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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Financial matters are attracting public attention in Britain no less than in America. The fact that Britain has not nearly so much gold in reserve as several other great powers is seriously commented upon. This is offset, however, by the fact that the gold in circulation in Britain exceeds the gold in circulation in any other country, and although not so readily available in case of panic as a reserve fund, it is still a matter for satisfaction.

It is reported that Liliuokalani, the new Queen of Hawaii, is in poor health, and will not probably enjoy her new honors long. Her condition has been kept a secret, but the fact that the young Princess Kainani, now at school in England, has been commended to return at once to Hawaii, points to the conclusion that her case is serious. The sovereign of Hawaii nominates the successor to the throne, and it will be interesting to know who the present Queen will appoint her heir.

Another phase of the claims of Portugal, elsewhere referred to, is presented in the action of the Portuguese Government in lodging a claim through their minister in London for a rectification of the frontiers of Goa, involving the cession of a certain amount of territory now included in British India. This claim is considered petty and unjustifiable by the Foreign Office, and Portugal by making it has rather overreached herself. The irritation caused by this claim will be prejudicial to Portugal when the African claims are being settled. No doubt Portugal fondly hoped by this move to induce Britain to give her a good deal in order to be rid of her pestering.

Before the next issue of THE CRITIC appears the elections will be over, but unfortunately not in time for us to obtain the returns before going to press. The fight is close one, and enthusiasm on both sides is hot. Even in the schools the boys and girls have become strong partisans and wear red or blue ribbons in token of their party. The greater number of them have a sensible idea of why they take sides, and the girls are quite as well posted as the boys. A young lady while pinning on her red ribbon a few days ago was asked if she knew why she was a Tory? "Ye," she said, "because I don't want annexation." This shows a better understanding than that of a lady belonging to a strong Liberal family, who asked a few days ago whether Sir John A. Macdonald was a Grit or a Tory! Fortunately few ladies make such a deplorable display of ignorance as this, and an increasing interest in the affairs of state is noticeable among them.

The inconvenience of transacting business in English money to persons accustomed to the simpler decimal system is frequently apparent. There is but little hope, however, of the decimal system being adopted, although it is greatly desired in some parts of Britain. Mr. Leng, member of the House of Commons, recently forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a memorial from the Dundee Chamber of Commerce and numerous merchants, manufacturers and others of that town in favor of a decimal system of coinage, weights and measures. In acknowledging the memorial Mr. Goschen said: "I must own frankly for myself that, though I am sensible that powerful arguments can be put forward in support of the decimal system, I cannot undertake to recommend its adoption in this country."

It was a triumph that came too late, that of Mr. Bradlaugh in the House of Commons a few weeks ago while he lay upon his death bed. The House at last expunged the resolution of June 22nd, 1880, declaring that Mr. Bradlaugh be not permitted to take the oath or make an affirmation, but it is doubtful if the news ever reached the member for Northampton. His career is a remarkable instance of sound sterling qualities overcoming religious prejudices. The action of the House is not to be taken as any sign of approval of Mr. Bradlaugh's opinions, but only that the members were convinced that he had right on his side in this matter. It will probably serve as a precedent, so that in future intolerance and religious tests will have no weight in keeping a representative of the people from acting in his full capacity as such. In proof of the high esteem in which Mr. Bradlaugh was held it is said that in several of the Northampton churches prayers were offered for his restoration to health on the Sunday before his death. This is testimony to the character he achieved during his parliamentary career.

The news of the Springhill mine explosion, causing the loss of 123 lives, was received in Halifax last Saturday evening. No such extensive calamity has before occurred in Nova Scotia; the Foord Pit and Drummond Mine explosions together not causing so many deaths. The danger to which our fellow-men are exposed in the collieries is not often thought of unless some accident takes place, but then our sympathies are aroused. The desolation in Springhill can scarcely be imagined. Fifty-five widows mourn their husbands and breadwinners, and 164 children lost their fathers. The work of burying the dead began on Tuesday, most of the bodies having been then recovered. Doctors from Parrsboro and other places promptly responded to the call for aid, and clergymen have acted in concert in conducting the burial services. Many heart rending scenes occurred at the mouth of the pit as the bodies were brought up. Some families lost three or four members. While we cannot lessen the grief of the bereaved who have lost their ones in such a sudden and terrible manner, we can assist in sending the money called for to relieve their necessities. The cause of the explosion is not yet known, but the inquest will, it is hoped, throw some light on the subject.

In Newfoundland the anger against Britain on account of her half-hearted way of dealing with the French Shore troubles is now further increased by Britain's refusal to ratify the Newfoundland-American reciprocity convention, recently drafted, and which it is alleged Canada protested against to the Colonial Office. This has drawn down upon Canada also the wrath of the ancient colony, which embodies in the legislative address in reply to the Governor's speech accusations that Britain is subservient to party politics in Canada. Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, in speaking of the matter in the House of Lords on the 17th inst., stated that it might at some time be possible to secure for the colony the advantages it desires without prejudicing the interests of the Empire, and in view of the approaching elections, and the proposals of Canadian politicians for a reciprocity treaty with the United States, we cannot but concur in the putting off of any definite treaty between Newfoundland and that country. Canada has all along sympathized with the sister colony in her difficulties, and would not wish an injustice done her in this matter. It is much to be regretted that ill-feeling should spring up between Newfoundland and Canada, and we cannot but think the irritation of the Newfoundlanders is too hasty, and that events will prove that it was better for Britain not to consent to a convention prejudicial to the interests of so large a colony as Canada. At the same time the fact that much excitement prevails among the people of St. John's over the situation cannot be ignored. This is not unnatural from their point of view. They think that Canada has unwarrantably interfered with their negotiations, and resent the success of this interference most deeply. Explanations will probably in due time be made by our Government that will tend to a better understanding of the questions at issue.

The United States International Copyright Bill, from which so much was expected, has probably received a quietus for the time being. The Senate has adopted a lithographers' amendment that will send it back to the house, there to stick, most likely, until the expiration of Congress.

An expedition to the South Pole is in contemplation by Prof. Nordmek jold. The scientific world is greatly interested in the project, and Baron Oscar Dickson, the well-known patron of polar exploration, has promised to contribute \$25,000 to the new Antarctic expedition. Let us hope that the hardy Scandinavian navigator will have better success than other explorers in this enterprise, and that the mystery of the South Pole will prove not so difficult to solve as that of the north. Whether the results of these costly expeditions are such as to warrant their undertaking we have nothing to do, but it appears to us that the money would be better expended in alleviating the condition of many of the inhabitants of countries that need no exploration. The great frost of this season has claimed many victims, and cold and hunger have been experienced by thousands. It seems, then, that it would be better to warm and feed these people, rather than seek an entrance to a territory which it is reasonably certain is bound in perpetual frost from year's end to year's end.

Not a little dissatisfaction is felt in England over the adoption of a new magazine rifle for the army. Grave faults are found in it, and those who consider the effective arming of English soldiers a matter of importance have been airing the matter in Parliament. On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., a motion was made in the House of Commons to have a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the merits of the new rifle. This motion was defeated by a majority of 34 votes in a house of 180 members. Mr. Stanhope, Secretary of War, maintained that the rifle was a good rifle, and the more tests to which it was exposed the better it appeared. The *Times* is foremost in denouncing the new arm, contending that a soldier cannot properly clean the mainspring and striker, most important portions of the mechanism, and very liable to be fouled or broken. The services of a professional armourer are necessary to take the rifle to pieces and clean it properly. The rifle may be better than its enemies make it out to be, but the fact is pretty well established that it is costly and complicated. Both these objections are serious, but the latter particularly so. In campaigning the chief requisites in a weapon are simplicity and strength. The plight of a soldier with an out-of-order piece of clock-work as his only defence would be pitiable. At any rate the Government shows but little consideration for the matter, and it is hard to understand why the Royal Commission should not have been appointed. All are equally interested in having only the best weapons supplied to the army, so if the rifle is not up to the mark the Government should feel thankful to know it in time to substitute another, or retain the Martini, before anything calling for their active service occurs. On the other hand, if the rifle is good, the favorable report of a Commission would effectually silence the fault-finders and establish the action of the War Office, or rather the Small Arms Committee, in adopting or recommending the adoption of the weapon, as wise. It would be better to subject the new magazine rifle to every impartial test required than to perhaps find it almost useless when much is expected of it.

The questions at issue between Britain and Portugal as to the settlement of boundary lines in South and East Africa are again under discussion. Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who is visiting England in the joint capacity of Chairman of the South African Company, and Prime Minister of Cape Colony, and Sir Henry Lock, Governor of the Cape, have had lengthy interviews with Lord Knutsford, the Colonial Secretary, and with Lord Salisbury, with a view to forming a definite South African policy. At the time of partitioning Africa among the powers last summer the only difficulty experienced was with Portugal, that bumptious little kingdom presuming upon its shadowy historic claims to refuse the equitable and generous arrangements made by Lord Salisbury, and which Germany and France made no objection to. In this case all that could be done were for the two foreign offices to arrange a *modus vivendi*, by which both powers agreed to respect the boundaries, as prepared in the unratified treaty, and wait until an amicable arrangement could be made. This was done, but Portugal must by this time be able to perceive the folly of her course. The British South African Company, so soon as the proposed agreement was rejected, proceeded to go ahead on its own account, and has since that time drawn a good deal of attention to that portion of Africa covered by its operations. Difficulties of a more or less serious nature occurred, and while there was little danger of Britain taking up arms against Portugal in the interests of the Company which made the trouble, the Portuguese, with their customary quickness, became inflamed against England, and allowed their hatred of Britishers full sway in Lisbon a few months ago. Portugal's foolishness in rejecting the agreement proposed by Lord Salisbury is shown now that attention has been directed to Manica, until recently quite unknown, but now considered of great importance. This district is a part of what Portugal wants, but Britain wants it also, and if British Statesmen care for what British heads and hands have won, Britain will keep it. In all probability if Portugal had agreed to the proposed treaty, this district, on the road to the sea, and hence valuable, would have fallen to her share, but now that events have transpired to show its value Britain will be loath to part with it. The mission of Mr. Rhodes and Sir Henry Lock to England is, no doubt, chiefly to try and establish happy relations between the territories covered by the charter of the South African Company, and the States already under the English flag in that quarter of the world, and their advice and information should be of immense value to Lord Salisbury in future negotiations. The Convention which

Portuguese Statesmen ignored may yet be remodelled on a basis not quite as satisfactory to them as the first one. Of course, if on looking into the matter, Portugal's claims to Manica prove to be well founded, Britain will not take it from her. Although Portuguese navigators discovered the Cape, they did nothing towards taking possession, and this territory, after being in the hands of Holland for a while, became the property of Britain. The claims of the Portuguese to Manica will probably turn out to be no more substantial than that they looked at it first as in the case of the Cape. At any rate the conclusion of a treaty will be looked for with interest.

In the last number of the *Week* the deplorable condition of the poor, in sharp contrast with the growing luxury of the rich, is commented upon both editorially and by a contributor, "Fidelis." This brings to mind a sketch given in a New York paper recently. In a luxurious easy chair, a richly attired woman was seated with her head thrown back in an affluence of idleness, while on her lap lay an half-read novel. All about were signs of riches. Against this picture was another of a different type. A shivering, half clothed woman, seated on a rickety chair, held in her arms her starving child, and with gaunt face and hungry eyes gazed with despair out of the window. Underneath the two was written—"One half the world does not know how the other half lives. Does it care?" That is the question. The neglect of the poor by those "who profess and call themselves Christians" is bringing grave reproaches on the churches. General Booth, whether "Darkest England and the Way Out," was written by him or not, deserves the credit for coming squarely out to fight this condition of affairs. He believes in the possibility of a cure, and is setting to work to try it. If he succeeds in demonstrating this possibility to the world, so that extreme want and poverty will become a thing of the past, General Booth will have given the world something worth more than any other remedy ever seen. Truly, the blame for poverty lies with the churches in a great measure. The law of "brotherhood" seems to have been forgotten; the rich attend their exclusive churches and forget their duties to the poor. A suggestion was recently made that in England during the severe weather the churches should be thrown open and the pews provided with mattresses, so that the homeless in the large cities could come in and find shelter. Of course it has not been done, or we would have heard of it. "Fidelis," in the *Week*, speaks of the voices coming from the extreme wings of the Christian church (Father Huntington and General Booth) as well as here and there all along the line, enforcing in no doubtful tone that great principle of brotherhood which, faithfully carried out, would regenerate Society. This is certainly the key note of the reform so desperately needed.

