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TO OUR FRIENDS.

The CANADIAN SPECTATOR has lived through two years of hard and difficult times, and ventures now to appeal to its many friends for a renewal of the expression of their confidence. When the journal was started it was said on all hands that an independent paper could not live in Canada; and when it was seen that the SPECTATOR intended to give the public articles fair as to politics and first-class as to literary merits, the sapient shook their heads and said: "The thing cannot last; there is no market for such wares." But the supply has created the demand, and now the SPECTATOR has a recognised place and power in the Dominion. The topics of the day have been discussed with frankness and fearlessness; those having an opinion and able to express it have had a hearing, and no phase of religious or political faith has been denied freedom of speech in its columns.

Additional departments have been opened from those first contemplated; e.g., the Trade and Finance article, which is conducted in an able and trustworthy manner, so that commercial men may confidently rely upon the figures they find under that heading.

Then there is space devoted to a review and criticism of what is done in the musical world generally; the editor of which understands his work thoroughly, and is left free from all limitations and restrictions imposed by managerial considerations of job printing or advertising.

Last of all comes the Chess, the conduct of which is most clever and praiseworthy, say the chess players; in fact those chess players are so delighted with what they find in the Chess Column of the SPECTATOR that they have sent a numerous signed requisition that the chess editor be allowed two columns per week instead of one.

The SPECTATOR has now passed into the hands of a Joint Stock Company, Limited, with a largely increased capital, so that friends need entertain no fear, and enemies may put away all hope, that it will come to an abrupt and speedy termination. Already it is demonstrated that an independent and high class literary paper can live in Canada, and now it is intended that demonstration shall be given to the effect that said paper can command prosperity. No effort will be spared to make the journal better and more useful than it has ever yet been. Reviews will be thorough and searching; criticism will be fair and candid; researches after right and truth will be conducted fearlessly, and every endeavour will be made to put down cant and foul hypocrisy, and to promote the cause of real morality and religion among men.

THE TIMES.

GREETING.

Let me give warm and earnest New Year's greetings to my readers. For two years now we have moved along a chequered way together, each helping the other I hope. I have spared no pains to give a really good weekly paper to the public of Canada. A large number of the best writers in the country have joined me in this labour of love. I have criticised men and things at home and abroad freely—a little too freely many have thought, but that is a matter of opinion. Faults have been committed of course, but then, good friends, I shall not get much harm if only those without faults will cast stones at me. Let us leave the past to History and the God of all mercy, and wishing each other a happy new year do all that in us lies to make each other happy by making each other good. The battle of life is pressed upon us on all sides; let us go into the year of grace 1880 with high resolves to do true and permanent work.

THE 'GLOBE' ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY SOCIETY.

On Christmas Day the Toronto *Globe* led off in leaders with an article on the sweet and tender sentiments of kindness and brotherliness, and evidently speaking for the main portion of its own staff, especially the Editor, said:—"As thoughtful and reverent people get older, they ever tend to regard Christmas more and more in its religious aspect." Scripture was quoted with approval, and poetry with satisfaction. One would expect to read on and on from that first article through columns filled with tender expressions of brotherly sentiments. But alas for all things human and the Editor of the *Globe*, in the very next column stands an article headed "*An Annexation Bray*," and a little further on the report of a meeting, held in Montreal, will show the reason for this witticism writ large. I spoke at that meeting, and the name Bray suggested a joke to the man who rejoices in the better and more aristocratic name of Brown. But with that one flash of ponderous humour the wit died out, and the *Globe* got back to its normal condition of mind, in which it bears false witness against its neighbour, lies and slanders with a marvel of patience and persistency. Those who had been bold enough to attend a meeting to establish a Political Economy Society, without having first sought the advice and permission of the *Globe's* Editor, were scoffed at as "weak-minded individuals," "agitators," "renegade Englishmen," "would-be traitors," and "short-sighted noodles." In the Christmas article it was said:—"The influence of this annual commemoration of His birth is to make men feel a real brotherhood," and then, apparently, with a sigh of relief, Mr. Brown turns to the more congenial task of abusing some members of that brotherhood who will not regard him as the eldest and wisest of all the family.

When the facts of the case are considered, it is not at all surprising that the *Globe* rarely speaks of a political, or any other kind of opponent, but in terms of vilest violence. An error in judgment early in life has compelled Mr. Brown to perpetuate a literary and political crime. I have it on the best possible authority that when the *Globe* was started, its Editor and proprietor, having taken stock of the people he had to deal with, came to the conclusion that strong, the strongest and most pointed language, would be the most likely to convince them and get their subscriptions and carry their votes. He thought he saw that they had neither time, nor inclination, nor culture for the nicer courtesies of political and social life, and acting upon that, the *Globe* began its work of misrepresentation and abuse. If Jones was suspected of petty larceny, the *Globe* called him a thief, and that settled the matter. And, judging of success according to the merely

commercial standard, this has succeeded. The Editor has made a fortune by constant and unscrupulous hard work.

But the *Globe's* style of writing is manifestly out of date. While Mr. Brown has made no progress in education and the cultivation of courtesy in either himself or his staff since he started the *Globe*, Canada has made great headway, and now demands, and expects from its press, at least, fair argument couched in decent language. The *Globe* is falling behind, and fast losing that enormous influence it once wielded. And no wonder. What can idle calling names do in the real work of building up a nation? Abuse of persons who have the interests of Canada at heart, and who care for Canada first as surely as Mr. Brown cares for the *Globe* first—abuse of the American nation and constitution and administration—what can such puerilities accomplish that is worth the doing? Nothing at all.

Now, what was the apparent and avowed purpose of the Political Economy Society at its first meeting? After its usual manner the *Globe* ascribed motives and ends which were never expressed, and so wrote on "An Annexation Bray." At the request of the leaders of the movement I made a statement as to the objects of the Society, which was to the effect: that as our young men are losing all intelligent interest in politics, and as we are anxious to bring them back to a study of this important subject, freed from the violent partisanship of our party papers, it is expedient that they have the opportunity to discuss, and hear discussed, all questions that come within the range of political economy.

Society is being agitated by questions which relate to the future of this Dominion—the *Globe* may be ignorant of the fact, but it is a fact, nevertheless—and for many others in this Political Economy Society, I said: Let us discuss these questions fairly and reasonably. We are told that Provincialism is a failure—let it be put under the strong light of rational criticism; there is talk of Imperial Federation, of Canadian Independence, even of Annexation to the United States—let us talk these matters over; we are capable—let us do it. There was nothing said that could lead any reasonable mortal to believe that we contemplated such a thing as annexation. For myself, I carefully abstained from the expression of any opinion whatever as to what the future may or must be, but only asked for a fair and free discussion of Canadian affairs. It was particularly and pointedly stated that no one would be expected to give up his opinions or his party by joining the Society, and the fact that all parties, and almost every phase of political and social life was represented, might have assured the *Globe* that no treasonable designs were entertained. I have quite as much right to talk of "An Annexation Brown" as the Editor of the *Globe* has to talk of "An Annexation Bray," and I think that the really "short-sighted noodles" are the men who imagine that abuse is going to pass for argument, and that thinking people are going to put their interests, their intellect, and conscience under the intolerable despotism of the *Globe*. Mr. Brown would deny us the right of free speech if he could; he cares for the *Globe* first, for Gritism next—for party after that, and then Canada comes in anywhere. While professing a fervent loyalty to England, he does all that in him lies to disfavour and ostracise every Englishman who comes to this colony; he is opposed to every scheme for social, or political reform which does not emanate from the *Globe*; he fears and hates an able man as he detests an honest politician; he stamps his prodigious feet in the face of progress, and cares for nothing but subscribers and political slaves. In one column he whines about Christmas day, and in the next vilifies his neighbour. And this fossil—this political fatalist—this dazed "fly on the wheel" hopes to stop the current of free thought and deny men the right of free discussion. The hope is as flimsy as the logic of the *Globe*, and the Political Economy Society will flourish in spite of what Mr. Brown can say or do to the contrary.

SIR FRANCIS INTERVIEWED.

It is certainly extraordinary that the unostentatious and altogether harmless meeting of a few men to form a society for the discussion of important public questions should have created so much excitement in political circles on both sides of the line. The *Globe* says it is nothing—has no significance, yet calls upon itself and public opinion to crush it in the bud. The New York *Herald* has published sensa-

tional reports and quite ecstatic prophecies concerning it; while Sir Francis Hincks has been betrayed into the expression of sentiments which clearly indicate how entirely he has ceased to know the thought and life of the country. What Sir Francis said about the financial failure of the SPECTATOR was of course ungracious, irrelevant and untrue; but it is a fair illustration of the reckless manner in which the aged knight talked. He knows as much of the financial affairs of the SPECTATOR as he does of the tendency of Canadian thought, and that is—nothing. It is quite true, as Sir Francis was careful to explain to the *Herald* reporter, that I have been but a comparatively short time in the country; but then, during that time I have thrown myself into the general life of the country, while Sir Francis has been entirely given over to more personal matters. When of two men one walks rapidly ahead and the other stands still, three years will mark a great difference in their relative positions.

But everything considered it is difficult even to guess at the reasons Sir Francis had for indulging in the kind of talk to which he evidently treated the reporter. He seems to have gone out of his way to belittle his friends and create false impressions. The letter to the *Herald* of the following day giving "a few explanations" acknowledges that the report "was wonderfully accurate." So, Sir Francis said the meeting of the Political Economy Society was annexationist—it was nothing of the kind. Sir Francis said only one member of Parliament attended—there were four present. Sir Francis gave the impression that Mr. Goldwin Smith was one of the company—Mr. Smith knew nothing of the movement or of the meeting. Sir Francis said the CANADIAN SPECTATOR was—well, we will let that pass, since, at least, a word of approval has been penned to the *Herald*. But why should Sir Francis have introduced the question at all? Why was Mr. Macmaster scoffed at as being "too young to accomplish anything." He has for some time past been old enough to accomplish a good deal in one way and another. Being a young man, and at the same time a lawyer, he is of course "a young lawyer," but Sir Francis himself—when in Montreal—has been known to speak very highly of this "young lawyer," and to acknowledge his ability and position. When Sir Francis corrected the interviewer, it would have been to his credit if he had also corrected himself—for he was wide of the mark and unfortunate in almost everything he said, and on reading the report with the letter which partly corrected and partly supplemented it, many of us were forced to the painful conclusion that Sir Francis has arrived at that time of life when it would be well for him to rest from his great and manifold labours in calm and hopeful anticipation of a prolonged period of freedom from newspaper interviewers, banking difficulties, and political controversies generally.

The prospects of the revival of trade in England are not very encouraging so far; it is true that some slight improvement has been visible, but it will yet be some months before any sensible increase is probable. The uncertainty of affairs in Afghanistan, and the likelihood of a dissolution of Parliament soon after Easter, when the Budget and other urgent measures have been disposed of, with the consequent excitement of a general election, will all serve to keep business unsettled for a considerable period.

Reports from the agricultural districts show there is considerable distress, and relief works may yet be necessary. The latest news from Ireland shows that the distress is very general and is increasing, and frightful suffering is anticipated during the winter.

