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Earl Sydney has (doubtless by command) laid before the Queen an extensive scheme for the abolition of a number of offices, and reducing the expenditure generally, of the Royal Household.

By the retirement of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Chas. Elliot, Admiral Lord John Hay becomes an A. F., Vice-Admiral Lyons goes up to the Admiral's list, Rear Admiral Sir Fred. Richards becomes a Vice-Admiral, and Capt. Jas. G. Mead, if he does not retire, will obtain his Rear-Admiral's flag. The three A. F.'s are now, the venerable Sir P. W. P. Wallis, G. C. B., who is approaching his 100th year, and who is retained on the active list as a special case: Sir Geoffrey T. Phipps-Hornby, G. C. B., who is 63, and Lord John Hay, G. C. B., who is 61, being the youngest officer who ever attained the highest rank.

The lance now being issued to the German Cavalry is composed entirely of metal, the lance-pole being replaced by a steel cylinder, which renders it handier and lighter than when made of wood. The French are considering the advisability of restoring this arm to their cavalry, as its hasty abolition was a doubtful proceeding. Although the weapon is of little avail in the *mêlée*, it is most formidable otherwise, and its moral effect is enormous. As seen during the Indian Mutiny and in the Zulu and Egyptian wars, men will throw themselves on the ground before Hussars or other troops unable to reach them with the sword, and when they have passed spring up and fire, whereas the approach of Lancers will cause a precipitate retreat.

The self-seeking and unscrupulous Mr. Wiman is showing himself in his true colors, in an endeavor to defraud the stockholders of the Montreal Telegraph Company, with which he entered into a contract for a thirty years rental of their system. He now turns round upon them, and tells them that their plant and guarantees are valueless, and that, as all but four of their officers are under the control of the G. N. W. Telegraph Company, they must submit to a 25 per cent, or any other reduction he may offer, or he will break the contract. This worthy disciple of the grasping Jay Gould, is one of those brazen monopolists whose operations go far to justify anarchical cries against capital. If Mr. Wiman endeavors to carry out his iniquitous designs, it will probably come before the Canadian courts.

Notwithstanding the outcry raised a year or so ago about the infamous quality of the bayonets, sabres and cutlasses, manufactured for the British Army and Navy, the evil is not yet, it would appear, stamped out. Complaints have again cropped up of the uselessness of the bayonets and sabres used by the British Troops at Suakim in the recent action. One hussar is said to have been killed through his sabre breaking during the fight, and we believe there was also reason to complain of the quality of the bayonets. If these things are true, they are most disgraceful, and it is to be hoped Parliament will take energetic steps to guard against the greed and corruption of contractors. There is, however, a subsequent statement that the weapons now complained of are of German manufacture, which we hope may be true. But if this be the case, the question arises, what business has England to depend upon foreign manufacture for articles of such importance?

One great argument advanced against the erection of iron and steel works in Nova Scotia is that there is not market sufficient in the Dominion to pay interest on the large capital required. There is no question as to the immense value of the iron and coal deposits in close proximity, and it is a known fact that no country in the world has greater natural facilities for the cheap manufacture of steel and iron than this Province by the sea, and yet, on the argument that there is not sufficient market, many or most of the best iron properties still remain comparatively undeveloped. The operations of Mr. Lesly on the Holmes Primrose iron areas at East River, Pictou County, extend the hope that the large iron deposits of that locality are about to be opened up and this looks as though the fallacy of the no-market theory had been exposed. The growth of the Dominion in wealth and population is very rapid, and every year sees a steady increase in the demand for steel and iron. Iron and steel shipbuilding have, strange to say, been successfully started at Owen Sound, and if success is possible there, how much greater are the advantages of Nova Scotia? One steel ship has been completed at Owen Sound, and now a fresh contract has been taken to build a large steel steamer, the machinery for which is to be constructed at Toronto. If the undertaking pays under these circumstances, there is every reason why steel and iron shipbuilding should pay much better in Nova Scotia. Pictou and New Glasgow seem to be the towns with special facilities for the business, and not a year should elapse before some steps are taken to substitute iron and steel shipbuilding for the now almost abandoned wooden shipbuilding.

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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We notice with pleasure the appointment of Col. Armstrong, of the N. B. Garrison Artillery, and Col. Curren, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, to be extra Aides-de-Camp to Lord Stanley. This recognition of the services and efficiency of Col. Curren will be received in Halifax with great satisfaction both by his fellow-citizens at large, and by his brother officers and the Militia generally, Col. Curren having in every way well merited the distinction.

The C. P. R. has issued three new pamphlets fully explaining the capabilities of the great Canadian North-West, and its immense advantages to settlers over the adjoining American States. One of them is a sketch by Mr. Henry Norman, the Special Correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of *The Prairies of Manitoba and Who Live on Them*. Another is a series of every-day questions and answers to them. The C. P. R., by the large circulation of its practical pamphlets in Great Britain, has done wonders in accelerating the rapid settlement of our great wheat country.

Most of us fancy we know Shelley, that is to say his poems, for it is no fault of numbers of biographers if we do not know the man; but it seems that but a few rich people do know his works as they come from his hands. A new edition, published by Mr. Rd. Hearne Shepherd, brings within the reach of the book-lover of modest means what have hitherto been, so far as the full sense of the author is concerned, sealed books. The alterations or emendations by authors of their own works are generally damaging to their freshness, but Shelley stands on a different footing. The alterations he made were forced upon him by the timidity of printers and publishers, who refused, except upon their own terms, to give his writings publicity: they were made by Shelley under compulsion, and are in no sense his own. So soon, then, as changed times permit, the works are to be read in their integrity. In place of the emasculated "Revolt of Islam," the reader now has "Laon and Cythna," with its full revelation of Shelley's moral, political, and theological views. Of the poets of the first half of the century, Shelley is psychologically the most interesting. His own absolute views and expressions are precisely what the world wants. They are now accessible, and the new edition, which includes many pieces not given in ordinary editions, is a boon of the highest order.

A curious theory has been recently broached, that, in the bygone ages, the moon's orbit being more eccentric than now, which involved a nearer approach to the Earth in the smaller diameter of the ellipse, the Earth's superior attraction actually drew from the satellite the water, the utter absence of which in her is now so conspicuous. Whether our still abundant water-supply may be an ill-gotten gain or no, it is certain that, at this era of the system, we may congratulate ourselves on it; for without the primary element—speaking according to an old-fashioned and unscientific nomenclature of elements—the population of our Earth would soon become restricted to an extent which would speedily eliminate all the advances of civilization and science. As it is, we may be thankful that our atmosphere is still capable of secreting and pouring down upon us an almost limitless supply, for it was not without deep reason that hoar antiquity postulated the water as the great Mother of Life.

Readers of naval novels will be familiar with the marked type of Naval Officer formerly known as "Masters," a valuable class, whose duties—the navigation of the ship, her stowage, and the control of her stores—were most onerous and responsible. They generally came in from the Merchant Service, and for years occupied an invidious position, a Master of 20 or 30 years standing ranking below all Lieutenants. A reform in their favor was made some years ago, by instituting the ranks of "Navigating" Sub-Lieutenants and Lieutenants, and "Staff" Commanders and Captains. Ultimately it was decided to abolish the class, and entries were stopped. 1889 will witness the extinction of the Navigating Lieutenants, of which rank only 17 or 18 remain, and there are now only 15 Staff Captains and about 100 Staff Commanders on the Active list. The navigating duties are now performed in most ships by ordinary Lieutenants who have qualified themselves for navigating duties.

Like America, Russia seems to lose her distinguished Generals at a comparatively early age. The great Engineer who defended Sebastopol was not, if we remember rightly, an old man when he died, nor was Kauffman, the conqueror of Khiva. Skobelev was cut off in the fullness of manhood, not without suspicion that his uncompromising Pan Slavism and his extreme popularity caused him to be removed, and now, in the last days of the past year, we learn the death of General Count Loris-Melikoff, at the comparatively early age of 62. Loris-Melikoff, statesman as well as able soldier and successful commander in the field, developed, as Governor of a District, and as Minister of the Interior, a liberality, combined with firmness, in dealing with the Nihilists, which ought to have produced greater results than it eventually did, and which might perhaps have done so, but for the unfortunate assassination of the Czar Alexander II. It is quite possible that his boldness and confidence were not so acceptable to his successor.

Nationally, as individually, indiscreet acts entail a long series of consequences of which no man can foresee the end, or venture to say when the ripples of the vortex will lose themselves and become inappreciable in calm water. It seems as if England would never hear or see the last of the consequences of her continual blundering and easy-going old-time diplomacy. One of these follies was the admission of any French rights in the Island of Newfoundland, and allowing France to retain any territory in Canadian waters. France is now about to urge on the British Government the suppression of certain lobster factories which, the French allege, interfere with their treaty rights on the Newfoundland shore. If England had been as unscrupulous as some other nations she might have put a summary end to French pretensions in this hemisphere, when Germany had France by the throat. Probably France will find enough to occupy her at home during the coming centenary of her grand saturnalia of anarchy and blood.

Considering the advanced age of a number of the prominent personages of the world to whom we alluded a year ago, but a moderate proportion of those whose span of life has been extended far beyond the scriptural three-score years and ten, have been gathered in by the beneficent Reaper. Of these the most conspicuous was the grand and chivalrous old German Emperor. Of old, but not great, soldiers the record shows, of Englishmen, Field Marshal Lord Lucan, in his 89th year; and among Frenchmen, Marshals Leboeuf and Bazaine, whose ages were considerable, but whose reputations were sinister, rather than glorious. Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, a worthy prelate, had more than attained the conventional span; and in literature, Mrs. Mary Howitt was of ripe years, as was also General Sir Charles Ellice, lately Quarter-Master-General of the British Army. As many of the remainder as we can call to mind were but of little more than middle age. First and foremost, and most to be lamented, stands the Emperor Frederic, whose premature demise, while it brought forth in clearest light the heroism of his character, was felt as an irreparable loss to Europe, groaning under a system of jealous military preparation, which his peaceful temperament and liberal aspirations might have done so much to lighten. Three Flag Officers of the Navy have been removed from the Active list. Admiral of the Fleet Sir A. P. Ryder, Vice Admiral Sir William Hewitt (a very distinguished officer), and Rear Admiral William Codrington. Popular science sustained a great loss in the death of Professor R. A. Proctor, the well-known astronomer, and literature, perhaps a greater, in the lamented Matthew Arnold. America has lost a brave and brilliant soldier in General Sheridan, late Commander-in-Chief of her army; a notable politician in the person of Mr. Roscoe Conkling; a charming writer in that of Louisa M. Alcott; and an excellent lady in Mrs. Sherman, wife of the famous General who was Sheridan's predecessor in the command-in-chief. In Canada the death of Mr. White, Minister of the Interior, was a decided public loss, to which must be added those of Mr. Plumb,

Speaker of the Senate, and of the Hon. Mr. Ferrier. In the last days of the year comes the news of the death of the Russian General, Loris-Melikoff, a soldier and statesman so conspicuous that we feel constrained to allude to him a little more at length in another note.

