higher compliment." Within the last half century, since the time of Bewick and his pupils, whose works will be admired as long as Truth and Nature shall continue to charm, the quality of wood engraving has not been much enriched, though the art of designing on wood blocks has made rapid progress.

Artists such as Ansdell, Wolf, and Weir have devoted themselves to animal drawing; Creswick, Skelton, Hulme, Goodall and Foster to landscapes; Eastlake, Tenniel, Gilbert, Mulready, Doré, Maclise, Selous, Leighton, and Hunt to figure subjects; Roberts, Prout, Archer, Nash, Owen Jones, and Jewitt to architectural subjects; Cruikshank, Doyle, Forester (Alfred Crowquill), Leech, Du Maurier, and Hablot Browne to humorous subjects; Fairholt to costume and mediæval art; Dinkel to fossil remains; Duncan to marine subjects; Topham to Irish character. The drawings of these men, combined with the engraving of Thomas, Whympier, Greenaway, Cooper, Jewitt, Linton, Lee, Pearson, Hamall, Vizetelly, and others, have done infinite service in the representation of religious subjects, and in the illustration of the pages of the historian, the traveller, the dramatist, the poet, and the naturalist.

The great advantage which modern wood-engraving possesses over every other branch of graphic art, is the cheap rate at which its productions can be disseminated. The maxim that "a good thing is valuable in proportion as many can enjoy it" may be applied with peculiar propriety to wood-engraving; for the productions of no other kindred art have been more generally spread abroad, or with greater advantage to those for whom they were intended. By its means copies or translations of the works of the greatest artists, ancient and modern, have been afforded at a price which enabled the multitude to become purchasers; and, it may be safely asserted that the art will never want encouragement so long as there are artists of talent to furnish designs, and good engravers to execute them. The same observations, in a limited degree, will apply to prints from steel and copper plates. Unfortunately, their greater cost in labour and production prescribes the bounds of their circulation, consequently only a few, comparatively, can become purchasers of prints and books illustrated by such eminent engravers as Sharp, Strange, Bartolozzi and Woollett, or by our best modern engravers, such as Turner, Landseer, Muller, Reynolds, Cooke, Willmore, Finden, Raimbach, Heath, Goodall, Cousens, Stocks, Greatbach, Stephenson, Godfrey and others. Nevertheless, every lover of the art of engraving, every lover of the beautiful in art, must be desirous to possess their brilliant reproductions of the works of Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Lawrence; or of Eastlake, Mulready, Webster, Copley, Wilkie, Morland, Stothert, Newton, Maclise, and Leslie; or of Constable, Turner, Roberts, Prout, Linnell, Harding, Stanfield, and Bonington; or of Millais, Hunt, and Dore; or of Landseer, Ansdell, and Cooper, names as familiar in our mouths as household words; names with whom are associated the portraits of the most eminent men and beautiful women in England during the past century; the quiet nooks and corners; the babbling brooks; the hills and meads; the mountains and valleys; the quaint old houses, ruined castles and abbeys; the spots hallowed by historic memories and heroic deeds; the resting-places of those whose arms were mighty both on sea and land; the shrines of those whose genius is a nation's heritage; the scenes of home and rural life—scenes which find expression in Shakspeare and Scott; Crabbe and Goldsmith; Defoe and Swift; Wordsworth and Campbell; Shenstone and Cowper—scenes which thrill the heart and start around us many dear affections—in fine, scenes which are associated with all that Englishmen hold dear.

These prints are a rich bequeathment, and sacred indeed ought to be the art of engraving, which enables us to connect the past with the present. They act not only like a telescope, bringing distant objects to view; but as a microscope, enabling us to see objects otherwise invisible. The printing press acts

* Several volumes of this Bible were shown by Mr. Thomas Irwin, of Oswego (the present owner), at the Caxton celebration held in Montreal, June, 1877, under the auspices of this Society.

as the "optic glass" in its power of multiplication, permitting an almost indefinite increase of impressions, as at least one hundred thousand good ones can be obtained from a wood cut, if properly engraved and carefully printed.

In conclusion, enough has probably, been said or written, to warrant some who have followed me throughout this paper, to make them feel that Prints, in the language of Cicero, nourish us in our youth and invigorate old age; embellish the most fortunate situation and console us under disaster and persecution; and even when our minds are not disposed to profit by their instruction, we ought still to hold them in a just admiration, finding that, to those who possess them, they afford the most delicious gratifications.

CABUL AND HERAT.