"That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once. This might be the pate of a politician, which this ass now o'er reaches; and now my lady Worm's; chapless and knocked about the mazzard with a sexton's spade." These lines from Hamlet are forcibly brought to mind by the disputation of the Viennese phrenological savants over a skull. The skull in question is supposed to be that of Mozart. It is generally agreed that the bones supposed to be those of the greatest musician of his age were rescued from the common ditch of Saint Marxer Cemetery, where they were laid just one hundred years ago. The history of the skull is this:—"On the 6th of December, 1791, a poor funeral hearse, attended by no mourner of any distinction, arrived at the gate of St. Marx, with orders for a third class funeral." The body was accordingly placed in the common grave, and, as it was then full, the coffin of the last arrival lay uppermost. The sexton was a musician, and when a boy, had listened with wonder to a mass which he was told had been composed by a lad no older than himself—he therefore carefully noted the position of the coffin in a calendar with the intention of informing himself later whether the Mozart in the grave was identical with the composer. Ten years passed, and this grave was re dug. The digger, remembering the composer Mozart, and the exact place in which he had put his coffin, took the uppermost skull, wrapped it in linen, and kept it in a cupboard at his home, showing it only to his most intimate friends. The finding of the skull was recorded in the calendar, and when the grave digger died his successor found both the skull and the calendar where they had been deposited. The new grave digger being an enthusiastic musician, kept them with scrupulous care. The cemetery was frequently visited by the engraver, Hyrtl, owing to its containing his mother's remains. One evening, being overtaken by a terrific storm, he was invited by the grave-digger into his dwelling, where he was shown the skull, which was subsequently presented to him (Hyrtl), he, in his turn, handed it to his brother, the celebrated anatomist, now in his eightieth year. In his possession, after some vicissitudes, it has remained ever since, and by request, will in time pass to the Salzburg Mozarteum. This tale seems likely enough. For there are only four persons concerned in it—the two grave-diggers and the two Hyrtls, and the narratives which connect the cranium with Mozart are as credible as history can ever be expected to be. But here the initial difficulty begins—the sexton might have been mistaken. Then the Vienna craniologists say that the skull in question is sadly deficient in the enlargements which are supposed to denote special devotion to harmony. But then it must be remembered that neither do the skulls of Beethoven, Haydn, George Buchanan, Swedenborg, Cromwell, nor Hampden, exhibit in any great degree the "bumps" which they ought to possess. However, to the disgrace of the Viennese magnates of 1791, and of the musicians, who could not even bury their spite in his grave, there is no hope of honor ever being paid to any undoubted fragment of Mozart's remains. Sad comment on the vanity of human life—he who had been petted by princes, and as a child had promised to marry Mary Antoinette (perhaps unfortunately for herself the Archduchess preferred Louis XVI) "when he was big," was laid in a pauper's grave at the cost of eleven florins and fifty-six kreuzers, "the widow being absolutely destitute,"

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

THE SEQUEL.

She came full chisel to his arms;
It really made him stiff
To have her make a bolt for him
Before he could prepare;
He tried to screw his courage up,
And did his level best
To nall the matter then and there,
While clasped unto her breast.
Says she: "It augurs well for me,
All seems to hinge on this;
And what is mortise plane to see,
The porch child wants a kiss."
He kissed her lip, he kissed her cheek,
He called her his adored--
He dons his claw-hammered coat next week,
And she will share his board.

A ROW OF PINS.

Mr. Cockrel, in the American Senate, when speaking on the "fortification bill," said; "The Canadians are our friends; suppose they are our enemies, what do they amount to?"

Mr. Frye—"Not to a row of pins."

Mr. Cockrel—"That's so.

There's where you are mistaken, friends;
Invade us and you'll find
A row of sharp and glittering pins
With loyal men behind.
And 'ere you come, repent, I pray,
Of all your many sins;
You'll not have time when you have met
A row of British pins.
They scratched you once at "Stoney Crook"
And pricked you once again;
And tore your clothes and made you sick
When met at Lundy's Lane.
You had to run at Queenston Heights,
And swim to save your shins;
You thought the river safer than
This "Row of British pins."
A single row at Inkerman
Was stretched across the field,
The Russians charged it, ten to one,
But could not make it yield.
So, though not good at boast and brag,
For bluster never wins,
But should it ever come to blows,
We'll trust the "Row of pins."

Oshawa, Feb. 4, 1891.

E. Carewell, in *The Empire*.

"Doctor, I came to see about my brother."

"What is the matter with him?"

"One of his legs is shorter than the other, and he limps. Now, what would you do in a case of that kind?"

"I am afraid I should limp, too."

Some new discoveries have been made at Pompeii, near the Stabiana Gate, and a description is given of them. *Nature* states that three bodies were found, two being those of men and the third that of a woman. Not far from the resting-place of these bodies was found the trunk of a tree, 3 meters in height and measuring 40 centimeters in diameter. This tree, together with its fruits that were found with it, have been examined by the professor of botany, M. Pasquale, who finds in it a variety of *Laurus nobilis*. By means of the fruits, since they come to maturity in the autumn, he concludes that the eruption did not take place in August, but in November.

The term nightware is supposed to have been derived from *Mara*, the name of a demon which, according to the Scandinavian mythology, pounced upon men in their sleep and held the will in thralldom. The old Saxons call the distemper *Elf-sidene*, or elf-squatting. With the doctors it is called *Ephialtes*, from a mythic giant of that name who undertook to climb to heaven, but, missing his foothold, tumbled into the fathomless depths. Most of us have probably been convulsed in our sleep with the same sort of horror which the tripped-up Titian is fabled to have experienced during his "lofty fall" from the celestial battlements. There can be little doubt that many of the specters of the dark ages were *Maras* begotten of indigestion.

AFFIRMATION AND REPROACH.—She—What is lighter than a feather?

He—The dust that blows in dryest weather.

She—And what is lighter than dust, I pray?

He—The wind that blows that dust away—

She—And what is lighter than the wind?

He—The lightness of a woman's mind.

He—What is broken most on earth?

She—The egg that gives the chicken birth.

He—And what than eggs are broken more?

She—The waves that beat against the shore.

He—Yet what more than waves are broken?

She—The vows which faithless men have spoken.

It's sometimes said patent medicines are for the ignorant. The doctors foster this idea. "The people," we're told, "are mostly ignorant when it comes to medical science." Suppose they are! What a sick man needs is not knowledge, but a cure, and the medicine that cures is the medicine for the sick. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures the "do believes" and the "don't believes." There's no hesitance about it, no "if" nor "possibly." It says "I can cure you, only do as I direct." Perhaps it fails occasionally. The makers hear of it when it does, because they never keep the money when the medicine fails to do good. Suppose the doctors went on that principle. (We beg the doctors' pardon. It wouldn't do!)

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LIST OF PRIZES.	
1 Real Estate worth.....	\$5,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	2,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	1,000
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HALIFAX, N. S.

CITY CHIMES.

Everyone in Halifax feels deeply for the bereaved widows and children at Springhill. Such a terrible disaster is calculated to arouse sympathy of the most practical kind and show that the milk of human kindness has not died out in the human heart. A prompt response has been made to the appeal for help, and all classes have been moved to contribute what they could afford.

The fashion magazines with the spring styles are being deeply studied just now by the angelic sex. Easter comes on the 29th of March, and if the season is reasonably well advanced the ladies will be able to display the result of this study to the best advantage. No matter what her creed, every woman believes in a new fit out for Easter.

Politics, we are thankful to know, will be over next week, or at least pre-election politics will be. If both sides don't get in this time there will be no trusting the papers. The *Canadian Presbyterian* is right when it says that the confident forecasts made by the different papers cannot fail to detract from their influence after the elections are over and the die cast. There is no doubting the fact that a different tune will be sung by one side or the other when it finds that the cat did not jump their way.

Halifax is to have an omnibus line, which will include Granville Street in its route. This will doubtless prove a convenience to a large number of people.

Very Frenchy fashions are coming in. Some of the styles are simply detestable, for instance the extensions of the basque far down over the hips in the shape of paniers, or whatever they are called. They are exceedingly unbecoming to the figure and detract from the apparent height. No woman who values her symmetry of figure should permit her dress-maker to bamboozle her into having her new gowns made after such models. Medici collars are still shown in the fashion books, and will be a feature of spring and summer gowns. They should be selected only by ladies with long necks, and to them they will be good friends. Ladies with good taste study themselves first and the fashions last. So they succeed in making their appearance the envy of their less thoughtful sisters. It is quite worth a woman's while to give some thought to these things and make herself as attractive as possible.

The weather of the last few days has been almost spring-like and the warmth has, as a driver expressed it, pretty well bust up the sleighing, and of course the tobogganing has disappeared also. The walking in the day time has been sloppy under foot and drippy over head. This will not last for long in all probability, and snow will come again. We often have our heaviest snow storms in March, but the snow does not remain like January snow.

The *Mercury*, the new Halifax weekly, made its bow to the public last Saturday. It is an eight page paper filled with society and sporting news, book reviews, and articles of general interest and cuttings from other papers. Halifax will now be well represented in print, as "Iris" does all our affairs great and small into a readable article in *St. John Progress*, *Our Society* treats of the same things in an agreeable manner, and now the *Mercury* is going to report all the sayings and doings and goings and comings of the elite. With the eyes of so many note takers upon it, society will have to be very careful how it conducts itself.

Mrs. Turnbull gave a very delightful dance at her residence in Young Street on Tuesday evening. About ninety guests tripped the light fantastic toe with spirit until after one o'clock.

The rink is the one indulgence of those whose religious principles preclude their taking part in evening entertainments during the penitential season. If the weather does not favor this indulgence much longer, we may expect youth and good spirits to break through the restrictions and have a little variety in the form of dancing or card playing.

A most commendable move is being made by the Carpenters' Union of Halifax towards a fund for the benefit of carpenters who from age, accidents or sickness may be in need of assistance. The first of a series of entertainments for the benefit of this cause was given in St. Patrick's Hall on Tuesday evening, when a great success was secured. The entertainment consisted of music, clog dancing and other things of a nature to find favor with the audience. The object is a most worthy one—there ought to be a fund of a like character in every trade union—and the entertainments, which we believe are to be given weekly, deserve patronage.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Chess crowded out this week.

The Liberal-Conservatives of Yarmouth on Tuesday nominated Mr. J. R. Kinney as their candidate in the coming election.

Captain Josiah Hopkins, of Barrington, has been appointed Manager by the Directors of the Halifax Sailors' Home. He is well known in the city.

La Presse states that there are now living in Montreal descendants of a rich English family named Wood, and that a fortune of \$80,000,000 has been awaiting them since 1836.

One of the saddest incidents of the Springhill disaster was the death from falling on the ice of James Dupee, a young brother of one of the victims. The parents, frantic with grief, carried home the two dead bodies.

