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THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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THE CRITIC,

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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Horse flesh is at a premium in Britain, and the cavalry corps are being supplied with Canadian horses at the rate of £40 per animal. Our horse owners should look alive. Two hundred dollars is a good figure to realize.

All surmises as to the nationality of Stanley, the African explorer, have been set at rest by the announcement of the death of his mother at her native place in Wales. Stanley is a Welchman, and Taffy will now point him with pride.

At length the British authorities have arrived at the conclusion that it is advantageous for officers in the army to be able to converse in foreign languages. A prize of £100 has been offered to the officer passing the best examination in the Russian and Arabic languages.

Sir Charles Beresford and other authorities on military subjects strongly advocate marches before sunrise, pointing to Lukerman and Tel-el-Kebir as instances of their results. Whatever may be said in favor of night marches, night attacks may be condemned as impracticable.

The known coal fields in the Island of Cape Breton occupy an area of 1,000 square miles, and it is estimated by Mr. E. Gilpin that at least 2,000,000 tons are available in the subaqueous coal fields. With such a full supply can any one question the future of the Island.

Among the toiling masses in the United States there are 13,000,000 men, women, and children, classed as wage earners. To many of these idleness in business means loss of occupation and inability to earn an honest livelihood. Nova Scotians will do well to consider these facts before leaving their native Province.

In this free country every man considers himself entitled to have Esq. flourish follow his written name, although at one time the same was considered a mark of dignity only to be placed after the superscription of distinguished few. Trench says the tendency of words is to deteriorate. For instance, the word villain once meant simply a farmer, and alderman was a nobleman, and was applied by the Anglo-Saxons to dukes, earls, bishops, etc. Nowadays a farmer is not a villain (not necessarily) and men are not usually classed with the nobility.

On the 10th of this month the first steamer between Japan and the Western terminus of the C. P. R. will sail. Is Nova Scotia going to shake hands with the “land of the Mikado,” or will she stand sullenly by while she observes her neighbors and sisters interchanging courtesies with the Britain of the East?

The Island of Cape Breton has thoroughly awakened to the necessity of sending representatives to the Provincial Parliament pledged to look after the interests of that important section of the Province. With proper railway facilities Cape Breton's glorious destiny will be realized by the present generation.

The sledges of the repealers are dealing desperate blows in the present political contest, but the patriots are at it hammer and tongs, and are evidently determined to make the men who inaugurated the repeal movement aid in forging a more complete and perfect union than has hitherto existed.

Branches of the Federation League are now being established in all the principal cities throughout the British Empire. We should like to see a branch of this organization formed in Halifax. It would do much to dispel erroneous ideas respecting the objects of the League, and would be useful in disseminating information such as our citizens would like to have. Who will give us a helping hand and start the ball rolling?

The music at the Colonial exhibition is to be furnished by the band of the First West India Regiment. This will afford Londoners an opportunity of seeing the tall, athletic soldiers, so well-known in Jamaica and other British West India Islands. By careful training the natural taste of the musicians forming this band has been developed, and the band is now reckoned one of the best in the service.

The Navajoes in Northern Arizona threaten to go on the warpath if the government does not prevent settlers from squatting upon their reserve. The Navajoes are a peaceful tribe, devoted to agriculture, but they do not propose to be turned out of house and home without a protest. The squatters have been warned that unless they move off by the 1st of July, five thousand Navajo warriors will expedite their departure.

Senator Fair, of the United States Congress, proposes a novel method of disposing of the troublesome Apaches. He suggests that they be sent to Santa Catalina, where they will have an opportunity of growing up with the country without interfering with their neighbors. A twenty-five mile water stretch between the Island and the mainland will, he thinks, dampen the ardor of the young warriors longing for scalps.

DeLesseps predicts the opening of the Panama Canal in 1889, when he proposes to charter a steamer, and, accompanied by his wife and family, cross the Atlantic from France, pass through the new canal, cross the Pacific and Indian oceans, and thence proceed homewards via the Red Sea, Suez Canal, and the Mediterranean. The veteran engineer must feel his hold upon life is firm, but such a prophetic announcement has about it a certain element of uncertainty as to its fulfilment.

Most of our Nova Scotian boys who are accustomed to the salt water know what a good diver means. A little known record was broken lately in England, when Finney, the celebrated professional swimmer, remained under water 4 minutes and 29½ seconds. Only those who have endeavored to keep immersed for a single minute can form any idea of the wonderful nature of the feat the Oldham swimmer performed.

Moukhtar Pasha and Sir H. D. Wolff had a falling out over the Egyptian question. Wolff was endeavoring to induce the Porte to lend its aid in suppressing the rebellion in Upper Egypt. Moukhtar saw no objection to this, provided the administration of the Egyptian government was left in the hands of the Sultan, but John Bull's representative was unwilling to allow the Egyptian finances to fall into the hands of spendthrift Turks, so the negotiations have come to an end. It would never do to make a cat's paw of Turkey, and allow the cat to gobble up the chestnuts.

A miniature newspaper directory, consisting of sixteen tiny pages, has been issued by George P. Rowell & Co., of New York, to illustrate the scope of the enterprise in 1776. It contains the names of the 37 newspapers published in North America in 1776. The Advertising Bureau of George P. Rowell now issue annually a large volume of 1800 pages, in which full information is given with respect to the 14,839 newspapers now published in the United States and Canada. At this rate of progression some of our mathematical readers can estimate the number of newspapers that will be published in the same countries in the year 2000.

THE EXODUS AND BLUE RUIN.

THE EXODUS.

The natural resources of Nova Scotia are unrivaled by any country of like size upon the globe, and yet our young men leave the Province by scores and hundreds, in order, as they say, "to better themselves." With regard to this exodus, we should like to address ourselves to two classes in the community, firstly to the intending exodians, and secondly, to those who believe that blue ruin is staring us in the face. To the young men we would say, "think twice before you leave your native land." The attractions of American cities, and the novelty of Western life may lure you from your native town or village, but in nine cases out of ten, material prosperity and earthly happiness are more easily to be secured in old-fashioned Nova Scotia, than in the neighboring republic. Before deciding to leave your home, look well at the opportunities which surround you on every side; and when you are making your trial of an occupation, go at it with the same pluck and determination as characterize Nova Scotians abroad.

Nova Scotians at home are too lackadaisical; they possess vim and enterprise, but seldom apply the same to their daily avocations. To those having a taste for agricultural pursuits, the Province presents admirable opportunities. The fruit and dairy industries can, and should be increased to an almost unlimited extent. Sheep and cattle-raising, and the keeping of poultry, open promising fields to industrious young men. Our mines and fisheries are capable of great development, and should give employment to thousands of Nova Scotians who now seek work abroad. Let our young men weigh their chances of success at home before pulling up stakes and pitching their tent in a land where competition with the economical German and the frugal Swede, is fast reducing the wage to a mere subsistence.

BLUE RUIN.

We believe that our young men make a mistake in leaving Nova Scotia, but we are aware that in all newly settled Provinces or States, the young men have an inherent desire to leave their native land, and carve out for themselves fortunes in an unknown country. They hear much of the success of those who have preceded them, but seldom, if ever, do they hear of those who fail in making more than a bare living. Nevertheless, the inherent desire exists, and the young men of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, like the young men of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, are impelled to take the advice of Horace Greely, and "go West."

Is there a cure for this evil? There certainly is; but our politicians are not Statesmen; they fritter away their time over petty questions, instead of bending their energies towards the building up of the country. Why have we not in this Province a properly organized "Bureau of Emigration?" Hundreds of thousands of emigrants annually leave the old world for Canada, the United States, and Australia. What efforts have our Provincial authorities made to turn the attention of intending emigrants to the advantages of Nova Scotia as a field for emigration? Are there not hundreds of agricultural laborers in the midland counties of England working at starvation pay, who would readily find employment in the agricultural districts of this Province?

Are there not hundreds of tenant farmers in Britain, who, if they but knew they could purchase partly improved farms for a few thousand dollars, would gladly remove with their families to Nova Scotia? And yet to the great bulk of these two most desirable classes of emigrants, the Maritime Provinces are unknown, and this because we have taken no pains to advertise our country. We want population; but if we sit with our hands in our pockets, and do nothing to encourage immigration, we will continue to want to the end of the chapter.

We hope that in the pending elections the candidates will be called upon to speak their mind upon the great questions bearing upon the prosperity of the country in general, and the best means of promoting it, leaving the discussion of more trivial matters for to-morrow.

TO PATRIOTIC NOVA SCOTIANS.

We are in the midst of a political battle, the din of which is re-echoed far beyond the confines of Nova Scotia. Our fellow countrymen in the Provinces throughout the Dominion have turned their eyes upon us, and are eagerly watching to see whether old Nova Scotia, the home of the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists, is determined to cut the ties which unite her to her sister Provinces, or whether her loyal electors will rise in their might and stamp out once and forever the flame of discord, disunion, and disloyalty, which has needlessly and wantonly been fanned in her midst. We believe that if our people study the question at issue as it should be studied, their answer will be at once forcible and decisive. Hard times we have certainly undergone, but so have the people of the Upper Provinces, the citizens of the United States, and our fellow subjects in Britain. If these hard times are in any way attributable to the policy of the Dominion Government, Nova Scotia will, within a twelvemonth, have an opportunity of altering or reversing this policy. If the financial position of a government which received nearly \$100,000 more than its predecessor is found to be embarrassing, and this embarrassment arises from the unfairness of the financial terms of Confederation, then we should exhaust every means in securing our rights before resorting to an ill-timed agitation which, if successful, would be disastrous to the commercial, manufacturing and mining interests of Nova Scotia, destroy the home markets which our farmers and fishermen know how to appreciate, and set the Province back at least a quarter of a century. Business may at present be dull and profits cut fine, but if any sane man believes that this Province is going to the dogs, he had better go into the homes of its people, note the comforts, not

to say luxuries, to be seen on every hand; observe the style of living, the dress and the habits of all classes, and then comparing these with those of twenty years ago, be convinced that we are to-day, despite hard times, enjoying a degree of prosperity which would have surprised the wearers of blue homespun two decades since. When a Province containing less than half a million of people annually manufactures goods to the value of \$5,000,000 more than were manufactured ten years ago, and disperses among its wage-earners a million dollars more than was distributed in 1877, it is plain to be seen that the men advocating the backward step of repeal are sophists, dealers in quibbles and fallacies. We do not propose to uphold or condemn either the Liberal or Liberal-Conservative party, but we cannot allow our country to suffer at the hands of men whose real motives in creating this agitation are personal and political, not patriotic, and we therefore trust that at the coming elections Nova Scotians will stand to their arms and refuse to follow the lead of politicians who seek to obtain the suffrages of the people by such mean and deceptive methods.

THE FISHERIES.

Not satisfied with having prevented the appointment of a joint commission to settle the "Fisheries Question," the American fishermen have petitioned Congress not to remove the duty upon fish. Their plea is, that they are so taxed under the protective system of the United States that the measure of protection, one cent a pound on cured mackerel, half a cent a pound on cured herring and cod, and twenty five per cent on cured salmon, which they now enjoy, is not sufficient to recoup them. They plead that they are taxed thirty five per cent on canvas, two cents a pound on cables, three cents a pound on wire rope, that the cost of a vessel's hull is increased by ten dollars a ton, owing to the duties, and not less than twelve hundred dollars are added to the cost of an outfit for a voyage.

The New England fisherman will certainly require to be protected if he is obliged to compete with our fishermen under existing circumstances. We can build and man our bankers at less cost than can the Americans, but we hold the key of the position in being able to obtain a bountiful supply of bait, while our cousins are by their own action cut off from this privilege. If Uncle Sam wishes to have this question settled amicably, he must look at it on both sides. To allow the free use of our fisheries, and to have the American government discriminate between fish caught in American and Canadian bottoms, is decidedly one-sided fair play.

HARD TIMES.