THE TAY BRIDGE DISASTER.

Another railway horror startled the community on Monday, reaching in its effects families even residing in this city. A fearful storm on Sunday night passed over Scotland, and it is surmised overturned the mail train when passing over the Tay Bridge, carrying with it a large portion of the bridge. The train fell from 80 to 100 feet, and, of course, all the occupants of the carriages were doomed to a sudden and horrible death. Even the carriages themselves have not, so far, been found by the divers. I am informed by one of the best authorities in Canada that the Tay Bridge was a wonderfully well built structure of masonry and iron, and the fact of its giving way is unaccountable.

The question of iron bridges, as compared with stone or a combination of the two, must be a very anxious one for the railway managers, and one which concerns the public very much. In the crevices of iron work small particles of water may be frozen, and in thawing cause an expansion, creating a crack which may lead to most serious results.

GREAT WESTERN AND GRAND TRUNK.

Of the visit of the President and two Directors of the Great Western Railway to Canada, the *Railway News* says: "They have failed upon every point of interest connected with the American allies." The *World* says: "Full as the history of deputations to the American Continent is of failures, there have been few so ignominious as the foiled mission of the Great Western of Canada Directors, who have just returned home. Colonel Grey and his two allies went forth brimful of confidence; they have come back without even the materials for piecing together a plausible tale to account for their great collapse. Failure met them on every side. The great Vanderbilt was haughty and disdainful, requiring them to sign, as essential to any arrangement, an agreement directly in the teeth of all they had led the shareholders to look for. The Great Western Directors have shared the proverbial fate of those who come to the ground by essaying to ride upon two stools. It only remains to be seen whether the rejected fusion with the Grand Trunk is now also past praying for. Now the Grand Trunk has secured its opening to Chicago." I find that at the adjourned half-yearly meeting the Directors succumbed to Mr. William Abbott's opposition, and agreed that Mr. J. S. Forbes, an eminent English railway manager, should act as arbitrator on all matters in dispute between the Grand Trunk and Great Western Companies. Mr. Abbott may have fallen into a trap; there are probably no matters of actual dispute. But what the Great Western shareholders understood, expected, and wanted, was, that there should be a working arrangement made on the basis of a division of the net receipts. Mr. Abbott stated that Sir Henry Tyler had said: "If you form a committee of reasonable and sensible men, with such an adviser as Mr. Forbes, I think I may promise you that we shall make very short work and prepare an equitable agreement." It will be a good thing accomplished if these two Companies, in which there is so much English capital invested, can come to a mutually beneficial arrangement, which cannot fail to also be of very great advantage to Canada generally. For some years the Great Western Railway has diverted Canadian-grown produce to American railways instead of it being sent by the St. Lawrence, Portland, or Halifax route to Europe, or through the longest distance of Canadian railway that it could be carried to the Eastern States. By which ever route it goes, the rates are the same, and the American lines have simply been fed at the expense of the Grand Trunk and Canada.

Whatever benefits the Grand Trunk, benefits Canada. I noticed this by the many wry faces when it was thought the headquarters of the Company would be removed to Toronto. The more traffic that can be sent over our Canadian railway the more hands will be employed to work it, the more articles will be consumed to maintain it, and the better facilities will be afforded for transport of man and merchandise. With the Chicago and Grand Trunk, the Grand Trunk Ontario line and the Great Western feeding the Eastern portion of the Grand Trunk system, new life would be infused all along the route from Toronto eastward, and a double track would then be a certainty from Montreal to Toronto. Instead of a long journey of 13 to 15 hours, there could be a time-table of about 11 hours. The shortening of time would attract more Americans through the country, and all who travel in the Dominion spend something, if they do not benefit it in any other way.

CHURCH DEBTS.

Churches in Montreal, with few exceptions, are burdened almost to death with mortgages. I have been so oppressed with the harm that is suffered on account of it, that it seemed worth while to propose that one half of them be sold to pay the debts on the other half. But this state of things is not peculiar to Montreal; it is a part of our general life in the Dominion. According to the *Toronto Evening Telegram*—which gives statistics in proof of the statement—the

Queen City of the West is just as badly burdened ecclesiastically as Montreal is. The Anglican Churches in Toronto number twenty-one, with a total indebtedness of \$75,500; there are ten Presbyterian Churches, with an aggregate debt of \$121,800; ten Methodist Churches rejoice in a burden of \$123,000; the six Baptists are entirely free from debt, but the other smaller bodies are heavily burdened. Debts may be a great blessing, and they may be a sign of spiritual expansion and enterprise, but I very much question whether it is either the one or the other. A story is told of an American, who, when last seen by a friend in San Francisco, was seemingly in rather low water. Subsequently, however, they met in New York, when the 'Frisco man wore all the outward and visible signs of prosperity. Warm congratulations on the altered appearance brought forth the quick response: "Yes; when I saw you in 'Frisco I owed \$800—only \$800; now I owe a million. Oh, yes, I am doing well." Such are the ways of the world when the flesh is being ministered unto; but the devil is in full force I am sure, when the Church resorts to the ways of the world to propagate the semblance of religion. Church debts are a burden and a shame to any Christian community, and the sooner we awake to this fact the better it will be for us all. Fewer churches, and all free from debt, would greatly add to the happiness and efficiency of the ministry as well as to the content and spiritual activity of church members.

DEAR SIR,—May I request you will do me the favour to point out any passage in the article written by me in the *SPECTATOR* of the 20th inst. in which I appear to you to have affirmed "that the State cannot take property from landlords when the interests of the people demand it"?

Yours very faithfully,

Saxon.

I certainly had the impression on reading "Saxon's" article that he would deem it morally impossible or wrong for the State to take property from landlords. The following paragraph seems to fully warrant the conclusion:—

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

A BRADSTREET JOURNAL.

It is evident that even the sphere of journalism is not free from the pernicious influences of Mercantile Agencies. There is a "Bradstreet Journal" abroad, and it has permitted a correspondent to make the following attack upon the three gentlemen appointed by the Court to prepare the last Consolidated Bank statement:—"It is stated that the report just adopted showed capital (originally \$3,471,000) all gone, and a deficiency of \$40,000; on a revaluation certain assets were worked up, resulting in the present figures." Even if this astounding statement can be verified, there is an odour of back-stair influence about it which suggests unwarrantable prying, or peeping through key-holes, or even bribery. But it is more than probable that it cannot be substantiated, and the question arises, is there any point where legitimate criticism ends and dastardly libel begins, as tried by the standard of intelligent public opinion. Honest men do not "work up" assets merely "to let down the poor shareholders as easy as possible," and the correspondents who crawl up back-stairs should be taught by some means that a wholesome regard for good character and truth is a lesson worth the learning.

Fortunately Mercantile Agencies have ceased to be any practical guide, even to the most ignorant among business men. Merchants and Bankers have learned to rate their customers just as the Public will judge the three men who valued the assets of the Consolidated Bank, that is, by their actual ability to fulfil their estimates in fact, and not by any mere reports of what they can do. EDITOR.

IN MEMORIAM—1879.

"Time slips from under us. The year is gone."
—BARRY CORNWALL.

1879 has been a year of stir, and strife, and change. Storm, shipwreck, commercial convulsions, political catastrophes, ecclesiastical commotions, strikes, demonstrations, plagues, and conflagrations, have been amongst us, and have worked their wonderful purposes in the world, though we may be uncertain of their issues.

The poet who wrote not for his native land alone, but for all time, has, in a memorable sentence, likened the generations of men to the deciduous leaves. The comparison is poetical, but it is also forcible and well authenticated by the daily line of hard fact. Years roll along so swiftly, yet with so secret a lapse, that we find it well nigh difficult to maintain the remembrance of their continued occurrence. Our fathers, where are they? Gone for ever, and the world works on—with the same rather monotonous movement. The achievements, the joys, the toils, the very sorrow of the past crowd upon us in a confused recollection.

No wonder then, that while the beginning of the year is jubilant, the close of it is depressive. The shroud of the past hangs around us. Vain regrets beset us, by which we are fastened in as with a cruel encirclement, and the only tolerable escape from the dim cogitation lies in the formation of wise resolutions for the future, if only the kingly will may be competent to fulfil them.

A retrospect of the year is natural for all of us. We look behind as well as before us, and the whole proceeding is eminently healthful. As in private so in public affairs, it may not be inopportune to glance at the general course of the past year, noting its suggested lessons.

The first matter that starts to the mind as by a natural instinct is the one topic, that of War. To the various details of the sanguinary strife we need not here revert. There is one terrible fact. Near nineteen hundred years ago our Saviour proclaimed lessons of peace and good-will, as at this season, to his disciples. Throughout these centuries the holy precepts have been echoed by countless voices. The sanction of reason has supported the counsels of religion. Yet, what do we find? In an age of civilization, with its news, its telegraphs, its philanthropic societies, its multiform literature, its vast professions, its momentous agencies of good; the cruel work of slaughter, and devastation, and death is ruthlessly maintained. This fact alone seems to contradict all our boasts about progress and advancement. In theory all is right and wise, no one would dispute that; but theory, divorced from practice, is as baseless as the fabric of a vision. The name of God on the lips and the hate of man in the heart can never be congruous.

The supremely sad occurrences of the year are "Sir Bartle Frere's war in Zululand," and "Lord Lytton's war in Afghanistan." Who can stay the desolating hand? The strife is yet distant from termination. Over this every man possessing a heart must mourn. It was to fulfil Lord Carnarvon's dream of a South African Confederation that the annexation of Zululand was decreed. "The victor tramples down the vanquished; sometimes he even tramples down opinion for a time; but he does not write history. In history Cetewayo will stand by the side of Caractacus, Arminius, and Boadicea, as a brave barbarian who, in fighting for his land and his simple rights, fought, though unconsciously, for the hope of a race, selected by nature, perhaps, as the vigorous stock of a great nation." In Afghanistan a pretended insult was the pretext of the war; the cause, soon and frankly avowed, was the desire of a "scientific frontier," and in the background the ambition of annexing Afghanistan. The whole chain of events in the present struggle, including even the massacre of Cavagnari and his companions so forcibly reminds us of the old embroglio in Cabul in 1837 as to verify the axiom that it is history reproducing itself. If evidence were wanting to condemn the policy of the Government, it might be found in the fact that on the question of mere policy, the opposite views were represented by the late Lord Lawrence and Lord Lytton. "Lord Lawrence, an illustrious man of action, was naturally inclined to a policy of moderation. Lord Lytton, a poetaster and a dandy, is as naturally inclined to a policy of thunderbolts."

In both of these struggles it is evidently with men who are making a stand for their homes, which, though it will be overcome, will seriously impair the prestige of the Empire.

The lust of aggression, the desire of conquest, can never be utterly eradicated from the human breast—probably wars may never cease from the face of the earth—for there is a chronic evil in man—but civilization and progress, if these words really mean anything at all, will diminish their occurrence, will help towards their abolition. Such is one reflection suggested by the expiring year.