It is unfortunate that the British public has just begun to make up its mind that we are through all our troubles in the East, and that nothing now remains but to pay that little bill which Sir Stafford Northcote may present next spring, or which he may leave to his successors to settle. From all we hear, it seems evident to us that we must await further complications of a very grave nature, if Lord Lytton's policy is to be carried out. The regulations which practically forbid the presence of independent correspondents with our army prevent us from ascertaining what the feeling in Afghanistan is at the present moment, while the intentions of the Ministry appear to be kept a secret even from the journals which draw their inspiration from them. The scheme by which Afghanistan was to be divided into small sections, each ruled by a separate chieftain, under the suzerainty of the Empress of India and the supervision of an English Resident, is very little talked about, although at one time it seemed almost certain that the Ministry was thinking of it. Perhaps our Government has thought the matter over and seen what a delightful field the Russians would find for intrigue in these said principalities. On the contrary, the idea of the moment seems to be that Cabul at all events should be occupied for a sufficiently long time, under pretence of the dread of anarchy if we leave it, for the public to become used to the occupation, and that, if the Tories remain in office, it should then be quietly annexed. Also that Herat should be occupied in the spring and handed over to our trusty ally Persia, an ally about a week old and as trusty as a Persian cat. Naturally, the arrival of the Persians at Herat will be the signal for the advance of the Russians on Merv, which they can take perfectly well when they choose to try from Central Asia and not from the Caspian. Then we shall find ourselves face to face, only instead of waiting for the Russians behind the Suliman Range and fighting them six hundred miles further from their supplies and railroads, and nearer to ours, we shall exactly reverse the position, and shall fight them on ground chosen by themselves. As for railways, we can hardly get troops and supplies enough to Peshawur and Sukkur for an Afghan war; is it likely that we should get supplies enough to Cabul and Herat for a Russian war? The duty of the Liberals is plain enough. Some liberty of action is still left to us in this matter and in Asia Minor, even if the Tories have managed to tie our hands in the Transvaal and Zululand. There may be obligations incurred which we cannot disregard, but the occupation of Afghanistan is not one of them, thank Heaven; nor will it be before the general election settles the question—and, we sincerely trust, the Ministry.—*Weekly Dispatch.*

FRENCH journals are growing peculiarly spry. "The Island of Cuba," says one, "is now perfectly tranquil. One of our correspondents has been sent there in haste. If nothing happens, our readers shall be the first to know it."

It is they who glorify who shall enjoy Him; they who deny themselves, who shall not be denied; they who labour on earth, who shall rest in Heaven; they who bear the Cross, who shall wear the crown; they who seek to bless others, who shall be blessed.—*Guthrie.*

ONE RESULT OF ENGLAND'S WARS.—I am a trustee of the British Museum, and I am happy to inform the country that £3,000, which used to be given the Museum every year for the purchase of books, has been taken away to meet the expense of the Afghan and other wars.—*Speech of Mr. Lowe, M.P.*

POSTAL CARDS have been introduced into India, but it is very difficult to make the natives understand their use. They are generally regarded as a compulsory kind of paper, upon which a letter is written and then is enclosed in an envelope. A native official not long ago enclosed in a big cover his annual report written on a series of postal cards.

The use of the garrulous method in literature answers to conversation, in the world. There are ladies who can talk only of cooks, bonnets and babies, and there are men whose conversation is limited to discourse on coats, boots, women, horses and cigars. There is a style in literature that corresponds to this disjointed talk, and it is doubtless the only literature that the disjointed talkers can read.—*Saturday Review.*

CHRISTMAS-TIDE IN MONTREAL.

In these anti-melancholy days, the gladdest of the year, standing as we do upon the threshold of Christmas, it is fitting that we join the merry throng:

Let others sing the praise of Spring,
Our theme's the Christmas-time.

It does not concern us at this moment whether in the ages long passed away our single-minded ancestors decorated their dwellings in honour of a heathen Deity, or gathered round the festive board, groaning with good cheer, to rejoice together in family groups for once during the year; suffice it to say that the Christmas season is here once again, and it is well to meet it heartily.

It seems beyond dispute that this year's preparation for the ushering in of Christmas-tide is nowise behind any of its predecessors, there are a multitude of tastes to be provided for and not one of them appears to have escaped attention. Foremost amongst the requirements is food for the mind, and this is abundantly furnished in the most beautiful gift-books, and books on the fine arts, &c., some of them the most attractive ever seen in this city; the old established firm of Messrs. Dawson Brothers deservedly stands at the head in this branch; in addition to the class of books already named, their store is replete with standard English Literature in every department, and the announcement that they have reduced their prices fifteen per cent. is a rare inducement at this time; a visit to their store is somewhat like a visit to one of the world-famous public libraries, so extensive is their stock; we regard it as no idle boast that outside of New York, Boston and Philadelphia, there is no stock of books on this continent to compare with that now offered by this enterprising firm.

In the varied and well-selected stock of Messrs. Wm. Drysdale & Co., 232 St. James Street, every article which can be desired to represent a Christmas Present in their line of business may be found. Standard works in choice bindings, a nice edition of the Poets, illustrated with photographs, meet the visitor, and the stock of Juvenile Books appears to be most complete with something to suit all tastes. Photograph, Autograph and Scrap Albums meet the eye at every turn. We noticed, too, as a specialty, some new American Plant Books, which are very pretty; whilst to captivate the young people there are Parlour Games, Picture Books and Christmas Cards in endless variety. In fact the store seems little short of a fairy scene, with the spirit of Christmas visible everywhere.

Messrs. Drysdale & Co., have opened an up-town store at 1423 St. Catherine Street, for the convenience of their friends during the Christmas Holidays.