When the Home Rule party adopted the motto "England's calamity is Ireland's opportunity," they simply applied to their own case a principle which seems to actuate every political party in opposition. If a country suffers from military reverses or from trade depression, those who are not of the powers that be are ever ready to make political capital of the public distress. Free Trade in England, and Protection in this country are assailed at the same time and on the same alleged grounds, by different political parties. It is clear that both are not right in their contentions, furthermore it is certain that, in ascribing commercial depression to any single cause, both are wrong. Indeed, so various, and so difficult to remedy are the influences which adversely affect the general prosperity, that one can see a glimmer of political wisdom in Dr. Johnson's couplet, interpolated in Goldsmith's "Traveller":—

How small, of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure!

For assuredly many of the social evils of to-day have been recurring all through the centuries, and have worked their own remedy more effectually than legislation could have done; and the periodical returns of "hard times" are oftener the result of general shortsightedness than of defective commercial laws. Over-production, rendered possible by the general use of labor-saving machinery unattended by any shortening of the hours of labor, is largely to blame for the present distress among artisans. Special causes are also in operation in particular countries. In England, for instance, the turning of agricultural lands into game preserves and sheep-walks, has led to an undue centralization of the population in towns. The English farmer, moreover, is unable to hold his own against the competition of America and India in wheat raising, and he has not yet adapted his methods to his altered circumstances. Again, British capital is often rashly invested. In electric lighting alone, for example, about forty million dollars have been invested unremuneratively.

It is well known that in the American Republic, commercial distress has been the normal state of affairs during the last few years. Now, when we consider this general distress, in the United States and in Europe, we must be blinded by prejudice or pessimism if we do not actually congratulate ourselves on the comparative absence of such a condition of things in Canada. Whatever measure of praise or blame is due to a government for general prosperity or adversity, let it be paid; but when the wave of hard times sweeps over all the civilized world no government can be held responsible.

We note that in many counties the repeal agitation has been dropped, and that the government candidates are relying for support upon the record of the Fielding administration. Electors must remember that the outgoing government is alone responsible for having brought forward the disunion policy, and upon that policy they desire an expression of opinion. Nova Scotian patriots will on the 15th inst. have an opportunity of giving practical expression to their views.

TIT-BITS.

A druggist in Philadelphia, who supplied medicine for the Poor House, has been detected in putting up colored water and bread pills for the paupers. Along with this is the strange fact that the patients improved under his treatment.

There is a little poet in New Orleans. She is ten years old, and when, recently, a pigeon's egg was shown to her, in which was a little squab that had just failed of being hatched, she composed these lines:—

Here lies birdie, for whom we mourn;
Birdie that died before she was born;
Oh, what a horrible thing is death,
When it comes before you get your breath.

There is a good story which the Rev. Dr. Rush, Secretary of the Freed men's Aid Society, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, tells to the annual conferences, before which he presents the claims of his Society. A young negro had been converted and at once wanted to preach. His elders thought he was not fitted for the important work; but he well nigh staggered them by relating a vision, in which he had plainly seen the letters "G. P. C."—which could mean only "Go Preach Christ." A white-haired negro preacher slowly arose and told the ambitious young brother that, while he had no doubt seen the letters in a vision, he had failed in the interpretation. They probably meant "Go pick cotton," or "Go plough corn." This settled the matter. A preacher in the New York Conference, when the story was told a few days ago, remarked to a friend sitting near: "I wish we had men in our white conferences sharp enough to explain away as satisfactorily the arrangements by which our young incompetents try to convince the committee that they have been called to preach the Gospel."

"Don't you consider it rather remarkable that the Rev. Mr. Snaggs preaches now with as much frequency as he did forty years ago? "Oh! I don't know. I don't think a man's frequency is as apt to wear out as soon as some other parts of his organism."

The late John B. Gough, the temperance lecturer, used to tell this story on himself:—

"While lecturing in England I had the misfortune to be introduced on one occasion by a gentleman who dropped his h's from their proper place and put them on where they had no business to be, and who, when he came to make his speech of introduction, suddenly remembered the Scriptural story of Sampson having slain a thousand with the jawbone of an ass, and of being refreshed, when subsequently thirsty, by a stream of water from the dry bone. He introduced me in the following terms: "I take pleasure in introducing you to the orator of the evening. Es' come from the other side of the water, and is going to speak to us on temperance—a very dry subject. But I am sure when you have heard him you will be reminded of the miracle of Sampson being refreshed by a stream of water from the jawbone of an ass."

Minister (dining with the family): "My young friend, you must come one of these days and spend an afternoon with my little boy." Little Johnny (delighted): "And can I see the skeleton, too?" Minister: "Skeleton! Why, what do you mean?" Little Johnny (paralyzing the whole company): "Oh, I heard ma say to pa that she didn't know what she'd do if she had such an ugly skeleton in her closet as you have."

A debtor who was sued by his creditor acknowledged that he had borrowed the money, but declared that the plaintiff knew at the time that it was a Kathleen Mavourneen loan. "A Kathleen Mavourneen loan?" replied the Court, with a puzzled look. "That's it, Judge—one of the 'it may be for years, and it may be forever' sort."

Why is it that the "girls of the period" are good housekeepers? Because they make a big bustle about a little waist.

A bank cashier seldom goes off until he is loaded, and then he makes no report.

"And now my dear brethren, what shall I say more?" thundered the long-winded minister. "Amen!" came in sepulchral tones from the absent-minded deacon in the back of the church.

An exchange says—"Monopolies are reaching out further with alarming rapidity." The same may be said of bustles.—*Life*.

An unconscionable punster says that the wife of the Japanese Minister took the cake when she got married. That is, she took the Kuki.

Every man, at some period of his life, is an egregious fool; but by a wise dispensation of Providence no man knows exactly when that time is.

Diffident lover—I know that I am a perfect bear in my manners. She—Sheep, you mean; bears hug people—you do nothing but bleat.

"I don't think my religion will be any obstacle to our union," he urged, "I am a Spiritualist." "I am afraid it will," she replied. "Papa is a Prohibitionist, you know."

"You want to aim very low when you are hunting bison," said the old hunter. "How low?" asked the tenderfoot. "Buffalo," replied the old hunter, without a struggle.

"Say Johnnie, where are you in Sunday school?" Second small boy—"Oh, we're in the middle of Original Six." First do—"That ain't much; we're past Redemption."

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

Mr. Gladstone has modified his Home Rule measure for Ireland, so as to admit of Irish members sitting in the British House of Commons. With further modifications the principle of the bill will be endorsed by a majority of the members of Parliament, and then Parliament will be adjourned.

Europe is on the *qui vive*. The Czar of Russia has under arms a very large force, and it is whispered that the threatened advance on Constantinople will soon be made. If this prove true, the war cloud will spread over Europe.

Germany is strengthening the fortifications in Alsace and Lorraine, and increasing the garrisons. Bismarck evidently fears that France will sooner or later endeavor to wipe from her escutcheon the blot of 1870, and is making preparations accordingly.

Under the republican constitution of France liberty is denied to the members of families previously occupying the throne. The French Chamber of Deputies propose to expel from France all princes of the blood; but as if this were not enough, it has resolved to confiscate their estates. This is liberty wrong side out.

A new Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and the United States will, it is said, be shortly considered by Parliament and Congress. The new treaty makes special provision for the arrest, upon British soil, of defaulting American bank agents. Debarred from the northern camping ground these wholesale robbers will have to seek a retreat in some more favored spot, or quit the business.

The list of Canadian Knights has recently been augmented by the addition of the name of Mr. Donald Smith, now Sir Donald Smith, K. C. M. G. The distinction is presumably well merited, but to most of our readers, Sir Donald is comparatively an unknown man.

Halifax is again to have a street railway, but this time the tracks are to be laid so as not to interfere with ordinary wheeled vehicles. Street cars are a great convenience in modern cities, and Halifax took a step backwards when she did away with them.

Canon Brock, acting President of King's College, recently delivered a most interesting lecture in Windsor, in which he dealt with the origin, style and application of 200 well-known proverbs. Canon Brock is a reader and a thinker. We should like to hear him in Halifax during the next lecture season.

The financial condition of the United States Government appears to be satisfactory. The total net gain in Federal revenue for the fiscal year is \$7,000,000. The total decrease in Federal expenditure is \$16,000,000; total net gain to the Treasury, \$23,000,000.

The *Evening Journal*, of Ottawa, heartily endorses Sir William Dawson's proposal to the Royal Society, to establish a National Museum. With his customary perspicuity, Sir William sees that the work of the Royal Society will be more effective and lasting, if a repository of the results of the scientists can be provided, as a standing proof that Canadians are doing something in the way of scientific discovery. A Museum which would be more representative of every branch of natural history than the Geological Museum can possibly be, a Museum which would be to Canada what those of England and the United States are to those countries. There is no reason why Canada should not possess such an institution, and Ottawa is the place for it. The undertaking may seem great, but that should be one surety for its final accomplishment. To those who look into the future of Canada with hopeful enthusiasm, no idea which tends to its advancement should be rejected as impracticable, just as no limit should be placed upon the expectations of greatness which Canada may yet realize.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt will include Canada in her long-looked-for transatlantic tour. On the conclusion of her brief season in London she will proceed to Liverpool, and embark there for Rio Janeiro. There she will remain six weeks, and after visiting several South American cities, will proceed to the United States, and thence to the Dominion.—*Globe*.

Germany is said to be fitting out a vessel with samples and sample rooms, to be dispatched on a tour around the world, carrying specimens of all the leading products and wares of that country. Entertaining drummers to represent the various lines will accompany the expedition, to take orders and solicit steady custom.—*Industrial Journal*.

Halifax people are hard to please. They asked for lower prices at the Academy of Music, and Manager Clarke made arrangements with Day's International Theatre company to play a season of three weeks at reduced prices. The attendance has been so small that the company will close its season here on Saturday evening. Let our people turn out this and to-morrow evenings, and show the company that it is appreciated.

Mr. F. Forbes, son of Dr. Forbes of Liverpool, who recently returned from Regina, N. W. T., reports the crops in that section of the Dominion, as well advanced. Farmers who formerly complained of shortage in the wheat crop now fear that the yield will be so great that they will not be able to sell to advantage.

The schools of mackerel on the banks off the coast are enormous, and the catches being made are most satisfactory.

A Hunt's County subscriber, residing in Douglas, expresses his satisfaction with the manner in which THE CRITIC is conducted. Another subscriber in the same county, while approving of the tone of THE CRITIC, strongly recommends us to obtain contributions upon agricultural matters, stating that by so doing, the paper would become more than ever popular. THE CRITIC had hoped to obtain such articles from the members of the Grange, but as these have not been forthcoming, arrangements are being made with prominent agriculturists to supply this demand.

Our Baddeck correspondent writes—"The presence at the Bras d'Or House of two or three gentlemen with their families, reminds us that the season for tourists has returned to Baddeck. The fishing season is close at hand, as some of the more enthusiastic disciples of Isaac Walton can testify, a number of them having cast their lines in the deep, dark pools, and come home with some fine fish (stories). The *Marion* has resumed her trips to the Lakes, and is, we believe, to do night work, as of yore. This 'night work' is one of Baddeck's many trials."

The United States Government has appropriated \$15,000,000 to the improvement of rivers and harbors along the sea board. The Inland States Representatives opposed the grant, but acquiesced upon receiving a large appropriation for bridging the Mississippi and its tributaries.

At present writing there are strong indications that after the second reading of the Home Rule bill, a dissolution of the British House of Commons will take place. Chamberlain's speech against Gladstone's Irish measure provoked ironical laughter from the Parnellites, but there can be no doubt that the defection of the Radical leader, as well as that of Lord Harcourt, has resulted in a break in the Liberal party.

The prorogation of Parliament has taken place without any intimation that the Dominion elections would take place this year. The rumor that Sir Charles Tupper will re-enter public life in Canada, is believed by many Conservatives to be correct. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the presence of Sir Charles, as Premier or member of the Dominion Cabinet, would be advantageous to Nova Scotia, and there is probably not a county in Nova Scotia, which would not willingly return Sir Charles as its representative.

The Nova Scotia Government has been reorganized. Attorney General White has taken the office of registrar for Halifax, and is succeeded by W. Longley. Isidore LeBlanc, now a member of the Cabinet without office, has decided not to appeal to the electors of his county, and will take a seat in the Legislative Council. Speaker MacGilvary will enter the Cabinet without office, and a similar position is assigned to Daniel McNeil of Inverness, who has yet to be elected for the first time.