A good deal of astronomical nonsense has been talked in connection with the elementary disturbances of the year to which we have just bid farewell. It has even gone the length of ascribing to Mars (a planet, taking diameter, mass and volume together, not more than one-sixth the size and attractive power of the earth) an influence which it is altogether unlikely he could exert at a mean distance of 48,000,000 of miles. With more probability, allusion has been made to an unusual development of sun-spots. Sun-spots are evidences of disturbance in the enormous highly-heated and luminous atmosphere of the sun, of which the effect on the earth is so direct that any impact sufficient to produce phenomena such as have been observed in stars which have for a time blazed into abnormal apparent magnitudes, and then vanished from sight, would reduce to a very plain matter of experience the lurid description of the end of the world in the last chapter of the second epistle of Peter (of doubtful authorship.) A multitude of sun-spots is a diminution of heat and radiance, and might account for exceptional humidity and absence of heat.

At this season last year we alluded to the ancient superstition (connected with the expression of numbers by letters of the Greek alphabet) that the figures 888 symbolized all that was good and perfect, in contradistinction to 666, the number of the "Beast," which used to furnish food for the wildest speculations of millenarians. Notwithstanding the number of perfection, however, the year '88 has been far from what we think perfect, especially as to weather. If its casualties were reliably summarized, we fancy they would be found to be more calamitous than for very many years. Cyclones, earthquakes, rain storms, blizzards, floods, and convulsions of nature of one sort and another, frightfully destructive of human life, to say nothing of property, have marked 1888 with a gloomy distinction. Floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, have desolated whole Provinces of China and Japan. Germany, Spain, Poland, and other European countries have suffered to an almost unexampled extent by floods and the absence of summer warmth, great storms have swept the coasts of Great Britain, and throughout all Europe the crops have been unprecedentedly short. Mexico and the United States have had their full share of catastrophe from cyclone and flood. But from the most destructive elementary disturbances our own favored land has enjoyed a singular exemption, and curiously enough, Great Britain has not suffered in any proportion to other countries.

The year 1889 is an ominous centenary—that of the outbreak of the sanguinary Revolution which convulsed all Europe, set back the current of freedom of thought for half a century, scared right-feeling men inclined to Liberalism back to the uncompromising Conservatism which so long remained a baleful barrier to the extension of political freedom, and intensified the worst features of the French national character. Since the terrible year 1789, France has seen a Republic, a Dictatorship, an Empire fraught with woe and debt to all Europe, a restoration of the Monarchy, a brief overthrow of it, and a second Restoration. Then a Revolution which seated another branch of the Bourbons on the throne, to be ignominiously driven from it by a second Republic, which again merged into a second Empire. This was prostrated by the German arms, and a third Republic established on its ruins after the customary interlude of anarchy and murder. If we do not greatly misread the signs of the times, 1889 will not pass away without another convulsion for France. It may be precipitated at any moment by some accident applying the match to the magazine of the vast armies of the great powers which now glower at each other across their frontiers, but is just as likely to (indeed it seems almost inevitable that it should) come to pass through the weakness of the Republic, the growing power of Boulanger, and the intrigues of Legitimists and Bonapartists. If the eruption break forth in France, it may be taken for granted that the surrounding combustible material of the other nations will at once be ignited.

It is not without danger that the slightest concession can be made to our grasping and unscrupulous neighbors. "Punica fides" (Punic faith) became a byword in ancient Rome for diplomatic treachery and over-reaching. It is time for some one to invent an epigrammatic term to apply to those modern Carthaginians, the United States, in the same sense. The indulgence recently accorded to an American fishing vessel to tranship her cargo under circumstances which seemed to justify the concession as an individual and exceptional favor, has already, we understand, been treated by the astute Consul-General in Halifax for the United States, in a manner plainly developing the intent to erect this case into a precedent. The *Empire* has the following very true and pertinent remarks on the subject generally:—"When a New England fishing vessel comes into a Canadian port for repairs the law has frequently been relaxed, to prevent the loss of the perishable cargo, by permitting its sale. The return for this neighborly consideration is a chorus from United States consuls, senators and journals that Canada has abandoned its claims to make laws for its own territory, and has conceded to the United States the right to dictate our policy. Of course that section of the United States press which is published in Canada hastens to swell the pæans of triumph. The consequence naturally is, that such favors to our neighbors in distress cannot be so freely conceded, since our kindness, instead of evoking gratitude, is made the basis for fresh attacks upon our territorial rights. So those whose misconduct prevents their being received with a generous hospitality, which they abuse, will raise a fresh outcry that they are brutally treated, and journals pretending to be Canadian will not be ashamed to support these false charges."

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

WHERE IS SHE NOW.

Softly still breaks the rolling swell
On the silvery sandèd shore,
But where is the charming seaside belle?
She is seen at the beach no more!

We saw her there in her beauty's pride
But a few short weeks ago:
Like a mermaid fair we beheld her glide
Through the surf and the undertow.

We saw her, after the bath was o'er,
Enjoying a promenade
On the beach a spacious sandèd floor,
In her summer dress arrayed.

Ah! many indeed were the hearts she won
As she promenaded there
In her loveliness, while the favored sun
Was drying her rippling hair.

The waves roll in, as we said before,
Roll in in the same old way,
But the seaside belle we behold no more--
Oh! where does she hide to-day?

She has gone from the beach where the crickets play
And the merry wavelets splash:
In an up-town dry goods store, to-day,
You may hear her shouting, "Cash!"

—From the Boston Courier.

Dean-Swift said that a crowd was a mob even if it was composed of bishops.

"Isn't my poetry of a high order?" demanded a poet of the editor. "It is indeed," replied the latter, remembering that he saw his wife papering the garret with a lot of it.

The old style finger rings, with a setting containing a small compass, is now being brought into use by electrical engineers. Held near a line-wire, the movement of the compass shows at once whether a current is passing.

Loic — "The sun is all very well," said an Irishman, "but the moon is worth two of it; for the moon affords us light in the night-time, when we want it, whereas the sun's with us in the day time, when we have no occasion for it."

The best and simplest cosmetic for women is constant gentleness and sympathy for the noblest interests of her fellow creatures. This preserves and gives to her features an indelibly gay, fresh and agreeable expression. If women would but realize that harshness makes them ugly, it would prove the best means of conversion.

IN AN OPERA BOX.—Young wife (to her husband who wishes her to excuse him for a few moments)—No objection to your going out to "see a man," as you call it, Charles, but if you are going to be gone as long as you were last time, please send some good looking man to see me.

Charles concludes not to go.

"What did Santa Claus bring you down the chimney on Christmas?" asked old Mrs. Peterby of her little grandchild, Tommy.

"Grandmother, I am surprised that a person of your age should still believe in such childish things," replied the little Boston boy, who will be five years old on his next birthday.

"Lend me yer snuff bottle," said Mrs. Slick to her daughter in church one morning, "I'm ne'r about ill to my stomach. If there ain't the minister's wife in a bonnet with red ribbons just like the one I'm agettin' from Le Bon Marche, it's right down annoyin', it is, to have everybody astrainin' away and pir-hin' of them-elves to raise enough to pay our minister, and then have his 'fo asquanderin' of his wealth on showy bonnets. Well, there's one consolation, ruddy complected people don't look well in red, and if she had good taste she'd have known that, and got a bonnet more in keepin' with her means."

Somebody was wicked enough to recall the other day, apropos of a thrice married bridegroom, Gail Hamilton's cutting and comprehensive remark to a man who had just married his third wife. It was in the old days when George Q. Cannon, Delegate in Congress from Utah, was living more or less happily with three wives. "Look," said the thrice-married bridegroom to Gail Hamilton at an evening reception. "There comes Cannon, the polygamist."

"Yes," said Gail Hamilton, "and the only difference between you and him is that you drive yours tandem, while he drives them abreast."

While the question of the origin of the Aryans is under discussion, Mr. G. Bertin suggests that we may learn something of it by looking further than we have yet done into the roots of their languages. Even in the oldest specimens they bear evidence of being hybrids—in inconsistencies of syntax; in the promiscuous use of prepositions and postpositions; in having many words and roots to express the same objects, and in the use of three genders. Hence the original tongue may have been a fusion of two languages—say of Accadian or some closely-related speech, and some Semitic language. The supposition is supported by the fact that a great many resemblances have been observed between Accadian and Sanscrit.

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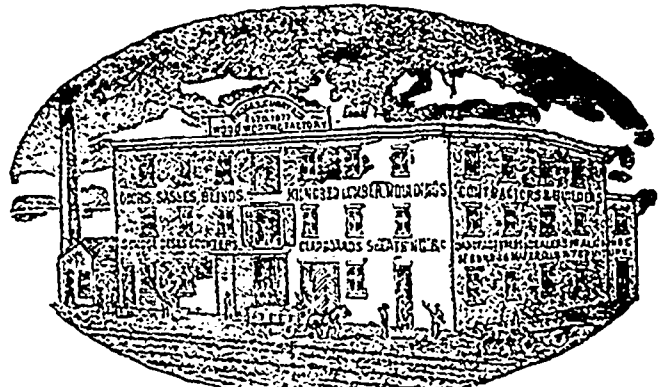
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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 15. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to a subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

We learn that many of our subscribers are awaiting a visit from an Agent for THE CRITIC to pay their subscriptions. This course may entail considerable delay, and we would request those who may be thus in suspense to remit the amounts due by Registered letter or Post Office Order. This only involves an expenditure of 2 (two) cents, and the money is transmitted at our risk. Any amount under \$1.00 may be remitted in Postage Stamps.

An oatmeal factory is talked of for Pictou.

Dickey's exact majority in Cumberland is 1,057.

The public schools of Amherst have been closed owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau's health is improving under the treatment of Dr. Guyon, of Paris.

The Independent Order of Foresters will apply next session of Parliament for incorporation.

The members of the Gold Miners' Club dined together at the Halifax Hotel Wednesday evening.