We have only to cross the street and enter the store of Mr. C. C. DeZouche to have an entirely different scene. Here a most extensive collection of Music is to be seen and admired, omitting nothing that a musical taste can wish for, and probably no more welcome or more appropriate Christmas Present could be found than Mr. DeZouche can furnish. In musical literature will be found volumes of Lives of the Great Composers and interpreters of Music, volumes of letters giving glimpses of their inner life, and volumes of song, story and anecdote in which musical celebrities figure; whilst in printed music every class is represented—sacred and secular, vocal and instrumental, classical and popular, in bindings plain and bindings pretty.

Christmas and New Years' season would not be complete without Visiting Cards and Fancy Stationery, which are to be seen in every variety of style at Messrs. Geo. Bishop & Co., 165 St. James Street. The elegance and sterling character of the work executed by this firm is known from one end of the Dominion to the other, the endless variety and beauty of design in engraving of every kind in connection with monograms, cards, envelopes and other branches known as "Fancy Stationery" are to be seen in all the latest novelties, and it is clear that Messrs. Bishop & Co. set the fashion in these matters instead of following it.

The firm have greatly increased their power for producing all work connected with Bank and Insurance Office Stationery, Bills of Exchange, Drafts, Checks, Headings, Business Cards, Endorsing and Dating Stamps &c. &c. &c.

To those whose taste inclines towards Holiday Presents of a costly character, in the shape of Jewellery, or Gold and Silver articles of *virtu*, we call attention to the attractive and beautiful stock of Messrs. Savage & Lyman, where the most exquisite specimens of the silversmith's art are to be found in rich profusion. Gold and Silver Watches of Swiss and American make, of beautiful workmanship and finish, with an endless variety of Gold and Silver Jewellery, in the newest and most artistic designs, Bronzes, Clocks, Electro-plated Ware, Cutlery, &c., &c., in every style and fashion.

The elegance of this beautiful display and the superlative character of the varied stock exhibited by this old-established and highly-esteemed firm are proving highly attractive at this festival season, and the well-earned reputation of the house is still foremost.

Next to the possession of a well-selected library of good books, the convenience of being able to consult them with ease is a great desideratum; this ease and this convenience has been supplied by Messrs. Tees & Co., whose Revolving Book-cases are not only useful but ornamental; they are made in several sizes and varieties of style adapted for the library or study, and no more useful present could be made. Moreover the scale of prices for these Book-cases appears to be calculated so as to suit the means of all classes in our community.

The creature comforts must not be overlooked, and those seeking such will not pass the elegant establishment of Mr. Alfred Joyce, the confectioner on Phillips' Square, where a most tempting display is on show. The store itself, with its tastefully arranged encaustic tiles, is well worthy a visit, and when the toothsome cakes, and delicious loaves of snowy whiteness are added, with the Christmas-tree decorations, horns of plenty (suggestive title at this season), and the multitude of good things for which Mr. Joyce's *chef* is famed, it is scarcely possible for any to pass the appetizing exhibition without leaving an order.

Let us never forget that Christmas is pre-eminently the season for the enjoyment of the children. Who has not watched with the keenest gratification and delight the merry youngsters gathered at this time? Who, when swayed by the impulses that such scenes revive in his breast, can remain passive? It is well that our hearts have this opportunity of rejuvenation, as it were. It does us a world of good. Therefore, let every one seize the opportunity of giving pleasure to those we love at the recurrence of this Christmas season. Let us not stop to inquire the origin of the custom. Let us love it for the associations that cling to it. Let us accept the day in its best and truest sense, and rejoice that it comes, even if it be but once a year.

"Upon the Earth, the snow lies drear,
Veiling the landscape all in white,
But in our hearts shall be good cheer,
When Christmas comes with its delight."

CHRISTMAS SONNETS.

I.—THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS.

Autumn has come and gone, pouring her floods
Of molten gold over the waiting land:
Winter is here, and with a ruthless hand
Has stripp'd the last leaves from the shivering woods—
And now they lie in countless multitudes,
Wither'd and sere upon the frozen ground,
Or fly distraught when the fierce breeze has found
Their resting place in woodland solitudes.
Mournfully now the wailing night-wind grieves
Through the bare woods and round the frosted eaves;
All things proclaim that the delightful year
Hastes to its close—its journey well-nigh done—
And lo! the setting of to-morrow's sun
Will bring the holy tide of Christmas here.

II.—CHRISTMAS EVE.

Who shall forbid that on this holy eve—
This eve of the most holy day of birth—
We, friends of old, shall gather round the hearth,
And, laying-by our worldly cares, have leave,
In the ripe fulness of content, to weave
Our homely garland of congenial mirth?
Now, while the Yule-log sheds its cheerful light
Diffused throughout our holly-garnished room,
Shining on faces that already bloom,
By the true hearts that beat beneath made bright,
Let us, who hold the gracious season dear,
Wish fervently, and with one heart and mind,
A merry Christmas and a glad New-Year
To the great family of human-kind.

David Holt.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—On leaving school, my Dominic, a martinet in his way, admitted me to be more than ordinarily proficient in English grammar.

I have read, and re-read, in the SPECTATOR, the second part of an article, by Mr. T. D. King, entitled "A Few Words on Prints," and, I must confess, I have nevertheless failed, by any recognized rules of interpretation, to find a rational meaning to some of his sentences.