Count Paris has sent several of his photographs to Mayor Fremont, of Quebec, for the distinguished people who took part in the reception tendered the Prince on the occasion of his recent visit. The Count has also sent a gold and diamond bracelet to the daughter of Haron, Chief of Lorette.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. Scott Hutten, Superintendent of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in this city, which occurred shortly before midnight on Wednesday. Mr. Hutten came to Halifax about thirty-four years ago from Perth, Scotland, and has been one of our most valued citizens. The cause of his death was liver disease. He leaves a widow but no children.

Every woman is interested just now in what to wear for spring. The latest styles are illustrated, the newest materials described and the brightest ideas embodied in the March number of The Delineator. This issue contains over one hundred large pages of interesting fashion talk and practical hints for the home, and the wonder is how any woman can do without it. Canadian edition identical with that published from New York. \$1 a year. Address The Delineator, Toronto.

There appears to be some prospect of the Quebec bridge scheme being pushed. The Quebec Chronicle said on Monday:—"Collingwood Schriber, Esq., C. E., Chief Engineer of the Government Railways, arrived in town last night, and will to-day examine with Mr. Hoare, C. E., the various proposed sites for the bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec. This means business, and all Quebecers will be glad to hear that the Government is in earnest and intends carrying out its promise."

The citizens of St. John's are not all so wrathful as the Legislative Assembly's speech from the throne would imply, or at all events they were not at the time the following resolution was adopted by a committee of citizens of that place:—"Resolved, That this meeting desires to express its grateful appreciation of the interest taken by our fellow-colonists of the Dominion of Canada in our behalf, for their manifestations of sympathy with us in the hardships of our position, and for the active and valuable support and assistance afforded us by the press, the various Boards of Trade, and other exponents of public opinion and sentiment throughout the Dominion; and the committee recognize in this sympathy and co-operation a source of strength and hope, to sustain and encourage the people of this colony to further persistent effort in the future."

How frequently thoughtless persons will not only disturb the clergyman, but also the entire congregation, hacking and coughing during Divine service. By using Oxford Cough Syrup this annoyance would be prevented.

Floods have been creating havoc in West Virginia and in Pennsylvania. In West Virginia over 100 families have had to desert their homes.

The funeral ceremonies of General Sherman took place in New York on the 19th, when the remains were placed on a car en route for St. Louis, where the interment was to take place.

Nine persons were killed in a terrible collision in a tunnel of the New York Central and the New York and New Haven roads on Friday morning last. The "deadly car stove" added another to its long list of fatalities, all the victims being terribly burned. It is said the accident is attributable to gross negligence.

A special from Chicago says:—"Several Ogallala Sioux warriors state their people will go on the war path in the spring. They say they are shamefully treated by Secretary Noble at Washington, who seemed to think they had no rights." One warrior said:—"We got some clothing at Washington and two weeks' rations. The rations are already eaten, while none of the clothing was fit for the squaws or papooses." The reds are disgusted and will make a very unfavorable report when they reach home.

The March Season is just received. This number is unusually fine, abounding in many beautiful and practical designs—in fact, all kinds of art work are fully represented. The costumes for children are welcome to all mothers, who will find in this book every detail necessary for children's garments, suited to all ages and for all occasions. This journal surpasses all others in the beauty of design, originality and variety of its illustrations, and should be in every household, the very low price bringing it within the means of every lady who desires to dress well. Single copies 30 cents. Yearly subscription \$3.50. The International News Co., 83 and 85 Duane Street, New York.

A cablegram from Callao says that the Chilean revolutionists captured Iquique on the 17th inst.

Mansfield, Gladstonian, has been elected member for Northampton, the seat made vacant by the death of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh.

The Deceased Wife's Sister has been up in the British House of Commons again. The bill passed its second reading by a vote of 202 to 155.

A severe engagement between Egyptian troops and Osman Digna's forces was fought at Tokar on the 19th inst. Osman Digna's forces were defeated with heavy loss. About 1,000 lives were lost in the battle.

The Italian press of all shades of politics has given a cool reception to the programme announced by the new cabinet. The Marquis Di Rudini has adjourned the Chamber of Deputies until March 2nd in order to allow the Government time to propose a number of bills.

At the annual meeting of the Geological Society, held at Burlington House, London, on Friday last, Dr. George Mercer Dawson, of the Canadian Geological Survey, was awarded the Hugsby medal for eminent services in the Geological service.

The Figaro says that Prince Bismarck has sent four boxes filled with important documents to London. The Figaro adds that the ex-Chancellor took this action in view of the possibility of being prosecuted for his utterances and alleged utterances upon public affairs.

Nine of the prisoners arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the recent plot to establish a republic in Portugal have been liberated. Three hundred soldiers and thirty civilians have been committed for trial by court marshal. They will be tried in groups of ten.

Timothy Harrington, M. P., is bringing suit to recover \$5,000 damages against the publishers of the Insuppressible. Ground for this action is contained in the statement published by the paper questioning the disposition made of the evicted tenants' fund in Harrington's hands.

Ex-Empress Frederick has been visiting Paris. This is probably experimental before the Emperor William pays his promised visit. A number of French artists have promised to exhibit at the Bernin art exhibition. French papers denounce them for it, and there is not much sign of a relaxation of the tensions of the international situation.

It is announced that the Prince of Wales will visit Ireland the coming summer. The Earl of Zetland, the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary Balfour are understood to have urged the Prince to make the visit, with the view of giving encouragement to the industries of that country. The Princess of Wales is reported to be assiduous in the attention she pays to the Zetland Balfour fund for the relief of the suffering poor of Ireland. The Princess and her daughters have sent contributions of clothing to the fund, and have also solicited subscriptions for the same cause.

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Is a certain cure, when the system is debilitated, in many cases, and I was a great sufferer from a low state of the blood and general debility. I doctored a long time and the physician's prescription did me no good. I only aggravated the disease. An apothecary advised me to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I did so, and was cured at a cost of \$1.00. Since that time it has been a family medicine, and I confess has become a stranger to our household. I believe it to be the best medicine on earth. —P. E. McNulty, Backman, 27 State St., Lowell, Mass.

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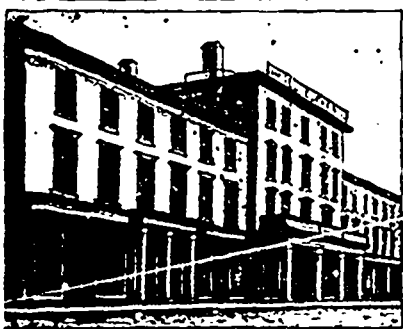
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THE LAND OF USED-TO BE.

Beyond the purple, hazy trees
Of summer's utmost boundaries;
Beyond the sands, beyond the seas,
Beyond the range of eyes like these,
And only in the reach of the
Entraptured gaze of memory,
There lies a land long lost to me—
The land of Used-to-be.

A land enchanted, such as swung
In golden seas when sirens clung
Along their dripping brinks, and sung
To Jason in that mystic tongue
That dazed men with its melody;
Oh, such a land, with such a sea
Kissing its shores eternally,
Is the fair Used-to-be.

A land where music over girls
The air with belts of singing birds,
And sows all sounds with such sweet words
That even in the lowing herds
A meaning lives so sweet to me,
Lost laughter ripples I'mpudly
From lips brimmed o'er with all the glee
Of rare, old Used-to-be.

Lost laughter and the whistled tunes
Of boyhood's mouth of crescent runes,
That rounded through long afternoons,
To serenading plenilunee,
When starlight fell so mistily
That, peering up from bended knee,
I dreamed twas bridal drapery
Hung over Used-to-be.

Oh, land of love and dreamy thoughts
And shining fields and shady spots,
Of coolest, greenest, grassy plots,
Embossed with wild forget-me-nots,
And all the blooms that cunningly
Lift their faces up to me
Out of the past; I kiss in thee
The lips of Used-to-be!

I love ye all, and with wet eyes
Turned glimmeringly on the skies,
My blessings like your perfumes rise,
Till o'er my soul a silence lies
Sweeter than any song to me,
Sweeter than any melody—
Or its sweet echo, yea, all three
My dreams of Used-to-be!

—James Whitcomb Riley, in *Minneapolis Journal*

A TUSK OF IVORY.

Silent, and almost motionless, quite hidden in the darkness, stood the huge form of an old bull elephant, one of whose tusks had been damaged in his youth and had become totally decayed. His head was bent forward in order to rest his one monster tusk upon the ground, his trunk, loosely coiled between his fore-legs, was also resting on the ground, and his great ragged ears flapped spasmodically in vain endeavors to shake off the myriads of mosquitoes that persistently hovered around his head.

Suddenly the forest was lit up by a most vivid flash of lightning, followed an instant afterward by a crashing peal of thunder.

The elephant raised his head with a startled jerk, his huge limbs shaking with fear. Almost before the rumbling echoes of the thunder had died away, the rain, that had been threatening for so many hours, fell in torrents. Flashes of lightning succeeded each other so rapidly that the attendant peals of thunder were converted into one continuous roar, and the violence of the wind soon increased to a veritable tornado—a tropical hurricane. Trees were blown down and uprooted on all sides of the terrified elephant, who remained for some time motionless with fear, but as the tempest continued, the monster became suddenly panic-stricken, and charged madly through the dense forest, stumbling and falling over the trunks of uprooted trees in his endeavors to gain some open patch where there would be no danger of being crushed by the falling timber. The lurid flashes of lightning revealed the frightened animal with coiled trunk and head bent low, blindly smashing a way through the dense woods.

Suddenly, in the midst of a mad rush the elephant sank to the ground with a sharp squeal of pain.

The poor brute had severed the vines that supported one of the traps that had been arranged the previous day, and a heavily weighted spear was plunged between his shoulders. For some moments the wounded animal remained motionless, then the great body rolled slowly from side to side in vain endeavor to free himself from the spear, but the weapon was barbed and the points had penetrated too deeply to be shaken off. After many efforts the animal at last got on his legs again and staggered a short distance through the forest until, growing rapidly weaker from loss of blood, he stopped to rest and leaned the weight of his body against a large ant-hill, breathing heavily and groaning deeply in agony.

Here he remained, exhausted until daybreak, his hide covered with patches of mud and deep red smears of blood. Gradually the rain ceased, and the wind died away. With the first glimpse of dawn in the village there was a creaking from the small square cane doors of the butts as they were removed one by one, and dark, manly figures, with long spears in their hands, stepped forth and stretched themselves after their night's heavy sleep.

After hastily arranging their scanty loin-cloths of beaten bark, the men all started into the dark woods to see if any elephant had been wounded by the traps. The party entered the forest in single file, but soon divided into small companies and set off in different directions. Ioko took an entirely different route from the others, and when about two miles from the village he halted suddenly, snapped his fingers, and placed his hand over his open

mouth, saying to himself in a low tone: "Look at this elephant track! See what a path is here!" He followed the trail for some time, until within view of the trap he had set the previous day, when his excitement became intense, for he found the spear was gone, and the grass and leaves beneath the snare were covered with blood.

Without hesitation he followed the blood-stained track, until he approached the great ant hill, near which he stopped a moment to extract a thorn from his foot. He was startled by a deep groan, and cautiously stepping forward, he saw his prey leaning its unwieldy form against the mound.

"Lo-o-o! It is the evil one, Litoi Lineno!" (Big Ears) gasped Ioko to himself, excitedly.

Silently watching the animal, to decide in his own mind upon the best mode of spearing him in a vital part, he firmly gripped his heavy spear, the haft of which was fully eight feet long, and stepped softly forward until within reach of the left shoulder of the unconscious animal. With steady nerve he poised his weapon, and with a mighty plunge drove the keen-bladed spear deep into the elephant's heart, and sprang away among the trees. With a shrill, trumpeting cry of pain, Litoi Lineno staggered to his feet, swayed forward, quivered, and fell to the ground lifeless.