The Canada Meat Packing Company, Montreal, is building a factory in that city at a cost of \$18,000.

The gross earnings of the C. P. R. during the past year are estimated at \$14,000,000—net \$4,000,000.

Merchants all over say that this has been the busiest Christmas season for years, and trade has been very brisk.

The schooner *Carolina* has arrived at Bridgewater with 350 tons steel rails for the Nova Scotia Central Railway.

The *Gripsack* for January will contain a portrait and sketch of Joe Edwards, the popular W. & A. R. Conductor.

The Cotton mill at Kingston, Ontario, has orders enough to keep running till next July. Orders from China had to be refused.

The French Government threatens to drive all English settlers away from that portion of Newfoundland on which France has treaty rights.

Farmers living near the boundary in Manitoba, are petitioning the government to allow them to grind their wheat in American mills.

Mount Albion graduates will in future be admitted to all medical schools in the United Kingdom without having any preliminary examination.

The steam tug *Lillie* has been chartered to carry the mails and freight between St. John, Digby and Annapolis, until some other arrangement is made.

Recruiting for the Mounted Police will commence in the Eastern Provinces next March and April, when about one hundred vacancies will occur in the force.

We are in receipt of the *Canadian Voice*, a new prohibition weekly organ published in Halifax, which is doubtless of interest to persons of extreme views.

A special enquiry into the origin of the late Dorchester fire confirms the opinion that it was ignited by a pipe laid by the late deputy warden on a window sill before retiring.

The militia authorities are about taking action to compel the City of Winnipeg to pay cash for calling out the militia to preserve peace during the recent crossings trouble.

The Pictou Boot and Shoe Company promises to be a successful enterprise, nearly all the stock has been subscribed and the directors are taking active steps to promote the scheme.

The plaster trade of Hants County has been larger the past season than for some years, amounting to 124,500 tons, and which, but for the extremely wet summer, would have been much larger.

The *Stanley* is now running regularly between Pictou and P. E. I., and the transfer of the large quantities of freight she brings over furnishes employment to a great number of hands.

The *Echo* was right in stating that Hugh McD. Henry was President of the Barristers' Society, he having been elected to that honorable position last September, succeeding Mr. Harrington.

The Post Office Department has made proposals to the Government of the Leeward Islands, West Indies, for the direct interchange of money orders between Canada and the islands mentioned.

The police magistrate at Toronto recently convicted a faith cure doctor for practising in that city, but his conviction was quashed by the Court of Common Pleas, who held that healing or professing to heal by Christian science is not an offence against the medical act.

The postmaster general's report for the last fiscal year shows an increase in the postal revenue of \$150,000. The annual postal travel in Canada is estimated at nearly 25,000,000 of miles, an increase of 56,000 during the year. Eighty million letters and 16,000,000 postal cards passed through the Canadian mails during the year.

The New Brunswick Local Legislature will meet on Thursday, March 7th.

Mr. A. W. Colter has been unanimously re-nominated by the Liberal convention in Haldimand. The contest between him and Dr. Montague will be a keen one, with the chances about even.

In Ottawa the franking privilege has been so sadly abused in the departments that the Government has been compelled to forbid the carriage free through the mails of the private freight of the officials.

Sixty-one thousand cattle and forty-six thousand sheep have been exported from the St. Lawrence ports the past season. There is a slight decrease in the former, but thirty per cent increase in the latter, compared with last year.

The Deputy Minister of Marine denies the story which has been circulated to the effect that the Government proposes subsidizing the seal fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Nothing whatever is known of the proposal in the department.

The *Presbyterian Witness* draws attention to the presence in Nova Scotia of a number of Mormon propagandists and pervers, who have, it is said, "churches" in Hants and Kings counties. Some steps ought to be taken to stamp out this abomination.

Complaint is made that the arms supplied to the Canadian militia by the Dominion Government are purchased from Wilkinson & Son, the same firm that furnished the rifles and swords which the British troops found almost worthless during the recent fight at Suakim.

As soon as snow comes, and the swamps freeze up, the lumber camps of N. S. will be full. Between Stewiacke and Riversdale there will be about 400 men, between Musquodoboit and Sheet Harbor about 1,000 men, and about the same number between DeBert and Economy.

On Tuesday of last week Chas. Borden, the man who suffered imprisonment for incendiarism in Digby, died suddenly at Digby. He had been living in St. John, but recently returned to Digby and opened a grocery shop. He was seized with an apoplectic fit at noon and died that night.

We have to acknowledge, with thanks, handsome and useful calendars of the Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Company (Thompson & Devlin, agents in Halifax), and the Western Fire and Marine Assurance Co. (Geo. M. Greer, Esq., for the Fire Branch, and J. F. Kenny, Esq., for the Marine Branch, agents in Halifax.)

A very ugly case of imprisoning a young girl in the "Good Shepherd" Convent reformatory at Montreal, for three years for no offence whatever, but apparently by conspiracy, was before Chief Justice Dorion on the 13th ult. The Chief Justice stigmatized the case as "atrocious," but nothing is said of bringing the kidnappers to justice.

The "Jay Hunt and John S. Moulton Dramatic Company" will open at the Academy of Music on Monday evening next. The company is highly spoken of, and its members are said to work well together. "My Beside Girl" is the piece for Monday evening. It is to be followed by several other popular pieces, which will occupy the whole of the week.

The steamship *Yarmouth* made her last trip to Boston on Wednesday the 26th ult., and the *Dominion* her first trip to the same port on Saturday the 29th. The former is to lay up to paint and refit for the spring business. The *Dominion* has been re-classed for four years in the record A 1½ † under special survey, and put in first class order for the winter service.

Mr. John Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who has just returned from a trip to Manitoba, estimates that about 25 per cent. of the wheat crop was touched by frost, but notwithstanding this the farmers have done remarkably well, and notes for agricultural implements have been more promptly met than ever known before, fully 90 per cent. of such notes being retired.

The Dartmouth reading room was opened on New Year's Day, and is well supplied with all the leading periodicals and newspapers. The room is large, and comfortably heated by a base-burner; the walls are nicely decorated, and the floor stained. The ladies of the W. C. T. U. have a coffee room in connection with the reading room, where cold and hungry mortals may procure refreshment at any time.

The Local Government has decided to open schools for the purpose of helping those employed in the coal fields of the province to become competent as over-men or underground managers. The following are the teachers to be employed:—James Baird, Maccan; Robt. Redpath, Springhill Mines; A. D. McKenzie, Thorburn, Pictou; Robert Robson, Sydney; Robert Anderson, Gourie; John Weir, Victoria; Hugh Campbell, Bridgeport.

A collision occurred on the Intercolonial Railway at Maccan Station, on New Year's Day. The special had just arrived, and had nearly come to a standstill, when the regular freight dashed in from the opposite direction. A sharp curve hid the two trains from view. Both engines crashed together and are badly damaged, as well as about a dozen cars. The train men concerned have been suspended. The express from Halifax was due, but passed on the siding and was not delayed.

Halifax has often been timed a "sleepy" city, but it is evident that Hattie & Mylius do not concur in this opinion, for in the future they are going to keep the "Acadia" Drug Store open all night. We have taken pleasure during the past year in noting the several progressive movements made by this live firm, but this step we consider especially merits commendation, as it gives to the people of Halifax advantages enjoyed only by those living in the larger cities of the United States, and shows clearly that H. & M. are imbued with nineteenth century ideas of business.

Cure Rousselot, of St. James Catholic church, one of the wealthiest and most important in Montreal, in a recent sermon urged his flock to continue

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their prosperity under Canadian confederation, and to beware of annexation schemes by which they could gain nothing. He did not speak as a politician but merely as one having an interest in the welfare of the people.

A Gloucester fishing vessel has returned after an absence of nine months, the longest fishing trip from that port on record.

Our American cousins are moving to increase the pension list, and thus make the declining years of their soldiers more comfortable and happy.

White cap outrages continue in Indiana, and there has been a shooting affray between two brothers-in-law in Arkansas in which both were killed.

The American Historical Association began its fifth annual meeting on Wednesday evening in the lecture room of the Columbian University, Washington.

The Washington Post has been publishing interviews with those Congressmen whose districts border Canada, on the question of annexation, and the majority do not favor it.

At a convention of theological professors held in New York last week, the National Academy of Theology was founded. The object of the Academy is the prosecution of theology as a science.

A considerable riot was got up in Dakota between Russians and Americans arising out of a dispute about a goose, taken at a sale by an American and claimed by some of the Mennonites. Knives were used and several on both sides badly injured.

Some more employment for the great American Navy, may possibly arise out of the seizure at Porto Rico, of an American schooner, on account of a mistake in her manifest. It is claimed that her crew were treated with much indignity by the Spaniards.

The New York Tribune continues to exercise itself over the non-appointment of a new British minister to the United States. The Tribune may as well possess its soul in patience, as it is altogether unlikely that one will be sent till President Harrison assumes office.

Mrs. Langtry has seized upon the original idea of having the ushers of the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, during the run of her "Macbeth" production, wear the national Scotch dress. Whereat, the negro minstrel burlesquer, Lew Dockstader, declares he will dress his ushers as Zulu chiefs.

The Russian budget for 1889 shows a surplus income of two million roubles.

General Boulanger advocates the repeal of the laws banishing the Royalists from France.

Sara Bernhardt has had great success at Cairo. The Egyptians call her "Cleopatra's Needle."

A committee has been appointed to inquire into the question of local Government for Scotland.

The accident to the Czar's train at Borki is now attributed to criminal conspiracy, and the dismissed railway employees will be arrested.

The French Government is alarmed over the progress of Boulangism, as indicated by the candidature of Gen. Montauban in the Department of the Somme.

The expedition to Thibet, which was organized by the late M. Prejevalsky, will start on its journey in March next under the command of Col. Pevtzoff.

Goschen read amid cheers a telegram received by the West African Telegraph Company from St. Thomas, reporting the arrival of Stanley and Emin on the Aruwhinel.

Another female tamer of wild beasts has fallen a victim to her occupation, having been killed by a tiger at Hobenmuth, in Bohemia, before the beast could be driven off.

Associations all over the world are raising funds for a vigorous anti-slavery campaign. It is less than 30 years since the world sympathized with a war which had no other pretext than its perpetuation.

The Daily Telegraph, London, Eng., says that, should Mr. Blaine go to London as U. S. minister, England would take it as a great compliment, but whomsoever Gen. Harrison may choose is certain to be persona grata there.

The Emperor of China has conferred marks of distinction upon Prince Bismarck, Herr Krupp, and Herr Shutton, president of the Vulcan company, as a token that China is satisfied with the building of the Chinese ironclad, in Germany.