Samples of a new textile product are being introduced in the New York and Boston markets, the manufacture of which bids fair to develop into quite an industry. American inquisitiveness and ingenuity united have produced thread made from the blossoms of the common milkweed, which has the consistency and tenacity of imported flax or linen thread, and is produced at a much less cost. The fibre is long, easily carded, and may be readily adapted to spinning upon an ordinary flax-spinner. It has the smoothness and lustre of silk, rendering it valuable for sewing-machines. The weed is common throughout this country, but grows profusely at the south. The material costs nothing for cultivation, and the gathering is as cheaply done as that of cotton.—*Industrial Journal*.

There is something worth considering in Senator Fair's proposition to banish the Apaches to the Island of Santa Catalina. There are abundant resources there for their self-support, plenty of fish, and a splendid marine view. The twenty-five miles of salt water between them and the mainland is too long a swim, and they would just have nothing to do but stay and grow up with the country.

A Swedish engineer who has been exploring the site of the Temple of Jerusalem and the surroundings locally, is strong in the conviction that the ark of the first Temple is buried in the valley of Hinnom.

England spent \$15,000,000 less for liquors last year than the year before.

An iron box, containing \$150,000 in gold coin, has been dug up on the farm of John Stump, near Havre de Grace, Md., where it was buried to keep it from being looted by the British, in 1812.

The following are the dates of the introduction of railways in the various countries from 1825 to 1860:—England, September 27, 1825; Austria, September 30, 1828; France, October 1, 1828; United States, December 28, 1829; Belgium, May 3, 1835; Germany, December 7, 1835; Island of Cuba, in the year 1837; Russia, April 4, 1838; Italy, September, 1839; Switzerland, July 15, 1844; Jamaica, November 21, 1845; Spain, October 24, 1848; Canada, May, 1850; Mexico, in the year 1850; Peru, in the year 1850; Sweden in the year 1851; Chili, January, 1852; East India, April 18, 1853; Norway, July, 1853; Portugal, in the year 1854; Brazil, April 30, 1853; Victoria, September 14, 1854; Columbia, January 2, 1855; New South Wales, September 25, 1855; Egypt, January, 1856; Middle Australia, April 21, 1856; Natal, June 26, 1860; Turkey, October 4, 1860.

A Zuni Princess, whose name is Wawa, is the guest of Mrs. Storey in Washington this winter. Her hostess has taken her about with a good deal of interest, and the dark-faced maiden has received much attention, though she can speak very little English.

RELIGIOUS.

CATHOLIC.

The third centenary of the birth of St. Rose of Lima was celebrated with great pomp in the capital of Peru during the last week in April.

A meeting of the directors of the University of Washington was held in Baltimore a short time ago. Plans for the building, the erection of which will be begun next spring, were submitted.

A determined stand is being made by the Catholics of France against the action of the government in banishing the name of God from the schools. Cardinal Guibert, some time ago, addressed a letter to the President of the Republic on the subject.

A Catholic daily newspaper is to be established in Cincinnati, Ohio. On Sunday, May 30th, the Pallium was conferred on Archbishop Seghers, of Vancouver Island.

The statistics of the Jesuits lately published show that the order count at present 2,500 missionaries, and that it has numbered among its members 218 saints, 1500 martyrs, 13 popes, 60 cardinals, 4000 archbishops and bishops, and 6000 authors.

The thirty-third General Congress of the German Catholics will be held at Breslau in August.

BAPTIST.

Last year the contributions of the British Baptists to their missionary society amounted to \$755,000.

At the close of 1885 there were 434 Baptist churches in Sweden, 34 being organized last year with a total membership of 28,766.

Mr. Spurgeon has a third volume of his "Sermon Notes" ready for publication. It extends from Matthew to Acts. In Russia, notwithstanding the strict censorship of the press, all works bearing his name are permitted to pass unchallenged, with the exception of his famous sermon on "Baptismal Regeneration," which is rigorously prohibited.

METHODIST.

The New Brunswick and P. E. Island conference will be held at Sackville, N. B. on the 16th inst., and will continue in session for about a week. At the conference missionary meeting the speakers will be Revs. J. Shenton, J. Read, and W. W. Brower.

The Southern Methodist Church contributed for foreign missions last year \$230,000. The contributions have more than doubled during the past four years.

PRESBYTERIAN.

On the 9th inst., the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will meet in Hamilton. It is expected that an unusual number of subjects of importance will be considered.

The Rev. A. F. Thompson has resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Economy.

Mr. W. L. McKee, missionary elect to Trinidad, is to be ordained at Truro on the 6th July, and will leave for his field a few days later.

During the past year the Presbyterian Church in Canada has raised for foreign mission work over \$50,000. Of this amount \$7,000 has been given to the Indian mission in the North-West, \$18,000 to the Formosa field, and \$20,000 to the India mission.

The Presbyterian churches of N. S. Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, West Australia, and Tasmania, have been formed into one body, and will hereafter be known as the Presbyterian Church of Australasia. The first Federal Assembly will be held in Sydney next month.

The Rev. J. C. Cattanech, of St. Andrews Church of this city, who left Halifax a couple of weeks ago for Sherbrooke on a short visit, became seriously ill at that place. He is now improving, and will in all likelihood return to the city next week.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Mr. J. J. Hun, Lay Reader, has recently been taking services on Sunday evenings at the N. W. Arm.

The names likely to be brought most prominently before the electors in view of the approaching election to the Bishopric of Edinburgh, are those of Rev. Canon Liddon, and Professor Dowdon. The health of the former gentleman is said to be much improved.

The venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts has received a larger amount of offerings than in any previous year since its foundation. The total sum contributed last year was £101,825, or close upon \$510,000, against £90,656, or \$453,000 last year.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Holo has been appointed rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax, at a salary of \$2,500 a year.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

The following Price-Lists have been corrected up to the time of going to press and are thoroughly reliable and accurate.

GROCERIES.

Table listing various grocery items such as Sugar, Tea, Molasses, Soaps, Candles, Biscuits, Confectionery, Butter, and Eggs with their respective prices.

The above quotations are corrected by Mackintosh & Co., Jericho Warehouse.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Table listing fish from vessels including Mackerel, Herring, Codfish, Salmon, Haddock, Hake, Cusk, Pollock, and Fish Oils.

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

LOBSTERS.

Table listing Lobsters (Nova Scotia Atlantic Coast Packing) with prices for Tall Cant and Flat.

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Table listing various fruits including Apples, Oranges, Lemons, Cocoanuts, Onions, Dates, and Raisins.

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

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Our quotations below are our today's wholesale selling prices for cash within ten days after shipment.

Table listing breadstuffs and provisions including Flour, Bran, Oats, Corn, and various meats.

A. GUNN & Co., 253 Barrington Street, Halifax, N. S.

PROVISIONS.

Table listing various provisions such as Beef, Pork, Mutton, and other meats.

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

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Table listing wool, wool skins, and hides with their respective prices.

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

LUMBER.

Table listing various types of lumber including Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, and Shingles.

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

POULTRY.

Table listing poultry items such as Fowls, Turkeys, Geese, and Ducks.

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK.

Table listing live stock items including Steers, Oxen, Fat Steers, and Lambs.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

[FOR THE CRITIC].

THE NORTH POLE.

This ultimate, so often vainly sought,
Within a fact by mother Nature wrought,
Thus far remains secure from all the skill
And utmost daring of the human will.

These crystal battlements so voyagers say,
Show little change while ages pass away,
As if designed forever more to be
The barrier of the open Polar Sea;

Whither the birds of passage yearly fly,
And gain beneath the utmost arctic sky,
Some mystic tale, where every comfort shows
And there is never fear of human foes.

And when, in cases rare, explorers bold
Shall pass that massive bulwark and behold
The wondrous tide and hear its surges roar,
The strongest hero pauses on the shore.

Of such a crew, the few who may come back
Are sure to mark the windings of their track
With ship and cargo lost, and many forms
Of comrades perished in the polar storms.

And still, with every summer other bands
Untouched by fear will leave their native lands,
And toward these unknown regions bravely sail
To search—to hope—to strive—to faint—to fail!

Some day heroic companies may go
So gallantly across the waste of snow,
And o'er the deeply frozen mother sea,
That they at least shall gain the victory.

And then, on map and chart the world will trace
Each valley, mountain crag and desert place,
And aspects of the ocean tides, that roll
Unchecked about the islands of the Pole.

If every scene is barren desolation?
Or, if a homo of joyful animation
With all necessities in rich supply,
Is spread beneath the central arctic sky?

By tongue and pen, with details manifold
In graphic explanation will be told;
And marvellous aid of picture eloquence
To each account will give a clearer sense.

With never ending day for half the year!
And with an equal time when darkness drear
Upon the earth, gives opportunity
For ample studies in astronomy;

What royal chance for painter or for poet
Whose art may sketch the realm and fairly show it,
Or epic intuition in true rhyme
Display the lonely grandeur of the cline.

And he whom God gives fortitude to gain
This fight with winter in his own domain,
Will have the benediction of our race
And pure renown which nothing can efface.

But e'er such noble triumph can be won,
Full many cruel labors must be done;
And many worthy legions find their graves
Under the snow or icy northern waves!

ADDISON F. BROWNE.

"SOCIETY" AND ITS SINS.

That some benefits result from the existence of the supreme body which usurps the title of "society," is undeniable. Its requirements and opinions in the domain of aesthetics are often higher and truer than those of the general public; and it imposes its standard of taste not only on its members, but also upon their imitators and attendants. Its example induces some ungallant men to practice politeness towards women, some profane men to bridle their profanity, some inhospitable men to consult their guests' wishes before their own, and some dull men (in some parts of the world) to patronize art and learning. "Society" may yet prove the most potent instrument in checking those vices which do not directly affect the person or property of any but their votaries. When it sets its face and shuts its doors inexorably against gamblers, hard drinkers, and sensualists (of both sexes alike), it will probably effect more good than all the statutes ever framed against play, drink, or improper women—and that without jarring the sense of justice and love of liberty of large minorities.

But, unhappily, "society" is too often unfair and inconsistent. It prohibits duelling, and yet gives the cold shoulder to the passive recipient of an insult. It condones as "fastness" in the highest and presumably most enlightened class what it condemns as vice in the lower and presumably less enlightened classes. As Isabella observes in "Measure for Measure," it holds that

"The great may jest with saints: in them 'tis wit;
But in the less it is foul profanation
That in the captain's but a choleric word
Which in the soldier is flat blasphemy."

The shibboleths, which "society" arbitrarily establishes, it more arbitrarily departs from. It smiles at willful breaches of etiquette in a celebrity, and terms them eccentricities, it frowns at ignorant mistakes. It calls an act pronounced in a great lady which it would call masculine in an ordinary woman. It very properly discountenances "talking shop" in company, and yet allows girls to discuss fashions or fancy work by the hour, and spin out their cabalistic phrases to the confusion of uninitiated males.

It patronizes shams and hypocrisies. It accords the son who promises

to do his father's will, and does it not, precedence over the other son who is disobedient in word but obedient in deed. Sometimes it favors a particular sect, and offers a seductive premium to apostasy. Sometimes it pretends an accession of modesty, and engenders an affected prudery. It accustoms youth to insincere modes of address and signature, to unmeaning "my dear," and untruthful "yours truly's." It permits its saints to invent false excuses and make their servants the mouth-pieces of their falsehoods. It sends empty carriages to funerals, and delivers visiting cards by deputy. It consigns to the chaperonage of giddy unmarried women in their twenties the maidens whom it would not entrust to the care of staid spinsters in their thirties. It insists upon the mockery of mourning in those who have rejoiced at the deaths of their relatives. It teaches us "to hide the struggling pangs of conscious truth," to subordinate candor to politeness, to guess an acquaintance's age at years less than we know it to be, to applaud the execution of some musical bacchante, to admire the rhyming effusions in a school-girl's album, to tell every young mother that here is the paragon of babies.