Ioko, after waiting a few moments to satisfy himself that the animal was dead, calmly stepped forth and raised a cry that echoed through the woods, and which soon brought several of his companions to the spot.

Without any further sign of excitement he quietly busied himself in cutting his barbed spear from the carcass. He then examined the one large tusk and the decayed stump of its fellow, remarking to his companions, who were now arriving: "Now the evil spirit is dead. Litoi Lineno will lead no more devilish elephants to our plantations."

In a very short time the scene became indescribable. Excited men with sharp knives commenced cutting lumps of meat from the still warm carcass and throwing them to the eager women and children, who crowded around with baskets, quarrelling like wild animals over the possession of each piece of flesh that was thrown among them. The savages' hearts were filled with joy at the prospect of a huge feast.

That night under cover of the darkness, Ioko, all alone, buried the one heavy tusk of Litoi Lineno in a swamp far from the village, so that only he himself knew of the place of concealment. He hid the tusk according to the tribal custom, for in the Aruwimi districts the people of neighboring villages are seldom good friends, and they all have a habit of attacking each other at odd times in order to capture men, women and children for cannibal purposes. As tusks of ivory have an acknowledged value, equal to that of a human being, it is customary for the members of each village to conceal in the forests as many tusks as they can obtain, so that they may be in a position to redeem, if permitted, any of their companions who may be unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of their hostile neighbors.—*Mr. Herbert Ward, in Scribner's Magazine.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

HOW CLOTHES-PINS ARE MADE.—If there is one article that is an absolute necessity to a housekeeper it is a clothespin, and the following facts in regard to that useful article are interesting:

Canadian clothes-pins are made at Newmarket, Ont., Eastman, Que., and Rundhill, N. B. They are usually of white ash, but we have them of beech, birch and maple. The wood is taken to the factory in logs, and cut into lengths of thirty-one inches by circular saw. These are then cut into blocks which are reduced to sticks, then placed under another saw and reduced to clothes-pin lengths. Next the turner takes a hand at them, and from him they go to the slitting machine. They are placed in troughs by the operator, the machine picking them up and slitting them. Then they are placed in a revolving pipe drier, going thence to the polishing cylinder. Each pin passes through eight hands.

A single plant consists of a board saw, gang splitter, gang chucker, turning lathe, drying house and polisher, and costs from \$10,000 to \$19,000. The little blocks of wood, five and one half inches long, are placed on an endless belt, which feeds the blocks automatically into the lathe. As the lathe is turned the pin is taken automatically from the spindle and placed on a turn-table and carried to a circular saw, which whittles out the slit into a pin. It is then finished and thrown out of the turn-table by the same appliance that puts the pins on the table.

Falling, they are caught in a basket or barrel, and are taken to the drying house to remain twelve hours or until dry. The polishing cylinder holds from twenty to forty bushels. This is run at a slow speed, about thirty turns a minute, and by simple friction and contact they become polished. They are sold to the trade at a little over \$1 a bushel, and are packed in boxes of four to the bushel. The industry is an increasing one and almost \$50,000 worth of pins were manufactured in 1890.—*Canadian Lumberman.*

THE "ELECTROCUTION OF INSECTS."—A kind of moth or butterfly is said to have become so troublesome and destructive in a forest in Bavaria, that it was necessary to destroy it. Children were employed to collect the caterpillars, and were paid so much per bucketful. This was found expensive and ineffective, so enormous fly papers were tried. These also had no appreciable result. Finally, it is said, that an electric search light in connection with a blowing fan was designed. The insects are attracted by the light and fly near the lantern; they are then drawn into the suction pipe by the air draught, and carried to a sort of mill, which mixes them with a little flour. The resulting compound is then used, we understand, for poultry food.—*Industries.*

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COMMERCIAL.

Stagnation continues to be the characteristic of general trade, the elections absorbing public attention to the exclusion of all else.

Weekly Financial Review of Henry Clews & Co., New York, February 21, 1891.—The condition of affairs in Wall Street noted in our last weekly advices predisposed the market to sympathize quickly with any adverse conditions. The past week has furnished such conditions, and stocks have consequently been weakened, prices generally showing moderate declines. The reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the quarterly dividend of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, application for a receiver for the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad, the suspension of the American Loan & Trust Company, and unfounded rumors about the standing of other minor trust institutions have produced an unfavorable impression, whilst the continued high rates for sterling exchange and the taking out some \$600,000 of gold for export have affected the market adversely. None of these facts alone was of much importance, nor do they combined amount to anything serious, but their weight was sufficient to give a delicately balanced market a downward dip.

The principal cause of the yielding tone of values is that the market is a waiting one. The "street" has come to the conclusion that there is no chance for any revival until Congress has adjourned, and as that event will come in less than two weeks there is a general disposition to wait for it. The principal question which adjournment was expected to settle has already been virtually disposed of. This fact has not yet had an effect upon the investment market at all commensurate with its actual significance, simply because it is not yet fully or generally apprehended, and also because there is a disposition to wait until the defeat becomes a fully accomplished fact. It seems reasonable to expect, however, that so soon as the completeness of the failure of the silver fiction is fully understood in Europe, a marked change will come over the disposition of English and Continental investors towards American securities, and it would not be surprising should we witness an important re-purchase of the bonds and stocks which have been returned here in such large amounts during the last five months.

Those securities were sent home principally under the pressure and apprehension arising from the Barings' troubles. After that came the very serious distrust excited among English bankers and investors by the seemingly formidable chances that this country might be irrevocably committed to an exclusively silver basis; and that fear has no doubt very largely prevented London from taking back the securities it returned under the apprehension of panic. It hardly seems doubtful what will be the effect when this distrust is dispelled by the signal defeat of the silver schemes. In contrast with the sorry experience of British investors with a large mass of Argentine stocks and of many other new undertakings similarly unfortunate. American securities will stand out as the most secure and remunerative of external investments, and the demand for them may be expected to revive accordingly. Moreover, at the present range of prices, the London speculative interests associated especially with American stocks are not likely to be slow to encourage operations in them,—the more so as the present ease in the London money market would conduce to favorable results."

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	Feb. 20.	1890	1890	1889	1888	1891	1890	1889	1888
United States.....	213	269	253	302	183	2301	2351	2181	2112
Canada.....	52	38	31	57	31	383	356	351	322

DRY GOODS.—We have nothing new to note in this line. Business is so dull that most houses have been obliged to recall their travellers, as they were not covering their expenses. Our wholesale houses expect no change for the better till after the 5th of March. Remittances have shown a little improvement with some houses, but others complain as much as ever of slow payments.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been no material change in this market since our last report, business continuing of moderate proportions. In fact there has practically been nothing doing in spot. Pig iron remains as before, while there is nothing special from primary markets. Bar iron on spot is unchanged, with little or nothing doing, but cables on English bar are very firm, quotations on best Staffordshire being firm at £6 5s. Hoops and bands are also cabled at the same price and sheet iron at £7 10s. Tin plates are still very scarce, there being no coke and only a very small quantity of charcoal. Metals remain without change in London and New York.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market maintains a quiet, steady feeling with a stiffening tendency as regards values. Business, however, is still more or less restricted and confined to a jobbing trade. From Liverpool Beerbohm cables wheat strong; corn firm. French country markets very firm. European cables are generally easy in tone, except that private advices report the French crops damaged. Chicago quotations for wheat, corn and oats are unchanged and little or nothing is doing there owing to conflicting reports from the South and West as to the condition of the coming crops. Wheat has declined $\frac{3}{4}$ c. at New York, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{3}{4}$ c. at St. Louis, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{3}{4}$ c. at Toledo. Corn and oats were dull, but unchanged all around. The *Buffalo Milling World*, says: "The wheat outlook for 1891 is peculiar in some respects. The Southern Hemisphere crops are not up to the average. In the United States the winter wheat plant has suffered from drought and a lack of snow to protect it from the cold. Much of it has been uncovered all winter. There was a considerable increase in the acreage sown last fall, but the conditions unfavorable to the crop more than offset the increase. All the probabilities point to a small crop of wheat in the United States. In Europe unusual cold has done

great damage to the uncovered plant, and in France and elsewhere the farmers are preparing to reseed their wheat fields. Russia reports decidedly serious damage by frost to the uncovered plant. In Asiatic countries there is nowhere a prospect of a large, or of anything more than an average crop. In addition to all this the wheat reserves are the smallest known for years. It seems improbable that wheat can remain at its present level in price during this year and next. Should the world's crop prove as short for 1891 as now seems probable, pushing prices up to somewhere near their level of ten or twelve years ago, it is very likely that English growers will in 1892 turn 2,000,000 acres of land now idle or growing other crops to wheat again."

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has been without any new feature, only a fair jobbing trade being done at quotations. There is a continued dullness in dressed hogs, merely a small jobbing trade being done. In fact there is no change in the general position of affairs, buyers and sellers being as far apart as ever. At Liverpool pork declined 1s. 3d., but lard, bacon and tallow did not change. In Chicago the hog market was steadier and a large volume of business was transacted, but no variation in values occurred. The cattle market was slow and that of sheep steady.

BUTTER.—This market shows no particular change, finest being in good demand at full figures, but lower grades continue dull and slow of sale with an easy tendency. A correspondent in London writing under date of the 7th instant, says:—"Business in butter shows but little improvement at the reduction of last week, and quotations still have a downward tendency, though holders are not causing any anxiety to sell as they believe a favourable turn will result presently. At present, however, there are no indications of this, and although Danish is unaltered, French baskets have dropped another 2s. to 3s. American is also easier, and not much is passing at recent quotations. Cork has also felt the strain of continued depreciation, and prices are down to a very low level. Canadian is quoted at Liverpool, 77s. 6d. to 100s per 112 lb., a drop of 2s. 6d. The boom in Australian butter is broken, as might be anticipated under existing circumstances, but prices hold up wonderfully well. Shippers from the Antipodes are determined to keep us supplied, 1856 pkgs. ex Matatua from New Zealand having arrived this week, and the Austral having arrived from Sydney at Plymouth yesterday with 954 pkgs. on board, which will probably be placed this week."

CHEESE.—With stocks well reduced as they are, there is but little scope for business in this line, and we therefore have not much that is new to note. The tone remains as firm as ever as far as holders are concerned, but quotations for finest are purely nominal, as there is little to be had here, and if a respectable line was under consideration an advance would have to be made. There is a steady demand with a general firmness in all grades in London for American and Canadian cheese. Prices there are on the up line, and 53s. to 51s. is freely paid for the best of the September make. Business has been put through at 55s. For cheaper parcels there is a brisk demand at 42s. to 49s., according to quality. English is slow and unchanged.

FRUIT.—Trade during the week has been small and unimportant, buyers operating in a hand-to-mouth way. There is no striking feature to note, therefore, in any particular line. Dried fruits have been moved in a small jobbing way, and we hear of no considerable lots of either raisins or currants changing hands. The prices of both here are unchanged, but the New York market is weaker under easier cables from primary markets. Green fruit is without any particular feature, oranges and lemons remaining about the same. In London fruit of all kinds is in limited supply, the best of the orange gardens on the continent having suffered from the severe spell of bad weather, and cargoes arriving in bad condition and small numbers. This makes the paucity of apples more apparent, and for the little on the market good prices have been realised the Nova Scotians on offer being easily disposed of at advancing rates. At Convent Garden all to be had have gone off, American fetching 20s. to 40s. per barrel. Any Canadian arriving there now or within the next few weeks are sure of a good market, especially if in fair condition.