Take for illustration the following:—"As far as quality of design is concerned, wood-cuts, in the hands of a skilful engraver, possess another advantage, because the artist can exhibit on the surface of the wood all the spirit of original first thoughts, etc."

Do tell me Mr. Editor:—1st. By what sleight-of-hand it may be possible for "an artist" to exhibit, "on wood-cuts, in the hands of a skilful engraver," all the spirit of original first thoughts?"

2nd. What meaning does Mr. King wish to convey by these words—"original first thoughts," and what is the difference between original thoughts and "original first thoughts;" and,

3rd. Would not the exhibition by the artist "on the surface of the wood of all the spirit of original first thoughts" (whatever they may be) tend to obliterate the "wood-cuts, in the hands of a skilful engraver?" or, is it necessary to the perfectness of "original first thoughts" by "an artist" that they should be exhibited "on wood-cuts in the hands of a skilful engraver?"

After you, or Mr. King, has been pleased to answer these enquiries, I may trouble you with another linguistic query from the article in question.

Yours sincerely, Syntax.

Montreal, December 15th, 1879.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Please desire Mr. King to mention the pictures left by Lionardo da Vinci in which he has exhibited the "wonderful *chiaro-scuro*" (*sic*) mentioned in Mr. King's article on Prints in your paper of the 13th instant; and also the meaning of "chiaro-scuro."

I suppose he means "chiar-oscuro," and if he does, I would again ask him to be good enough to specify such works of this Master for which he claims this characteristic in a "wonderful" manner, and where they may be seen, and oblige

Your obedient servant, An Art Amateur.

RATHER LATE.—The *Gazette* Montreal, Dec., 17th, informs its readers of the "whereabouts" of Earl Beaconsfield's epigrammatic saying, *Imperium et Libertas*. In our own columns of the 29th ultimo, we quoted the passage from Clarendon, who attributed it to Nerva, the Roman Emperor, who was deified for thus writing the duties of a good ruler. *Good laws and a strict obedience of them.*

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1879.			1878.	Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.			
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight		Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
Grand Trunk.....	Week Dec. 13	\$3,069	146,200	189,269	158,942	30,327	...	24 w'ks	341,477	...
Great Western.....	" 5	31,838	63,316	95,154	73,407	21,747	...	23 "	179,975	...
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 8	6,046	12,763	18,809	15,442	3,367	...	23 "	79,059	...
Toronto & Nipissing..	Nov. 14	1,312	2,508	3,820	4,017	...	...	197 21	3,658	...
Midland.....	Dec. 7	1,773	1,843	3,616	3,103	513	...	23 "	22,319	...
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 6	1,164	1,233	2,397	2,106	291	...	fm Jan. 1	15,814	...
Whitby, Port Perry & Lindsay.....	" 7	430	835	1,263	1,263	2	...	" "	...	684
Canada Central.....	" 6	1,798	2,255	4,053	4,287	...	...	23 w'ks	19,952	...
Toronto Grey & Bruce	" 6	2,345	4,974	7,319	4,118	3,201	...	23 "	18,700	...
Q. M. O. & O.....	" 8	3,243	1,918	5,161	4,247	914	...	July 1	127,383	...
Intercolonial.....	Month Nov. 29	46,571	74,052	120,623	121,413	...	...	Month 790	53,964	...

* This is the aggregate earnings for 1879; 1878 figures not given.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares per value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 Dec. 17, 1879.	Price per \$100 Dec. 17, 1878.	Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$138 1/2	\$139 1/2	10	7 1/2
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	70 1/2	68 1/2	6	8 1/2
Molsons.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	75 1/2	80	6	8
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	119	119	7	6
Jacques Cartier.....	25	5,000,000	5,000,000	*250,000	57 1/2	33	5 1/2	9 1/2
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,506,166	55,000	86	80 1/2	7	7 1/2
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,381,089	47,000	104	96 1/2	7	6 1/2
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	200,000	85	85	6	7
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	114	102	8	7
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	*75,000	...	...	...	...
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	96	109 1/2	7	7 1/2
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	...	40 1/2	47 1/2	4 1/2	11
City Passenger Railway.....	50	...	600,000	163,000	79	76 1/2	5	7 1/2
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	...	1,880,000	116	107	10	8 1/2

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

The Farmers' Deliveries of home-grown Grain in the 150 towns in England and Wales for the week ended November 22, 1879, and for the corresponding weeks of the previous nine years, and the weekly average prices:—

	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS	
	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.
1879.....	40,065	47s 10d	72,275	39s 8d	4,451	21s 6d
1878.....	49,580	47s 10d	84,318	39s 9d	4,855	21s 7d
1877.....	39,524	51s 5d	87,895	44s 0d	3,895	24s 3d
1876.....	50,713	47s 8d	87,994	39s 4d	5,345	25s 9d
1875.....	45,050	46s 5d	72,269	36s 10d	4,726	26s 5d
1874.....	63,653	43s 6d	108,662	42s 10d	3,433	27s 11d
1873.....	50,897	61s 0d	90,201	44s 5d	3,832	25s 8d
1872.....	46,984	56s 6d	72,676	42s 1d	3,864	28s 1d
1871.....	68,652	55s 10d	95,623	36s 8d	4,747	23s 8d
1870.....	77,637	50s 5d	88,534	36s 2d	5,038	23s 7d
Average for 10 years.....	53,275	50s 2d	85,957	40s 2d	4,019	24s 3d