In Ireland the old quarrel seems to have broken out once more. The war of religion has been secondary though intensely embittering; the main struggle was always for the land, and it has again taken an agrarian form. The districts where agrarian violence has most prevailed have been singularly free from ordinary crime. In the political part of the Home Rule movement there is comparatively little force; it lacks, above all things, definiteness of aim. Yet

Irish nationality is not dead: the sentiment is still strong though it is vague. How deep a root it has we see by the passionate constancy with which it is cherished by Irish exiles in distant lands, who force their detractors to confess that in undying love of country at least they are by no means inferior to their conquerors.

The event in Canada was the inauguration of a system of Protection under the delusive name of a National Policy. Mr. Goldwin Smith says:—"We subscribe, under protest, to the principle upon which the whole of our commercial policy is based. We assume that the commercial interest of Canada is capable of being separated from that of the continent of which she forms a part, and that it is possible and desirable permanently to treat the people on the other side of the line not only politically but commercially as a foreign nation. This is the creed of both the political parties, and those who dissent from it are denounced by both. We dissent from it, notwithstanding their denunciations, believing it to be at variance with the laws of nature. It is our conviction that Canada never can hope to enjoy her full measure of prosperity, devise what fiscal systems you will, till she is freely admitted to the markets of her own continent, till she is opened to the full inflow of its capital, till its commercial life runs unimpeded through her veins."

On the assembling of the Parliament at Ottawa in February we shall learn whether the new tariff has accomplished its direct object by bringing the revenue to the level of expenditure. What will be its effect on industry it may be yet too early to say. Happily there appears to be a revival of prosperity, but the good harvest here and the bad harvests in Europe are manifestly the cause. On every hand there is the desire of giving the new policy a fair trial.

In the nations of the European continent there are abundant causes for anxiety. In France, the return of the amnestied Communists is likely to prove a fruitful source of trouble, and Paris is indulging at the moment in a Ministerial crisis.

Germany is not absolutely content, albeit she too is rejoicing in a brand new Protective Policy, and what may follow Bismarck's iron grip no man can foresee.

In Spain the newly married King has been called from his wedding festivities to face another Ministerial crisis; whilst in Russia the Nihilists seem to be so ubiquitous as to threaten a general upheaval, and the year closes in that country with a second attempt to assassinate the Czar.

In the United States the Presidency of Mr. Hayes is drawing to its close, and as if to keep their hands in practice, preparatory to the quadrennial election of President in November next, the result of the State elections in Maine has just been manipulated in a fashion that in any other country would have created a convulsion. General Grant has but lately returned from his tour round the world, and has been received with such general enthusiasm that it might almost be safe to predict that he will be the popular candidate for the next Presidential term. The country has been blessed with a bountiful harvest, and the evidences of a return of prosperity are abundant.

The scythe of Death has been unsparingly busy during the year amidst the human swarths on whom he exercises his dire change-bringing prowess. It is a sad task to use our memory as a chronicler of the achievements of the dead. The first name that presents itself is that of the young Prince Imperial, whose strange fate is almost beyond our realization. The adventurous spirit which led him to take part in the South African campaign is so characteristic of the family name as scarcely to create surprise. It is no part of our duty to enter here into the strange, eventful history of his death—his brief record will serve in after-time to "point a moral and adorn a tale"—but any mention of his fate would be unjust which did not tell that he died like a brave soldier with all his wounds in front. Towards the close of the year the death of the Countess de Montijo, the mother of the ex-Empress Eugenie is worthy of note.

The obituary of 1879 appears remarkable for its claiming the names of many who served to connect the present generation with past events which had well nigh receded from our memories, amongst these we may place Marshal Espartero, the old Regent of Spain, during the infancy of the late Queen Isabella, Abdel-Kader, the astute Arab Chief, who for so long baffled the strategy of the French Generals in Algeria, and J. A. Roebuck, who was the last survivor of those who drafted the "People's Charter, and who lived to see almost all the "points" carried into practice, some of them by a Tory Government.

Literature has suffered many losses during the year, we cannot do more than place the names on record; the octogenarian William Howitt, Miss Meteyard, whose writings were known to a preceding generation under the name of "Silverpen," Sir A. Panizzi, Alexander MacLagan, Charles Tennyson Turner, brother of the Poet-Laureate, James Grant, Miss Havergal, Thomas Littleton Holt, and even whilst we are writing, William Hepworth Dixon; strangely enough, too, within a few weeks of each other, the veteran publishers Thomas Longman and John Blackwood passed away.

A similar coincidence was the decease during the month of November of Charles L. Gruneisen, journalist, and John T. Delane, who for 36 years had been Editor of the London *Times*.

The drama and the stage have lost many ornaments, and here the number of "old-time" names is remarkable—John Parry, John Clarke, Mrs. Rousby,

Mrs. Howard Paul, G. J. Bennet, Edmund Falconer, and last, though not least, J. Baldwin Buckstone.

Amongst the miscellaneous names are to be found Peter le Neve Foster, Secretary of the Society of Arts, who was Prince Albert's "right-hand man" in the Exhibition of 1851; Baron Lionel Rothschild, who helped to fight out the Parliamentary Emancipation of the Jews; Sir Rowland Hill, the founder of Penny Postage; Lord Lawrence, ex-Governor-General of India, brother of Henry Lawrence of Cawnpore memory; Sir W. Fothergill Cooke, joint inventor of the Electric Telegraph; Dr. Butt, the Home-Rule Leader; and Shere Ali, ex-Ameer of Afghanistan.

In our own midst, we recall the sudden death of Dr. O'Brien, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kingston, and Mrs. Bond, wife of Bishop Bond of Montreal; and journalism in this city has lost Andrew Wilson, one of the proprietors of the *Herald*, and Russ Wood Huntington, the young associate-editor of the same paper, whilst the melancholy death of George Tolley, of the *Illustrated News*, is still fresh in our memories.

Several eminent Americans claim place,—Caleb Cushing, Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith; William Lloyd Garrison, the apostle of slave emancipation; Bishop Odenheimer, Henry Charles Carey, Recorder Hackett, Bayard Taylor, General Hooker, and Senator Chandler.

Such are some of the year's losses, so far as memory has succeeded in scanning the funereal records of it. The list brings grave lessons with it, and this not the least of all—that whither they have gone we too must follow. To us also shall be spoken the stern word Nevermore!

Nevermore to see friends, feel joys, make efforts, engage in labours, delight in home, and gladden human hearts! Nevermore to work at the unfulfilled designs of life's earthly aims! Yet there is an Evermore upon which we shall enter. As we look over the record of those who have entered into the Evermore of the city of the dead during the year just passed, may we feel ourselves led to say that they are—

"The loved, but not the lost,
Oh no! they have not ceased to be,
Nor live alone in memory;
'Tis we who still are tossed
O'er life's wild sea; 'tis we who die!
They only live whose life is immortality."

Enough has passed before us to show that 1879, like other years, with its mingled colours of gladness and grief, hope and depression, while it contains much which should painfully touch the feelings, has also encouraging features which should stimulate our exertions and keep alive our expectations. Go thy ways, old 1879! Mayest thou realise what many a good man has wished to see on his deathbed, that thou leavest the world better than thou didst find it. Perhaps it has improved, but not much, unhappily. That it has not advanced as much as we could desire, is a strong reason for greater exertions in the future. The same complaints, wants, grievances, oppressions, and agitations, remain at the termination of the year as existed at its commencement; but there still lives that indomitable spirit of the human heart and mind, which, when hurled to its mother earth, gathers energy from the touch, and rises with renewed vigour for the conflict.

The new year comes on joyfully—let us welcome him with brave and manly resolution. MAY IT BE A WISE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR ALL OF US.

BANKING REFORM.

Public opinion undoubtedly calls for some very considerable change in our system of checks upon Bank Returns, and a clearer definition of the responsibility of those who prepare them. Our present law seems defective in the following points:—

- First*,—In the form of return;
- Second*,—In not providing an efficient and reliable inspection;
- Third*,—In not marking clearly the acts or omissions that are punishable;
- Fourth*,—In not providing an alternative punishment where a Court is obliged to give the accused the benefit of "intention."

The American National Bank system has had a fair trial, and is conceded to have worked well. To give our readers an opportunity of comparing the American Statutes with our own, I place the sections bearing on the above points in *parallel* columns with my own suggestions inserted in italics.

In the good old days it was considered fit and proper to envelop the little sense there might be in a law in a mass of useless verbiage, so that volumes of decisions and precedents had to be explored before the simplest question could be settled. A certain *procedure* will always be necessary, and we must still have lawyers, but the modern idea is that the *substantive* law should be as plain as language can make it. If our law means to say that when my friend A. gives me \$1,000 to keep in my safe till he calls for it, I am in precisely the same position as if I had borrowed \$1,000 from uncle B. to pay my debts.

then it must have been devised in a lunatic asylum; if it says so, and does not mean it, then it errs in lack of clearness and expression.

I mentioned in a former paper that our Indian legislators illustrate the sections by examples of imaginary cases where they are apprehensive that the spirit of the enactment may be misinterpreted by executive or judicial officers, and this we might copy with advantage. I would have all the sections bearing on returns printed on the back of the returns, so that no naughty boy might plead that *he did not know*.

Without further preamble, I will take up POINT ONE, and submit the following form, which is substantially the same as that advocated by a correspondent of the *Star* over the signature of "Observer." It will be seen that I consider it of importance that Government should be informed of the date of last inspection, and that the return should be signed by the Accountant and as many more of the subordinate officials as contribute to it:—

— Vic., Cap. —, Sec. —.

RETURN OF THE AMOUNT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE
BANK OF _____,

On the _____ day of _____ A.D. 18 _____

Date of Inspector's last Certificate,—Head Office, (date): _____ Branch, (date).

Capital Authorized, \$ _____	Capital Subscribed, \$ _____	Capital paid up, \$ _____
LIABILITIES		
\$ _____ cts.		
Notes in Circulation.....		
Dominion Government Deposits, payable on demand.....		
Dominion Government Deposits, payable after notice or on a fixed day.....		
Provincial Government Deposits, payable on demand.....		
Provincial Government Deposits, payable after notice or on a fixed day.....		
Other Deposits, payable on demand.....		
Other Deposits, payable after notice or on a fixed day.....		
Borrowed on Government Securities.....		
Borrowed on Notes and Bills Discounted and Current.....		
Borrowed on Merchandise held as Collateral Security.....		
Due to other Banks in Canada.....		
Due to Agencies of the Bank, or to other Banks or Agencies in foreign countries.....		
Due to Agencies of the Bank, or to the Bank itself, when its Head Office is in the United Kingdom, or to other Banks or Agencies in the United Kingdom.....		
Liabilities not included under the foregoing heads.....		
		\$ _____
ASSETS.		
\$ _____ cts.		
Specie.....		
Dominion Notes.....		
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks.....		
Balances due from other Banks in Canada.....		
Balances due from Agencies of the Bank or from other Banks or Agencies in foreign countries.....		
Balances due from Agencies of the Bank or from other Banks or Agencies in the United Kingdom.....		
Government Debentures or Stock.....		
Loans to the Government of the Dominion.....		
Loans to Provincial Governments.....		
Loans on Merchandise.....		
Loans, Discounts or Advances, for which Shares of the Capital Stock of any other Bank are held as Collateral Security.....		
Loans, Discounts or Advances, for which the Bonds or Debentures of Municipal or other Corporations, or Dominion, Provincial, British or Foreign Public Securities are held as Collateral Securities.....		
Loans on Government Securities.....		
Loans, Discounts or Advances on Current Account to Corporations.....		
Loans to other Banks on their Bills Receivable.....		
Notes and Bills Discounted and Current.....		
Notes and Bills Discounted Overdue, and not specially secured.....		
Over Drafts of Governments.....		
Over Drafts of other Customers.....		
Overdue Debts, secured by Mortgage or other Deed on Real Estate, or by Deposit of or lien on Stock, or by other securities.....		
Real Estate, the Property of the Bank (other than the Bank Premises), and Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank.....		
Bank Premises.....		
Other Assets, not included under the foregoing heads.....		
		\$ _____

Prepared by _____, Accountant.