The Emperor Francis Joseph and King Humbert have exchanged very cordial Christmas greetings. Both these potentates, as well as the German Emperor, are confident of the maintenance of peace. We have our doubts notwithstanding.

The appointment of the crofters Canadian Commission is announced. The members are the Marquis of Lothian, Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. King, and Thomas Skinner. They are empowered to select Highland families for colonization in Canada.

Two more Irish members of Parliament have been found guilty and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, J. Finucane for inciting tenants to intimidation, and J. D. Shehan for conspiracy. The latter gets four months.

The former has been liberated on condition of appearing for sentence when called, his physicians having certified that imprisonment would endanger his life.

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CHESS.

All communications for this department should be addressed-- CHESS EDITOR, Windsor, N. S.

The proprietors of The Critic offer two prizes—to consist of books on Chess—to those subscribers who shall send in the greatest number of correct solutions during the current year. No entrance fee required.

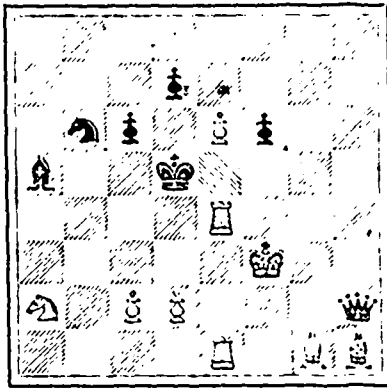
Solutions of the concluding problems of the competition with the names of the prize winners will be inserted in our next issue.

PROBLEM No. 62.

By T. Taverner, (Belton.)

First prize in the Problem Tourney of *Yeuwine's News*.

BLACK—6 pieces.



WHITE—10 pieces.

White to play and mate in 2 moves.

GAME No. 45.

Played June 25, 1882.

(Vienna Opening.)

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|--------------------------|----------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| Mr. R. Steel (Calcutta). | Herr Czauk. |
| 1 P to K4 | P to K4 |
| 2 Kt to QB3 | Kt to QB3 |
| 3 P to KB4 | B to B4 (a) |
| 4 Kt to B3 (b) | P to Q3 |
| 5 B to B4 (c) | Kt to B3 (d) |
| 6 P to Q3 | Castles |
| 7 P to B5 (e) | Kt to QR4 |
| 8 B to KKt5 | Kt takes B |
| 9 P takes Kt | B to Kt5 (f) |
| 10 Q to Q3 | B takes Kt, ch |
| 11 Q takes B | P to QKt3 (g) |
| 12 Castles, QR | B to Kt2 (h) |
| 13 Q to K3 | P to QR4 |
| 14 B takes Kt | Q takes B (i) |
| 15 P to KKt4 | Q to Qsq |
| 16 P to Kt5 | P to KB3 |
| 17 P to KR4 | Q to Q2 |
| 18 P to R5 | Q to B3 |
| 19 Kt to Q2 | P takes P (j) |
| 20 P to KR6 (k) | P takes P |
| 21 R takes P | K to Rsq |
| 22 Q takes KKtP | R to B2 |
| 23 QR to Rsq | Q to Q2 |
| 24 Q to R4 (l) | Q to K2 |
| 25 P to B6 | Q to Q2 |
| 26 Kt to B3 | R to KKtsq |
| 27 R to Ktsq | R takes R, ch |
| 28 Kt takes R | Q to B3 |
| 29 Kt to R3 | Q takes BP |
| 30 P to Kt3 | Q takes KP |
| 31 Q takes Q (m) | B takes Q |
| 32 Kt to Kt5 | B to Kt3 (n) |
| 33 R takes B | P takes R |
| 34 Kt takes R ch | K to Kt sq |
| 35 Kt to Kt5 (o) | P to Q4 |
| 36 K to Q2 | P to B4 |
| 37 K to K3 | P to Kt4 |
| 38 P to B4 (p) | KtP takes P |
| 39 P takes P | P to Q5 ch (q) |
| 40 K to K4 | P to R5 |
| 41 K takes P | P to Q6 |
| 42 K to K6 | P to Q7 |
| 43 K to K7 | P queens |
| 44 P to B7 ch | K to K2 |
| 45 P queens, mate | |

(a) 3 P takes P is the only correct reply in this position.

(b) Inferior to 4 P takes P, which compels Black to continue with :

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 4 | B takes Kt |
| 5 R takes B | Kt takes P |
| 6 P to Q4 | Kt to Kt3 |
| 7 B to K3, &c., | with an advantageous development. |

(c) The text move would be all right if Black's knight were already at B3; but in the actual position we prefer 5 B to Kt5.

(d) We recommend here 5 B to KKt5, followed by 6 Kt to Q5 if feasible.

(e) Premature; the usual continuation is 7 Kt to R1, which prevents Black from exchanging White's KB for the knight.

(f) An excellent move, if Black had followed it up properly White would have had to submit to a triple pawn, or to the loss of the KP.

(g) We can see no reason why Black should not capture the QP, and at least equalize the game, e.g. :

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 11 | Kt takes P |
| 12 B takes Q | Kt takes Q |
| 13 B takes P | Kt to K4 |
| 14 R to Q sq | B takes P |
| 15 B takes QP | KR to K sq |
| 16 P to B3 | QR to B sq, &c. |

(h) The capture now was still more powerful, as the knight would attack the rook in taking the queen, e.g. :

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 12 | Kt takes P |
| 13 B takes Q | Kt takes Q |
| 14 P takes Kt | R takes B |
| 15 Kt takes P | B takes P |
| 16 Kt to B6 | R to K sq, |

with a pawn a head and a winning position.

(i) Perhaps it would have been more advisable to take with the pawn in spite of the seemingly exposed position of the King. Black's queen is compelled to retreat immediately on the next move and White obtains a formidable attack, whereas Black's pieces are hampered even for defensive purposes.

(j) Very questionable. The queen ought to have retired to Q2.

(k) Better than Q takes P. We do not think Black has anything else now but to take the pawn.

(l) In order to defend the KP so that the knight may be available.

(m) The simplest way of finishing the game, White gaining a piece by the transaction.

(n) Black has nothing better. If 32 B to Q4, then 33 P to B4, and the bishop is equally lost. The game might well be abandoned at this stage. The remainder being only a matter of time.

(o) With the exception of one or two feeble moves in the opening, the game was very well played by Mr. Steel. He took the attack on the fourteenth move, and conducted it throughout very skillfully, and without giving his opponent the least chance of a counter attack.

(p) This is the straw which breaks the camel's back.

(q) If 39 P takes P, the game is equally lost.

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engines.

A SECRET SONG.

O Snow-bird! Snow-bird!
Welcome thy note when maple boughs are bare;
Thy merry twitter, thy amiable call,
Like silver trumpets pierce the freezing air,
What time the radiant flakes begin to fall,
We know thy secret. When the days grow dim,
Far from the homes that thou hast cheered so long,
Thy chirping changes to a twilight hymn!
O snow-bird, snow-bird, wherefore hide thy song?

O Snow-bird! Snow-bird!
Is it a song of sorrow none may know,
An aching memory? Nay, too glad the note!
Untouched by knowledge of our human woe,
Clearly the crystal flutings fall and float.
We hear thy tender ecstasy and cry:
"Lead us thy gladness that can brave the chill!"
Under the splendours of the winter sky,
O snow-bird, snow-bird, care! to us still!

MISS J. E. GOSTWYCKE ROBERTS.

A FIRST GLANCE AT JAPAN.

The first thing that strikes the traveller in Japan—fresh, it may be, from the indiscriminating rudeness of the American Far West—is the exceeding civility of everybody, custom house officers included. Cheerfulness, good temper, and politeness are universal. The mothers smile, the children chatter without quarrelling in the streets, and it is a pleasure to watch the ordinary work-people as they meet and go through the prescribed etiquette of bowing and shaking hands with each other. Differences over the carriage of your person and effects—if they exist—are speedily settled without the use of bad language and angry oaths, and in less time than it takes to write, the traveller and his baggage are put into "jinrikishas" (or light carriages, drawn by one or more men scantily dressed, with funny white hats shaped like mushrooms), and are trotted off to the Grand Hotel, famous for its English comfort and French cuisine. These "jinrikishas," or man power carriages, deserve a word or two in passing. Of modern invention, they have been improvised to supply the want of horses and flies, and it is marvellous to see what power of endurance and capacity for toil it is to be found amongst the little broad-shouldered coolies who draw them. It is quite a common thing for them to keep up a good steady pace of six or seven miles an hour, on a diet of rice, fish, or tea, for as many hours in the day, and all this for the scanty wages of 1½d. a mile. These are stubborn facts, which, by comparison, make one tremble for the future of the English working classes, unless they make up their minds to gird themselves up for the coming struggle. The bitter cry of employers at home increases yearly with the increasing dislike of the rising generation to hard manual labor. Throughout Europe and Asia it is the same story—Germans and Japanese beat us with our own weapons, because they work harder, longer, and for less wages. It was not always so; but education has softened us, and philanthropy, with the best intentions, is doing all it can to destroy the sturdy feeling of self dependence, once the pride of the British workman.

In Japan man certainly "wants but little here below." With cotton clothes, a diet of rice and fish, and a house of wattle and daub, domestic bills are not high. An ordinary coolie or laborer in the fields is content with 2s 6d. a week. A clerk in a government office is well paid with £50 a year, and a cabinet minister with £1,000. The so called necessities of life in all classes are at least one-third of what they would be in the United States or in Europe. My inquiries did not extend so far as rent, rates, and taxes, but, whatever they may be, there is a good deal to show for them.

The streets and roads in and about the capital are good, clean, fairly lighted, and admirably policed, and the railroad of eighteen miles to Tokyo—built, like all the railroads of the country, after the English model—leaves little to be desired. The capital itself extends over a large area, and is said to contain a million inhabitants. The area it covers is enormous, embracing as it does numerous temples, surrounded by groves of evergreen trees, and parks laid out in European fashion. Amongst the finest buildings were the Sheba temple and gardens, and the old palace of the Shoguns. These are characteristic of an order of things which is fast passing away. The gardens were prettily laid out in the ancient style, with gigantic stone lanterns surrounding a lake devoted to fish and waterfowl; the latter, when required, being ingeniously caught by keepers with long nets, concealed behind hedges planted for the purpose.