To stem the torrent of conventional prejudices and decoits, and not be overwhelmed, would be impossible for the most distinguished personage; but the humblest can divert it in an infinitesimal degree, and many individuals working separately towards the same end might wholly change its course. If every just and sensible member of "society"—and thousands who are unfair and silly in a mass are individually just and sensible—would only study to stop short of the majority in those directions where the majority is mean, cruel, unkind, or absurd; a quiet revolution might be effected.

And it is to be observed that the most *outré* extravagances of any prevailing fashion, be it moral or material—Grecian bond, Roman fall, Alexandrian limp, euphuism or slang, prudery or shamelessness—may be ridiculed with effect. For social extremists are always a minority, and invective or derision pointed at a few are commonly relished by the ungalloped multitude. And that satire should be unusually effective, which is directed against extremists in fashionable faults or follies, because these are generally pushed to their utmost limits by those who stand almost outside the pale of "society." These persons, in their anxious efforts to prop up their precarious position, always affect and often overdo the newest styles in dress, composition, and opinion; and their discomfitures are keenly enjoyed in the circle whose reluctant toleration they have lately won or purchased. A few good shots aimed at the foremost may check the advance or alter the direction of a vast crowd.

F. D. C.

"A SHORT, SHARP SHOCK."

A correspondent writes to us:—"Apropos of murders, upon which I see you dwell with a considerable gusto, I venture to submit to you the following little incident which occurred to me not long ago":—

On the day of the boat-race I had occasion to study the details of some famous murders—for what purpose is of no moment. I read hour after hour without interruption until the evening shadows deepened, and my room was as pleasant as a family vault. I had steeped myself in the murder trials of the past twenty years, and myself bathed in prussic acid, strychnine, aconite, chloroform, and every poison in the pharmacopœia. Did the doctor croak, it was an assassin; did a footstep sound overhead, it set my blood tingling, and my hair on end, until I perceived that I was in for an attack of nerves induced by unholy literature. I shut up the volume of my "Nevigate Calendar," flung the volume of the Annual Register on to the floor, and proposed to myself some agreeable relaxation. I ate and drank at a neighboring restaurant, and presently found myself before the garish front of a certain imposing theatre of varieties in Leicester-square, attracted by the glowing lights and the prospect of sociability. I paid my money, passed through the Moresque draperies, and already began to feel the sound of the music which fell upon my ear acting as a restorative to my hyper-sensitive nerves. The great amphitheatre was full of pleasure-seekers. Carefully dressed men, with their light overcoats thrown open, disclosing the ample shirt-fronts of evening costume, the clerk from the City, the mechanic in his best clothes, rubbed shoulders; pretty women of the *demi-monde* in blues of every tone, flying the parti-colored favors, the shop-girl and milliner mingled together. The fumes of the smoke from numberless cigars and cigarettes, the music, the gay costumes on the stage, the changing colours, the music, the clinking of glasses, the laughter, the crowd, ever chattering, never still, began to have their effect on my drooping spirits, which a scanty meal had not revived. I leant over the velvet-covered barrier, and began to forget the Bravos, the Lamsons, and the Peaces. I was watching the intricacies of the ballet, and my cigar was acting as a gentle sedative, when my reverie was disturbed by a polite question from a man of middle stature, of ruddy hue and sandy beard. He seemed to me from the cut of his overcoat, the fall of his trousers, and his billycock hat, to be of the tribe of respectable mechanics. He asked me to give him a sight of my programme in what I took to be a Yorkshire accent. I bowed and handed it to him. He continued it for half a minute, returned it with a quiet smile, and with this introduction he began to talk. He took a cigarette from my case and lighted it from my cigar, looking round once or twice towards a comely female neatly dressed. He explained that it was his wife who was resting.

"We have come up to London for a three days' cheap trip," he volunteered.

"For the first time?"

"No, I've been up in town once or twice before," and a furtive smile played about his lips, when the trivial nature of the remark scarcely seemed to justify.

"You have no doubt seen the boat-race this morning. It was a tight

race, but they say the cox jorked the wrong string at a critical moment, and lost the victory."

"I heard it was neck and neck," he answered, again smiling in that significant manner.

"Football," he continued, "is more in my line than boat racing. It is a pretty game, and of all its pretty points I love a long drop. I never miss a match, business permitting."

"You are doubtless showing your wife the sights," I went on, after a brief pause.

"You're right, we've been to Madam Tussaud's to-day."

"With the sixpence extra?"

"Aye, we had the full eighteenpennorth." So he, too, had morbid tastes.

Then my new friend, for whom I had begun to conceive a strange liking, burst into a fit of laughter at the Blondin donkey, which burst out at intervals while the grotesque antics lasted. Then we breached another topic.

"Trade is very bad in our parts," he interjected. "I was down in Swansea and Cardiff a short time ago, and it was awful there."

"You're in one of the dockyards, perhaps?"

"Well, I know a good rope from a bad one, but I'm not in the ship-building line. No, I'm in the Government employ."

Perhaps it was that he thought I was curious as to his condition, for he threw away the end of his cigarette, put his hand in the breast of his overcoat, and produced a letter book. "I will give you my card; we may meet again." And once more I noticed the playful curl of the lip, which I have mentioned as having attracted my attention. He put into my hand a gold-rimmed visiting card with this inscription:—

JAMES BERRY,

Excultimer.

1, Bilton-place,
Bradford, Yorks.

My eyes fell, and the fumes of the tobacco which I was inhaling seemed to extract all the normal moistness from my throat. A strange tremor ran down my spinal column, and I was unconscious that my hand was unsteady, as I now understood those curious smiles which had emphasized parts of his conversation. I placed my own card in his hand. The shock was sharp, but only momentary.

"I am indeed glad to have met you, Mr. Berry. Here's my card. I will keep yours as an interesting memento of our short but highly agreeable acquaintance."

I turned on my heel to go, but he made a motion to help me on with my coat, the collar of which he adjusted with a courtesy I scarcely appreciated when I felt the touch of his bony fingers. "Good-bye," he said, proffering his hand, which I took readily enough. "Adieu," I muttered, "I trust not *à revoir*," and he disappeared into the crowd. I walked to the bar, and hastily taking a draught of what the barmaid called "something short," I went down the steps, hailed a hansom and drove home. As I lighted my bedroom candle my eyes fell, as it were by chance, on the plaster cast of the head of a certain gentleman who has long since been assimilated by quicklime. That was before Mr. Berry's time. Then I went to the mantelpiece where lay my pet curio. It was a bit of rope which had been used for a certain purpose, which I had bought years ago. Carefully I lifted up the glass cover which guarded the precious relic from the dust, and within two of the strands now stands Mr. Berry's card, a beacon to warn off any would-be murderer. I went to bed, lit my pipe, and read another chapter of my favorite *Newgate* without a tremor. My meeting had reassured me. Given the alternative the murderer comes off better than the murdered. He is not taken so suddenly. And then the executioner has a kind though grave manner, which must be highly comforting on such occasions.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

DO THE GREAT INTELLECTS GRAVITATE TO DARWINISM?

Among those that write or talk in support of Darwinism, it is the fashion to claim that almost all the intellect of the century has endorsed the Evolution theory. Is it so? Confining ourselves to Great Britain alone, where Darwin's own influence would be likely to be most direct, we find among the prominent men of the century such intellectual giants as John Henry Newman, William Ewart Gladstone, John Ruskin, and Thomas Carlyle. How many of these have abandoned Revelation for the so-called "Religion of Science?" Certain it is that such an earnest Roman Catholic as Newman cannot respect a theory that assumes the Bible to be largely a collection of simple myths. Gladstone says that "Darwinism has not been proved to be anything more than a misty idea—the indefinitely shaped outcome of extravagant and idle theorizing." Ruskin speaks of it as a "dim comet wagging its useless tail of phosphorescent nothing across the steadfast stars." Nor did such a "hater of ill-grounded old opinions" as Carlyle see anything reasonable in the theory. Yet Carlyle was, perhaps to an undue extent, disposed to regard with favor any idea that seemed radically new. He ever eschewed the beaten path when he could find one new and untrodden. It is, therefore, peculiarly satisfactory to an old-time Christian to read

CARLYLE ON DARWINISM.

"A good sort of man is this Darwin, and well-meaning, but with very little intellect. Ah, it is a sad, a terrible thing to see nigh a whole generation of men and women, professing to be cultivated, looking round in a purblind fashion, and hating no God in this universe. I suppose it is a reaction from the reign of cant and hollow pretence, professing to believe what, in fact, they do not believe. And this is what we have got to. All

things from frog-spawn, the gospel of dirt the order of the day! The older I grow—and I now stand upon the brink of eternity—the more comes back to me the sentence in the Catechism which I learned when a child, and the fuller and deeper its meaning becomes, 'What is the chief end of man?—To glorify God, and enjoy Him for ever.' No gospel of dirt, teaching that men have descended from frogs through monkeys, can ever set that aside."

SANTON-RESARFUS, JR.

ON THE RATIONALE OF MANURING AND PRUNING AN APPLE ORCHARD.

The important success which has attended the recent competitive Exhibition of Nova Scotia apples in England is of considerable moment to the Province. It exemplifies the suitability of the climate and of some of our soils for the production of fruit of the highest excellence, and it suggests care in all inquiries as to the method by which this pre-eminence, now so publicly recognized, can be maintained and improved upon. A very wide and attractive field for observation and study is thus opened to view, which promises pecuniary advantages to the individual and growing prosperity to a large part of the Province.

THE APPLE ORCHARD.

When discussing the method of cultivation, with the kind and quality of manure we should apply to an apple orchard, or to a field of grain, such as wheat, or of roots, such as sugar beets or potatoes, it is essential that the object sought should be kept prominently in view.

The aim of the apple orchardist is to produce an abundant crop of large, highly flavored, and well-formed apples, with corresponding tree-growth for future crops. The aim of the farmer is to secure an ample return of well-filled grain, rich in gluten, or of beet roots, rich in sugar, or of potatoes, rich in starch.

But the composition of an apple containing particular acids, flavoring principles and other compounds requiring much carbon, differs greatly from the composition of grains containing gluten dependent upon nitrogen, with much silica or flint in the supporting straw. The mode of growth is also different.

An apple orchard in full bearing, properly tilled and cropped, yields annually from one acre of land a much larger quantity of carbon compounds than an acre of wheat, but the amount of gluten or other bodies produced containing nitrogen, is probably less.

The farmer manures his wheat field with bone dust or phosphates, and secures a large return of wheat rich in gluten. The explanation of the action of bone dust or phosphates is generally assumed to lie in the observed fact that phosphates promote the assimilation of nitrogen, which is the one important element in the composition of gluten.

But how is it with regard to carbon, of which such large quantities are annually carried away from a cropped orchard, or remains fixed in the form of new wood?

The object of this paper is to direct attention to the probable action of another mineral in promoting the assimilation of carbon, and then to advert, for the purpose of discussion, to the application of those manures, and the practical recognition of those principles which are fitted to assist in and promote the great amount of work we demand from a well-cropped orchard in full bearing and good condition for future production.

SEPARATE INFLUENCE OF PHOSPHATES AND POTASH.

It has been observed as the result of recent experiments in Europe that grain-growing crops well manured with ammonia in the proper form and phosphates, yielded a large percentage of gluten, but if to the ammoniacal manure a certain mineral was added, the quantity of carbon in the form of starch was also largely increased,—in other words—a plump and heavy grain, rich in gluten as well as starch, was produced.

The relation which phosphates bear to the assimilation of nitrogen, and the formation of gluten in grains, appears to be rivaled by the action of potash in promoting the assimilation of carbon, derived from the carbonic acid of the atmosphere chiefly, coupled with the joint action of iron in assisting both processes in a special manner hereafter noticed.

SPECIAL INFLUENCE OF CARBONATE OF POTASH AND CHLORIDE OF POTASSIUM.

But it is not always enough to supply a deteriorating mixed orchard with farm yard manure only, for different varieties of trees in consequence of varying root growth, cannot equally utilize or even reach the plant food proffered. This point will be further dealt with shortly. Again, farm-yard manure is not always available, and the object we have in view may be attained by a cheaper and more expeditious process.