We declare that the foregoing Return is made up from the Books of the Bank, and that it is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief; and we further declare that the Bank has never at any time during the period to which the said Return relates held less than one-third of its Cash Reserves in Dominion Notes.

_____, this _____ day of _____, 18 _____, President.
_____, Cashier.
_____, Auditor.

The accounts of the Consolidated Bank being now before the public, I think we could not do better than arrange them according to the new form, and publish them as an appendix to the Act.

Under the American system the Comptroller of the Currency is the officer to whom returns are submitted, and who has power to call for special reports, &c. If a new law requires a new directing authority it will doubtless be created; but in any case there will be some depository of power, and for convenience of expression I will, through the remainder of this paper, call him the Comptroller.

POINT SECOND—INSPECTION.

Canadian Acts relating to Banks and Banking.

Laws of the United States relating to National Banks according to the revised Statutes.

SECTION 5211.—Every association shall make to the Comptroller of the Currency not less than five reports during each year according to the form which may be prescribed by him, verified by the oath or affirmation of the president or cashier of such association, and attested by the signatures of at least three of the directors. Each such report shall exhibit in detail and under appropriate heads, the resources and liabilities of the association at the close of business on any past day by him specified; and shall be transmitted to the Comptroller within five days after the receipt of a request or requisition therefor from him, and in the same form in which it is made to the Comptroller shall be published in a newspaper published in the place where the association is established, or if there is no newspaper in the place, then in the one published nearest thereto in the same county, at the expense of the association; and such proof of publication shall be furnished as may be required by the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall also have power to call for special reports from any particular association whenever in his judgment the same are necessary in order to a full and complete knowledge of its condition.

SECTION 5212.—In addition to the reports required by the preceding section, each association shall report to the Comptroller of the Currency, within ten days after declaring any dividend, the amount of such dividend, and the amount of net earnings in excess of such dividend. Such reports shall be attested by the oath of the president or cashier of the association.

SECTION 5240.—The Comptroller of the Currency, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall, as often as shall be deemed necessary or proper, appoint a suitable person or persons to make an examination of the affairs of every banking association, who shall have power to make a thorough examination into all the affairs of the association, and, in doing so, to examine any of the officers and agents thereof on oath; and shall make a full and detailed report of the condition of the association to the Comptroller.

Note the blank!

Under our system the Inspector is a sort of detective in the interest of the Management. What we want is an Auditor in the interest of the Public. Sad experience teaches us that Presidents and Cashiers want rather more looking after than Branch Managers. We want in this officer efficiency and honesty—we want to know that he is neither the subservient tool of the Directors nor an ignoramus appointed by the Comptroller for political purposes. How would this do?—

No one to be eligible who had not testimonials of ability as an Actuary and Accountant. The nominating power to rest with the Directors, who would advertise in two papers of the city where they had their head *one month previously* that Mr. A. had been nominated. The confirming power to rest with the Comptroller, who would be under no obligation to make public his reasons for refusing to confirm.

Any shareholder, creditor, or other person interested would thus have an opportunity to record an objection to the appointment.

The Comptroller to have power to call for special reports on requisition from shareholders representing — per cent. of the stock.

The Auditor to report irregularities to Comptroller, who would have power to depute one or more of the registered Auditors, or any other suitable person (not being an officer of the bank to be inspected), to make a special investigation of the affairs of any bank that in his judgment required looking after.

POINT THIRD.

34 Vic., Sec. 60, relates to embezzlement of bonds, &c., by officers of bank.

Section 61 relates to the giving undue preference to any creditor.

SECTION 62.—The making of any wilfully false or deceptive statement in any account, statement, return, report or other document respecting the affairs of the bank, shall, unless it amounts to a higher offence, be a misdemeanor, and any and every president, vice-president, director, principal partner en commandite, auditor, manager, cashier or other officer of the bank preparing, signing, approving or concurring in such statement, return, report or document, or using the same with intent to deceive or mislead any party, shall be held to have wilfully made such false statement, and shall further be responsible for all damages sustained by such party in consequence thereof.

SECTION 5209.—Every president, director, cashier, teller, clerk or agent of any association, who embezzles, abstracts or wilfully misapplies any of the moneys, funds, or credits of the association; or who without authority from the directors, issues or puts in circulation any of the notes of the association; or who without such authority, issues or puts forth any certificate of deposit, draws any order or bill of exchange, makes any acceptance, assigns any note, bond, draft, bill of exchange, mortgage, judgment or decree; or who makes any false entry in any book, report or statement of the association, with intent, in either case, to injure or defraud the association or any other company, body politic or corporate, or any individual person, or to deceive any officer of the association, or any agent appointed to examine the affairs of any such association; or to deceive any creditor of the association, or any intending purchaser of the shares thereof, and every person who with like intent aids or abets any officer, clerk or agent in any violation of this section, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and

shall be imprisoned not less than five years nor more than ten, and shall further be liable to dismissal from the public service.

ILLUSTRATION I.—Appendix A to this Act contains a complete statement of the assets and liabilities of the defunct Consolidated Bank, and any deviation from this form or misplacing of items of assets or liabilities in the books of a bank or in the monthly returns compiled therefrom, by any officer or clerk, under any pretence whatever, will be deemed a false entry within the meaning of this section.

ILLUSTRATION II.—Any auditor who neglects to report promptly to the Comptroller any irregularity he may discover in the books or returns of any bank, will be guilty of a misdemeanour within the meaning of this section.

POINT FOURTH.

The foregoing reforms have in one shape or other been discussed by others. What I have now to suggest has at any rate the merit of originality, and I hope that if it is rejected by your readers as impracticable, it will not prejudice them against any other of my suggestions.

It must be evident to the observant mind that a severe punishment is only enforced in this humane age in extreme cases, and that judges and juries usually give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt where the *intention* essential to a criminal act admits of the least dispute. No one will deny that in every case where a bank has deceived the public, every clerk in that bank knew the public were being deceived, and I think it equally clear that every one privy to deceit was guilty in greater or less degree.

One's morals are too often the morals of one's surroundings, and any little qualms of conscience the deceiving clerk might feel would be allayed by the sophistry that his duty was to do as he was ordered by his superiors. I want him to see that the law is the Superior to be obeyed; that if he violates its provisions he will be placed in the criminal dock, and that even if he escapes a prison and secures an acquittal through the leniency of his judge there is still a power that can punish him. I cannot procure a copy of the "Civil Service Act," but I assume there is some sort of registration, and that a clerk who is turned out of the Public Works Department for dishonesty or malpractice cannot step over to the Department of Agriculture and take up an appointment. I would make it obligatory on all banks to submit to the Comptroller, once a year or oftener, lists of all officers and clerks in their employment, in order that they might be registered as Government servants. If an officer or clerk was tried under the penal section and acquitted on the ground that intent to deceive was not clearly proved, the Comptroller could nevertheless recommend his dismissal to Government, and if it was decided upon, the bank would be compelled to advertise the dismissal and the offending clerk would be debarred from *employment in any branch of the public service*. Or, if the Auditor reported to the Comptroller any irregularity on the part of any clerk the same procedure would be adopted.

If the pen of a Dickens would portray but a fraction of the misery caused by one bank failure, we would have agitation enough. I earnestly hope the subject will be taken up by some one competent to deal with it, and that, after the most thorough discussion and endeavour to secure all possible information and variety of opinion, we will have such legislation as will merit the blessing of the widow and the orphan.

I suggest a Commission under the Presidency of the Chief Justice.

Anglo-Indian.

FASHIONS IN POLITICS.

Political views are to a great extent mere matters of fashion. One mode is all the rage for a time—then it gives place to another; and the nation exploits itself in its new views, as a woman does in the latest novelties in dress. No one exactly knows why the fashion is changed. The old mode did well enough—and indeed a good many old-fashioned people, convinced of its superiority, will have no other; but the masses have grown tired of it. They want novelty, and as this is best secured by rushing from one extreme to the other, so the change, when it takes place, usually consists in the substitution of one set of principles for the set to which they are diametrically opposed. That is the rule on which the *beau monde* proceeds in regulating the fashions for the ladies, who pass from voluminous clothing to simulated nudity, and precisely the same thing takes place in the political arena. It would not be at all difficult to issue prophetic political fashion-plates. The recurrent changes might be counted on and set forth by a seer of very ordinary intelligence, and he need not trouble the stars to help him in his predictions. About every five years a new mode—which is, in fact, only a revival of a very old mode—"comes in," and then is beheld the remarkable spectacle of a people abandoning suddenly all they have most prized, and contending for everything against which they have most earnestly protested.

The great historical example of this was afforded in the greatest political transformation a nation has ever known. During the seven years of the Pro-

tecorate, there had been a complete revulsion of feeling, and it was a relief when Cromwell passed away, and the nation could welcome a King to the throne. Everything was forgotten in the exhilaration of a change—though it was only in the nature of laying the neck once more under the heel of a Stuart. In the enthusiasm attending the Restoration, even some of the great points on account of which the First Charles lost his head, were conceded to the man who was ere long to degrade himself by accepting a pension from Louis XIV. Imagine a King of England the pensioner of France! So matters have gone on—in a minor way—in the intervening two hundred years or more, the nation being influenced, apparently, by nothing but a restless love of changing sides, or, as concerns individuals, by that still lower feeling which caused the Athenians to banish Aristides because they were sick of hearing him called “The Just.”

The latest examples were, of course, afforded by the expulsion from office of the late Liberal government in England and the Dominion of Canada. It would be difficult for any man to assign a logical reason for the change in the public mind which led to the defeat of those who represented principles which had been dominant among the masses for years, and the welcome of a Ministry of an entirely opposite type. It was history repeating itself on a small scale, another Oliver being succeeded by another Charles. And to what was it due? Various reasons have been assigned, and all kinds of representations made; but probably the true cause would be found in the “anything for a change” feeling which had at the time got the upper hand. Certainly it was very remarkable, and in nothing more than in the sudden outcry which rang from one end of the country to the other, in England as against economy, and in Canada for a National Protective Policy.