Summary of exports for week ending December 10th, 1879:—

From—	Flour, brls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	92,338	928,247	649,100	3,910	66,309	11,757
Boston.....	17,717	221,698	102,738	250	...	...
Portland.....	3,552	33,000	...	...	...	24,400
Montreal.....	...	12,027	35,762	11,734	...	...
Philadelphia.....	4,945	309,610	121,021	...	...	...
Baltimore.....	9,287	616,401	224,282	325	...	...
Total per week.....	127,839	2,120,983	1,234,903	16,219	66,309	36,157
Corresponding week of '78.....	75,387	2,365,541	1,011,966	56,687	60,263	19,694

The receipts of Live Stock at New York for the last four weeks have been as follows:—

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.
December 8.....	9,146	306	1,250	28,744
December 1.....	11,027	314	1,927	37,717
November 24.....	11,324	206	1,400	41,912
November 17.....	8,322	248	1,455	22,045
Total 4 weeks.....	40,779	1,074	6,032	124,488
Corresponding 4 weeks 1878.....	38,757	438	5,896	98,763
Corresponding week 1878.....	10,894	115	1,561	25,502
Weekly average, 1878.....	10,469	70	2,508	25,798
Corresponding week 1877.....	11,579	91	1,429	31,726

OATS.—In New York the market has been excited and somewhat irregular. The crop in 1879 is placed at 365,000,000 bushels, against 411,000,000 bushels in 1878.

BARLEY.—The visible supply Dec. 6th, 1879, was 4,678,970 bushels, against 4,979,792 bushels Nov. 29th, 1879; 5,205,152 bushels Dec. 7th, 1878, and 4,704,757 bushels Dec. 8th, 1877.

RYE.—The visible supply Dec. 6th, 1879, was 1,194,683 bushels, against 1,234,487 bushels Nov. 29th, 1879; 1,200,820 bushels Dec. 7th, 1878, and 618,012 bushels Dec. 8th, 1877.

LIVE HOGS.—The receipts for the week were 44,028, against 53,728 the previous week, and 58,850 the corresponding week in 1878.

Musical.

All correspondence intended for this column should be directed to the Musical Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Mrs. Adamson and Mr. Aldous gave the second of their subscription concerts in the schoolroom of St. Thomas Church on Tuesday, Dec. 9th. The programme included the Adagio and Rondo from Beethoven's Violin and Piano Sonata No. 3, played by Mrs. Adamson and Mrs. Robertson; the Andante, Minuet and Trio from Mozart's 13th Quartet; Gounod's "Hymn to St. Cecilia," for violin, piano and harmonium; the Andante of Mendelssohn's Trio, Op. 66, for piano, violin and cello; a "Pastorale" for piano and harmonium, by Guilman, and a selection for the piano from "L'Africaine"; the vocal numbers being, Randegger's "Slumber Song," with accompaniment for piano, two violas and two violoncellos; Blumenthal's "Across the far blue hills, Marie," and Hatton's "Blacksmith's Son,"—the two former were sung by Miss Maggie Barr, who did both pieces ample justice, as also did Mr. Clark for the last-named song. The solo pianist on this occasion was Mrs. F. Robertson, whose technique is both careful and brilliant, and whose expression is the result of deep musical feeling. Mr. Aldous took the harmonium accompaniments, which had to be played on an American organ—an instrument of far less expression than a harmonium, for which they were written, and therefore less adapted for obligato accompaniments. The weather on this occasion, as on that of the last concert, Nov. 11th, was unfavourable in the extreme, the night closing in with most violent rain; still, on both occasions the room was well filled, proving conclusively that the public appreciate these concerts and are not to be deterred by adverse weather from the musical treat they enjoy at each one.

"ARRANGEMENTS"

It will perhaps scarcely be credited that I once saw the Overture to "Der Freischutz" arranged for two guitars. I have much pleasure in adding that I did not hear it; but that such atrocities are perpetrated is a fact which will be affirmed by all who have ever mixed in what may be called the Bohemian world of art. Persons who play a little or sing a little conceive that they have as much right to be catered for as those who have devoted their best energies to music in its most intellectual aspect; and no doubt the enthusiastic amateur who attempted to play the Overture to "Zauberflöte" as a solo upon the flute believed that he was advancing a step beyond his musical friends, who contented themselves, as a rule, with trashy Operatic Fantasias. In my very young days I have a distinct recollection of what were termed "musical evenings," the chief peculiarity in which was that none of the guests were at all musical. This may seem paradoxical; but the truth is that the lady of the house had a firm reliance upon the value of those natural gifts which she said cultivation only destroyed. The consequence was that the vocal and instrumental compositions which were performed, although utterly unlike those given by trained artists, had a certain attraction to a company where players and listeners were on a perfect equality of ignorance.