Generally speaking, by distributing potash in the form in which it occurs in wood ashes, with or after stable manure, a considerable gain in fruit may be expected, other conditions being favorable. But it is proper to note here, incidentally, that potash in another form, namely as potassium chloride, the old murate of potash, is said to act in a marked degree as a vegetable stimulant in many cases. With us its action is deserving of particular study in the field, because we possess peculiar facilities for obtaining a supply in a valuable form.

Chlorides, such a common salt, are known to be often beneficial, but the rationale of their action in the plant does not appear to be clearly understood. It may be that the influence known to be exerted by alkalis on dead animal substances, and sometimes styled "the influence of presence," is one mode by which potassium chloride exerts its alleged power. It may by its presence, like iron in the leaf, determine the formation of products of

nutrition or structure in the sap, the material for which would be otherwise appropriated, or remain inert, or be exuded.

The action of potassium chloride on the apple tree is worthy of trial, especially as it has been a notable component of the lasting soil of our marshes, and is present in recent marsh mud. Sea water contains about one pound to a ton of 2,000 pounds, and the newer the marsh mud the more potassium chloride it holds. Potassium chloride is manufactured to an enormous extent in Germany from a certain material. In France from sea-water. Germany exported in ten months of 1884, 629,228 double centners or hundred weights, in the corresponding ten months of last year (1885), 565,653 double hundred weights or more than 1,100,000 pounds. Potassium chloride is said to be largely used as a special manure in both France and Germany, but much of it probably in the cheaper form of the refuse of the manufactories.

THE GREEN COLORING MATTER IN THE LEAF—CHLOROPHYLL.

The active agent in the digestion of plant food, and the manufacture of woody fibre, starch, sugar, gum, gluten, acids, flavoring principles, etc., in the green coloring of the leaf—the chlorophyll, as it is named, is a body containing nitrogen. If this important agent be deficient, or not kept up to the working mark, the vegetable manufactory is impaired, and disease sets in, or non production of some of the products named.

SPECIAL INFLUENCE OF IRON.

Chlorophyll cannot be produced without the presence of iron, although it is by no means certain that iron actually enters into its composition. Some physiologists state positively that it does not. This doubt suggests that iron, which by all is acknowledged to be essential, acts largely by its presence, and in this particular it may be paralleled by the chloride of potassium. It seems, however, to be established that if the soil does not contain a sufficient quantity of iron in a proper state for absorption to keep the chlorophyll of the leaf in working order, the potash cannot be utilized and the manufacture of carbon compounds by the chlorophyll is diminished, although the normal quantity of carbonic acid is present in the atmosphere from which the chlorophyll derives its chief supply. As to the practical use of iron, we all know that a good dose of blacksmith's scales arrests the browning of the leaves and the cracking of the fruit in certain varieties of pear, and is often used for that purpose with excellent results. I should like to see it tried in suitable form and at the proper season, on those varieties of apple trees of which the fruit is liable to become much spotted in particular seasons. Both the browning of the pear leaf and the spotting of the apple, are due to fungoid growth. One of the prettiest illustrations of the importance of iron to the leaf, is to select some leaves of a pale color on any plant growing in the shade, and to wash them with a dilute solution of a salt of iron. The green coloring matter will soon be restored and the leaves will assume a healthy appearance.

CONDITIONS OF CONTINUED GROWTH.

The necessary conditions so far, of continued growth, other things being equal, appear to be as follows:—

First.—When supplies of ammonia, with phosphates of iron, are present in the soil, then a rich and abundant chlorophyll in the leaf is produced, and nitrogen is assimilated. But as the work of the chlorophyll is continuous in the sunlight throughout the season, and leaves are continually growing during its greater part, the supply of nitrogen, phosphates and iron must also be continuous to keep up the supply of chlorophyll.

Second.—When a continuous supply of potash in suitable form is furnished to chlorophyll, the manufacture of the sugars, the acids, the flavoring principles, etc., goes on in seasonal succession without break, the carbon required being derived from the carbonic acid of the air.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ROOTLETS AND LEAVES.

But now steps in another and wholly different office or function of the rootlets and the leaves jointly. It is known that all minerals and other plant food taken into trees from the soil are in a state of very dilute solution in water. The amount of food from this source accessible to the leaves, is dependent in a great measure on the quantity of water entering by the rootlets or root hairs and reaching the surface of the leaves.

But the volume of water thus entering plants is sustained or kept up by two very different processes, and is closely related to the amount of transpiration from the leaf surfaces. A small proportion probably passes off otherwise with the descending sap through the inner bark, another small portion is given off by the leaf hairs and points of the leaves, as may be easily seen in the vine, and in grasses; a third portion may pass off with the acid sap through the root hairs, having completed the circulation, and frequently carrying with it certain products which are produced in the plant, such as tannin, the acid of the sap, etc., etc. This is the summer process, when leaves are abundant, but how is it when there are no leaves? We know that in the maple, the birch, etc., early in the year a most vigorous flow of sap takes place when the buds even are undeveloped, and when snow is on the ground, and the soil is ice-bound. This vigorous upward flow of sap is said to be due to "root-pressure," a difficult subject to treat briefly and popularly. Neither do I intend to allude to the force (Osmosis), further than to ask the attention of those who may have given thought to the matter, that this force (Osmosis) necessarily involves the active exercise of the opposite and co-existing force Ex-omosis, which should carry an appreciable quantity of acid sap from the rootlets to the soil. I do not see how this excretory power of trees can be got over. It seems particularly important in relation to large grafted fruit trees, for ex-omosis leads, one would suppose, to the accumulation of excreted acid sap in the soil, which may exercise a considerable influence on those varieties of apple trees which have a bearing year and non-producing year. It would be worth while

trying a good dose of lime, or, by way of experiment, a dose of freshly prepared lime-water, about the roots of one of these varieties in the spring of its unproductive year. The law of root excretion, as far as known, appears to be that the different families of plants excrete the substance which characterizes them. Thus the poppy excretes by its rootlets a substance allied to opium: the oak, a substance allied to tannin; the milk wort, a gummy substance, etc., then, why not the apple tree malic acid, which is so abundantly produced as the season progresses. Excreted malic acid may temporarily render ineffective much of the potash in the soil otherwise accessible to the rootlets. After a time the malate may become decomposed and the potash again available. Liming or the suggested use of lime-water is to decompose these supposed malates, or other acid compounds, and the method of application is to do the work quickly and effectively among the deep seated roots of certain varieties. Very little is known respecting the root-producing powers of plants, or their extent in the soil.

It is proper to notice here that recent very remarkable discoveries in Europe respecting the roots and rootlets or root hairs of trees have received confirmation. It is now accepted by high authorities that the rootlets of a large number of the most common trees in Europe, such as the oak, beeches, chestnuts, hazels, birches, alders, etc., are covered with a fungus, which makes its first appearance on the roots of the seedling, and continues to grow with its growth. I mention the fact in order to show how much we are still in the dark with regard to vegetable life. It is supposed that this fungoid growth is very general in its distribution, but the discovery is so recent that its influence may be said to be as yet unknown.

It may here also be mentioned that we must distinguish between the flow of sap proper, with its circulation through the entire system of the tree, and the transpiration current direct from the rootlets to the leaves, and thence into the atmosphere. These different currents flow in different sets of vessels, and a word may be introduced with particular reference to the transpiration current.

HENRY YOULE HIND, M. A.

(To be Continued.)

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

STRAY SHOTS.

One is, unhappily, constrained by the necessity of being informed, to some extent, on local affairs, to read the ordinary newspapers. I really think the newspaper reader has a right to complain of the manner in which the disgusting and lying quack medicine advertisements are interspersed with legitimate news.

The *Church Guardian* has a good plan. It gathers the unsavory trash into a page by itself, which it heads "Paragraphic."

One of your contemporaries has its columns disfigured at intervals of five or six inches, by what I suppose is a Salvation Army advertisement, in large type.

The Lords, in the sagacious exercise of their cherished prerogative of obstruction to common sense, have again thrown out the "Deceased Wife's Sister's bill." The prestige of Royal votes still fails to influence the *vis inertia* of orthodox stupidity. The majority, however, was only 22 in a house of 276, and 19 of the 22 were Bishops, who merely count as votes.

The Shelley Society, of London, has taken the very doubtful step of producing "The Cenci" on the boards of the Grand Theatre, Islington. The Society invited the audience, so that no money was taken at the doors, consequently, the Lord Chamberlain's license was not required. Had it been necessary, I suppose the performance would not have taken place, as it may be presumed license would have been refused. The public production (for the audience was large) of the awful tragedy is of more than questionable taste, though it is surprising in these days to learn that there was a large attendance of ladies. The acting is said to have been excellent, but no acting, however good, could give healthy, pleasant interest to such a play as "The Cenci." It is possible that the spectators, at least some of them, might have the keen edge of sensibility blunted by the consideration, that more than probably, Beatrice was not by any means the "perfect mirror of pure innocence" painted by Shelley, and that there is no real evidence of the horrible accusation against Francisco; but the play is fearfully realistic. He who nerves himself to read it a second time, even in the closet, brings himself to the task with a shudder of repulsion, despite its poetical beauty, and it can never be a fit subject for public presentation. Even if, as an English paper says, "other objections were as few as they are many, the impious appeals to the Deity in which 'The Cenci' abounds, would make it unfit for representation before any Christian or commonly civilized assemblage."

It is refreshing to read Archbishop O'Brien's manly and statesmanlike language as to the Dominion. It will, no doubt, be a not inconsiderable factor in the defeat, which, I trust, the unpatriotic secessionists will sustain at the election which they have sprung on the people at such short notice.

There is something very rich in a set of politicians, acting on the most sordid motives, doing their spiteful little best to dismember and spoil the future of a nation which nothing but dissension amongst its own sons will divert from a healthy growth, while they themselves treat a portion of their own Province so abominably that it is driven to desire separation from Nova Scotia on the one hand, and to become a separate Province of the Dominion on the other.

If the "Secesh" majority of the Nova Scotia Legislature had initiated

a movement for Maritime Union, which would save the ridiculous expense of three Governments, King, Lords, Commons, and all, for less than a million of people, there would have been some sense in it, or at least not a conspicuous absence of patriotism. I suppose what they really want is annexation, but they have more to reckon with than the discontent of a few Halifax merchants, who, although the Province is more prosperous, have not now the monopoly of supply. The result at the polls may not be all the malcontents would wish, there is the Imperial Government also to settle with after all is said and done on this side of the water, and those who do not find themselves specially allured by the polity of the United States may be thankful that we are still *de facto* under the regis of Britannia, who is, thank goodness, very far from dead, or even decrepit yet, in spite of her intestine troubles.

Your excellent paragraph on "Mad Dogs," (CRITIC, May 21), reminds me of the "Pastour Urazo," as it is called by some who have done a good deal in the way of investigating Mr. Pastour's claims and methods. I have a whole literature on this subject at hand, and some points appear plain enough.

The first is, that Mr. Pastour being hasty and sanguine (as well as interested) makes large assumptions which are not borne out by evidence. His nature, as arbitrary as Mr. Gladstone's, seems to keep him unconscious of the conflicting nature of many of his statements, but they have been ruthlessly pulled to pieces.

Every patient who does not die is claimed as a success. In several of the most loudly-trumpeted cases, there was nothing to cure. The dog which bit the children sent from New Jersey, has been proved not to have been mad at all. It is all but certain that the one who bit Mr. Hughes, at Norwich, was not mad. There is scarcely proof of madness in any of the cases, except that of the wolf who bit the Russians, and three of those patriots have died.

The mode of preparation of the virus and its attenuation is such as to throw grave doubts on its certainty of action, and indeed of its real efficacy where it does act.

The subject has been treated at considerable length by Dr. Dulles, of Philadelphia, and I shall, in a future notice, give some curious details from that gentleman's pamphlet, as well as from other sources. Meantime, there is no small reason to doubt whether the idea is not a delusion, and it would be well for persons unlucky enough to be bitten by an animal supposed to be mad, to keep their heads cool, and think twice before undertaking a trip to Paris, bearing in mind that real rabies in dogs is far from common, and that nine tenths of supposed cases are only exhibiting the effects of cruelty and terror.