History was full of examples of an “ignorant impatience of taxation” which had led the people to denounce Ministries for wasteful extravagance; but there sprang up a new cry, the majority of the nation actually inciting those who stepped into power to adopt Jonas Chuzzlewit’s behest to those about him to “spend and spare not” since the dignity of the country could only be satisfied by lavish expenditure, entailing, of course, unlimited taxation. It was in vain that the Liberal leaders showed that from the surplus of six millions in hand they would be enabled to relieve the nation of that hateful incubus, the Income-Tax. All the disgust that unjust taxation—the war-tax levied in time of peace in violation of the most solemn pledges—had excited, seemed to pass away, and it was felt that even the abolition of the Income-Tax was not a boon which ought to weigh against the popular desire for a complete change; and therefore that change was absolutely insisted upon. What has been the result we know. The surplus has gone, and the Income-Tax has been raised from three pence to six pence in the pound. England has had experience of her new rulers; and though many are—or profess to be—satisfied, there are already signs of the turn of the tide. Among these must be reckoned the triumphant reception of Mr. Gladstone in Scotland, and the homage to his talents which has been accorded even by many whose views are opposed to those which he advocates.

The public memory is short; but the English people have not, it seems, quite forgotten Mr. Gladstone’s services to his country. These rendered him popular in his day—though from a certain severity of tone however he was never the popular idol which Lord Palmerston contrived by his suavity and finesse to render himself—and on two grounds he still enjoyed the highest reputation among all classes, namely, as a brilliant financier, and an orator of unexampled eloquence.

Here is a man sure to be of mark in the revival of Liberalism as a political fashion. It is not my object to write upon Mr. Gladstone, I only take note of the reception he is meeting as affording an example of the ebb and flow of the popularity enjoyed by great men, and the certainty that the high wave will be succeeded by a retreat of the waters—it may be preparatory to a renewed inrush of yet greater intensity.

John Arthur Roebuck, a name that a quarter of a century ago you might have conjured with in England, died the other day, and not one of his old political colleagues attended his funeral.

In Canada, if we called to mind the defeat of the Macdonald Ministry in 1873; who could have believed in the election of September 1878, with the return to power of the same Minister? and at this moment may not a small speck be seen on the horizon “no bigger than a man’s hand” which seems to tell the people of the Dominion that cotton mills and rubber factories, and sugar refineries, have made so many thousand dollars profit during the past year, and that these same dollars *have to be paid by the consumer* (Finance Ministers to the contrary notwithstanding), and the revenue of the country *will not show* the promised increase; and a misguided people may alter their fashion once more. I have fixed five years as the duration of existence of this or that mode.

This flux and reflux makes the career of politics unsatisfactory to the man who gives his life to it. Let him try his hardest and achieve his best, and the very laws regulating popularity render his position always uncertain. The idol of to-day is the neglected plaything of to-morrow. Everything conduces to this. People are, as I have said, forgetful. They are also ungrateful.

Enthusiasm wears itself out. Nations, like individuals, do not like a sense of obligation. Who was it who said, when hearing that another had spoken bitterly against him, “Indeed! yet I can’t recollect that I ever did him a favour?” Then, again, a man suffers from the splenetic outbursts which jealousy of his position provokes. As Tennyson puts it, with many, “low desire not to feel lowest makes them level all, yea, they would pare the mountain to the plain to have an equal baseness.”

In the newly-published letters of Charles Dickens there is a fierce passage reflecting on the position of great and good men sacrificing themselves for the masses, and what they are subject to from the press alone. He is indignant to think that—

“Every dirty speck upon the fair face of the Almighty’s creation, who writes in a filthy, beastly newspaper, every black-hearted wretch who has been beaten, kicked, and rolled in the kennel, yet struts it in the editorial ‘We’ once a week; every vagabond that an honest man’s gorge must rise at; every live emetic in that noxious drug-shop, the press, can have his fling at such men, and call them knaves and fools and thieves.”

The license of the press, and especially of that part of it which is influenced by no principles, but turns its coat on the slightest provocation, either to get a share of Ministerial loaves and fishes, or to pander to the mob who support it, does very much to bring about political changes, and more especially affects the popular estimate of public men. Still I am inclined to refer the phenomenon of fashions in politics and political leaders to a natural law, that of inherent restlessness and the desire for novelty. There is an incessant clamouring for something fresh in dress, in food, in house decoration, in literature, in art, even in religion, and it would be strange indeed if this did not invade the political arena. Many people are unable to distinguish between alteration and improvement. To them what is new must necessarily be more desirable than what is old, novelty being in itself an element of value. That is the shopkeeper’s creed, and as Napoleon called the English a “nation of shopkeepers,” it is not very surprising that such a creed should have been adopted.

However, the consolation of both sides of the House must be that it is only necessary for a thing to have been out of the political fashion long enough, for it to be quite capable of coming in as the latest novelty, and thus each party gets represented at one time or another, and figuratively speaking the nation enjoys the advantages of the ministrations of Mrs. Gamp and Betsy Prig, one after the other, “turn and turn about.” *Quevedo Redivivus.*

A FEW HINTS ON HOUSE WARMING.

It would but be deluding the average enquirer to tell him that the question of making an artificially warmed atmosphere fairly suitable for human heating in a Canadian winter, or a British winter for that matter, is a simple one, for it is far from being so. If we wish to take up the question theoretically, there are the chemistry, the heat or physics, the pneumatics, and the physiology of this wide subject to be considered—not so very learnedly mastered indeed, but rather in their first principles—and it must be regretfully admitted that it is in the elements of all these sciences—elements that good schools now and then profess to inculcate—that society is chiefly at fault. We have heard certainly a good deal about the chemistry of the air in the periodical press and in occasional essays, and the points raised have sometimes induced a sort of panic in the public mind, from the pictures that have been called up of the impurities resulting from the air of buildings being vitiated by the breathing of the inmates. It is a right conclusion to determine, that we have to change the air of our habitations and public halls from time to time;—but in the case of dwelling houses, where the breaths are fewer, it is only rational to look at what the stoves are doing for us, whenever the fire burns freely, in effecting changes in the breathing air. The human throat forms the vitiating orifice. It only expels impure air for about one-third of its time—and we must venture to compare its sectional area with that of the stove-pipe, as with a good draft it ejects from the level of the house roof the air, good and bad, that the house has contained,—multiplying, for comparison, the first named agent by the number of persons within. This will make it seem that the stove-pipe is a good ventilator, though not a perfect one. In point of fact the critical times for house ventilating, in chemical sense are neither those of summer’s heat nor winter’s cold, but short periods in the spring and fall when there is not much stove-heat kept, and windows are closed for retaining the warmth. But we may put more reliance than is always done upon the test of sensation, for the amount of atmospherical change needed in a building will be well shewn by coming out of the fresh air into the inhabited room, and trusting to our feelings to tell us “whether it is close.”

That there is commonly a great deal of lung-trouble abroad in our cities is proved from the statistics of disease and mortality, and also from the faces of our fellow-citizens as they move along the streets, and much of this doubtless arises “from the stoves.” This facial expression is really very distinct from that produced by other forms of disorder; and some of us know how to recognize it with moderate accuracy. Those who do not observe can take the fact on trust, that there is a considerable prevalence of lung and bronchial affections in Canadian cities in winter. Our general climate may fairly be

ranked as exceedingly healthy and promotive of longevity, and the first cold of winter properly administered to the frame acts as a valuable tonic after the summer heat; but when winter has begun, we often spoil all by our domestic arrangements, which thus may better deserve the name of neglects. A few of these defects of management may be indicated here; and foremost amongst them comes the neglect of sealing up the interstices of windows, as if leaky windows could possibly be the proper means of introducing fresh air. In insisting upon these window-edges being sealed we shall be neither dictating nor limiting the quantity of fresh-air to be introduced. We have that admirable arrangement, the hinged-pane, in both French and double-hinged windows, which can be used at will; and it can hardly be thought rational by a leaky house to take away the personal control of the ventilation, which is the veritable effect of these open interstices. Now it has long been understood amongst us that the outside air before being brought into contact with the breathing apparatus of the frame and the delicate pores of the skin—during the hours of sleep especially—should be warmed; and to this end, the warm-air chamber in the several shapes it has assumed is a valuable development. For students of Heating and Ventilation, the warm-air chamber and its efficiency in giving forth good breathing air forms the great central point of their enquiries; but though it has been thus tacitly admitted, it is very seldom stated in terms that we cannot breathe a mixed atmosphere of hot and cold to advantage at any time. At nightfall and during sleep it is simply ruinous. The delicacy both of skin and bronchial passages and of the marvellous area of the lung-cells are vastly increased during sleep; and here again, *pace* the Stoics, we have to fall back upon our sensations. It may seem very robust to take no thought of the functions of the physical life, and it may be a philosophy that is a good deal preached, but it has brought hundreds to an untimely grave, and so we fairly insist that to note the sensations is right, within due limits; that is, if accompanied by personal worry or fret, and it is hard to say why the practice should be so accompanied. The doctor, when you are ill, asks you for your symptoms; but the observation of symptoms has been so much discouraged—and sometimes by the faculty themselves—that he must often have to rely more upon his own observations than upon anything his patient has the ability to impart to him. The short of it is that we ought always to know pretty well how we have slept, and whether our mode of sleeping is losing or gaining ground for us in the general constitutional battle we all have to wage with our physical surroundings. Let us see a little how these cold window-drafts will operate upon the frame. I call them “frozen arrows,” for they come shooting through the warmer air or floating in its company, and are imbibed by the suffering lungs, inflicting in delicate subjects a succession of small but acute stabs. Then come the bronchial affections, the irritation of the throat, the chest loaded with coloured phlegm which is violently coughed up on awaking, and the unfortunate patient is suffering from catarrh or bronchitis, loses his time and temper, and often wonders how it all happened. But the law may be deduced for the benefit of him and others, that there must be none of these great contrasts in the temperature of the air we breathe. It should be homogeneous, or warmed through. We cannot take in hot and cold air at the same time without injury more or less serious. This law, as I have said, is almost never stated in terms, but it is acted upon. What else but the knowledge of it has originated our “furnaces,” our “Russian stoves” or hot water and steam-pipe heating,—all calculated, more or less perfectly, to give this breathing air an equal texture? Yes, the thoughtful, the well-to-do, and the intelligent amongst us have, with a sort of latent instinct, perceived what was wanted, but expositors of these discoveries have been scarce indeed, let us account for the phenomena as we may.