The sight of these old temples and gardens is full of interest to the antiquarian and philosopher. They speak of a form of government and a state of society which it is impossible for Englishmen to realize without going back to the middle ages, but which existed in Japan not a quarter of a century ago. The Shogun and his court, the daimios or great feudal chiefs, and the samurai or military retainers, have vanished into limbo with a rapidity unexampled in history. Their vices did not differ from those of all oligarchical governments, and so far they deserved to perish. It is rather of their virtues, their courage, and their devotion to their feudal chiefs that one would wish to speak, in the hope that the faith, loyalty, and patriotism of the past will not be lost in the future. But the recent reforms have not yet had time to bear fruit, and the issue is still doubtful. In Japan, more than in any other country in the world, the new ideas of society are making the most rapid progress, and it may be that this marvellous people is destined to find the philosopher's stone in politics of combining liberty with empire without destroying what is worth preserving of the past.

It was refreshing at least to find, amongst much that was a mere copy of European taste and fashions, that the new palace of the Mikado at Tokyo is being built entirely of wood after the old models. I covered a great space, being only one story high, and was roofed with the peculiar long overlapping tiles introduced from China. The rooms were well proportioned,

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especially the hall of audience and the banqueting rooms, and the wooden ceilings, with square panels decorated with paper and silk, on which flowers and animals had been beautifully worked, were unique of their kind. Costly as the estimate of the building and its decorations was reported to be—over a million sterling—one felt thankful that the new ideas of progress which rigidly put utility before beauty had not prevailed in this instance, and that a copy of Buckingham Palace had not been substituted for the old Japanese architecture.—*Lord Eustace Cecil, in the Nineteenth Century.*

THE COBRA AND THE MOUSE.

I was visiting at a friend's house in Calcutta, and was on this evening sitting at dinner alone. The table had been some time waiting for the host, and I had at last received a note that he was not coming home, so I sat down alone. I had finished dinner and was still lingering at the table, when a little mouse ran up on the top of a bowl with a sort of basket work cover on it. I should not have thought that of itself very singular, for the "tribes on our frontier" made most unexpected incursions. But when he did get perched on the cover of the bowl, the little fellow rose on his hind legs, with his hands before him, and began to entertain me with the funniest little mouse song you can imagine. "Chit-chit, cheep-cheep-chit," he whistled, and kept it up before me in a most unembarrassed and self-possessed little way. I must have been a true audience, for I leaned back in my chair and roared with laughter. As I looked at the little performer I gradually became aware of a shadow, a something strange gliding out from behind a dish towards the mouse. Silently and slowly it neared the mouse, in another minute a beady snake's eye glittered in the lamplight. My hand stole softly for the carving knife. The snake reared his head level with the mouse, and the poor little fellow's song, which had never ceased, became piercingly shrill, though he sat up rigidly erect and motionless. The head of the snake drew back a little to strike, out flashed the carving knife. The spell was broken instantly, for the mouse dropped and scampered. The snake was wounded, for there were spots of blood on the tablecloth, and it was writhing about among the dishes and plates. I could not make a bold stroke at any part of it for fear of breaking the crockery, and whenever I made a dig with the point it was like pricking a garter. I would not have believed, until I had seen it, how much of himself a snake can stow away under the edge of a plate. At last I saw the end of his tail projecting out from under a dish. A snake held by the tail and swung rapidly round cannot turn back and bite. I grabbed the tail with my left thumb and finger, and drew him out until I judged the middle of his body to be under the knife; then I came down and cut him in two. He was a cobra—a little one about two feet long, but quite long enough to "gravel" a man.—*J. F. Keane.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

It is understood Mr. R. R. Dobell, of Quebec, is organizing a company with a capital of about two million dollars to lay a telegraph cable from Blanc Sablon, at the Straits of Belle Isle, to a point on the coast of Scotland or Ireland. The Dominion Government will, it is anticipated, agree to extend the present telegraph line on the south shore of the gulf from Mingan, the present terminus to Blanc Sablon, and hand the entire gulf and coast telegraph system over to the new company as a subsidy.

Robt. Hopper's Last and Peg Factory, Truro, N. S., was started in 1878, and the business has been increasing steadily year by year up to the present year, which has been the best of all. In the coming summer of next year Mr. Hopper will erect a larger and more commodious factory.

Messrs. John Lewis & Son's Last and Peg Factory, Truro, N. S., has lately been burnt out. Having started again, Messrs. Lewis find it almost impossible to fill the orders they receive.

A. A. Archibald, Carriage Maker and Builder, Truro, makes side-bar buggies, both top and open, cheaply, after the American pattern. Much of his work, however, is designed by himself, and he showed our representative two that took first prizes at the Truro Exhibition.

The law compelling saw mill owners to prevent sawdust from entering the streams is causing much comment among mill men in Nova Scotia. It is stated that as most of the mills in Nova Scotia are direct action, there will be waste in any attempt to stop the sawdust, and the effect must be to curtail the business. A stoppage of business has taken place until an understanding can be arrived at in the matter. The mill owners further claim that while they are compelled to close down their saw mills, owing to inability to prevent refuse from falling into the rivers, the law is not enforced with reference to lumbermen on the Ottawa, in Ontario, who carry on in utter defiance of the enactments of the Dominion Parliament.

From London, Eng., a more quiet trade in Walnut is reported, although there is a fair activity. The stocks are not out of keeping with the demand, and full prices are obtained with difficulty. Prime stock is not plentiful and prices have an upward tendency. There has been no falling off in the whitewood demand. Logs have sold well, but common and good lumber has gone of the best. Prices are well maintained. There is a moderate trade in American oak, and stocks are sufficient. The call is chiefly for lumber of good figure. Gum is quiet, but prices are steady and firm. Redwood is very quiet and low. There is a large stock of American hickory logs on hand, which are of slow sale.

There can be no better proof of the commercial greatness of Halifax than the fact that in our midst we have the largest dry goods house in Canada. The firm of Messrs. Murdock's Nephews occupy the five story building on Hollis Street, lately occupied by Messrs. Doull & Miller. The building is one of the handsomest in the city, and has a frontage on Hollis of 100 feet, extending 60 feet west on Prince St. On entering the handsome front entrance of this spacious edifice we find ourselves on the ground floor, in which are stored the immense stock of cloths of every description for tailoring purposes. Having noted the quality and designs of the various fabrics, we ascend a wide and commodious staircase to the first floor above, where the finest stock of fancy goods in the Maritime Provinces, are to be seen. The second floor is devoted to general staples and dress goods, stocked enough, one would think, to supply the entire Dominion. One noteworthy feature of this department is the excellent light afforded from each side, the extensive room being exceptionally well lighted. Continuing our explorations, we are ushered into room after room, over flooring with every description of dry goods, hosiery, linens, dress goods, ladies' wear, carpets, house furnishing goods, etc. An able and competent staff preside over the various departments, headed by Mr. Boak and Mr. Jenkins, and customers visiting the city will find every attention and the utmost courtesy shown them. A new elevator on the latest improved hydraulic principles is being added, and visitors will be carried from flat to flat without the slightest inconvenience to themselves. In its completeness in every department, it is safe to say there is not another establishment to compare with it in the Dominion of Canada.

In the British Parliament a grievance was made of the fact that three farthings is demanded for a half-ponny postal card.

The English shareholders' memorial to the directors of the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk is attracting attention in the London press. The *Times* declares that the present war of rates between the two companies is ruinous. The *Standard* urges the formation of a powerful combination to resist wanton building of competing lines, and stop the equally wanton fight for traffic at ruinous rates. The *Daily News* says that a friendly traffic agreement should be made.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE FUTURE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING RACES.

Mr. Gladstone has found time, amongst his many other labours, to write an article in an American contemporary upon "The Future of the English Speaking races." The whole question, in the opinion of the ex Premier, is one of population. Mr. Gladstone argues upon this point from the past to the present and from the present to the future, saying that a century ago these who spoke the English language were less than 15,000,000, and that within 100 years they have multiplied sevenfold. He is therefore perfectly convinced in his own mind that about 1980 the whole English-speaking people will, at the present rate of increase, number 1,000,000,000. This estimate, if accurate, will leave at the end of the next century speakers of English far in excess of any other nationality. Having satisfied himself upon this all important point, Mr. Gladstone at once goes on to consider some minor matters relative and connected with the increase of population. He first of all says that the very increase of numbers will draw the English in speech and in instincts together; or, to put it in his own words, "will augment their stock of common interests and feelings; and will render them as to each collective ego, each territory or country, less egotistical, and will involve and consolidate throughout the mass a stronger sense of moral oneness."

Mr Gladstone subsequently deals with the subject which is of singular interest to politicians of many schools of thought in all parts of the British Empire. We, of course, refer to Imperial Federation, and the ex-Premier says, in answer to the question, Will the Dependencies continue to own the supremacy of the British Crown? that he knows of no reason whatever why the various parts of the Empire should not be as closely connected in the future as they are at present. It may be as well to quote his own words:—"I hope they may; I know of no reason why they should not; why the elastic relations which now happily subsist should not continue to find room and verge enough for including and adjusting such novelties as may arise." Mr. Gladstone further thinks that even if the silken thread which binds the Mother Country and her Colonies so closely together is broken, even if the political ties are sundered, still the great English-speaking people will practically remain one nation undivided by community of language, the essential and governing unity of races, together with the conscious instincts of kindred prospects and a common inheritance. We see most strikingly of late how the Americans and the British are gradually drawing together by inter-marriage, and even the untoward Sackville incident shows what a powerful influence British opinion has in the United States. The ex-Premier thoroughly believes in the great future before a combined English race; but he impresses upon his readers that this future is entirely dependent, not so much upon intellectual and material progress, but upon a social or moral, as it were, girding of the loins.

We conclude with Mr. Gladstone's own words with reference to this point, upon which largely depends even the question of population itself: "In short, if the great future prophesied is to be a truthful forecast, we must each, as an individual and Imperial unit, alike reverence the great traditions of mankind. We must even renew the severity of those traditions, and live a braced and watchful—not a romping and sluggish—life, every man doing his duty day by day in common zeal for the nation's good."

CITY CHIMES.

This week has heard the bells ring out the old, and in the new, and another year has been added to the long roll of the past. Over and done with. Its joys and sorrows, fine weather and bad. 1888 is in his grave. *Le Roi est mort, Vive le Roi!* Now we must turn our thoughts to welcoming the new king, and hope his highness will be gracious to us. Society (outwardly at least) is always smiling. Mrs. Grundy likes no sorrows to be paraded before her. Tyrant she is, with queer rules for her people. It is better to have hopes and plans for the future than to spend life in grieving for what has gone by. So perhaps Mrs. Grundy is right after all when she bids us not to wear our hearts on our sleeves.