TEA.—There has been a good demand during the past week for tea of all grades, but more particularly for low grade Japans. Those worth 16c. to 20c. are in fairly good demand with fair supply, which prevents prices from advancing in some proportions as low grade. China Congous are rather slow sale, though prices are firm in sympathy with the London market, and in March when the local demand comes we should see an improvement, especially in high grade Monings and Pamgongs, which are scarce, as are also Hysons and Gunpowders.

COFFEE.—There is nothing of any moment to be reported this week. Prices are stiff at rates ruling last week, but no advance has taken place. A good deal of Rio has arrived lately at New York, but has had no lowering effect on prices. Maracaibo is still very scarce, and the last steamer arriving at New York only took there 6,000 bags.

SUGAR.—The market for refined sugar has ruled somewhat quieter since our last report, but prices have undergone no change. Raw sugar remains firm, Phillipino Islands having advanced £1 5s. in the past five weeks.

MOLASSES.—The market is quiet, there being nothing doing in round lots, and business is confined to the jobbing trade.

FISH OILS.—Montreal, February 25.—"Besides the sales of a round lot reported by us last week at 35c. we hear of further sales of Nfld. cod oil at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and we quote 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. In steam refined seal oil we hear of the sale of one hundred barrels at 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and we quote 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 50c. Norway cod oil is steady at 80c to 85c." Gloucester, Mass., February 25.—"Cod oil, 27c. to 30c per gal.; medicine do., 60c.; blackfish do., 50c.; Menhaden do., 23c.; livers 30c. per bucket."

FISH.—There is nothing new to note in the fish situation this week. Arrivals of cured and pickled fish of all kinds have been very small, and outside markets are not in a condition to encourage or invite shipments to

them. Continued rough weather has prevented our along-shore fishermen from doing much, but the local demand for fresh fish has been fairly well supplied. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, Feb. 25.—“There has been quite a strong run on Labrador herring, and stocks have been pretty well exhausted. Labrador is quoted at \$4.25 to \$4.50, and Capo Breton at \$5. French shore herrings are in request at \$4. In green cod the market is very bare, No. 1 being quoted at \$7 to \$7.50; large \$8; for No. 2 holders are asking \$6. B. C. salmon \$11 to \$12 per barrel. Sea trout \$7. Market for dried fish continues steady under good demand. Boneless cod 7c. to 8c., and boneless fish 4½c. to 6c. per lb. Yarmouth bloaters \$1.25 per 100. Finnan haddies 7½c. to 8½c. Steady cold weather continues favorable to working off stock of frozen fish, and sales are reported of herrings in round lots at \$1.40 to \$1.50 per hundred. Tommy cods have sold well at \$1.50 per barrel. We hear of a good demand all week for all kinds of fish.” Gloucester, Mass., Feb. 25.—“New Georges codfish at \$6.25 a qtl. for large, and small at \$5; Bank \$5.37½ for large and \$4.62½ for small; Shore \$6 and \$4.75 for large and small. Dry Bank \$6, medium \$5.25. French codfish \$6 per qtl. Phillips Beach codfish \$7 per qtl. Curad crsk at \$4.50 per qtl.; hake \$3; haddock \$3.50; heavy salted pollock \$2.25, and English-cured do. \$2.75 per qtl. Labrador herring \$6 bbl.; medium split \$5.75; Newfoundland do. \$5.50; Nova Scotia do. \$5.50; Eastport \$4; split Shore \$4.25; round do. \$4.50; round Eastport \$4; pickled codfish \$7; haddock \$6; halibut heads \$3.50; sounds \$13; tongues and sounds \$11; tongues \$10; alewives \$3.50; trout \$12; Halifax salmon \$23; Newfoundland do. \$16.” Georgetown, Demorara, Jan. 28.—“No demand has sprung up yet for scale fish, and we leave our previous quotations at \$16 to \$18 for new hake and haddock, \$12 to \$14 for old—as they were. Last wholesale of herrings were ex Faith \$3.85 for good, \$3.25 for dry, and dealers are now buying as they want from \$4 to \$4.25—stock very large. No sale of mackerel and salmon—stock trifling. The last arrivals are the *Louisa* and the *Cox* (to our address). The small lot of Halifax cod ex former vessel was taken by principal holders at the long prices of \$27 and \$6.50 for casks and boxes, tubs \$5.75 (to arrive) in order to strengthen the market. Demand, however, is quite disappointing, and recent arrivals are still almost intact. Lotting rates medium Newfoundland \$24 to \$25, large \$26 to \$27, Halifax fish ex *Cox* \$26 to \$27, boxes \$7, \$6.50; *Dessie M.*'s lot sold out at auction at \$15.50 casks, \$3 to \$4 boxes; Lunenburg ex *Etchel* sold out at \$25 to \$26. A Lockeport cargo is due from Barbados, and as that quality will probably be forced on the market, especially the boxes, a decline of \$1 to \$2 in value all round is certain to take place. There are several vessels close at hand. Drums and tubs are in oversupply.”

CONSUMPTION CURED.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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MARKET QUOTATIONS.—WHOLESALE RATES.

Our Price Lists are corrected for us each week by reliable merchants.

GROCERIES.

SUGARS.
Cut Leaf..... 7½
Granulated..... 6½ to 6¾
Circle A..... 6¾
White Extra C..... 6
Standard..... 5¾
Extra Yellow C..... 5½
Yellow C..... 5¼

TEA.
Congou, Common..... 17 to 19
" Fair..... 20 to 23
" Good..... 25 to 29
" Choice..... 31 to 33
" Extra Choice..... 35 to 36
Oolong, Choice..... 37 to 39

MOLASSES.
Barbadoes..... 35 to 36
Demerara..... 35 to 38
Diamond N..... 48
Porto Rico..... 31 to 35
Cienfuegos..... 31
Trinidad..... 32 to 33
Antigua..... 32 to 33
Tobacco, Black..... 38 to 44
" Bright..... 42 to 58

BISCUITS.
Pilot Bread..... 3.15
Hobson and Thin Family..... 6¾
Soda..... 6¾
do in lb. boxes, 50 to case..... 7½
Fancy..... 8 to 15

BREADSTUFFS.

Markets are firm at the advance. Some Millers are asking our outside quotations. It would be difficult to get much choice 90 per cent patent under \$5.20.

Oats are again up two cents, and consequently makes oatmeal very firm.

Mill feeds are slow and easy in price, and so is hay:
No other changes to note.

FLOUR.
Manitoba Highest Grade Patents 6.10 to 6.25
High Grade Patents..... 5.20 to 5.35
Good 90 per cent. Patents..... 5.00 to 5.20
Straight Grade..... 5.00
Superior Extras..... 4.80 to 4.90
Good Seconds..... 4.25 to 4.35
Graham Flour..... 4.40 to 4.75
Oatmeal..... 5.20 to 5.25
" Rolled..... 5.30 to 5.40
Kiln Dried Cornmeal..... 5.20 to 5.30
" In Bond..... 2.90 to 3.00
Wheat Bran, per ton..... 21.50 to 22.50
Shorts..... 23.00 to 24.00
Middings..... 25.00 to 27.00
Cracked Corn " including bags.. 34.00 to 35.00
Ground Oil Cake, per ton, " 35.00
Moulce " 31.00 to 32.00
Split Peas..... 3.75 to 4.00
White Beans, per bushel..... 1.80 to 2.00
Pot Barley, per barrel..... 3.30 to 4.10
Canadian Oats, choice quality..... 55 to 60
Hay per ton..... 10.50 to 12.00

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Apples, per bbl., N. S..... 2.00 to 4.50
Oranges, Valencia, per case..... 4.25
Lemons, per case..... 4.75
Cocoanuts, new, per 100..... 5.00
Onions, American, per lb..... 3
" Canadian..... 3½
Dates, boxes, new..... 6
Raisins, Valencia..... 7 to 7½
Figs, Klene, 5 lb boxes per lb., new..... 12
" small boxes..... 12
Prunes, Stewing, boxes..... 10
Bananas, per bunch..... none

C. H. Karvey, 12 & 10 Sackville St.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

MACKEREL—
Extra..... 15.00 to 16.00
No. 1..... 14.00 to 14.50
" 2 large..... 13.00 to 13.50
" 2..... 12.00 to 12.50
" 3 large..... 12.00 to 12.50
" 3..... 12.00 to 12.50
Small..... 7.00 to 7.50

HERRING.
No. 1 Shore July..... 4.50 to 4.75
No. 1, August, Round..... 2.75 to 3.00
" September..... 2.75 to 3.00
Labrador, in cargo lots, per bl. none
Bay of Islands, Split..... 2.25 to 2.50
Round..... none

ALEWIVES, per bbl..... 3.00 to 3.25

CODFISH.
Hard Shore..... 4.00 to 4.25
Bank..... 4.00 to 4.25
Bay..... 4.00 to 4.25

SALMON, No. 1..... 18.00 to 19.00
Haddock, per qtl..... 2.75 to 3.00
Hake..... 2.00 to 2.25
Pike..... 2.00 to 2.50
COLLOCK..... 1.50
HACK SOUNDS, per lb..... 12½
Cod Oil A..... 35

BUTTER AND CHEESE

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints..... 20
" " in Small Tubs..... 20 to 25
" Good, in large tubs, new..... 18 to 20
" " old..... 7 to 14
" Store Packed & oversalted..... 10
Canadian Township, new..... 18 to 22
" Western..... 16 to 20
" old..... 7 to 10

Cheese, Canadian..... 10
" Antigonish..... 10

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Ex. Mess, duty paid..... 12.50 to 13.00
" Am. Plate..... 12.50 to 13.00
" Ex. Plate..... 13.50 to 14.00
Pork, Mess, American..... 16.00 to 16.50
" American, clear..... 18.00 to 19.00
" P. E. I. Mess..... 15.00 to 16.00
" P. E. I. Thin Mess..... 14.50 to 15.00
" Prime Mess..... 11.50 to 12.00
Lard, Tubs and Pails, P. E. Island..... 12
" American..... 11 to 12
Hams, P. E. U., green..... none
Prices are for wholesale lots only, and are liable to change daily.

JOHN MALLISON'S CHARGE.

CHAPTER I.

It was a singular request. The more John Mallison considered it the more astounding and alarming did the main item in his old friend's letter become. An unheard-of responsibility was proposed, and he could see no way of escape. It was impossible that he should write to South Africa a heartless negative, and he was plainly told that in default of that vigorous step the charge would be regarded as accepted. The message effectually shattered for the time being the eminent scholar's interest in the antiquarian article he had upon the stocks. Leaving his papers in loose disarray upon his writing-table, he sought his thin, faded, but infinitely dear mother who made Corner Cottage home to the retired student in a better and more complete sense than even did his books.

Mrs Mallison was deep in household accounts and did not hear the door open. She started as her son spoke. Something wonderful must, indeed, have happened to have brought John from his room at this hour of the morning. She searched his face with sudden maternal anxiety for signs of illness. Why would he work so hard, and be so neglectful of the relaxation of the bent bow? He was not compelled to be a slave to the pen as some were. If they were not exactly rich—John and she—they had at any rate a competence.

But the frown upon the still handsome if pale and prematurely-lined face of the man, whose chief interests almost since boyhood had seemed to lie in the past, was evidently not occasioned by bodily pain or weariness. Half-a-dozen words were enough to end that fancy.

"Here is bewildering news—a staggerer!" he said with unwonted vehemence. And he tossed the disturbing letter across the table with a curious gesture, in which shrinking, anger, compunction, and a certain bitter mirth all played their part.

Mrs. Mallison took up Paul Golding's communication and read it slowly and carefully through before she ventured either question or remark. The process absorbed time, and it was difficult to determine from the expression on the wrinkled countenance of the reader what were the sentiments created by the contents of the note. John Mallison looked impatient.