Not having space to go much into detail at present, I will just take the opportunity of contending that a large part of our miseries in heating arise out of the attempt to warm two floors with a single stove placed on the ground-floor unprovided with warm-air chamber,—the case being worst of all where the stove is placed in the lobby, and the hall door not properly sealed; for this plan causes a constant rush of air in the upper floor—*i.e.*, of warm air displacing the colder, and the warm air itself dragging up—furnace shaft fashion—cylinders of cold air fresh from the openings that environ the hall door and windows of the ground-floor rooms. From this cause there may be great suffering to the sleepers. There is no quietude in the air that is rushing over the couch, from its mixed state it is unbreathable, in any proper sense, the injury being graduated according to the delicacy of the subject, and some change of method should be sought out. The case is made worse by the general stove being placed in the lobby, because the draft up the stairs and into the upper rooms is greatly increased by that plan, especially when accompanied by cold air from the hall entrance. It will be found better to move the stove into one of the ground-floor rooms, at any rate, and adjustments may be made in the admission into the upper rooms. This is one form of *heating by convection*, and Mr. Leeds of the neighbouring Republic, who has perhaps done more to investigate this question than any other, has given up “heating by convection” as a failure, at least, so the papers have informed us. I can only say, I quite agree with Mr. Leeds in his dictum, in any large sense of the word “convection,” for we want the air to be mode-

rately still and not rushing about. “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests,” and that is the rule of *their* ventilation. We are always at liberty to introduce what air we need, on the intermittent plan, by personal act and supervision, and with proper air-chambers could attain to something even better still, but this is a part of the question that I have no spare time to follow up now, and so will wind up with the remark that the entire heating apparatus of the dwelling is but an extension beyond the surface of our bodily frames of those interior arrangements by which the vital fluids are renewed and life sustained.

Theta.

P.S.—I must put the best part of my article into the postscript, after all. The upper floor should be furnished with a stove of its own, and the nearest approach to a domestic “Florida,” with common heating arrangements, is a couch out of the drafts, in the same room in which a self-feeding stove is placed. The reasons for this, I believe, could very easily be made clear.

Z.

A CANADIAN HIND AND PANTHER.

Suggested by Goldwin Smith's last Essay.

BY C. P. M.

Poor daughter-kin of England's Church,
The State has left thee in the lurch!
Those fair “reserves”—each precious acre
Bequeathed by men who feared their Maker
In the good days so long gone by us,
When politicians could be pious!—
Were voted from us mid the gaiety
Of all the misbelieving laity.
Nay, worse; in days we thus look back to
Ours was the country's Church *de facto*,
Our pews contained the largest moiety
Of all “respectable society,”
Our bishops few, but each, 'tis clear,
Quite undeniably a peer,
A lord—we said “My lord” too truly—
By letters patent made and duly.
Now all is changed. Where have things gone to
Since doughty Jock controlled Toronto.
Within our pews no more we number
The aristocracy of lumber.
The census shews with sad authority
Our fold fast getting to minority.
You doubt it! Through the country search,
Contrast the “meeting house” and “church”;
What signs of life the one is giving,
Scarce reverent, noisy, coarse, but living.
What life in death appears to smother
All hope of progress in the other.
Then see, the Church those sects would rival
Is of past Churches the survival.
The average backwoods mind a mystery
Will find in ritual, forms and history.
That noble being, the “Canada Farmer,”
Cares very little for the charmer;
His sons still less; his girls are aptest
To wed with Methodist or Baptist.
Nay, worse; as Goldwin Smith has shown,
The danger is not ours alone—
The public mind has grown ungracious
To Calvin as to Athanasius;
He thinks the lives of all the Churches,
In these hard times, not worth the purchase.
So be it! Well content to fail,
We only pray, “Let Truth prevail,”
And to the death though Churches strive,
Let Christianity survive!

TRAM-ROADS.

Not many people know the origin of the word “tram.” Some fancy it has something to do with “tramp,” although the meaning is just the reverse. “Tram-roads”—an abbreviation of “Outram-road”—derived the name from a Mr. Benjamin Outram, who, in 1800, made improvements in the system of railways for common vehicles then in use in the north of England. There was once an iron tram-road from Croydon to Wandsworth. I suppose no one is living now who remembers it. It was opened in 1801. Mr. Outram's name has been brought down to our time in the person of his son, the late Sir James Outram the Indian General.

EMERALDS.

The word Emerald was formerly spelt Emerald (as may be seen in Chaucer's "Floure and the Leafe," and in Holland's Plinie, book xxxvii., c. 5), and is derived from the Greek *smaragdos*, which is from *smarassein*, meaning to shine. The forms which this word emerald takes in Latin, Spanish and French are *smaragdus*, *esmeralda* and *esmeraude* respectively. It may be said that the Greek form is derived from the Sanscrit *maraka*, death, as if the emerald was formerly used as a talisman.

The emerald is of the same chemical constitution as the beryl, which is much softer and of infinitely less value. It has been asserted that the ancients were unacquainted with the emerald, and that it was unknown in Europe before the discovery of Peru. This may appear to be the case, when we consider that the Rajahs of India possessed large quantities of them though no mines are to be found there; the facts are, however, that they were known in Europe before the discovery of Peru, as they are to be found in the Iron Crown of Lombardy, presented to the Cathedral of Monza at the end of the sixth century, and which has never been altered since; they are also to be found in other regalia. The ancient source of supply was from mines near Coptos, in Egypt. In the British Museum are some in the quartz matrix brought thence by Sir George Wilkinson. Emeralds were also obtained from the copper mines of Cyprus. While it can hardly be disputed that the Romans were acquainted with the true emerald, it must be borne in mind that they gave the name of *smaragdus* to other stones. One author speaks of an obelisk *forty cubits* high made out of *four* emeralds; whilst another author speaks of a colossus of Serapis as being nine cubits high and made out of only one emerald. These certainly could not have been emeralds, and were probably of glass or other vitreous composition. In later times, a large dish, believed to have been used by our Saviour at the Last Supper, and to consist of a large emerald, was kept in the Cathedral of St. Giovanni at Genoa as a sacred relic; the French, when masters of the city, speedily tested it, and proved it to be glass. Whether its value as a relic was destroyed by this discovery is another question. The antique glass imitations of this gem are superior to the modern pastes, and in fact to a great many of the real gems. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the true emerald is so liable to flaws, so much so, indeed, that the absence of them is sufficient to excite suspicion that the gem is an imitation.

Pliny tells us that emeralds with a flat surface reflect objects like a mirror, which is singularly correct, for if an emerald be held so as to reflect the light, it will appear to be silvered at the back, and when brought to a particular angle with the ray of light, it will appear like a piece of looking glass in the same position. This singular change is not observable in any other gem. The Emperor Nero, who was very short-sighted, used to view the gladiatorial combats through an emerald, "*smaragdo spectabat.*" It must have been hollowed out at the back, thus forming a concave lens, and it is difficult to conceive how it was that spectacles were not invented sooner. The ancient gem-engravers used to keep an emerald at their side to look at, when their eyes were overstrained, so that the virtue was attributed to the material and not to the form of the gem, what a pity that Nero did not happen to use a flat stone after using the concave one—spectacles would certainly have been immediately invented and our ancestors during the non-existence of spectacles, would have looked more closely into matters. The mystic virtues attributed to these gems were as follows:—An emerald hung on the neck or worn on the finger protects from danger of the falling sickness; it is approved in all kinds of divination, in every business if worn it increases its owner's importance, both in presence and in speech.

"Wear it with reverence due, 'twill wealth bestow
And words persuasive from thy lips shall flow
As though the gift of eloquence inspired
The stone itself or living spirit fired
Hung round the neck, it cures the ague's chill
Or falling sickness, dire mysterious ill."

The Hindoos are very fond of this gem, and wear it, in the shape of a pear, as an ear-drop, or pierce it to form bracelets, thereby ruining many a magnificent stone. The value, commercially, of emeralds is so extremely variable that no satisfactory formula can be given, and it is very difficult to tell whether you are getting a genuine stone or not.

Oday.

"OH, BREATHE NOT ITS NAME!"

There was a saying of a great Greek orator, who very much undervalued what we call the better portion of the community, namely, women (cheers and laughter). He made an observation which I may quote, not for the purpose of concurring with it, but for illustrative purposes. Pericles, the great Athenian, said, with regard to women, that their great merit would be "to be never heard of" (laughter). What Pericles said untruly of women I am much disposed to say of foreign affairs (hear and laughter). A very great mercy it would be if they were never heard of (hear, hear, and cheers). Unfortunately instead of that they are being always heard of.—*Mr. Gladstone at Calder.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters should be brief, and written on one side of the paper only. Those intended for insertion should be addressed to the Editor, 162 St. James Street, Montreal; those on matters of business to the Manager, at the same address.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—By a very clever little vignette and article in the last *Grip*, I saw the nurses in charge of the Rag Baby will not allow that their little bantling is dead, and that nurse Wynne slaps one's face very hard who says it is even sick. And by another equally clever vignette and article, I saw that certain "unco' righteous" clericos have put the "Pinafore" into their *Index Expurgatorius* and under their *anathema majus*. I read these items after dinner, and pondering over them I got bewildered in that curious circular syllogism by which the Baby's nurses prove to their own satisfaction that they remove all objections and endow the Baby with untold virtues, by making their irredeemables exchangeable for *Bonds* payable principal and interest in like notes, or to be "sold" (they do not say to whom or at what discount) for gold to pay any foreign creditor; and, being puzzled over the theological and financial problems growing out of Mr. Grip's two articles, I fell into an "after dinner sleep" in which things got considerably muddled. Burns whispered in my ear his version of Solomon:—

"The rigid righteous is ae fule,
The rigid wise anither,"

and Tom Moore sang about the way in which the Regent was responsibly advised to supply the want of gold and silver fishes in a mimic rivulet which was to run down the middle of the table at a right Royal *fête*:—

"Some sprats had been by Yarmouth's wish
Promoted into silver fish,
And *gudgeons*, so Vansittart told
The Regent, were as good as gold."

And then I fancied myself at a representation of the "Pinafore," and Little Buttercup "mixed up" the Rag-Baby with the others, and she and Captain Corcoran sang the famous duet in which she mystifies him, as the R. B.'s nurses would the public, in this wise:

L. B.—"Things are seldom what they seem;
Some soft-headed members deem
Rags as good as sterling gold,
Being so by Wallace told."

CAPT. C.—"Very true,—so they do."

L. B.—"Bursts the bubble, stops the mill,
Rags go nearly down to *nil*;
Call the Baby what you will,
It is but a swindle still!"

CAPT. C.—"Yes, I know,—that is so."

The loud chord at the end of this verse woke me up, and thinking over my dream, I came to the conclusion that Vansittart was perhaps right, and that for certain political, financial and theological purposes—

"Gudgeons *are* as good as gold."

But it occurred also to me, that perhaps our bank-law reformers are for amending in the wrong place, when they make the security of the bank-note their main object. There has been very little, if any, eventual loss on the notes of failing banks. The losses have fallen mainly on the shareholders, and have been occasioned by defaulting and unfaithful or negligent officers or directors; and for these, a higher standard of morality, a sterner sense of duty, and a strong public opinion, are the best, if not the only remedies.

"You yourself have said it,
And it's greatly to your credit,"

that you have done so.

Yours with profound respect,

Anti-Rag.

CHIAR-OSCURO.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Mr. King's letter in your issue of the 27th December exhibits the danger of writers using words of a language with which they are not familiar. Our noble Anglo-Saxon is capable of supplying all that is necessary to the verbal interpretation of Art; and there is no need of striving after the appearance of erudition by quoting latin phrases from a volume of Quotations, or misquoting italian, as are too often done.

Any student of Italian must be aware, that Chiar-oscuro are *two* words; *Chiaro*, light or clear; *oscuro*, shade. When a vowel which terminates a word is similar to the first letter of the succeeding word, the rule, in Italian grammar, is to drop the final vowel of the first word, and unite the two words with a hyphen; thus,—Chiaro, oscuro becomes Chiar-oscuro.