FRANC-TIREUR.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

BLACK KNOT.

The unsightly excrescence on plum and cherry trees, commonly called black knot, is occasioned by a fungus which has received the scientific name of *Sporria Morbus*. Spores or seeds of this fungus find congenial lodgement in the inner bark of these varieties of drupaceous trees, and these only, as far as I know, and germinating, send out numerous small, clear, silk-like microscopic threads, which, nourished by the sap of the tree, increase and ramify rapidly; occasioned by their irritating presence, abnormal growth of the cellular tissue infected, and ultimately, this combined growth bursts through the outer bark, and continually nourished by the ascending sap, increases in size, some specimens attaining six inches in length, and over an inch in depth. At this stage of its life history, the fungus develops the first of a series of reproductive organs, of which there are, in all, five varieties, which have received the characteristic designations of conidiospores, ascospores, stylospores, spermatia, and pycnidio-spores. These develop and mature their peculiar spores at successive seasons of the year, and as, in spite of ponderous designations, they are extremely small and light, easily wafted to great distances by every breeze, excellent facilities are afforded for the propagation of the disease. Fortunately, only plum and cherry trees are the "hosts" of this unwelcome guest.

It will be seen from what has been said above, that the black knot consists of the filaments or roots of the fungus, its reproductive organs, and the abnormal growth of the cellular tissue and bark of the "host."

The black knot is said to injure and destroy trees infected with it by appropriating for its own growth nutritious sap, required for the nourishment and healthy growth of the tree. This structure must also interfere with the circulation of sap and nutrition of infected branches. I have no doubt also, that defective vitality, due to deficiency in the soil of one or more elements essential to vigorous plant life, favors this fungus, or the production of black knot, in some as yet unexplained way, and also renders the trees attacked less able to resist destruction.

If this be the case, judicious feeding should be a prophylactic as well as remedial measure. At any rate, though harm may be done by too high manuring with intrigenous food, ashes, supplying principally potash and lime, can only do good. However this may be, thorough extirpation with the knife, and subsequent destruction by fire, of all black knot is positively essential. After extirpation, it is recommended that salt or copperas water be applied to the wound.

An old English gardener, who helped to while away, not unprofitably, tedious hours of waiting at Windsor Junction, told me that a salve made of sulphur and lard is the best application after excision of black knot.

Destruction of this excrescence is a duty that every farmer owes, not only to himself, but to the country; and it should be made compulsory by efficient legal enactments and penalties.

A law having this object, is among the Statutes of Ontario (12 Vic. chap. 33), but as there is no adequate provision for enforcement, it is said to be a dead letter. This should be the duty of a specially appointed official, or of the road overseers, or other existing officials.

No means should be left untried to stamp out this disease. Our very efficient Fruit Growers' Association, and our Secretary for Agriculture, should take the matter in hand. This is a secession measure really worthy of the attention even of the successors of our Board of Agriculture. Mr. McDonald will find, in the Report for the year 1875 of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture, on page 206, brief account of the cause and structure of black knot, and on the opposite page, an illustration of a typical specimen of a perithecium (surrounding envelope and contents) of the fungus.

EDITOR MARITIME PATRON.

NOTE.—I had almost forgotten to mention that the larvæ of the curculio has been found in the black knot, an important and valuable discovery for both orchardists and the curculio, affording the former an additional reason and incentive for destroying the fungus, and the latter as hospitable and more secure host for its larvæ than the plum itself. See with reference to this, page 172, 9th Annual Report of the Ontario Agricultural College.

POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Thursday, May 27.—Thompson moved the house into committee on the bill respecting real property in the North-West. Bill passed through committee and was read a third time.

Chapleau moved the house into committee on the public printing bill. Considerable discussion took place, the opposition attacking the government for giving advertisements almost entirely to the papers supporting the administration. The bill passed committee and received a third reading.

Friday, May 28.—Somerville moved for a select committee to investigate a certain charge he had made against Hector Cameron, said charge being that Cameron procured a bonus of \$96,000 for the Erie and Huron railway on the understanding that he and two others should get ten per cent of the amount.

Cameron said that he had acted as the solicitor of the company but never was interested pecuniarily in the bonus, nor did he ever make any such bargain, and he courted an investigation.

Langevin said that the charge ought to have been made long ago, and not near the close of the session. He moved in amendment that the charge be referred to the standing committee of privileges and elections. On division the amendment was carried.

Pope moved the house into committee for consideration of railway bonus resolutions. He spoke in favor of developing the older provinces by means of railways.

Considerable discussion took place on the subsidy to a company to build a railway from Moncton to Buctouche, a distance of thirty miles. Landry spoke on the benefits to be derived from the construction of the road. The item passed, as did also the item for a bonus for the Northern and North-western railway.

After recess the house considered and agreed to the senate amendments to the bill incorporating the North American telegraph company.

The house then continued the consideration of the railway resolution. The Corquette item of \$32,000 was considered and passed, and also the item giving a subsidy of \$38,406 to the Joggins railway. The proposed subsidy for a railway from Truro to Newport passed. The Cape Breton railway bill was taken up. After its second reading the house went into committee and passed it without amendment. The other Nova Scotia and New Brunswick railway subsidies mentioned in the resolution were carried.

Saturday, May 29.—Sir John A. in answer said that no protest against the appointment of Wallace Graham as legal agent of the government at Halifax had been made on the ground that he was a partner of C. H. Tupper, M. P.

Costigan rose to a question of privilege, and denied the accusation made against him by Cameron (Huron) that he was concerned in grazing land, coal areas, and timber limits. Haggart also denied the charge made by Cameron that he was interested in contracts on the C. P. R.

The electoral franchise bill was read a third time. On the third reading of the Cape Breton railway bill, Pope said the government would deal with the Nictaux and Atlantic railway next session, and admitted the claims of western Nova Scotia to larger aid than had been given.

On motion that the house go into committee of supply, Cartwright spoke against the increase of the expenditure since 1878, the increase in the fixed charges and the increase of taxation, notwithstanding which latter fact there was a deficit including the outlay on account of the rebellion, and moved an amendment to that effect, which on division was lost by a vote of 36 to 70.

Monday, May 31.—The Northern Pacific Junction railway bill was placed on the government orders.

Thompson moved the house into committee to consider further amendments to the franchise act. The principal amendment to be proposed was one to suspend the penalties provided by the bill until next year, which, after discussion, was carried. On the motion that the bill be read a third time, Mills moved an amendment proposing that no persons should be qualified to vote at elections for the House of Commons excepting those qualified to vote at the provincial elections. The house divided on the amendment, which was lost, 92 to 64. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

(Supplementary estimates and conclusion of Political Review next week).

A BUNCH OF VIOLETS.

(Continued.)

CHAPTER IX.

Olive Deane went away this morning, and Ronald Scott left after luncheon—the house seems quite lonely and deserted. But I am not thinking of either my friend or my cousin, as I sit alone in my brown-paneled morning-room at Woodhay, holding in my hand the "Times" of yesterday. I had hidden the paper away that I might study something in it at my leisure to-day—something that I already know by heart. As I sit in the deep old-fashioned bay-window, with the paper in my hand, my eyes are on the blaze of color without, intently staring. I see no sunny garden precincts shut in by tall green hedges topped by the blue sky. I see a man in a prison cell—gaunt, haggard—the man whom I still love with all the reckless obstinacy of my nature—the boy whose weakness of purpose has spoiled both his life and my own.

I believe every word of the story he told to the magistrate before whom they took him, though, in the face of such overwhelming evidence as was produced against him, I do not see that there was any course open to the magistrate, but the course he adopted, of committing him to prison to take his trial at the October Sessions for the murder of his wife.

The account of the examination before the magistrate is given in full in the paper in my hand, under the heading of "Police Intelligence." I have mastered every particular of the case, weighed every grain of evidence in my own mind. But, conclusively as the crime seems to be brought home to the wretched lad who is to stand his trial in October, I am as entirely convinced that he had no hand or part in it as I am that I had no hand or part in it myself.

Three weeks before the day Gerard Baxter was arrested on the charge of having made away with his wife—on the twenty-third of July—his mother-in-law, Eliza White, deposed to having gone to his lodgings to visit her daughter. The prisoner opened the door for her, and told her that her daughter had gone out, about half an hour before, to buy something in a neighboring street. She had gone home perfectly satisfied, and fully intended to call again in the evening; but some business of her own prevented her doing this, and, when she repeated her visit on the following morning, she was rather surprised to hear from her son-in-law that her daughter had again gone out. On neither occasion had he invited her into the room, but had stood in the doorway to answer her enquiries. He said her daughter was quite well, and that he expected her in every minute; but he did not ask her to wait; nor had she time to waste waiting for her. She thought Gerard Baxter's manner rather odd and surly; but then he never had a very pleasant manner, and it made no impression upon her. She was so sure that he had been telling her the truth on both occasions that she never thought of making any enquiries among the neighbors. In answer to the magistrate, she said the lodgings were very poor ones. Gerard Baxter was an artist, and could not always sell his pictures; but he had made some copies of pictures for churches, she thought, and they had brought in some money. They never were in actual want.

She went on to say that she had not called again for several days, being rather hurt with her daughter for never coming near her. She had been in the habit of running into her house every evening almost when her husband went out. They had not got on well together. Her daughter was a child almost, and very thoughtless, and Gerard Baxter was soured by disappointment and poverty, and had lately begun to drink—not hard, but more than was good for him; but he was never cruel to his wife at the worst of times, so far as she knew. Mrs. Eliza White's evidence was so impartial that it produced a strong impression in her favor in the court.

For a whole week she saw nothing of her daughter, nor did she go to her lodgings to inquire after her. She blamed herself for it very much afterward; but she had to earn her own bread by washing, and had lodgers to look after. At the end of a week she went, however, and found the door locked; then she turned into the room of a neighbor on the next floor, a woman named Haag, the wife of a German who played the violin in the orchestra of some theater—she forgot what theater. Mrs. Haag said that she was surprised to hear her making inquiries for her daughter, since Baxter had told them all she had gone to stay with some cousins in the country. They had not seen or heard anything of her in that house since the twenty-second of July; Mrs. White herself had seen her on the twenty-first.

Mrs. White then resolved to wait till her son-in-law should come in; but, though she sat with Mrs. Haag for more than two hours, Baxter did not make his appearance. Meanwhile Mrs. Haag told her all she knew—how for three days, Baxter had told them, when they inquired for his wife, that she had gone out and would be in presently, and on the fourth had told her—Mrs. Haag—that she had gone to visit some cousins in the country. The neighbors suspected nothing. When they asked for her later on, he said he had had letters from her, and even gave them messages which she sent to them in the letters. He looked dark, Mrs. Haag said; but then he always did look dark, and kept himself very much to himself. She did not think they had got on very well of late. He left his wife alone very much, and they all pitied her—she was so young—a mere child, and so pretty. On the morning of the twenty-second, they had had words about something, she—Mrs. Haag—heard him threaten to rid himself of her—to choke her, she thought he said; but such threats were common enough in that tenement-house—she had never given them a second thought.

Mrs. White, finding Baxter did not come back, left Mrs. Haag, and

went home. She knew Lily—her daughter's name was Eliza—the same as her own, but she always called herself Lily—had some cousins in Kent; and, though she was surprised to hear she had gone to pay them a visit, it was not outside the bounds of probability that she should have done so. And, being troubled with her own concerns, she gave no more thought to the matter until the afternoon of the fourteenth of August.

Here the witness was so overcome by grief that it was some time before the examination could proceed.

On the afternoon of the fourteenth of August a policeman came to her to take her to the mortuary. A body has been found floating in the river near Blackfriars Bridge; Mr. Haag had happened to see it, and at once recognized it as the body of Mrs. Baxter, and the girl's mother was sent for to identify it, as her husband was not to be found.