This New Year, or the week between it and Christmas, has been exceptionally gay. Parties of all kinds trod on each other's heels. Christmas trees were in abundance, and good things in plenty, but whether the doctors have had anything more to do on account of it is not known. Perhaps the most successful entertainment where both big and little folk met was the costume ball at Mr. Walter Leigh's Academy for boys, Girton House. It was indeed a brilliant affair, and I have heard some of the dresses were unique and beautiful. Over two hundred children looked forward to the dance for weeks, and will long remember it as a dream of delight and pleasure. Mr. and Mrs. Leigh are to be congratulated on the affair, and thanked for the kindness of heart that prompted them to go to such trouble to give their pupils pleasure.

General Sir John Ross entertained a large number of guests at Maplewood, on New Year's Eve. The ladies were expected to appear in powder and patches, and a pretty scene must have been the result. Powder is most becoming to young faces. It would not be a surprise if it again became the fashion to wear it habitually, although a not very comfortable practice. The dance did not break up until a late or rather early hour, and 1889 was several hours old before the carriages stopped rolling through the streets. A feature of the ball was the cotillion, all the ladies dancing receiving pretty favors.

New Year's Day dawned bright and fair. An unusual happening, for the last three or four New Year days have fallen upon most detestable weather, and the fashion of gentlemen paying visits has somewhat flagged lately. This Tuesday there were numbers abroad paying their respects to the ladies, and the streets had quite a holiday appearance. The levees at Government House and the Archbishop's were well attended.

A good old fashion this, and one it would be well to keep up. We are too fond, in our race through life in this busy age, of letting the old customs of our grandfathers die out. Is it that we are always in a hurry, or getting careless, and steam and electricity are driving us on so fast we can barely stop for the courtesies indulged in in the old days, when a stage coach was the most rapid travelling, and the aristocracy dined at four o'clock upon mutton and turnips?

We have to correct a statement in our last issue, that "War to the Knife" was to be produced by the Amateur Dramatic Club. The piece has been discarded for one more suitable to the tastes of the Halifax public, in which, it is believed, we are to have the pleasure of seeing a number of the officers of the "West Riding" perform, these gentlemen, individually and as a regiment, being noted for their dramatic talent. "Time will Tell" is to have a strong cast, and will, no doubt, be performed with vigor. The piece is well known, although it never has been played in Halifax before, and contains some of the highest class of writing, as well as a few amusing situations.

A rumor was in circulation lately that the members of the Yacht Squadron intend purchasing a site, and erecting a club room, somewhere near Freshwater. This would be a boon to many who enjoy watching yacht races from terra firma; and it is to be hoped the club will carry out the idea.

CHIMES.

COMMERCIAL.

The trade of the past week has been of a purely holiday nature as regards wholesale business, but retailers have experienced a lively call, and have accomplished a large volume of business. On the whole the business of this city and province has been fairly satisfactory during the past year. The official returns show the following results of the work accomplished during 1888 in Halifax:—Exported 250,729 qtls. of dry, and 32,083 bbls. pickled fish. The greater portion of these exports have been to the British and Spanish West Indies. Our export trade with Brazil and Mediterranean ports has fallen off to a marked degree. The imports during 1888 were 13,509 puncheons, 995 tierces and 1965 barrels of molasses, 22,652 hogsheads, 124 tierces, 3,805 barrels, and 174,192 bags of raw sugar. The customs duties collected at Halifax in 1888 amounted to \$1,760,736, an increase of \$227,413 over 1887. The inland revenue receipts were \$253,603, an increase of \$13,520. The receipts for the two departments aggregated \$2,014,339, an increase on the previous year of \$240,933. A letter from a prominent member of the Newfoundland legislature states that an effort will be made at the next meeting of that legislature to establish a system of life insurance in order to provide for the families of fishermen who are drowned while following their occupation. The payment of the premium will be obligatory on all fishermen before leaving port. This is an idea that should commend itself to the consideration of our Local Government. Nova Scotia fishermen should command the same regard from their government as the Newfoundlanders do.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.				
	Dec. 28	1888	1887	1886	1888	1887	1886	1885	
United States...	331	335	216	355	185	10,416	9,740	10,668	11,116
Canada.....	30	40	33	28	27	1,709	1,315	1,186	1,286

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Chas. Wilson, confectioner, &c, Parrsboro, advertising business for sale; J. P. Mitchell & Co., Imbr., &c, Lawrencetown, removed to Mill Village; Joseph Fador & Co., Halifax, produce and corn merchant, assigned to W. C. Boak in trust for benefit of creditors; John White, stoves and tinware, admitted Wm Brandie partner under style of John White & Co.; R. T. Forrestall, grocer, Halifax, admitted his brother, W. J. Forrestall, partner, as R. T. Forrestall & Co.; John LoPino, gents' furnishings, Halifax, admitted his brother, George LoPino, under the style of LoPino Bros., Curry & Shand, groceries and flour, Windsor, admitted D. B. Burns partner, under style of Shand & Burns; M. H. Ruggles, crockery, &c., Halifax, admitted Henry Reynolds and Chas. Reynolds under the style of M. H. Ruggles & Co.

DRY GOODS.—The year that has just closed exhibits rather an unfavorable record in the wholesale dry goods trade of Canada; no fewer than ten large wholesale firms have succumbed to the effects of the ruinous competition, which has been so repeatedly denounced in these columns. The total direct and indirect liabilities of these firms were about \$1,800,000, showing dividends averaging 36c. on the dollar. The dividends paid the unsecured creditors of these bankrupt estates were 15c., 20c., 22c., 25c., 30c., 33c., 45c., 50c. and 80c. respectively, one estate promising to pay in full. Of these failures, four occurred in Toronto, two in London, two in Montreal, and two in the Lower Provinces, the majority of which demonstrates the reckless manner in which business has been conducted, by the skeleton estates presented to the creditors. This is the result of overtrading and underselling, which has wrought incalculable mischief to the whole trade of the Dominion, the evil effects of which are not yet ended. It is generally admitted that the wholesale dry goods men have not had a very profitable year; but we trust that the record of 1889 will show improved business methods and brighter results.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron market is quiet under a very light enquiry, and prices remain about steady. Business in bar iron has been limited. In hardware very little new business is reported. Travelers are at home for their holidays, and little can be expected for a few weeks. Cable advices show no change in quotations, but prices appear to be more firmly held. In the iron and steel producing districts in the United States manufacturers look forward with confidence to accomplishing a large trade during the current year. Large quantities of rails and other equipments in the composition of which metals predominate, are or shortly will be needed in vast sections of the country.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market has continued quiet with prices unchanged and sales light, being confined to broken or jobbing lots. Though figures are nominally unchanged they tend to favor buyers. Beerbohm's cable quotations are unchanged, but show a waiting, or rather, sluggish market. The *Mark Lane Express* states that the bulk of English wheat offerings are neither satisfactory in condition or in quality. Damp samples weighing under 60 pounds per bushel are naturally hard of sale. They would be so in almost any season, and they are especially difficult to move at a period when imports of good dry foreign grain are both large and well maintained. Between these and the remarkably scanty offerings of really dry wheat of good weight, comes a large quantity of new crop wheat, averaging perhaps 61 pounds to the bushel, and of fair milling value, but requiring admixture with foreign wheat. It is this class of home grown wheat over which there has been some fighting, farmers resisting any decline but have, under the influence of open weather, eventually given way, and conceded about 6d. per quarter. Flour has been difficult of sale, as bakers complain that the weekly sales of loaves are much below the average for the time of the year, a fact which the abundance of green vegetables and the fall in the price of potatoes fully explain, apart from the direct effect of mild weather on the consumption of wheat, supplying and producing forms of food. The imports of wheat into France, from August 1 to November 15, 1888, have been about 23,520,000 bushels. The imports of wheat into Marseilles December 8, 1888, were 360,000 bushels, and at Havre 176,000 bushels. The stock of wheat in docks at Marseilles December 8, 1888, was 3,480,000 bushels. The French wheat crop of 1888 is officially estimated at 273,668,346 bushels and by the *Bulletin des Halles* at 253,540,502 bushels, against 319,150,432 bushels in 1887. The average wheat crop of France is 300,540,455 bushels, with average imports of 49,392,790 bushels, average exports 9,297,988 bushels, and average annual supply 340,635,258 bushels. The quantity of wheat on passage to France November 30, 1888, was (exclusive of Mediterranean) 3,720,000 bushels, against 280,000 a year ago. The stock of wheat in all ports, in bond and out of bond, is probably about 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 bushels, including 3,480,000 bushels at Marseilles. The stock of wheat and flour in Paris, December 1, 1888, was equal to 1,878,958 bushels of wheat, against 997,342 bushels December 1, 1887. The *Mark Lane Express* says:—The cental, the new standard which was to carry everything before it, is maintained by Liverpool, but the only result of ten years' indulgence in this practice seems to be that nobody exactly understands the Liverpool quotations, and the tables of imports, sales, stocks, and the like have to be laboriously converted back into the old-fashioned "quarters" before they can be added on to the London, Glasgow, or Dublin totals. The cental, however, has a great deal to be said in its favor; its general adoption would quicken reckonings and trade calculations in a very marked manner. The gist of the matter, as already remarked, is the absence—in these busy times—of breathing space wherein to effect the necessary changes. This is the real drawback; the conversion of old tables into the

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now standard might safely be left to statisticians. The Chicago wheat market has somewhat recovered from the semi-panic reported last week.

PROVISIONS.—Local trade in provisions has been quiet at steady prices. The mild weather that prevailed has had the effect to make dress bags slow. Nothing is doing here in the line of provisions beyond supplying the regular local consumptive demand. In Liverpool quotations are unchanged and trade is reported to be dull. In Chicago a firmer spirit has been manifested in provisions, but trade was light and fluctuations have been within narrow limits. Pork was firmer and is quoted at \$12.95 January, \$13.05 February, and \$13.37½ May. Lard stood at \$7.72½ January and February, and \$7.82½ May.

BUTTER.—The movement in butter has continued moderate and is confined to supplying local wants, though the finest stock commands full prices. The best butter is never difficult to sell even though some of our farmers appear to think that the public will buy anything that is branded butter. The fact is that a large proportion of the oleomargarine now manufactured is a cleaner and purer article than is much of the butter seen in the market.