"Paul never lacked for boldness in the old days, nor does he now," he said; "however, I will not blame him; we were always allies, and I owe him a great debt in the bargain. I might never have got back alive to 'take mine ease at mine inn' at Llanberis, when I was so foolish as to try a short cut over the mountain through that terrible Welsh mist, if Golding hadn't insisted on coming in search of me. But what a notion he has of the fitness of things! There isn't a man in the kingdom less qualified for the post to which he nominates me. I shall have to obey his wishes, of course. It would be churlish and ungrateful to refuse, and there is no opportunity for discussion, even if remonstrance were not open to be misinterpreted. It is an absurd blunder all the same."

"Perhaps," replied the listener softly.

"I am sure of it."

"How long is it since your adventure on Snowdon, John?"

"Twenty-one years this very summer. It was just before Paul married. It was the morning of the world with both of us then. He was five-and-twenty, and I four years his junior."

"You are making me out an old woman, John. Ah, the years fly apace. But I did not ask to bring that melancholy look into your eyes. I was only wondering how old Marcia is. The letter does not say. It mentions that she is a first and only surviving child, and by your reckoning she might be nineteen."

"The older the more preposterous the proposition."

"To which, nevertheless, you agree."

"I can see no alternative. Can you?"

"Under the circumstances, no. Mr. Golding's wife is dead; the break between him and the old country has been so complete for so many years that he has no kinsfolk to whom he feels justified in appealing; and as on the failure of his firm he has determined to go up to the Kimberley mines, and perhaps further—I am practically re-reading what he states—he sees no alternative but to send Marcia to England, confident that you will afford her shelter and protection until he can make other arrangements. You feel that he has a claim upon your assistance, and therefore I certainly think that you are in honor bound to receive this guest. Poor lonely lassie!"

"Will it mean bother and worry for you, mother? If so—"

"Hist! John. As if I would let it! Who knows but that Miss Golding may be a treasure, and deliver me from the jealousy I confess I sometimes have felt of your books and your manuscripts. I shall have somebody to talk to."

John Mallison did not smile, though his mother was smiling. It almost vexed him that she should find any amusement whatever in the situation. A wayward girl to come into the house (he had a notion that all girls were wayward, and that a colonial maiden was likely to be especially so), to disturb the well-appointed and stereotyped routine, to possibly attract visitors—not only of her own sex, which would be bad enough, but empty-headed young sparks whose best recommendation would be vanity in his view, to waste time and create talk, and banish for an indefinite period the pleasant peace of Corner Cottage so grateful to a studious man. It was a great trial, a sore infliction, in prospect. The longer he meditated the more lowering became his brows.

"One thing I fervently hope," he said.

"What is that, John?"

"That if she is more than a child she will prove to be plainness itself."

Mrs. Mallison looked reproof.

"That sounds harsh and unkindly. I do not think you really mean it. But there is a point that still remains to be cleared up. We have only lived in Westford some five years. How did Mr. Golding know of your whereabouts?"

"Through young Dixon, the solicitor's son, as I surmise. He has gone out to the Cape, and he mentioned in a letter to his father—Dixon told me this weeks back—that he had met a Cape merchant who accidentally discovered that they had a mutual acquaintance in myself. We have not corresponded for a long time."

"I could not remember any recent mention even of your old friend's name. He has a wonderful trust in you, John."

The last sentence had in it a distinct ring of loving pride. Mrs. Mallison believed in her son's nobility, even more than in his cleverness, which latter was testified by evidences packed away in half a score of learned reviews, journals and proceedings.

"Perhaps if I say that I shall be delighted to hear very soon that Paul Golding has made a big fortune on his mining claims, I shall not be considered uncharitable," the troubled student said, with the first faint breaking of the cloud upon his features. "Certainly that would please me on several grounds. But I am not sanguine; Golding's luck does not seem to be of the best. Well, you know how the case stands, mother; I suppose some preparations will be necessary."

"Yes; a room must be got in readiness. But we have plenty of accommodation; I don't see any real difficulty."

"And I—a bachelor, a recluse, a disciple of Dr. Dryasdust, a misanthrope, a misogynist!"

"John!"

"I beg pardon. With a great exception—yourself, I may surely use the word."

"I do not like it."

"Then I unconditionally withdraw. But all the rest is true, and I, who can be thus described, am destined to appear very shortly in the new and amazing character of a young lady's guardian. The actor ill suits the part. But I submit, and will do my best."

With this quaint bow to ruling circumstances John Mallison crossed the room, touched his mother's brow tenderly and reverently with his lips, and retreated to his waiting "Essay on the Folk-Lore of Beads." But it was hard to concentrate his thoughts upon his researches.

CHAPTER II.

Marcia Golding was in Westford, and the sleepy old south midland town was the richer by one lovely face and exquisite shape. The host, who stood with outstretched hand in the ivy-festooned porch as Marcia alighted from the cab which had brought her from the station, could not repress a groan as his gaze fell on the faultlessly regular features, the clear, though olive-tinted complexion, and the small figure of the girl who was his ward. Fate had victimised him as thoroughly as in his most downcast moments he had feared. He had expressed openly an ungallant wish that the stranger should be plain—a charge who would be inconspicuous. Instead she was radiantly beautiful, and he might expect that in a very short while that troublesome creature, the lover, would appear at Corner Cottage.

"You are Mr. Mallison, my father's friend, and my own?" said the girl, with a shy yet observant upward flash of her sunny brown eyes.

There was pathos in the way she put the question. It seemed to express the loss of the loving care of the natural protector and the need of a substitute. Somehow the accent of assurance vibrated, too, in the final words. It seemed that whatever John Mallison's first impressions of Marcia were, her's were favorable of him.

"Yes, that is my name. I trust and believe it will be as you say. But you are cold. The wind is keen for October. Come inside. Here is my mother, to whom you must be a daughter. There, I shall settle with your driver."

Many tremors had troubled Marcia Golding since she had known that she was to seek a home in England. She had dreaded lest in the interval that was admitted by her father to have elapsed since he had heard directly from John Mallison, a loosening of the old bond would have taken place. Young as she was, she had a shrewd idea that friendship is a plant which often withers to the root if left untended. People sometimes harden rather than mellow with years. Or yet again, other cares and obligations might cause a rejection of the claim, or permit at most an ungracious yielding.

In any of these cases her future was hidden in still greater obscurity. She carried a sealed packet within a sealed and blank envelope. If the worst came to the worst, and John Mallison's silence—maintained until Marcia's steamer had left Cape Town—did not mean consent, Marcia was to break the cover and proceed to an address written on the inner packet. Paul Golding assured her that she would there find herself well cared for and secure. He owned frankly that this making of mystery seemed to indicate want of confidence in her prudence. But he disclaimed the feeling, and asked her to forgive the apparent slight for the sake of the love which she had sufficient reason to know was in his heart, and in the name of this affection—which Marcia fully reciprocated—he further obtained a promise that in the event of good fortune at Westford the packet should be placed as it was in John Mallison's hands, together with a long private letter, and that Marcia would not attempt to penetrate the secret.

Already it was clear that Paul Golding's unwavering belief in his friend was to be justified, and that his daughter's fear had been baseless. There was no want of warmth in her welcome. It was a highly auspicious omen that even her sensitive girlish pride—a quality in which Marcia was not lacking—could detect no traces of patronage in the demeanor of either John Mallison or of the dear old lady, who with her own uncertain fingers was taking off Marcia's wraps.

And when the girl came down from the cosy chamber, furnished and arranged expressly for her, to the soft lights of the drawing-room, she felt at once that she had floated into a safe haven. She could not talk much. Past, present, future, made such a jumble of sadness, gladness, doubt, brave determination, and half a score of other sentiments in her mind, that was hard even to be coherent when words were inevitable.

This beginning was not decked in tints of illusion. As the days and weeks went by Marcia grew more instead of less content with her changed life. She missed her father. This was the chief drawback to her happiness. The contrast was immense between her existence yonder at Cape Town and here in Brakeshire. But she did not suffer from a monotony. The house was full of books, and Marcia was a great reader. And gradually the weaving of the web of interest betwixt herself and her neighbors in her new environment went on.

John Mallison's forecast did not fail of its fulfilment. The witching face and winning manner of his young ward quickly attracted notice. Such beauty is ever a magnet, and introductions were soon either formally sought or informally made. Before winter had relaxed its rigor Marcia had two declared lovers, and in consequence care made its nightly abode with her guardian. The burden surely rested on a pair of ill-chosen shoulders. How was the student buried in his paper to know what advice to give? He repeatedly took counsel with Mrs. Mallison.

"Hugh Herrick wants my permission to ask Marcia to be his wife," he said one February afternoon, meeting his mother for five minutes alone before the dinner-gong sounded.

"I expected as much. Straws show which way the wind blows."

"What am I to say?"

"He will be sole master of the Westford Mills some day I suppose."

"Yes. He is his uncle's partner now. I informed him that Marcia was not exactly an heiress. His answer was that she is a fortune in herself."

"And there you agreed with him."

John Mallison palpably winced, though he was unconscious of the fact. His mother noted warily the effect of her challenge.

"Of course. That goes without saying. And as there's nothing against him, and I stand by appointment *in loco parentis*, I presume I shall have to wish him success and send him to Marcia. He begged very earnestly for a good word in his favor. But I drew the line there. I am not called upon to plead Herrick's cause; he can do that best himself."

"Quite so. And what of Mr. Austin Vaughan?"

"Humph! I don't know. He has a grandfather to please, and a great estate to look after. There might be danger of disinheritance if he married a nobody. Not that Marcia is not worthy to share a prince's throne."

"Hush, John! that is her stop."

Another second and the girl tripped in, looking more lovely than ever, John Mallison thought, with the color on her face and the sparkle in her eyes which might be supposed to come from the knowledge that a crisis in her fate was approaching.

And a week later there was a second conversation snatched at a similar opportunity.

"Herrick has been refused," said John Mallison, in a peculiar voice that certainly did not express regret.

"Yes, Marcia has already told me."

"I had it from his own lips. I don't profess to understand it. He is a good match, and a well-set-up young fellow."

"Marcia will not marry where her heart is not given."

"Perhaps the condition is met in the case of the next suitor—the heir to Holm Manor."

"You don't mean that Austin Vaughan is actually Marcia's suitor, John?"

"But I do. I expect she is reading a letter from him even as we talk. It was in the batch at the breakfast-table. That was why she withdrew so hastily. I had a communication also."

"And what of old Sir Owen?"

"Austin states that he has taken him entirely into confidence, and he has given his consent. For a perhaps penniless girl it is a wonderful chance. She will take it."

The words were matter-of-fact, but behind them was what of suspense, agitation, strange, restless bitterness! John Mallison in these days was an enigma to himself.

Abruptly his mother turned and laid a light and trembling hand upon his arm.

"If it is so, how will it affect you, my son? I am not blind."

John Mallison started and drew himself erect.

"Affect me?" he said, with a note of sharp interrogation. But in the pause the truth rushed upon his soul. He knew at last that he—the man of books, the misanthrope, the contemner of all girlish society—loved Marcia Golding. "I cannot tell you, mother," he said, quite simply and humbly; and with that he went away to his books.

CHAPTER III.

Tap, tap! at the study door.

"Come in. 'Why, Marcia!'"

In spite of the pain and novel shame which oppressed him and which were making entirely nugatory the morning's labor, a beam of pleasure shone upon the pale, refined countenance. John Mallison could not now conceive it possible that Marcia should cross his path without bringing sunshine with her.

(To be continued.)