Mrs. White had no difficulty in identifying the body, though it had been in the water a considerable time—three weeks, the surgeon said, who made the *post mortem* examination. The face was much disfigured from the action of the water; but the beautiful red gold hair, the small even teeth, the girl's height and age, the wedding-ring on her finger, were all conclusive evidence. Her clothes were poor, and had no mark upon them—a black cashmere dress, black jacket, and a little brooch with hair in it, which Mrs. White at once recognized as having been a present from herself to her daughter—she had put the hair into it herself—it was her father's hair. Mr. and Mrs. Haag also identified the clothes, but could not remember the brooch. Mrs. Haag, being called up, corroborated Mrs. White's evidence in every particular. The prisoner obstinately refused to answer any questions put to him by the bench, and maintained all through the inquiry a sullen demeanor, which had considerably prejudiced the court against him.

So much I had read, studying every word—I think the sentences have burned themselves into my brain. There were no marks of violence on the body, so far as could be ascertained; but, from the state it was in when found, this could scarcely be satisfactorily proved. It was supposed that Baxter had pushed his wife into the river on the night of the twenty-second of July—the day Mrs. Haag had heard him threatening to take away her life.

I believe Gerard Baxter to be innocent of the crime imputed to him. I have not asked Ronald Scott his opinion, nor Uncle Tod—I could not trust myself to ask them any questions. But I had heard Olive ask Uncle Tod at breakfast what they would do to Gerard Baxter, and Uncle Tod said they would try him, find him guilty most probably, and condemn him to death. The guilt seemed most conclusively brought to him—whether he would be recommended to mercy or not, he could not say. It might come out that there had been extenuating circumstances. It was horrible business altogether.

It is a horrible business. I think so, as I sit staring into my quiet sunny garden, into which even the echo of such evil deeds has never come. It is all so peaceful, so orderly—the blackbirds and thrushes hop in and out of the tall thick walls of yew and beech, my peacock glimmers up and down in the distance, faint pearly clouds float across the serene sky. How different it is from the wretched London street, perhaps more wretched court or alley, where the man to whom I would have as freely given Woodhay, with all its gardens and terraces, woods and meadows, has worked and starved till it seems that his misery had driven him mad! I hate the blue sky, the orderly flower-beds, the ruddy gables, and carved window-settings of my quaint old house. I cannot bear to look at them, thinking how little happiness they have given me. If I had been what he imagined me, the penniless girl learning music as a means of future livelihood, I would have married him, and we should have been happy. But I refused him, because I was Miss Somers Scott of Woodhay Manor. And now all my woods and moors and meadows have turned to ashes between my teeth.

* * * * *

"Aunt Rosa, I am going up to London."

"To London?" Aunt Rosa repeats, staring at me through her spectacles, aghast.

"Yes. I am going up on business."

"But, my dear Rosalie, you are no more fit to travel—"

"My dear Aunt Rosa, it is just what I want—some variety. I have telegraphed to Mrs. Wauchope to have my old rooms in Carleton Street ready for me to-morrow."

"You have telegraphed to Mrs. Wauchope? Do you mean to tell me that you are going up to those dreadful lodgings again—alone?"

"Where else would you have me to go, Aunt Rosa?"

"Why, I thought you might be going to Olive, or to the Rollestons."

"The Rollestons are in Denmark; and I don't want to catch another fever in Dexter Square."

"Dear me, I forgot that!"

"Not that I am afraid of the fever," I am bound to add honestly. "I am not in the least afraid of it; but I prefer going to Carleton Street for a great many reasons."

"If you go, I shall go with you," Aunt Rosa says decisively.

"And leave Uncle Tod with that cold on his chest? My dear Aunt Rosa, I assure you I am very well able to take care of myself."

"You will take Nanette with you, of course?"

"Indeed I shall do no such thing," I answer at once. My new maid is a weariness to me. If old nurse Marjory had not been past work, I would never have installed her in the lodge and hired this pert French *soubrette* in her stead.

"But, my dear child, it is an unheard-of thing for a girl in your position to go to lodgings in London alone."

"Nobody need know. And it is not as if Mrs. Wauchope were not an

old friend; and I shall only be gone a day or two probably. If anything should happen to detain me in town, you may follow me—if you like, and if Uncle Tod's cold is better.

Aunt Rosa does not like the arrangement from any point of view.

"You are very self-willed, Rosalie. You were always headstrong, since you were a baby of three years old. If ever a girl wanted a father or mother to control her, I think you wanted them. As for your Uncle Todhunter, if you had cried for the moon, he would have tried to get it for you. I often told him he spoiled you, and so he did."

"I think I was always obstinate, whether Uncle Tod spoiled me or not. Aunt Rosa, do you know Cousin Ronald's address in town?"

Aunt Rosa stares at me, scandalized—"Is time over the rim of her spectacles."

"My dear Rosalie, are you going to Sir Ronald Scott's hotel in London to call upon him?"

"Not unless I should want him, auntie. But it is always well to know the address of a friend in London."

"He is staying at the hotel your uncle always goes to in London. But I do hope, Rosalie—"

"That I will not do anything unbecoming. My dear Aunt Rosa, I can be very steady—when I like, and I am sure you can trust to the chivalry of your friend Ronald Scott."

"Sir Ronald Scott is a perfect gentleman. What will he think of this freak of yours, Rosalie? Do you suppose he will approve of your going to London alone like this?"

"Ronald Scott's opinion of my proceedings is not of vital importance," I answer, throwing up my head. "Whether he is pleased or displeased matters very little to me. I am going up to London on business which nobody else could manage for me. If he chooses to disbelieve my assertion—should I feel called upon to make it—it is nothing to me."

"I wish it were something to you," Aunt Rosa says a little wistfully, looking at me. "He is a fine fellow—a true gentleman; and he cares for you, Rosalie—he asked your Uncle Todhunter's permission to pay his addresses to you. But I suppose you snubbed him, as you snubbed all the rest."

"Dear Aunt Rosa," I answer gravely, "you cannot like Ronald better than I do; and what I said to him I said as gently as I could."

"Why must you have said it at all, child?"

"Because I could not care enough for him to marry him, auntie."

Aunt Rosa sighs. She would be so glad to hand me over to some good steady man like Ronald Scott, who could keep me in order. She would be so thankful to wash her hands of me and my vagaries, fond as she is of me, once and for ever.

"I don't despair but that you will come to your senses some day and marry him," she says, deliberately, getting up from the luncheon table. "I think your Uncle Todhunter would die happy if he knew you were married to such a man as Sir Ronald Scott."

* * * * *

"You are looking poorly enough still," Mrs. Wauchope says, regarding me by the light of the gas in her great dingy drawing-room. "I don't know whether it's the bonnet, or what, but you look ten years older than you did when you were up here with me in the spring."

Mrs. Wauchope is truthful, if she is not complimentary. Glancing at myself in the sea-green depths of the mirror over the mantelpiece, I am forced to acknowledge that I do look ten years older than when I last saw myself reflected between the tall vases of imitation Bohemian glass which grace the mantelshelf. In deference to Aunt Rosa's old-fashioned notions, and for other reasons, I have endeavored to give myself as staid an appearance as possible, wearing the close black bonnet which Olive always said gave me a demure look, though my dimples were against me. And I am wrapped up in my long fur-lined cloak, and have altogether the look of a respectable young widow, as I say to Mrs. Wauchope, laughing, while she gets my tea ready in her own plump hands.

"Isn't this a terrible business about poor Mr. Baxter?" she remarks presently. "I never got such a turn in my life as when I saw all about it in the paper. And such a young lad as he is too, and I believe she was little more than a child!"

"Do you think he did it?" I ask, standing on the rug. My landlady is busied at the table, with her back toward me; she does not look round, though I can scarcely keep my voice steady while I speak the six words.

"Oh, everybody knows he did it!"

"How can they know?"

"But there was no one else to do it."

"That proves nothing."

"Oh, but he was heard to threaten her! And then the stories he made up! And I believe she was a slight little thing, and too pretty for her station in life. Those painters had spoiled her, for ever painting her picture. It was only the other day I found her photograph up in his studio—pinned to the wall."

A thrill of something very like jealousy of the dead girl whose photograph Gerard Baxter had cared to pin up in his room, runs like a needle through my heart. But what right have I to be jealous of her—the wretched child who had been his wife?

"Have you seen him since he gave up painting here, Mrs. Wauchope?"

(To be Continued)

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THE MARITIME PATRON,

AND ORGAN OF THE

Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

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

A pamphlet has lately reached us which contains a report of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Provincial Grange to the subordinate granges of that province, the report of the Auditors, and a circular letter from Bro. A. Gifford, Secretary of the Grange, to sub-grange secretaries of his jurisdiction. These documents prove that our sister Provincial Grange is not nearly so inactive or so indifferent to the interests intrusted to it as, indubitate postponement of the usual session of that body, and the consequent postponement of the meeting of the Dominion Grange, the comparatively small number of new granges organized, and other circumstances might lead us to imagine. The Ontario Provincial Grange instructed its Executive Committee respecting the establishment of an official organ, and as it was considered impracticable at present to run a paper "exclusively devoted to grange matter," the offer of the publisher of the *Rural Canadian* has been accepted, to devote, free of cost to the grange, such portion of his paper (three or four pages) to the requirements of the Order as might be necessary. Possibly objectionable matter to be excluded until approved by the Committee. Arrangements have also been made with the proprietor of the *Rural* to supply the paper to granges in clubs of ten at fifty cents each. The *Rural Canadian* is a 32 page monthly journal, quarto size, devoted to agriculture, the household, general literature, and the grange, and gives each month two pages of choice and instrumental music. The Ontario Executive has made an excellent selection in every respect but one. A grange organ should be published weekly. Nowadays, interests and issues arise, mature, and pass away, with their opportunities for good or ill, within a month. The *Rural* is well worth a dollar of any farmer's money, and is surprisingly cheap at the grange club rate. We heartily recommend it to every Patron. The Executive reports having intorviewed the government of Ontario with reference to several matters previously discussed by the Provincial Grange. One of these matters is the reduction of the county councils. Our municipal councils might with double advantage be reduced one half—that is we would probably get double the work done for half the expense.

The injustice of certain tax exemptions which, lightening the burden on financially able shoulders, makes it bear more oppressively upon the farmers and toilers generally. Our Ontario brethren also consider that farm stock, which are clearly a product of the farm, should be exempt from taxation on the same ground that grain is. We think that the products of the farm, which if anything does, represent the farmer's financial ability, should be taxed and not the farm. But what is the use of interviewing and talking? Let us—

"Act in the living present."

The people are the source of power, and the farmers are the majority of the people. Let us select and elect men who will represent us.

The Executive, after giving the reasons for not holding the regular Annual Session of the Provincial and Dominion granges at the usual time, urges the need of missionary spirit in the Order, and for "a perfect unity among the tillers of the soil, their interests all being identical." This unity can only be effected, and effectively directed, by means of just such an organization as ours. We heartily endorse these words: "There is no valid reason why the grange should not stand prominent over the whole country, as it is so well qualified to be the guardian of our rights, and as a neutral ground whereon all creeds and parties can unite to calmly, pleasantly, and profitably discuss all those subjects which are of so much importance to us as farmers, the profession which is acknowledged to be of paramount importance to this Province."

The Report closes by referring to the not altogether satisfactory condition of "those institutions which we have built up by our intelligence and industry," and by urging "upon all members the necessity that exists for exerting themselves in behalf of those institutions, giving them all the support which it was expected at their inception they would receive from Patrons." This language cannot refer to at least one of our institutions. The Dominion Grange Mutual Fire Insurance Association, which is in a very prosperous condition, and is an institution of which our Order might well be proud. We will refer at length in subsequent issues to our Grange Institutions.

Bro. Gifford's circular is lengthy, and treats of the financial and general condition of the Order in Ontario. The reduction of the expenses and increasing the efficiency of the Dominion Grange. The work and the importance of Provincial granges. Proposals to have several instead of only one Provincial grange for Ontario. The reduction of county councils. Assessment reform. Defects in the school system of Ontario. Directors reporting from Subordinate to Provincial granges. The importance of Patrons being thoroughly acquainted with our *Declaration of Principles*, of being imbued with their spirit, and of publishing them to the world. The extortions of railway companies, and other monopolies "that fatten at our expense," and the remedy. Knights of Labor—Strikes and Boycotting. And the circular closes with an earnest appeal to brother secretaries (we would have added "and sister secretaries," for our sisters make our best secretaries) to see that their granges are doing their work thoroughly, to

spare no efforts to make the meetings interesting, to urge upon members the necessity of attending meetings promptly, and to bring at least each one new member during the quarter, to urge the necessity for holding pic-nics and open meetings, and of visiting neighboring granges, and to do all their business promptly, and to urge the same upon their fellow members.