Now it will no doubt be said by many that such untaught amateurs as I have described have passed away; but those who dive beneath the surface will see that they still exist, although in a transitional state. True, they have felt the force of the musical educational movement which has steadily progressed for so many years, but "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing;" and, failing to reach true art, yet dissatisfied with the former ignorance, they effect a compromise, and content themselves with "arrangements." Do we not see in the programmes of "Penny Readings," for instance, Mendelssohn's Concerto in G minor appear, and does it not turn out to be a hash formed by bits of the movements, with a little seasoning added by the musical cook? Do we not hear at private parties choruses turned into songs, and songs into choruses; movements from Beethoven's Symphonies taken as subjects for ballads, and other distortions from original works, which could only be tolerated by listeners whose artistic feeling is not sensitive enough to experience a shock at such desecrations? Have not words been put to Mendelssohn's songs without words, and have not these exquisite little gems been published in a so-called sacred collection, with symphonies patched on in various parts by the arranger? Do we not see an "arrangement" of a movement from a Symphony, which is not the movement at all, but only just as much of it as may be thought will sell to amateurs who know no better? Yes the young lady who plays her own bass and variations, and the gentleman who sings a "good song," are still amongst us; but they call themselves musicians now; and, although illumined with but the faintest glimmer of the divine light of art, they fancy that they are basking in the full mid-day sun.

Everybody knows that wherever there is a demand there will be a supply; and there can be no wonder, therefore, that so long as these half-formed artists abound, they will be well provided for. But is it not somewhat criminal to allow such garbled versions of standard works to grow up around us without a word of discontent? Musicians, of course, do not want them; but apathy on the subject becomes selfishness; for it is the duty of all who would aid the progress of art not only to pass by such productions themselves, but to use their best endeavours to prevent others from purchasing them, by leading them to an appreciation of the true works of art and exposing those which are false.—Henry C. Lunn.

We recollect once hearing an enthusiastic admirer of the drama warmly eulogise what he termed the well-known lines of Shakespeare, "Off with his head; so much for Buckingham!" and on being told that they were not written by Shakespeare, he not only expressed his astonishment, but boldly asserted that no person was justified in interpolating clap-trap speeches for the purpose of deceiving those who were not sufficiently acquainted with the original text to detect the imposition. We confess that we thoroughly sympathise with him. It is true that many may urge in defence of such alterations the fact that sensational additions are only termed "clap-trap" when they are found not to be a portion of the work; but, even admitting this, it does not affect the artistic view of the question. If popular applause is to be sought at the expense of an author, there is an end of all purity in the presentation of works before the public. It is unnecessary here to refer to certain editions of standard musical compositions where the authors' notes have been altered, or to the "new readings" of some instrumental executants, because in the course of our criticisms in this Journal we have often commented upon these abuses; but with the liberties taken by vocalists at the recent musical festivals fresh in our recollection, we cannot but again call attention to this growing evil, in the hope that singers of established reputation may boldly restore the original text before the false, instead of the true, has taken too firm a hold of the public to admit of so salutary a reform. Handel, for example, knew perfectly well the compass of the human voice, and would have written the high notes now sung had he wanted them. We know how confidently the listeners expect these brilliant climaxes in certain passages; but any singer of eminence boldly refusing to gratify these expectations would set a noble example which would certainly be speedily and most extensively followed.—London Musical Times.

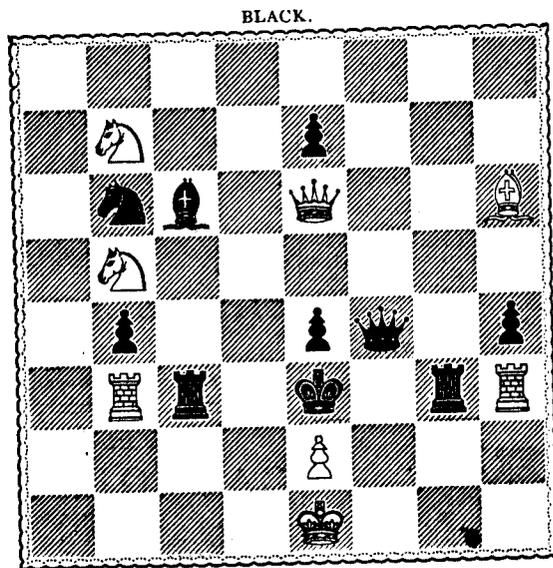
Chess.

All Correspondence intended for this Column, and Exchanges, should be directed to the CHIEF EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 20th, 1879.

PROBLEM NO. LII.

British Chess Problem Association Tourney. Motto: "Chess is the Monarch of Games, &c." From The Chess Players' Chronicle.



White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. XLIX.—By Mr. J. N. Babson.

White. Black. White. Black. White.
1 K to Kt 7 P to K 6 2 K to Kt 8 Any 3 Mates.

Correct solution received from J.H., G.P.B., T.M.J. (Your solution to No. 48 was also correct, but received too late for acknowledgment in its proper place).

GAME NO. XLVIII.

The first game played in the Quebec Chess Club on the opening night, Nov. 25th, 1879. White—Messrs. T. Ledroit, F. H. Andrews, E. Pope and E. C. Sanderson, in consultation against Black—Messrs. C. Champion, E. Sanderson, Dr. Bradley and Dr. Henchey.