Mr. King's list of quotations simply shows, that others have made the same mistakes, he did himself.

Yours &c

Art Amateur

[We insert the above *verbatim et literatim*, and with this the correspondence on this subject must be closed. "Art Amateur" may be well up in his Italian language, but he is evidently a little at fault in English.—ED.]

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE YEAR.

'Tis desolate out on field and mere
And all about the moorlands drear ;
The wind's weird voices come and go
With a murmured sobbing faint and low,
Like the mourners in a burial-crowd ;
Each wild-wood creature is in its lair,
For the cold is sharp in the freezing air,
And the earth is wrapped in a snowy shroud.

Faintly shimmers the frozen stream,
And the hoar-frost shines with a ghostly gleam,
For the depths of the vast unclouded skies
Are filled with numberless starry eyes ;
Through the beach-trees' leafless branchery
Downward sparkles their solemn light ;
In the shadow and loneliness of night
They are watching to see the old year die.

Into the dim realms of the Past
The grey old year is journeying fast ;
Without—the moonbeam's pallid glow
Quivers above his icy brow ;
Within—the fire burns low and red,
And the hanging holly-boughs and bays
Throw shadows strange in the flickering blaze
On the panelled walls and overhead.

And now from out the crypt-like gloom
And stillness of the quiet room,
Across the red uncertain light,
Dim shades are wavering to my sight
In long procession ; they speak no word ;
There is no sound of echoing feet ;
But cold and low my pulses beat,
By the airy sense of their presence stirred.

They are the ghosts of joys long dead,
Of bright hours vanished and fair scenes fled ;
Of hopes that sprung with the springing year,
Only to fall when the leaf fell sere ;
And sorrowful memories, pale and wan,
With the clinging dust of departed years,
And my eyes are filled with regretful tears,
And my heart cries out for the days that are gone !

SONG FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Old Time has turned another page
Of eternity and truth,
He reads with a warning voice to age,
And whispers a lesson to youth.
A year has fled o'er heart and head
Since last the Yule tree burnt ;
And we have a task to closely ask,
What the bosom and brain have learnt ?
Oh ! let us hope that our sands have run
With wisdom's precious grains ;
Oh ! may we find that our hands have done
Some work of glorious pains.
Then a welcome and cheer to the merry New Year,
While the holly gleams above us ;
With a pardon for the foes who hate,
And a prayer for those who love us.

We may have seen some loved ones pass
To the land of hallowed rest ;
We may miss the glow of an honest brow
And the warmth of a friendly breast ;
But if we nursed them while on earth,
With hearts all true and kind,
Will their spirits blame the sinless mirth
Of those true hearts left behind ?
No, no ! it were not well or wise
To mourn with endless pain ;
There's a better world beyond the skies,
Where the good shall meet again.
Then a welcome and cheer to the merry New Year,
While the holly gleams above us ;
With a pardon for the foes who hate,
And a prayer for those who love us.

Have our days rolled on serenely free
From sorrow's dim alloy ?
Do we still possess the gifts that bless
And fill our souls with joy ?
Are the creatures dear still clinging near ?
Do we hear loved voices come ?
Do we gaze on eyes whose glances shed
A halo round our home ?
Oh ! if we do, let thanks be poured
To Him who hath spared and given,
And forget not o'er the festive board
The mercies held from Heaven.
Then a welcome and cheer to the merry New Year,
While the holly gleams above us,
With a pardon for the foes who hate,
And a prayer for those who love us.

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1879.			1878.		Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
Grand Trunk.....	Week Dec. 27	\$ 43,261	\$ 126,080	\$ 169,341	\$ 124,212	\$ 45,129	\$	26 w'ks	\$ 416,686	\$
Great Western.....	" 19	30,023	72,350	102,373	79,891	22,482	.....	25 "	232,806	.....
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 22	5,667	10,620	16,287	16,144	143	.....	25 "	82,065	.....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 20	1,230	2,045	3,275	3,755	.....	480	24 "	3,741	.....
Midland.....	" 14	1,415	1,910	3,325	2,783	542	.....	24 "	22,861	.....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 20	1,372	1,245	2,617	2,612	5	.....	fm Jan. 1	16,294	.....
Whitby, Port Perry & Lindsay.....	" 20	523	868	1,391	1,071	320	.....	"	183	.....
Canada Central.....	" 21	1,725	2,550	4,275	4,393	.....	118	25 w'ks	20,051	.....
Toronto Grey & Bruce	" 20	2,396	4,257	6,653	7,765	.....	1,112	24 "	17,940	.....
Q. M. O. & O.....	" 23	2,817	2,295	5,112	5,376	.....	263	23 "	*136,700	.....
Intercolonial.....	Month Nov. 29	46,571	74,052	120,623	121,413	.....	790	5 m'nths	.....	53,964

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

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per share Dec. 31, 1879.	Price per share Dec. 24, 1878.	Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$137 1/2	\$138	10	7 1/2
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	69 1/2	68	6	8 1/2
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	77	81	6	7 1/2
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	121 1/4	118	7	5 1/2
Jacques Cartier.....	25	5,000,000	5,000,000	55,000	58	32	5 1/2	9 1/2
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,506,166	475,000	86 1/4	79	6	7
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,381,989	300,000	99	95	7	7
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	115 1/4	100 3/4	8	.....
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	92	110 3/4	7	7 1/2
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	.....	40 3/4	43	4 1/2	11
City Passenger Railway.....	50	.....	600,000	163,000	80	80	5	6 1/4
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	.....	112	108	10	9

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

Summary of exports for week ending December 24th, 1879 :—

From—	Flour, brls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	97,167	661,263	854,821	2,762	45,532	886
Boston.....	22,373	57,396	177,639	.....	.....	18,315
Portland.....	1,280	110,670	.....	10,000	48,407	.....
Montreal.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Philadelphia.....	3,560	262,232	136,261	.....	.....	.....
Baltimore.....	11,075	191,213	347,224	150	.....	.....
Total per week.....	135,455	1,282,774	1,515,945	12,912	93,939	19,201
Corresponding week of '78.....	111,894	2,316,442	1,145,557	10,623	47,915	43,947
From Portland to Antwerp, 17,198 bushels Barley.						

From—	Pork, brls.	Bacon & hams, lbs.	Lard, lbs.
New York.....	5,509	9,929,166	5,918,207
Boston.....	285	2,280,928	310,298
Portland.....	.....	464,800	.....
Montreal.....	.....	.....	.....
Philadelphia.....	27	3,244,100	10,350
Baltimore.....	48	315,615	422,345
New Orleans.....	.....	1,000	660
Total.....	5,864	16,185,609	6,661,850
Previous week.....	9,286	13,674,803	7,802,238
Two weeks ago.....	8,163	16,148,149	9,407,380
Corresponding week of '78.....	9,623	20,005,561	8,005,259

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

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
December 22.....	11,590	289	1,250	29,845	33,874
December 15.....	10,301	329	1,590	28,890	32,273
December 8.....	9,146	306	1,250	28,744	44,028
December 1.....	11,927	314	1,927	31,787	53,728
Total 4 weeks.....	42,964	1,238	6,017	119,266	163,993
Corresponding 4 weeks 1878.....	39,858	592	5,351	107,268	218,314
Corresponding week 1878.....	9,885	93	1,240	25,196	46,272
Weekly average, 1878.....	10,469	70	2,508	25,798	34,500
Corresponding week 1877.....	8,728	58	1,428	17,122	29,977

LIVE HOGS.—The receipts for the week were 33,874 against 32,273 the previous week, and 49,271 the corresponding week in 1878.

DRESSED HOGS.—Market opened on the 19th instant, dull and weak. Quoted : City, Heavy to Light, 5 3/4 c to 6 c ; Market Pigs, 6 1/2 c. 20th—1/4 c higher, active. 22nd—Firm, active. 23rd—Firm, active. Closing on 24th instant, heavy, firm and active.

BARLEY.—The visible supply December 20th, 1879, was 4,668,584 bushels, against 4,530,815 bushels December 13th, 1879 ; 5,630,192 bushels December 21st, 1878, and 4,556,669 bushels December 22nd, 1877.

RYE.—The visible supply December 20th, 1879, was 1,127,834 bush., against 1,161,970 bushels December 13th, 1879 ; 1,665,184 bushels December 21st, 1878, and 660,389 bush. December 22nd, 1877.

WHEAT.—The visible supply December 20th, 1879, was 27,857,589 bushels, against 28,688,559 bushels December 13th, 1879 ; 18,917,270 bushels December 21st 1878, and 10,540,417 bushels December 22nd, 1877.

Chess.

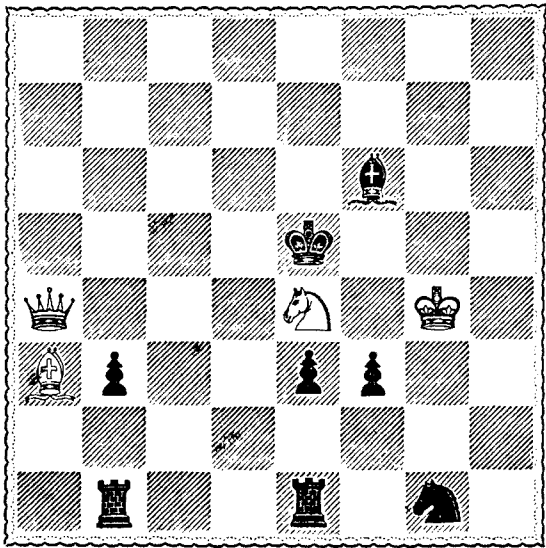
All Correspondence intended for this Column, and Exchanges, should be directed to the CHIEF EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, Jan. 3rd, 1880.

PROBLEM NO. LIII.

A New Year's Nut. A Prize Problem by Herr Conrad Bayer.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. L.—By Mr. W. H. Perry.

White. Black. White. Black. White.
 1 Q to K Kt 4 B to K 4 2 Q to Q Kt 4 Any 3 Q Mates.

Correct solution received from J.W.S., G.P.B., T.M.J.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

1879.