The Report and Circular letter should have a good effect upon the Order in Ontario. We would have noticed it earlier—it is dated early in March—but the copy before us has only just been received, and through the courtesy of a Nova Scotian Patron.

L'EMULSION PUTTNER!

Des medecins du Dispensaire d'Halifax, N. E.

Nous, soussignés, medecins attachés au Dispensaire d'Halifax, ayant eu souvent l'occasion de prescrire l'Emulsion d'huile de foie de morue de Puttner, Hypophosphites, etc., sommes heureux de déclarer que nos sommes très satisfaits du résultat que nous avons obtenu ayant constaté que c'était non seulement un remède sûr et efficace, mais en outre, qu'on pouvait le prendre sans éprouver les effets désagréables qui accompagnent si souvent l'usage de l'huile de foie de morue.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Port Greville Harbor," will be received at this Office until SATURDAY, the 26th day of June, 1886, inclusively, for the construction of works at PORT GREVILLE, Cumberland County, N. S., in accordance with plans and specification to be seen, on and after Saturday the 26th June, at the Office of the Department of Public Works, Custom House, Saint John N. B., and at the Office of the Halifax Banking Company, Parramore's, N. S., where printed forms of tender can be obtained.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, the blanks properly filled in, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an acceptable bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent, of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. GOBELL, Secretary.
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 27th May, 1886.

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NOTICE.

A General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Halifax and Dartmouth Steam Ferry Company (Limited), will be held in Association Hall, city of Halifax, on Thursday, June the 17th next, at 3 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of organizing the said company, passing bye-laws, electing directors and the transaction of other business in connection with the organization of said company

By order of the Provisional Board of Director.
J C MACKINTOSH
Acting Secretary
Halifax, N. S., May 31st, 1886.
N. B.—Only those who have paid the first call will be entitled to vote at the above meeting

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MINING.

A GREAT PROVINCIAL LOTTERY.—The method by which gold claims are now taken up places the Government in the unenviable position of aiding and abetting a huge lottery enterprise.

As it is a lottery in which the Province is a heavy loser in the long run, and as the system is ruinous to the development of our great mineral resources, it deserves universal condemnation.

A prospector comes into the mines office, and takes up a few claims. He shows samples of the quartz that he has obtained, and often, unintentionally, raises considerable excitement. The news flies around the city, and before nightfall, the few areas secured by the prospector are surrounded by hundreds of claims taken up in every direction. The takers have invested their money in the Government lottery; the provincial exchequer is enriched by a few hundred dollars; but what is the result? The owners of these areas do not intend to work them. They can afford to lie back, as the wheel of fortune slowly revolves, and look on while the prospector is developing his property. He (the prospector) finds, most likely, that he has been working in the drift, and eventually discovers that the true lead is outside of his property. On applying to the mines office for more areas, he is informed that they have been taken up. Disgusted, and ruined it may be, he retires, while the fortunate drawer of the lucky areas (in the words of the gambling fraternity) "scoops in the pool." The winner at once puts an exorbitant price on his property, and perhaps waits for years for a purchaser. He will not work it, not he. Gold mining is uncertain, and development may prove the property of little value. The lead is open, it shows gold, and he would not strike another blow for thousands. In time he may get his price, and he can afford to wait. This is a truthful history, and is applicable to most of the mining camps in the Province.

The Government receives a few hundred dollars, where, if the properties had been worked, they might have gained thousands. Properties remain undeveloped, prospectors are discouraged, and capital is driven to other fields.

It is amusing to watch these gamblers in gold claims. They haunt the mines office, apparently busily engaged in examining titles, or tracing properties on the mining maps. If a prospector or investor comes in, they are all ears, and drink in every word of his conversation with the officials.

Some speculate in blocks, but the older hands take up a number of single areas, and dot the mining map with their claims like checkers on a checker-board. Leads are uncertain in their course, and who knows what lucky area may intercept one? If they succeed, what a charm there is in negotiating with owners of adjacent properties, who are anxious to follow up the lead?

Some wag played a good joke on these vampires who suck the life blood out of our mining enterprises. He applied for a few areas in a mythical locality, in Cape Breton, and had the pleasure, shortly after, of finding that all the surrounding areas had been taken up. Ever since, the holders of these licenses have been looking in vain for their properties. The remedy for this grievance is simple.

Prospecting licenses only should be granted in the first instance, conditional on a certain amount of work being done, and no leases should be issued until a lead had been proved to exist.

These leases should be made forfeitable yearly, for a period of, say, ten years, unless sworn returns are filed in the mines office, proving that the requisite work has been performed.

Where it is shown that a *bona fide* attempt has been made to work the property, or that efforts have been or are being made to obtain capital, the Government should have the power to continue the leases, and in fact, should only forfeit the leases of such properties as had not been worked at all.

Let this be done, and the Province will find that it has gained in riches, while it has abolished a most iniquitous lottery.

BEAN RIVER.—Dear Sir,—Our cherry trees have proved in the past an excellent gold mine in this place; but there is now every prospect that the precious metal will itself be found in this vicinity. I saw, a few days since, some fine specimens of gold bearing quartz from the Copeland and Harris, which is being extensively prospected. Will keep you posted as to future developments. Yours, etc., E. J. C.

A RARE METAL.—The mining savants in the vicinity of Laramie, Wyo., were recently puzzled over the finding of a rare and curious mineral. The parties who took it out of the ground sent specimens of the rock to an expert assayer and metallurgist at Laramie. The assayer found both gold and silver, and a great deal of another metal, which acids refused to affect. It was a dark red, mysterious metal, which defied his attempts to discover what it was. He sent some of the quartz to Prof. Burlingame in Denver, who agreed that the red portion of the rock was some rare and probably valuable mineral, but could not tell what it was. Specimens were then forwarded to Prof. Stedfeldt, the celebrated metallurgist and mining engineer of New York, who has sent in his report that the red metal is rubidium, an extremely rare and very valuable metal. It is quoted at \$118 per grain, or \$566 per ounce. This would make its value \$9,070 per pound, or more than fifteen times the value of gold. Just what it is good for is not stated, nor whether it is difficult or easy to separate it from the rock and other minerals with which it is mixed. The discovery of the mine is regarded as a big thing, even in the mining country in which it is located, as the new metal is said to be worth more than any other previously found in the Rocky Mountain region.—*Rocky Mountain News.*

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Our \$24 00 ASH CHAMBERSET, Trimmed with Walnut, and our \$18 00 PAINTED SUIT with Landscape Mirror, are MARVELS OF CHEAPNESS, and take at sight. Our SOLID WALNUT (remember not imitation) PARLOR SUIT, in Haircloth or Tapestry Coverings, at \$35.00, surpasses anything in the Dominion.

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MINING—Continued.

MINING ASSOCIATION.—A fair start has been made towards the formation of a Mining Association, but much still remains to be done; and it is to be hoped that all mine-owners, mining engineers, and prospectors, will now come forward and make the Association the success it should be.

When the Association is once in full working order, its great usefulness will be made apparent.

Outside of the incalculable benefits to be derived from the meeting together of all the mining men in the Province, the debates and papers that would follow on the best methods of mining and milling the ores, the comparison of ideas and the feeling of good fellowship engendered, is the fact that the Association would become a power which would command the attention of our legislators.

Our mining Act, with all its crudities and absurdities, certainly needs amendments, if not a total revision, and who so competent to point out its defects and suggest amendments, as the men engaged in the mining business, who have so often suffered under the present Act.

We all know that the titles in this Province are now considered so uncertain that capital, which would otherwise flow in this direction, is now almost unattainable; and with this fact before them, mining men should at once unite, and with the power that unity gives, have the evil eradicated without delay.

The good work cannot be begun too soon, as it requires time, consideration and close legal scrutiny, to prepare an Act that will remedy existing defects, and not interfere with old titles.

With the light thrown on the present Act by recent decisions, after a careful examination of the mining laws of other countries, aided by the views of practical men as to our local necessities, the Association should be able to meet the next Legislature with an Act that would be a credit to our Province, and that would do away entirely with the vexatious and ruinous litigation that at present involves some of our richest gold properties.

This one object should suffice to at once unite all the mining men in the Province; and it is hoped that the roll of the Association, which is in the office of W. L. Lowell & Co., will be rapidly filled up.

Miners residing at a distance, and not intending to visit the city at present, would confer a favor by communicating their views to the editor of THE CRITIC.

KENTVILLE MINE.—The 12 tons of quartz run through the mill last week yielded 21 ounces of gold. If this return continues, the company will make a good thing out of it. We are on the look out for your agent in this camp.—*Com.*

Mr. H. S. Poole, manager of the Acadia, and Mr. J. G. Rutherford, of the Halifax company, went to Montreal last week to consult with the mine owners on matters connected with the scheme for the amalgamation of the coal companies.—*Trades' Journal.*

A COAL MINE.—After investigation by a competent miner, Turney Manzer's coal mine on the Nashwaak, promises to become a huge bonanza.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

VICTORIA, B. C., May 12th.—The province appears on the eve of a great quartz excitement. Numerous new ledges are being opened, and preparations made to work the old discoveries.

PERSONAL.—F. E. Corning, Esq., of New York, one of the first class mining experts of the United States, is in town, and will proceed to St. Anne and other places, to examine and report upon the various mines owned by Judge Tremaine. He is sent by a syndicate. It is to be hoped that the energy exhibited by Judge Tremaine in regard to the mining industries of this and the adjoining county will be fully realized and well repaid.—*Island Reporter.*

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GOVT. INSPECTOR OF MINES.—“The following summary shows, so far as I have been able to learn, the mineral production of Nova Scotia during the year 1885, compared with that of the previous year:—

	1884.	1885
Gold.....Ounces.....	16,079	22,203
Iron Ore.....Tons.....	54,885	48,129
Manganese Ore.....“.....	302	353½
Copper.....“.....	110	
Lead.....“.....	100	
Barytes.....“.....		300
Antimony.....“.....	600	758
Coal raised.....“.....	1,389,205	1,352,205.
Gypsum.....“.....	111,068	87,644
Building Stone.....“.....	780	3,827
Coke made.....“.....	40,085	30,185
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Grindstones, etc.....“.....	2,200	2,208

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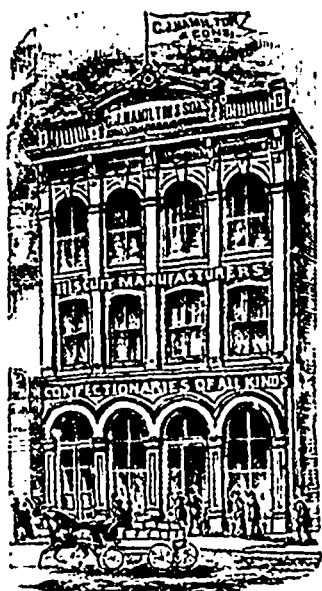
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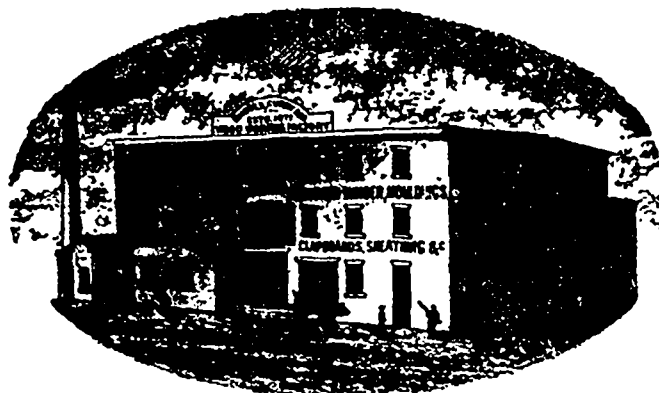
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