KING'S BISHOP'S GAME.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P to K 4	P to K 4	10 Q Kt to Q 2	B to K Kt 5	19 P to Q Kt 3 (f)	Q R P takes P
2 B to Q B 4	B to Q B 4 (e)	11 Q to K 2 (e)	Castles (K R)	20 P to K 5 (h)	P takes Q R P
3 K Kt to B 3	P to Q 3	12 P to K R 3	B takes Kt	21 K to Q Kt 2	Kt takes P
4 P to Q 4	P takes P	13 Kt takes B	Kt to K Kt 3 (f)	22 Kt takes Kt	Q takes Kt (ch)
5 Kt takes P (b)	K Kt to B 3	14 P to K Kt 3	P to Q B 3 (e)	23 Q takes Q	P takes Q
6 B to K Kt 5	P to K R 3	15 Castles (Q R)	P to Q Kt 4	24 B to Q Kt 3	P Queens (ch)
7 B takes Kt (c)	Q takes B	16 H to Q 3 (h)	P to Q Kt 5	25 Resigns.	
8 P to Q B 3	Q Kt to B 3	17 P to Q B 4	P to Q R 4		
9 Kt to K B 3 (d)	Kt to K 4	18 B to B 2	P to Q R 5		

NOTES.—(a) Kt to K B 3 is a more popular defence, but its correctness, in preference to the move in the text, is not yet established.
(b) This capture results in an even game, but a more lively continuation proceeds from P to Q B 3 or Kt to Kt 5.
(c) An injudicious move. Q Kt to B 3 were better. The character of an opening points out the mode in which the game may be most successfully prosecuted, and in such as the one before us, a careful development is more advisable. Any departure from such known principles speedily hands over the attack to an opponent, as in the present instance.
(d) B to Q Kt 5, pinning the Kt, seems preferable. The move made assists Black's development.
(e) We would have been much tempted to play Q to R 4 (ch), followed by Kt to Q 4.
(f) Q R to K seems to keep up the attack better than this retreat.
(g) A good move, and the beginning of the end. The Q's Pawns now advance with telling effect.
(h) B to Kt 3 is a better move. The enforced inactivity of Q and Kt are distressing to behold.
(i) Q to Q 3 were a much better move, calculated to free his game. The pieces and pawns are even.
(j) If B takes P, Black has no immediate victory. Consultation Games are not always models of correctness, vigour or resource, for though in the multitude of counsellors there may be wisdom, too many cooks not unfrequently spoil the broth.

IN REFERENCE to Game No. 47, published in our last issue, between Messrs. McDonald and Fraser, and which we copied from The Field, Mr. Fraser writes to the Glasgow Weekly Herald in correction of note f, to move 19. In the forced line of play, therein recommended by The Field, whereby White is made to win at Black's 24th move, K to Q B sq is denounced by reason of White 26 R to B 7. Mr. Fraser, however, says this is the correct line of play, and the game is continued—Black 24 K to Q B sq, 25 R to K B 7—Q R to Q sq, 26 Q to Q B 4—Q takes R, 27 Q takes Q—B to K 6 (ch), 28 R to Q 2—R takes R, and White must submit to mate or lose his Q.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

We regret to announce the curtailment and occasional absence of the chess column in the Croydon Guardian. This paper contains a chess article to which we always turn with the greatest pleasure, and it was at its commencement, over two years ago, the only chess column out of the Metropolis within a radius of a hundred miles. We hope arrangements may yet be made to maintain the column in its old condition of length, regularity and excellence.—Mr. Max Judd is giving several highly successful and interesting seances of simultaneous chess in St. Louis. In his most recent feat in this line, he played against fifteen antagonists, of which number he defeated eleven, losing to three and drawing with one.—Mr. C. Mohle, the well known New York player, and Mr. Donald C. Rogers, of Detroit, a strong player engaged in the International Match, have entered the Hamilton Correspondence Tourney. These gentlemen will no doubt give some of our Canadians a hard fight.—A match took place at Guelph on Friday evening between those redoubtable Clubs, Toronto and Seaford. The opportunity was also seized by the Clubs of Guelph and Brantford to challenge Hamilton. and the initial move was taken towards the formation of an Ontario Chess Association.—It has been decided that the Book of the Congress shall only be issued to subscribers of \$5 and upwards. As soon as these are supplied, the book will be out of print.—Mr. E. Hepple Hall, who has been visiting Montreal for a few days previously to departing to Manitoba to prosecute his literary labours, paid a visit to the Montreal Chess Club on Tuesday evening and tried conclusions with some of the strongest players.—The programme of the Congress is issued, but too late to notice particularly. The First Prize is \$500, the Second \$300. The entrance fee to the Grand Tournament is \$20. The Manhattan Club has subscribed the handsome sum of \$725, with forty members yet to be heard from.



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WILLIAM WHITE,
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Post Office Department, Canada,
Ottawa, 13th Nov., 1879.