CHEESE.—No change has occurred in the cheese situation, and the market has remained about as before with holders firm on all goods. Our private advices from New York state that the stocks in that market are estimated at between 130,000 and 140,000 boxes, and in the country they are less than one half they were a year ago. Stocks in Canada are also said to be 50 per cent. less than last year. A private cable reports sales of between 2,000 and 3,000 boxes of September cheese in Liverpool at 60s., whilst in London 62s. has been realized.

APPLES.—A letter received from Liverpool dated Dec. 26th, 1888, read: "We anticipate very low prices, if large supplies come in; shippers must act with caution." This is not very encouraging news, but it is thought that as the shipments from this side continue to show a large decrease weekly, that the English markets will soon recover from the glutted and demoralized condition they are now in. In Montreal prices are more or less nominal, good to choice fruit being quoted in round lots at \$1.35 to \$1.65, and jobbing lots of choice varieties at \$2.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—There is no change either in sugar or molasses with us. London sugar cables quote:—"Java cargoes afloat 17s.; best quiet; cane quiet; fair refinery 14s. 3d.

FISH OILS.—The Montreal fish oil market is very firm, sales of Newfoundland cod oil having transpired in lots of 5 to 10 bbls. at 42½c., round lots being held steady at 50c. Halifax oil, 37½c. to 38c. Seal oil also remains firm at 48c. as to size of lot. Cod liver oil, 65c. to 70c.

FISH.—The receipts of codfish during the past week have been a fair average, bank fish being largely in excess of shore. Sales of the former have been made at \$4.25 to \$4.30, which is an improvement on anticipated figures. Receipts of all other kinds of fish have been small in proportion. The market here continues fairly firm, and our quotations are fully sustained. Dealers look forward with confidence to the coming spring, which they predict will develop a boom in fish of all kinds, as stocks in hand, and to come forward, will be practically exhausted before the new catch enters the market, and those fortunate enough then to hold any fish can virtually command their own prices for them. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, Jan. 1.—"The market for fish is quiet but steady. A good consumptive demand is noticed for green cod at \$4.75 for No. 1 ordinary, \$5 for No. 1 large, and \$5.25 to \$5.50 for large draft. Dry cod quiet at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per quintal. Labrador herrings are steady at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per bbl. Cape Breton herring \$5.50 to \$5.75 per bbl. British Columbia salmon \$12.50 to \$13 per bbl., and sea trout \$10 to \$11 per bbl." Gloucester, Mass., Jan. 1.—"The fish trade is dull, as usual in the holiday season, but the outlook for a good spring trade is regarded as encouraging. Receipts are light, the stock small, and prices well sustained. Last sales of Shore codfish, \$2.50 per cwt. We quote large Georges codfish at \$4.75 to \$4.87½ per qtl., and small at \$4.25. Bank \$3.75 to \$4 for large, and \$3.75 for small. Shore, \$4.50 and \$4.12½ for large and small. Dry Bank, \$4.75 and \$4.50 Newfoundland codfish, \$6 to \$6.25. Cured cusk at \$3.50 per qtl.; hake, \$2.25; haddock, \$3.25; heavy salted pollock, \$2.50; English-cured do., \$3 per qtl.; Labrador herring, \$7 per bbl.; medium split, \$6; Newfoundland do., \$6.50; Nova Scotia do., \$6; Eastport, \$5; round Shore, \$4; pickled codfish, \$5.50; haddock, \$4.50; halibut heads, \$3; sounds, \$12; tongues and sounds, \$10; tongues, \$8; alovives, \$5; trout, \$15; California salmon, \$16; Halifax do., \$20; Newfoundland do., \$18; clam bait, \$7 to \$7.50; slivers, \$6.50; halibut fins, \$13." Havana, Dec. 31, (by cable via New York).—"Codfish, \$7.25 to \$7.50; haddock, \$6.25; hake, \$4.75." Do., (by mail) Dec. 20th.—"Prices have not been sustained, except for codfish, which have been in good demand, and large sales have taken place at \$7 to \$7.12½. \$7.25 now asked, which, however, buyers submit to only reluctantly. Haddock has been in fair demand, but, owing to good supply, only \$6 can be obtained. Hake is in good demand, but the large stock has caused a decline, and sales cannot be effected at over \$5 for prime Halifax." Georgetown, Demerara, Dec. 7.—"Market fairly supplied for present demand. Dealers buying hand to mouth in small lots. Hardecure Halifax, lotting, \$25; Lunenburg, \$24; boxes, \$5.25. Split herrings, over supply, lotting at \$5 nominal. Mackerel, none. Salmon, tres., \$24." Port of Spain, Trinidad, December 7.—"Although we have had no further arrivals, our market continues in a depressed condition, owing principally to the very poor quality of late importations. We have disposed of about half the Lockport cargo per Garnet in lots at from \$24.00 to \$22.00 tierces, \$7.00 to \$6.00 boxes, but would gladly accept considerably less from an outright purchaser. There is no large box or drum fish at market, and a cargo of good quality with a large proportion of this description would command paying rates. Mackerel and herring are both saleable at quotations." Barbadoes, December 16.—"We quote St. John's, Nfld., medium \$22; large \$23 to \$24; split herring \$4.62; salmon \$12.02."

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

Our Price Lists are corrected for us each week by reliable merchants, and can therefore be depended upon as accurate up to the time of going to press

GROCERIES.

Table listing various grocery items such as SUGARS, TEA, MOLASSES, TOBACCO, BISCUITS, and their respective prices.

BREADSTUFFS.

Flour is in better demand, Millers holding firm. Oatmeal quiet. The western markets are weaker than at last report, owing to unfavorable quotations from Europe, and the development of the fact that vast reserves of grain still remain in first hands. Cornmeal still remains dull, and oatmeal continues easy with little call.

Table listing various flour and breadstuff items such as Graham Flour, Patent high grades, Superior Extra, and their prices.

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

PROVISIONS.

Table listing various meat and provision items such as Beef, Pork, Lard, and their prices.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Table listing various butter and cheese items such as Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints, Canadian Township, and their prices.

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

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Table listing various fish items such as MACKEREL, HERRING, SALMON, HADDOCK, and their prices.

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

LOBSTERS.

Table listing various lobster items such as Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing), Tall Cans, Flat, and their prices.

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Table listing various lumber items such as Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, and their prices.

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

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Table listing various wool and hide items such as Wool-clean washed, Salted Hides, Ox Hides, and their prices.

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Table listing various fruit items such as Apples, Oranges, Lemons, and their prices.

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

POULTRY.

Table listing various poultry items such as Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, and their prices.

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Table listing various live stock items such as Steers, Oxen, Fat Steers, and their prices.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer

JESSICA'S CHOICE.

(Continued.)

"Oh, forgive me!" exclaimed the warm-hearted Jessica. "I understand." From under her drooping eyelids the serpentine countess was taking in every detail of the face and figure of the woman whom she conceived to be her rival. It was not without an agonizing twinge of anger and jealousy that she inwardly confessed that the young American was far more lovely than herself.

"I hope that we shall see something of one another this winter," she said graciously, in spite of her thoughts: "You stay for some months, I believe?"

"Yes; until the spring," said Jessica.

In the meantime the lady who belonged to the oldest family in Berlin was studying every detail of Lily Hilton's charming dinner-dress. She picked gently at the steel embroideries, and asked with the simplicity of a child where this *wunderschön* fabric was made. The gray sippers, too, created not a little excitement. Lily was requested to put out her foot, that they might be examined. She explained that Swedish kid slippers were the latest fashion in Paris.

"So!" said the old lady, simply. "I thought they were tennis shoes."

On the whole, the evening was a pleasant one, though Jessica came away feeling that Countess Irma was not quite so friendly as she wished to appear.

"Do you know," said Mrs. Thorndyke, as she sat with her sister over the fire in the *salon*,—"do you know I cannot help thinking that Paul was not quite himself to-night?"

"He didn't drink much," said Lily, artlessly.

"Shocking girl! I didn't mean that," said her sister laughing. "But he did not speak either to me or to the young countess after dinner. He did not seem pleased, somehow, at our meeting."

"I rather thought that myself. What are you going to say, Jessica, by the way, when you are asked to be Mrs. Lorrimer?"

"Oh, Lily!" And the widow blushed deeply. "What do you mean?"

"Don't pretend innocence, Beauty. Paul has meant to marry you ever since he came to Acacia Point."

Jessica was silent for a moment. Presently she gravely said, "I don't know what to think of Paul."

"Have you forgotten poor old George?" asked Lily, almost solemnly.

"No," said Jessica, sadly, "but he has forgotten me."

At that moment, eleven o'clock in Berlin, five o'clock in New York "poor old George" was walking briskly up-town from his office. The city was in a state of slush and mud, it having showered the day before. The lamps were lit, and their rays were reflected in the myriad puddles produced by the usual thaw after the usual frost. As George waded along, delfly picking his way among these traps for the unwary, he was thinking, not of Jessica, but the great question of International Copyright which was then agitating a small part of the community. If, as some people said, there were really going to be a Congress in the spring for the furtherance of copyright and its interests, he had good hope of being sent abroad as a delegate. Though George was able to make himself cheerful and happy wherever his lot might be cast, he was certainly happier in Europe than in America. Though he cared too little whether his hats were unfashionable and his coats shabby, he was quite sensible of the delights of civilization. In Germany he was taken for a Berliner; in France, for a Parisian. He was thoroughly American in his patriotism, and cosmopolitan in his tastes and power of enjoyment.

He was rather a remarkable young man, this. Though I have slighted him and bestowed a good deal of time on Lorrimer and the rest, I have felt all the while that George was worthy of more notice than we have taken of him. He was remarkable for several reasons. First, he was never known to speak a disrespectful word of a woman, nor to tell a ribald story, nor to sing a song which could not be sung in the presence of his mothers and sisters. (Whether this is remarkable or not I leave young men to decide.) Second, he was a Christian without cant or pretence. Third, he had really fine tastes and an exceedingly clever tongue in his head. Fourth, he was not only a man's man, but a woman's man, and had not a shadow of humbug about him, liking rather to show his worst side, and leaving one to discover or not, as the case might be, what he really was. Faults he had, but no vices, and a heart so soft that he was always afraid that somebody might find it out.

As he walked through the mud in the dusk, his brain busily revolving the question of copyright, it occurred to him that he would stop and call on one of his friends who lived on the way. He was always welcome wherever he went, and to-night he thought he could manage to disembarass his feet of a pound or two of mud before entering the drawing-room. This friend of his was a Mrs. Hale, the mother of the conceited attaché.

She was at home, and received him with cordiality. Before long she was talking about Mrs. Thorndyke.