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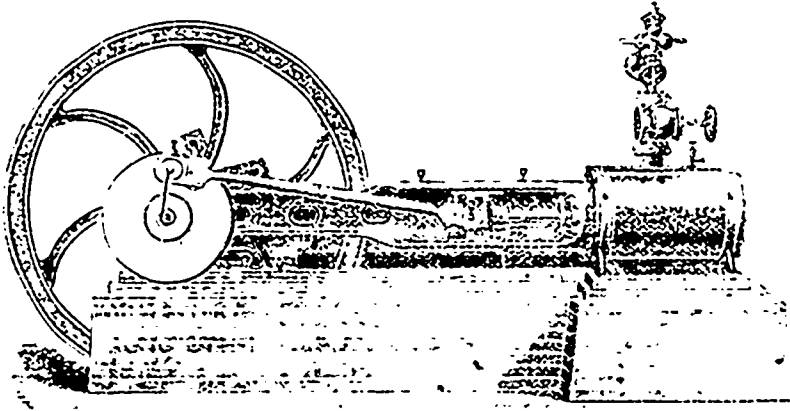
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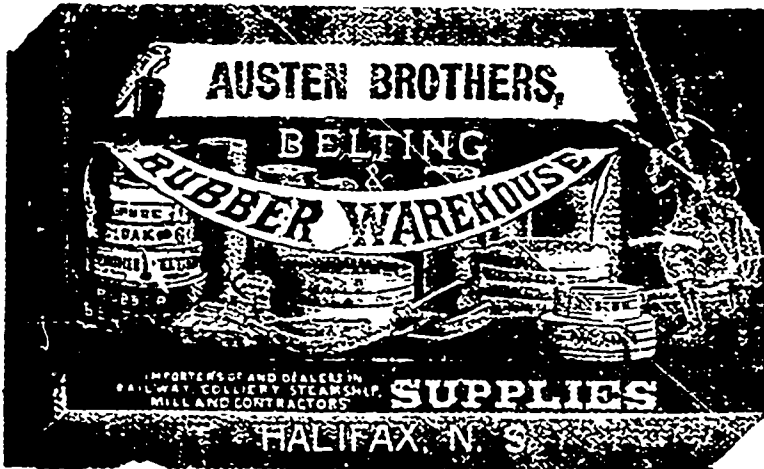
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MINING.

THE SPRING HILL HORROR.—The terrible loss of life occasioned by the explosion at the Spring Hill Colliery on Saturday last, marks it as the most disastrous accident in the history of coal mining in this Province.

In almost a second one hundred and 23 men and boys were hurled into eternity. In many cases they were husbands and fathers, in most they were bread winners, and hundreds looked to them for support and sustenance. It is estimated that the accident has left 55 widows and over 160 fatherless children. The daily press has given columns of the horrible details of the accident and its results, but language is powerless to describe the full extent of the misery and suffering occasioned.

For years to come its effects will be felt and while nothing but sympathy can be extended to the heart stricken ones much may be done to supply the material wants of the hundreds suddenly plunged into poverty. Seventy thousand dollars will be required to meet their wants, and from the way subscriptions are now pouring in it would appear that a still larger sum will be raised.

The cause of the accident has not yet been definitely ascertained, but a coroner's jury are now investigating and from the thorough manner in which they are doing their work there is every reason to believe that the truth will be arrived at.

The death list is ominously long, and is as follows:—

Married Men.—John Hunter, Roger Noiles, Allan McKinnon, Mal. Nicolson, Robert Clark, Stephen Rushton, William Kent, John Mitchell, James Conway, Wm. McGillvary, Wm. McGee, Thomas Fletcher, Reid Carter, Ronald Campbell, Frank Letcher, George Wood, John J. Macdonald, Malcolm Nairn, Donald McKay, Lazarus Guthro, John F. McNeil, Alex. Vance, Hiram Fife, William Carrigan, Peter Gallagher, Daniel Lockhart, John Francis, John Nairn, Angus McKinnon, Wm. Hyde, Richard Dawson, Thomas Wilson, James Miller, Sr., Archy Shipley, Jerry Murphy, Norman McLeod, Rory McLeod, John Williams, James Morris, Charles Nash, Joseph Tattersoll, John Carmichael, Philip B. White, John McKinnon, Matthew Collins, Daniel Findlayson, Rory B. McDonald, John Bentcliffe, Hugh Robertson, Wm. H. Turner, Edgar Wry, R. A. Sherlock, Henry Swift, John Connerton.

Single Men.—Sam. Leger, James Robbins, James Overs, George Bond, Clarence Carter, John D. Campbell, John Hayden, Charles McNutt, Richard Murphy, Neil McLeod, Rodrick C. McNeill, Peter Hanniger, (Antigonish,) James Nairn, Henry Livingston, Samuel Dawson, John D. McEachern, John Crawford, Thomas Rogers, Laughlin McKinnon, Joseph Pitte, or McDonald, Neil McPhee, Alexander Campbell, Alex. J. McKay, (Tatamagouche,) Samuel Muckle, Clifford Ripley, Robert McFadden, Ernest Brambridge, Jesso Armistaw, Herbert Armishaw, James Sharples, Andrew Carmichael, Wm. Carmichael, Jude Casoy, John Boyde, Thomas Hallett, William Birchill, (Caledonia Mines,) Alonzo Budd, Ernest Mott, William J. Madden, Joshua McNeil, An unknown.

Boys.—Thos. Morrison, David Watt, Arthur Anderson, Henry McLeod, Ernest Chandler, Frederick Dillon, James Pequignot, Murdoch Ross, Alex. Bunt, Andrew Bunt, James Johnson, Joseph Dupoe, Samuel Furbow, William Brown, William Carter (died after coming out,) Henry Wry, James McVey, David McVey, Howard Simmonds, Roger Ernest, Bruce Ryan, George Martin, John Dunn, Peter Reid, Frederick Smith. Up to the time of going to press all but three of the bodies had been recovered.

The free coinage of silver is fast forcing its way to the front as a political issue in the United States. President Harrison and ex-President Cleveland have both come out strongly in opposition to it, and, if the wrathful editorials of the press of the Western States, the stronghold of the movement, are to be relied upon, have signed their political death warrants. The Senate has already passed a bill for the free coinage of silver, and great pressure is now being brought to bear to influence the house to ratify the bill.

However the free coinage men are meeting with strenuous opposition, and the members of the committee having the matter in charge, being in the majority opposed to free coinage, are trying to shelve the bill by not reporting it to the house in time to have it acted upon before adjournment.

The conservative business men of the country, the financiers and men best able to judge of the effects of free coinage are all against the measure, and predict that its passage will drain the country of its gold and leave only a depreciated coinage in its place, to the complete unsettlement of trade and commerce.

The free coinage advocates on the contrary maintain that making gold the standard coinage has resulted in such a serious contraction of the circulating medium that it has placed it in the power of leading capitalists to combine in withdrawing gold from circulation, and so precipitating commercial panics, in which they reap a rich harvest by forcing stocks and securities on the market at ruinously low prices. They claim that free coinage means plenty of money to carry on the business of the country, and that the bankers and financiers are opposing it simply because it will remove a monopoly which they now enjoy at the expense of the public.

The farmers who have lately by united action shown the political power they wield are in favor of free coinage, and it would now appear that should the opponents of the measure succeed in burking it for the present their victory will be short lived, as the incoming congress is largely composed of material favoring it, and one of its first acts will be the passage of a free coinage bill.

It will be an experiment, and may prove a very expensive one to the country in the long run, but it will put money into the pockets of the silver kings of the West, and the deluded farmers will some day discover that while they have been trying to kill monopoly in one direction they have simply been playing into the hands of monopolists of another stamp.

LAKE CATCHA.—It is reported that John Anderson is about putting up a mill on his areas at Lake Catcha, near the Oxford Mine.

IRON.—The development of our iron mines has been quietly proceeded with, and during the past year the Londonderry Iron Works were quite successful. They also opened up valuable ore reserves at Pugwash, Pictou, Brookfield and Nictaux. The New Glasgow Iron and Railway Co. have secured the promise of a subsidy from the Local Government, and have commenced the construction of a branch railway to the East River Iron Mines.

"THE GENERAL" MANAGER.

Editor Critic— Boston, Feb. 23, 1891.
 DEAR SIR,—My attention has just been called to a wail of disappointment over thwarted schemes, signed "General Manager," in your paper of last week. This "Gen." (Wilson) "Manager" chooses to attack our paper and defend himself in Nova Scotia, where he is not known. Why not, my dear paper "Gen.," vindicate yourself in Boston, where you are well known?

The course of THE CITIZEN in its unwavering attachment to the Provinces, and its continual advocacy of the best interests of Nova Scotia, is too well known to need defence. It takes the ground that sharpers are not needed to develop the Province gold mines, and have already done infinite harm. Mr. Wilson's frank acknowledgement on the steamer to Yarmouth that his scheme was a "gambling" operation is a sufficient answer to his complaint.

As to the other charges against our paper, they can be taken for what the "Gen.'s" reputation is worth. Parties anxious about THE CITIZEN or "Gen." Wilson can make inquiries of Boston business men or commercial agencies.
 ROBERT J. LONG, *Editor and Manager.*

IMPORTANT TO MINERS.

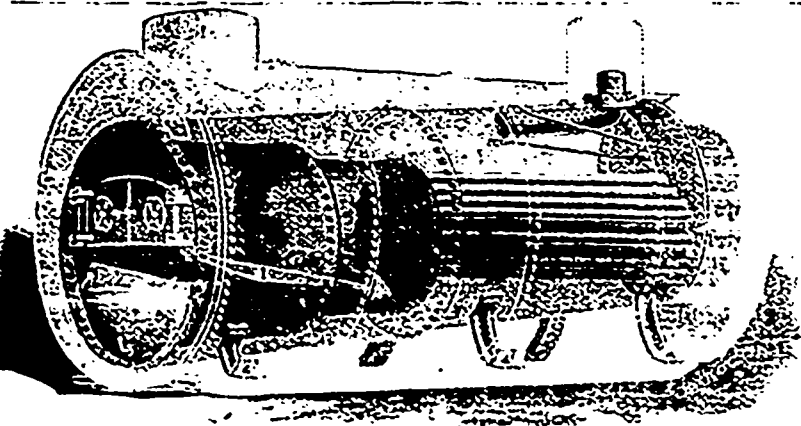
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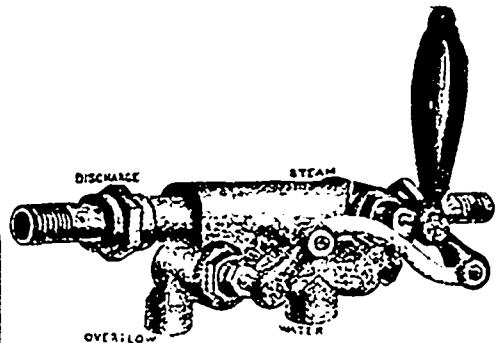
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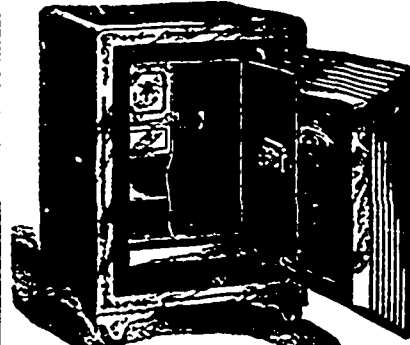
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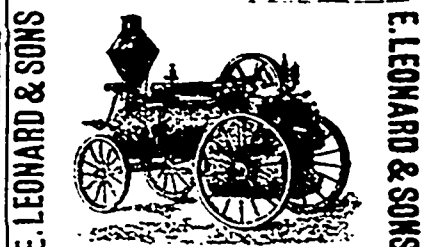
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MINING.**BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

In a very short time the West Kootanie district will be comparatively easy of access. Three-fourths of the railroad from Sproat is completed and the right of way has been cleared the whole distance to Nelson. On the other side of the "boundary line," the Great Northern Railway has established an office at Bonner's Ferry, Idaho—the starting point for the steamers on the Kootanie lake—and desire bids for clearing its right-of-way, which passes about 5 miles south of Bonner's Ferry.