AT A TIME when Chess was dull, and in the face of two other Chess Columns, long established in Montreal, it seemed a bold attempt to introduce a third and bid for a share of public patronage and support. But the flattering notices we have received from our brother editors, both at home and abroad, and the warm encouragement of chess players in Canada are most gratifying proofs, not only that our endeavours have not been misdirected, but that there is a large amount of interest in Chess in Canada, which the existing chess columns had been insufficient to satisfy. At the close of our first year we therefore congratulate ourselves on the position which the Chess Column of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR has attained, and, as, in our introductory article, we solicited the support of contemporary chess editors, and the public generally, beg to express our thanks for the many favourable notices and contributions which we have received from all quarters of the Chess World. Our Exchange List is a large one, for while we owe our first duty to Canadian Chess, the value of a Chess Column is, to our thinking, much augmented by the associations and interest it may awaken among chess players in any country, for there is undoubtedly a fraternity among chess players which renders the doings of their brotherhood, no matter where, a source of the greatest pleasure. The Toronto Globe, the Canadian Chess Column par excellence, the good, but prosaic Canadian Illustrated, the vive Opinion Publique, and the bristling and enterprising Brantford Courier form a goodly array of Canadian confreres. With England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Australia, and all parts of the United States, we are in regular, or frequent communication, and from the chess literature of these countries we are enabled to cull information for the benefit of our readers. The "boss" column in the United States, Turf, Field and Farm, the excellent Cincinnati Commercial, and such ably conducted papers as the Hartford Times, Holyoke Transcript, New York Era, and that prince of Problem Columns, The Detroit Free Press, along with many others of less note, reach us regularly. The solid and invaluable Chess Players' Chronicle, the careful, accurate, and ever-entertaining Huddersfield College Magazine, the new and ambitious Chess Monthly, with such weeklies as The Field, the Croydon Guardian, Brighton Herald, and Derbyshire Advertiser form the pick of English Chess Literature, while the Glasgow Herald and Ayr Argus are the representative columns in the "Land o' Cakes," and Our School Times (Londonderry) the sole chess column* in the realm of Cahir mór, erst King and Chess player. The admirable and elegant Nuova Rivista degli Scacchi in sunny Italy, the brilliant Nordisk Skaktidende in Scandinavia, with the veteran Schachzeitung and the superb Strategie form as rich a catalogue of European Chess Magazines as any Chess Editor can require. The Adelaide Observer, so ably conducted by Mr. Charlick at the Antipodes, has also its own proper place on our table. In all these can we point to some friendly notice of our column, and from them, too, are we enabled to obtain much entertaining information to lay before our readers. To one and all we tender our best thanks and wish them prosperity. To the Montreal Chess Club generally, and Mr. J. W. Shaw in particular, and to the many friends throughout Canada and the United States and elsewhere to whom we owe debts of gratitude for their kindness and communications, we tender our warmest thanks and the hearty congratulations of the season.

1880.

ENCOURAGED by our success, we take pleasure in saying that two extra diagrams will shortly be added, and these will be used to illustrate End Games, of which we intend to give a series, or for the purpose mentioned below. Chess Intelligence will receive increased attention, though our space is generally very limited for this portion of our article. We also now present the programme of our first Problem Tourney.

*The Irish Weekly Times has, we believe, a Chess Column.

CANADIAN SPECTATOR PROBLEM TOURNEY.

The Conditions of this competitive Problem Tourney are:—

1. The competition shall be open to all problem composers.
2. Competitors must send to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR, 162 St. James Street, Montreal, on or before April 1st—or if from Europe, May 1st—1880, a sealed envelope containing: (Firstly), One set of Problems, namely, one in two moves and one in three moves, designated by the same motto; (secondly), A sealed envelope, endorsed with the same motto and containing the composer's name and address.
3. Problems must be original, direct mates and unfettered by special conditions. They must also be accompanied by full solutions in the English Notation, not the Anglo-German.
4. All the competing problems will be published in the CANADIAN SPECTATOR, after a preliminary examination, and, immediately on the publication of the last set, they will be forwarded to a competent judge to make the award, and his decision shall be final. The gentleman on whom this may devolve has not yet been chosen, but competitors may have every confidence in the integrity and ability of the one selected.
5. Four Prizes will be given:—1st Prize, \$6, for the best set; 2nd Prize, \$4, for the second best set. Also, a Prize, value \$3, for the best 3-mover, and a Copy of Mr. Delannoy's forthcoming Book for the best 2-mover. The last two prizes are presented by two members of the Montreal Chess Club.

THE MONTREAL CHESS CLUB.—Notice.—The Montreal Chess Club will hold its Quarterly Meeting in the Gymnasium, Mansfield street, this evening, January 3rd, at 8 o'clock. Business of considerable importance will be brought before the meeting, and a large attendance is desired. We hope arrangements will be made for matches during the winter with one or two other clubs. Friendly tilts have taken place before this with the Quebec Club, and, no doubt, Toronto, after its late decisive victory over the Seaforth Club, will be anxious to stretch her wings.

Musical.

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

In view of the "Standard Opera" performance and the notices in the daily papers, it may not be amiss to reproduce the following, from the current number of the Musical and Dramatic Times:

There are signs of the public in Europe once more asserting its rights to be heard as to the merits of a piece for which it is asked money. "Anne de Kerviller" provoked a disturbance at the Comedie Francaise, and "Eine Ehe von Heute" has given rise to a row at Berlin. At the latter town, the Royal Commissioner of Theatres issued a manifesto protesting against the behaviour of the audience, and insisted on the play being given a second night. The public unanimously refrained from going. When shall we see the American public as independent as that of Paris or Berlin? Plays like "Estelle," things like "Hearts of Steel," are repeated night after night to the disgust of successive audiences, simply because those present at the first representation were too cynical to express their sentiments. From a cynical feeling "what better could we expect?" and an equally cynical pleasure in seeing others taken in as we have been, are really the cause of this abstinence from expressions of disapprobation. A good damning by the public would do more than anything else to bring managers, authors, and actors to their bearings, and to justify all that professional critics write. We should hear no more of this writer on the press being bribed by Mr. Jones, and that one beguiled by the bright eyes of Miss Smith, or of a third standing in with the manager. The public cannot be bribed or fascinated. Moreover the public is really the only supreme judge of the matter. The public makes the reputation of the actor or of the play. Critics may write their hearts out, and show why this plot is good, and this character striking, and this dialogue bright and telling, but if the play does not please the public the critic labours but in vain. He is wrong, must be wrong if he holds as good what the public does not care for.

Why is the newspaper critic the only member of the audience who is expected to express his opinions? The rest pay their money and cannot take their choice, they must take what the manager offers. Why, if they do not get their money's worth, do they not say so? Instead of each victim whispering to a friend, "Bad play, old fellow, don't go," they ought to tell the manager plainly that the thing is a fraud and that he must not go on collecting his fees for a thing not worth seeing. The trade of printing posters would suffer, but except this limited class of tradespeople we cannot see how any deserving people would suffer by a good first night's damnation.

Princess Toto has not proved a success. It is to be taken off the boards as soon as the manager can arrange for the production of something else. Miss Leonora Braham (Mrs. Barnes) is criticised rather severely by some of the local papers and has not made nearly such a hit as was anticipated.

The Magic Flute was produced by Mr. Mapleson's company at the close of the operatic season and proved a great success. In addition to Mesdames Marimon and Valleria, Mdlle Isidora Martinez was engaged (taking the role of Papagena) and had quite a brilliant reception.

Dr. Maclagan is writing an operetta, and promises to produce it during the present season.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a description of the great nave organ of Trinity Church, New York, U. S. A., which will, we think, be read with much interest by English organists. The instrument was built in 1840 by Erben, of New York. It is a curiosity of the past, without a composition pedal, with its touch of 5½ lbs, only thirty-six stops for the manuals, and only one for the pedals. All the stops of the great organ are complete throughout the 5½ octave compass of the manuals, which extend down to CCC. On account of this extension, all stops usually 8, 4, and 2 feet are in this organ respectively 16, 8, and 4, feet. The Great is coupled by unison and octave couplers to the Swell, which has 6½ octaves. The 32 on the pedals is of a large bold scale and it can be made to play its own octave above. Each pedal, by the aid of couplers, commands nine notes on the key boards, viz., two on the Great; three on the Swells, two on the choir, and two on the solo. The stops are as follows:—Great Organ: open (2), 16 feet; stopped diapason, 16 feet; principal (2), 8 feet; flute, 8 feet; twelfth, 3 feet; fifteenth, 4 feet; sesquialtera; mixture; trumpet, 16 feet; clarion, 8 feet. Swell: open and stopped diapason, dulciana, principal, hautboy, trumpet, vox humana, double cornet. Choir: stopped diapason, dulciana, principal, flute, bassoon and clarinet. Solo: melodia, gamba, horn, harmonic, flute, double clarion and corneopon. Swell Bass: dulciana, 16 feet; serpent, 16 feet. Pedal: open, 32 and 16 feet. Couplers: Great and swell unison; Great and swell octave; Great and choir; Great and solo; choir and swell unison; choir and swell octave; pedal and Great, 8 feet; pedal and Great, 16 feet; pedal and swell; pedal and choir, and pedal and solo. Four manuals and three sets of bellows.



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TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster-General of Canada will be received at Ottawa until Noon on **TUESDAY, the THIRD FEBRUARY** next, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails three times a month by steamships of not less than 1,000 tons, nor of less speed than 10 knots an hour, between Victoria, British Columbia, and San Francisco, for a term of five years, commencing on and from the 1st August next.

Tenders to state the price asked for the double voyage from Victoria to San Francisco and back, or *vice versa*, and payment will be made at Victoria quarterly. Stipulations of proposed contracts may be had at the Post Offices of Victoria, British Columbia, and Montreal, and at the offices of Messrs. Allan Brothers, Liverpool, and the Agent-General for Canada, 31 Queen Victoria Street, City of London.

WILLIAM WHITE,
Secretary.

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



Lachine & Cornwall Canals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Timber for Lock Gates," will be received at this Office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western Mails on **MONDAY, THE 29TH DAY OF DECEMBER** instant, for the furnishing and delivering, on or before the 1st DAY OF JUNE, 1880, of Pine Timber, sawn to the dimensions required, for the construction of Gates for the Upper New Locks on the Cornwall Canal.

The timber must be of the quality described, and of the dimensions stated on a printed bill, which will be supplied on application, personally or by letter, at this Office, where Forms of Tender can also be obtained.

No payment will be made on the timber until it has been delivered at the place required on the respective Canals, nor until it has been examined and approved of by an officer detailed for that service.

To each Tender must be attached the names of two responsible and solvent persons, residents of the Dominion, willing to become sureties for the carrying out of the conditions stated in the Contract.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By order,
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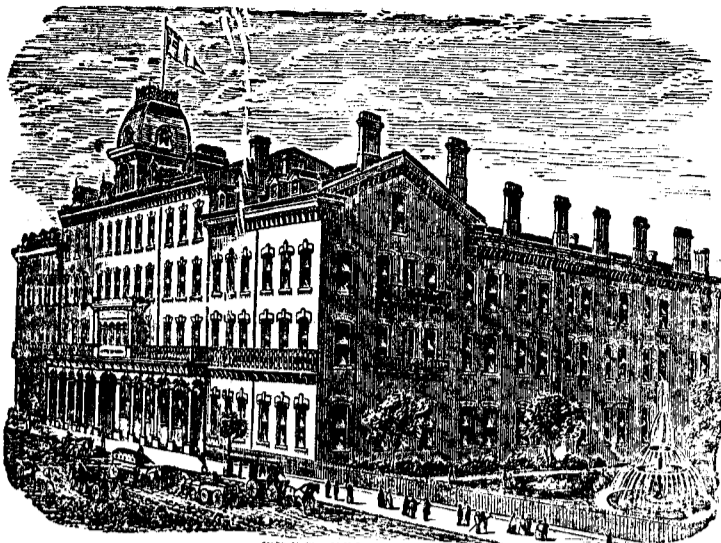
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