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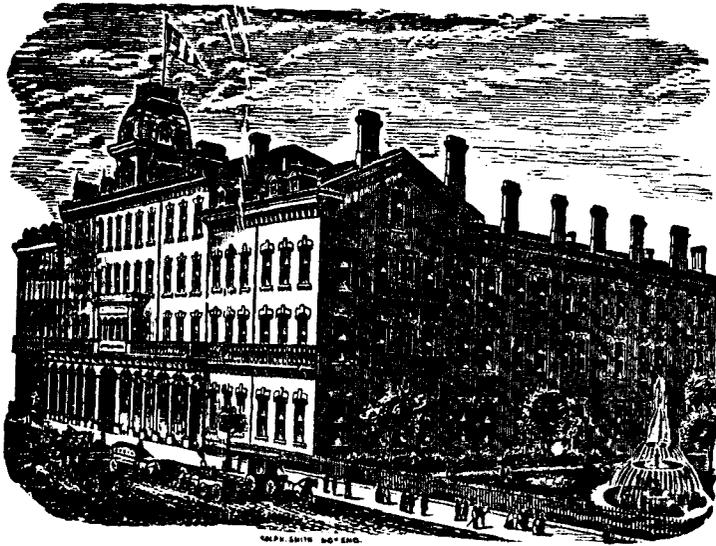
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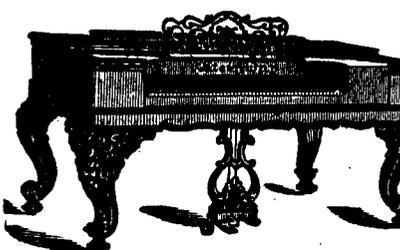
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POST-OFFICE TIME TABLE.

MONTREAL, Dec. 15th, 1879.

DELIVERY.		MAILS.		CLOSING.	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
ONTARIO AND WESTERN PROVINCES.					
8 00	2 45	*Ottawa by Railway.....	8 15		
8 00		*Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba & B. C.....	8 15		
		Ottawa River Route up to Carnillon.....	8 15		
QUEBEC & EASTERN PROVINCES.					
8 00		Quebec, Three Rivers, Berthier and Sorel, by Q., M., O. & O. Ry.....		1 05	
		Quebec, by G. T. R.....		8 00	
8 00		Eastern Towns, Three Rivers, Arthabaska & Riviere du Loup Ry.....		8 00	
	2 45	Line to Ottawa.....		8 00	
9 15		Do. St Jerome and St Lin Branches.....		4 30	
		St Remi and Hemmingford RR.....		2 00	
8 00	12 45	St Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, &c.....		6 00	30-8
8 00		Acton & Sorel Railway.....		8 00	
10 00		St Johns, Stanbridge & St Armand Station.....		6 00	
10 00		St Johns, Vermont Junction & Shefford Railways.....		2 15	
10 00		South Eastern Railway.....		3 45	
8 00		†New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. I.....		8 00	
		Newfoundland forwarded daily on Halifax, whence despatch is by the Packet.....		8 00	
LOCAL MAILS.					
11 30		Beauharnois Route.....		6 00	
11 30		Boucherville, Contrecoeur, Varennes and Vercheres.....		1 00	
10 00		Cote St Paul.....		6 00	
11 30		Tanneries West.....		6 00	2 00
	6 30	Cote St Antoine and Notre Dame de Grace.....		12 45	
11 30		St Cunegonde.....		6 00	
11 30		Huntingdon.....		6 00	2 00
10 00	6 00	Lachine.....		6 00	2 00
8 & 10		Longueuil.....		6 00	2 00
10 00		St Lambert.....		2 30	
10 00		Laprairie.....		2 30	
10 00		Pont Viau, Sault-au-Recollet.....		3 30	
8 00		Terrebonne and St Vincent.....		1 05	
8 30	5 00	Point St Charles.....		8 00	15-5
	1 30	St Laurent, St Eustache and Belle Riviere.....		7 00	
10 00		North Shore Land Route to Bout de L'Isle.....		2 50	
9 00	5 00	Hochelaga.....		8 00	15-5
UNITED STATES.					
8 & 10		Boston & New England States, except Maine.....		6 00	5 00
8-1045		New York and Southern States.....		6 00	2 15
8 00	12 45	Island Pond, Portland and Maine.....		2 30-8	
8-1040		(A) Western and Pacific States.....		8 15	8 00
GREAT BRITAIN, &c.					
		By Canadian Line (Thursdays).....		7 00	
		By Canadian Line (Germany) Thursdays.....		7 00	
		By Cunard, Mondays.....		5 00	
		Supplementary, see P.O. weekly notice.....		2 15	
		By Packet from New York for England, Wednesdays.....		2 15	
		By Hamburg American Packet to Germany, Wednesdays.....		2 15	
WEST INDIES.					
		Letters, &c., prepared in New York are forwarded daily on New York, whence mails are despatched.....		2 15	
		For Havana and West Indies via Havana, every Thursday p.m.....		2 15	

*Postal Card Bags open till 8.45 p.m. & 9.15 p.m.

† Do. Do. 9.00 p.m.

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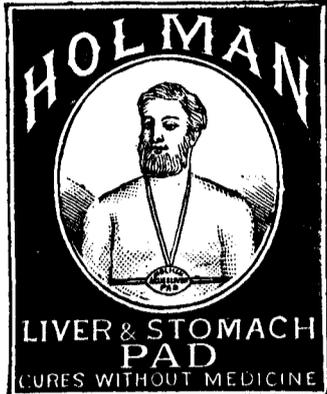
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