The winter has been exceptionally mild; no snow at Nelson now; indeed, it is reported that the valleys 400 miles north of here are free from snow.

HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT.

Dictator.—A new tunnel is being driven, which is expected to tap the ledge 100 feet below the former workings. The tunnel is now in 115 feet.

Krao, Skyline, United.—These mines are now equipped with hoisting and pumping plants, but the Krao will lie idle until the spring, when the property will probably be stocked. The last lot of the Skyline ore (1,800 sacks in all) left for the Anaconda smelter on the 4th of December. Three shifts are at work on the double compartment shaft, now down 104 feet. The United shaft is down 65 feet, and drifts are being run from this station in both directions. About 1,000 tons of ore are being hauled from the United to the ore house on the lake shore, whence it will be shipped to the Revelstoke smelter as soon as navigation opens.

Neosho.—The shaft is now down 46 feet, with a nice body of high-grade ore at the bottom.

Number One.—The upraise from the 400-foot tunnel to drain the 17 foot incline shaft has been completed. In the upraise a five-foot body of vein matter was discovered, 18 inches of which was solid ore, the rest a mixture of galena and gangue. The latter contained bunches of native silver. Ten men are at work on the property.

Old Timer.—This claim, one of the United group, shows up a 3 foot ledge, 12 inches of which gives assays of \$135 to \$200. Eight samples from the Old Timer gave assays of 32 to 950 ounces in silver, average = 234 ounces. Work will be prosecuted through the winter.

Tenderfoot.—The new shaft is down 46 feet, showing ore all the way, which averages about 40 ounces. Small bunches of native silver are frequently struck in sinking. A "Crown-grant" has been applied for.

NELSON DISTRICT.

Dandy.—The shaft is down 37 feet, and the vein is said to be changing in character. Previously it chiefly consisted of copper pyrites and galena, but now shows fine peacock ore and gray copper. Some water is coming in, but not sufficient to cause any trouble.

Grizzly Bear, Silver Queen.—These two claims, located upon what are supposed to be spurs of the Silver King lead, have been sold to J. E. Boss, of Spokane Falls, for \$8,000. The conditions of the sale, however, require the procuring of "Crown grants" of the properties before the purchase money is paid. A 65-foot shaft has been sunk on the Grizzly Bear, but only about \$500 of work has been done on the Silver Queen. Rich ore has been obtained from both claims.

Morning, Evening.—A one-eighth interest in these claims was recently sold to Peter Steep, of Spokane Falls, for \$2,000. Work has been recommended on the Evening tunnel, now in 140 feet. The ledge is from 4 to 11 feet wide, carrying galena, much quartz, oxides of manganese and iron and a little silver.

Silver King Mining Company.—The lower tunnel is now in about 380 feet, and the bottom of the 162-foot winze will be reached in March. A short time ago this winze (100 feet deep) was full of water; now there is only about 30 feet. The floor of the tunnel is quite dry. For the last 130 feet ore has been encountered in the tunnel—in fact the width of the ore body is unknown, neither wall having yet been exposed—but not until lately has ore of good grade been found. Eight carloads of machinery for the company have arrived from Chicago. Including, as it does, a complete hoisting plant, and a wire rope tramway, it may be seen that the owners are figuring upon active work as soon as the machinery can be taken up to the mine.

CANADA.**PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.**

Badger.—The report reaches us from Canada that the recent visit to Port Arthur of two prominent St. Louis gentlemen, well known in mining circles, was made for the purpose of examining the famous mine. The two gentlemen referred to are doubtless Messrs. Charles Clark and Charles Kaufman, whose intended visit to the Dominion was mentioned at the time in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*. Negotiations for the outright purchase of this mine were entered into some time ago, and this examination is said to have been very satisfactory to the visitors, who have now returned to St. Louis. There are five different veins in the Badger which are being worked at the present time, and all of which carry silver, some assays running as high as 22,000 ounces. The smelter runs from car lots shipped to New Jersey range from 2,315.5 to considerably higher. Mining Engineer Achille Falco in a report on the Badger, says he considers the property one of great value, which has passed the age of speculation.—*The Engineering and Mining Journal*.

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

All communications to this department should be addressed *directly* to the Checker Editor, W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton Street, Halifax, N. S.

THE CHECKER MATCH.

DORAN VS. FORSYTH.—Though the fortnight that we allowed to Mr. Doran in which to decide whether to conclude the terms for this long-talked-of match or to forfeit his deposit has expired, we have heard nothing from him. However, as his attention is doubtless much taken up with the pending political campaign, we will extend the time till that is over.

NEWS NOTES.

Two hundred and seventeen years. Such is the combined ages of our three most distinguished draught players. McKerrow, who stood champion in "the fifties," has entered upon his seventy-sixth year; Wyllie is now enjoying his seventy second winter—or rather summer, for he is at present in Australia; while the youngest of the trio, Martins, has reached sixty nine. The senior veteran possessed all the activity of a much younger man, and still carries on business in the town of Douglass, Lanarkshire.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

The revival of the *American Checker Review* is almost assured. One of the best printers in Chicago, who is also a good player, is to take it up, he being supplied with good backing financially by all parties. Champion Reed will be in charge, and there is no reason why he should not make a success of it. All subscribers to Vol. 3 will be supplied.

The Toronto *Mail* blazons forth the

following to the checker players of the Dominion:—"I hereby challenge any man in Canada to play five or ten games of checkers for from \$5 to \$1,000 a side, and I don't bar any one. Signed W. J. Wyllie." Here now is a good chance for the redoubtable Kelly, of Winnipeg, or Labadie, of Chatham. When we first saw this challenge we sized it up as a "bluff," but if Mr. Wyllie is really in earnest we have no doubt that he can be accommodated even in Nova Scotia.—**CHECKER EDITOR.**

GAME 93—"DOUBLE CORNER."

9-14	12-19	11-16	1-20-27
24 19	23 16	23 18	32 23
11-16	11-15	7-11	3-12
22 17	29 25	25 21	13 9
8-11	14-17	2-7	5-14
25 22	21 14	21 14	22 13
16-20	10-17	6-10	15-22
17 13	16 12	6-12	8 26 3
4-8	8-11	10-17	white
19 16	27 23	28 24	wins.

a—This forms the position of Problem 207, by Mr. Olenick.

b—This is the first move in the solution to Problem 207, and was sent us by Mr. Joseph Cox, of the Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

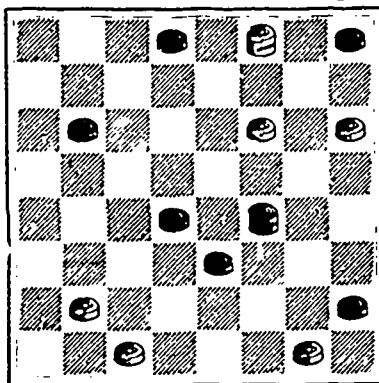
VAR. I.

3-12	5-23	20-27	white
13 9	22 13	26 3	wins.

We congratulate Mr. Cox on his solution to this fine problem. Messrs. Olenick, Granville, Burgess and Forsythe worked on the position considerably, but failed to find the white win as shown above. To commemorate his victory we shall mail to him a copy of Hill's "Synopsis of Draughts Openings"—the best little work on the game ever published.

PROBLEM No. 209.

End of a game played between Messrs. Chesley, of Annapolis, and Granville, of Halifax. Black men 2, 4, 9, 18, 23, 28, kg. 19.



White men 11, 12, 25, 29, 32, kg. 3. Whites to play and win.

We commend this end game to the attention of our readers.

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BUTTER and LARD (in 10, 5 and 3 lb tins).
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SAUCES, Worcester, Harvey, Nabob, etc.
JAMS and JELLIES, Crosse & Blackwell, Keiler and Morton.
FRENCH PEAS, MUSHROOMS, CAPERS, etc.
TRUFFLES, CAPERS and OLIVES.
SOUPS, in tins. Huckin's American.
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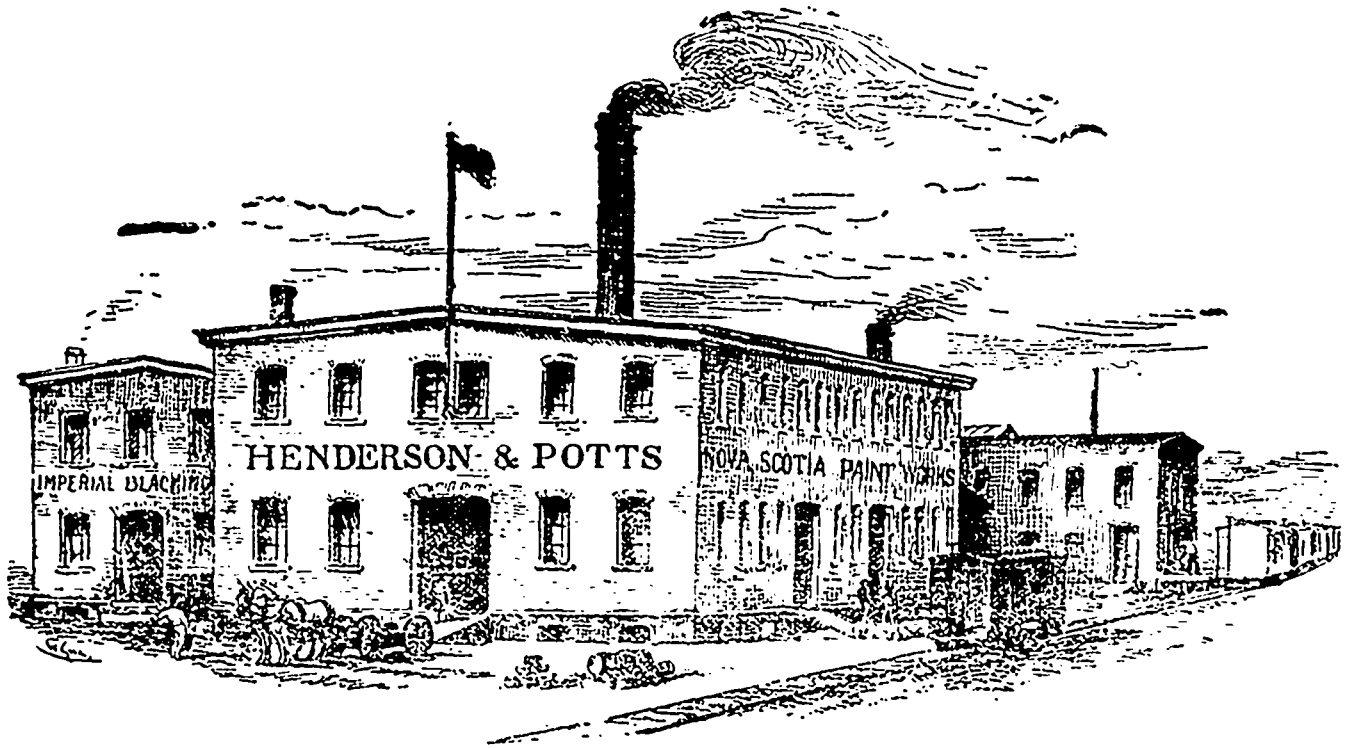
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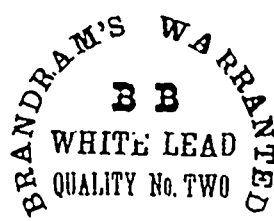
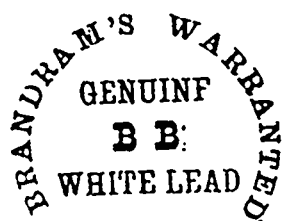
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