"The beautiful widow has arrived in Berlin, and has already attracted attention, Teddy writes me," she said. "Paul Lorrimer is in attendance, and one may imagine the end."

"What end?" said George, feigning stupidity, which was a favorite game of his.

"Why, of course he wants the Thorndyke money. It will be no less welcome with Jessica attached," said Mrs. Hale. "What makes you so dense?"

"Editing a paper, I suppose," said Carroll, gravely. "If ever I start a 'society column,' will you edit it, Mrs. Hale?"

"You mean I am a gossip? Ah, George, when you are as old as I am, perhaps you will enjoy a little scandal too."

"There was no scandal in what you told me. Tell me some more."

"About Jessica? Oh, she has blossomed out, and is making up for all the hard times they have been through. She is a fine girl, I think; don't you?"

"Very; but I suppose this money will spoil her."

"I don't see why. She is very generous, they say."

"Well, I hope she will be happy. Now tell me something about your own doings." And that was the end of Jessica that day.

Not, however, as regarded thoughts. Copyright at last had a rival, and Carroll's mind clung tenaciously to that pleasant picture of Mrs. Thorndyke, with Lorrimer in attendance.

He went on living his life, however,—went to balls a good many, and dinners not a few. Girls said he was rude, but they liked him.

One day he did a very foolish thing. He had some new photographs taken, to please one of his sisters, who was going away. When they came home he took one and sent it, without explanation of any sort, to Jessica Thorndyke.

How that photograph fulfilled its mission we shall learn hereafter.

CHAPTER XIV.

Time passed very quickly for the Hiltons that winter. They saw a great deal, and met a good many people. They made pilgrimages to Potsdam, Charlottenburg, and other points of interest. They drove in the Thiergarten, explored the museum, and saw operas and plays without number.

Lily made the acquaintance of several wonderful old professors, who had dubious linen, shocking hats, gingham umbrellas, and a world-wide reputation. She also met a certain gay and charming captain of hussars, who became assiduous in his attentions to—Mrs. Hilton.

Mrs. Thorndyke was much stared at whenever she appeared in public. When the snow came, Paul procured for her the most beautiful low Russian sleigh to be had for money, and in this she would speed along through the frosty air, half buried in long black fur, which made her rose-leaf cheeks look brighter than ever by contrast.

The papers at last got hold of her story, and published a lengthy description of her,—her romantic wedding, her beauty, her money. The result was that letters came from all parts of the empire, and from Austria, and even from Hungary and Bohemia, written by various enterprising persons who had more audacity than fortune. Some were from chambermaids in hotels who had aspirations more soaring than their condition seemed to warrant. Would the *Gnädige Frau* give of her abundance just a little, a very little fortune, that they might retire from the active practice of bed-making? One was from a young man who wanted only six thousand pounds that he might marry the object of his affections, who had an obdurate father. And, crowning illustration of what human nature will do and dare, one gentleman, who lived on the Rhine, wrote a long letter, describing himself as well born and handsome, but indigent, and inviting the lovely widow to mate her millions with his beauty in holy matrimony! Lorrimer duly translated these epistles, much to Jessica's amusement and amazement, for she had never dreamed that human nature could boast such prodigies of impudence as the writers of them.

In America one young lady in the West had written demanding a wedding trousseau; but this was the first occasion on which she had received an offer of marriage from an unknown man.

By this time Jessica's wealth had ceased to be a novelty. She was a little tired of having more than she knew what to do with, and realized some of the inconveniences peculiar to having great possessions. A scheme for ridding herself of her superfluity was working in her brain, and was to bear fruit in the future.

She was resolved that no one should seek Lily on account of her sister's millions, and let every one—especially the captain of hussars—understand that she did not intend to give her sister a dowry. The captain was a remarkably nice young fellow, well born and good-looking. In Europe courtships do not take long, and after some attentions bestowed on Mrs. Hilton, and a few decorous conversations with the sprightly Lily in the presence of either Jessica or her mother, the captain—who was also a *Freiherr*—asked permission to marry Miss Hilton. The mere fact that he had selected her instead of her sister was something in his favor. Mrs. Thorndyke thought Lily behaved with great discretion. She was making such progress with German that she could look forward to living in Germany without fear. Then, her soldierly Prussian was gentle and brave, and had kindled a romantic flame in her untrammelled American heart. However, she steadfastly refused to give an answer until the spring, which was now approaching.

Jessica gave her much sweet counsel and sympathy. She was unusually tender and subdued in those days, with a yearning look in her eyes which puzzled and annoyed Paul Lorrimer. Theodore's millions had not brought contentment. Paul, himself, spent rather a wretched winter. Tortured on the one hand by the unvarying friendliness of Jessica, whom he loved with a force hitherto unknown to him, goaded on the other by the taunts and violent outbreaks of Irma, the nature of whose strong hold upon him was a secret to all but themselves, he knew very little peace.

One afternoon in March, when hints of spring were beginning to be felt even in that Northern climate, the young countess more than ordinarily enraged Lorrimer.

Her fits of jealousy and love alternated with times of coldness and calm threats. Whatever the bond between this man and woman might be, the

links were fast wearing out. Presently Paul rose up in his wrath, which was as still and white as Irma's was flushed and violent.

"You are making my life so very disagreeable," he said, "that if we were any more closely connected I don't think that I could endure it. All this brutal bullying of yours has made me hate you. I curse the day when you first tempted me to be a scoundrel and put myself in your power."

"I tempt you!" she said, with a grating laugh. "What a mistake! It was you, Mr Lorrimer, who had your little plans ready, and I who gave you courage to carry them out. You are not a very clever scoundrel."

"Perhaps not," he said, looking at her with a sort of loathing. "At all events, not clever enough to be your husband."

"Ah," she said, "that is my affair. If you suit me——"

She came a little nearer, and laid her hand on his arm. He shook her off.

"But I do not," he said firmly. "It is altogether a mistake. For heaven's sake, Irma, let me go. I do not love you any more."

"I see that," she said, with a sort of fierce self-control. "I am neither deaf nor blind, and you do not take pains to deceive me."

"And I do love," he went on, as though she had not spoken "some one else."

"I know that, too," said Irma.

She was quiet now, and looked worn out with the struggle.

"Listen," said Paul, sitting down, and motioning her to a seat beside him. "I have something to propose."

"Not marriage?" asked Irma, satirically.

"No; that is out of the question."

"Yet it is not every American who can marry a countess," suggested Irma.

"No," assented Paul; "It is not every American who wants to."

Irma actually smiled, but coldly. Her fury had subsided.

"What I wish to propose is this: I will give you the money which I got for that accursed deed——"

"You said that you got none."

"I lied," said Paul, with the air of a man who is tired of explaining.

The countess threw up her hands, with a brief ejaculation in her mother-tongue. Then she turned to Lorrimer with a strange mixture of mockery and surprise in her face.

"Is it that you die to-night, my friend, that we have these strange truths?"

"I don't know," said Paul, with a sort of dull weariness. "Perhaps. I don't care."

"Go on," said the countess. "My amiable mother will be here soon. Make haste."

"As you care so much for money, you may have it——if you will keep quiet."

He turned his dark eyes upon her, and looked straight into her own. Irma moved uneasily, but her gaze did not falter.

"That, you know," she said with a little flippant laugh, "I can never do. It is not my nature."

"Very well," said Paul. "I know as much about you as you do of me,——rather more. It will be a scandalous nut for Berlin society to crack."

"The Berliners are not so simple as you believe," she said. "They would not listen. Now give me the rest of your charming programme."

"What a wonderful woman you are!" he exclaimed, in spite of himself.

"And yet you do not marry me."

"No; you are too wonderful."

"Well, what is the plan?"

"The rest of it is, . . . I am going to ask Mrs. Thorndyke to be my wife."

"Ah!" said Irma, with a sort of passing shudder; "you will, will you?"

"That is my intention," said Paul, with decision.

"No wonder you can afford to give me a little money. Will she accept you, do you think?"

"Probably not; but I mean to ask her."

"You are kind to prepare me so gently. You are not such a brute, after all."

She said this with a kind of deadly pleasantry, which was enough to freeze a timid man's blood. But Paul was not timid.

"I hope," said he, politely, "that I shall become less and less brutal under the influence of——" But the name stuck in his throat.

"I suppose that you will see her to-night," said Irma, also politely. Then, as the old countess's step was heard at the door, she added, "Tell her that I will call on her early to-morrow morning."

And, as the Gräfin entered, Lorrimer left the room.

CHAPTER XV.

After a dinner eaten quite alone and embittered at each mouthful by his own reflections, Paul carried out his plan of calling on Mrs Thorndyke. It would be unnecessary to describe his thoughts as he drove to the Hohenzollern-Strasse. By the time he reached the house, he felt thoroughly unhinged and ready to do anything reckless and foolish. He was shown into the *salon*, where the servant told him that he would find Mrs. Thorndyke alone. The room was not brilliantly lighted, yet he paused on the threshold with a look of dazzling bewilderment, for standing beside the fireplace, with her arm resting on the mantel-piece, was the most lovely woman he had ever seen. It certainly was Jessica,——but Jessica transformed, sublimated, glorified into something more exquisite than she had ever been before.

(To be Continued.)

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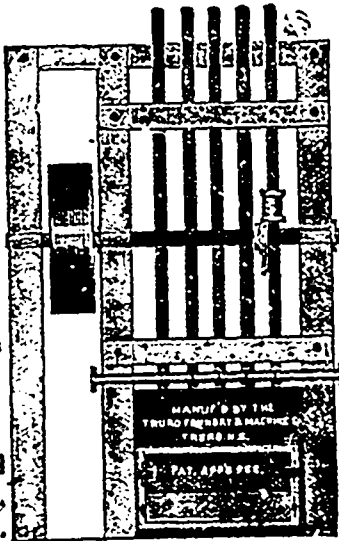
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MINING.

A question of great importance to mining men is the remission of duties on mining machinery. A late despatch says that the Government of British Columbia, which is assisting in the development of the mineral resources of that province by erecting smelting works, had succeeded in inducing the Dominion Government to admit the necessary plant and machinery free of duty. The last issue of the *Canadian Mining Review*, in an editorial on the same subject, says as follows:—"The question of the remission of the duty on mining machinery having been brought before the Minister of Customs, Mr. Bowell said that the matter was one of great importance to every province in the Dominion. He recognized that the mining industry should be encouraged and every facility afforded for the development of our great mineral resources that could legitimately be given. The Government has the whole question of the free admission of mining machinery under consideration. At the present time the minister recognizes that certain implements and classes of machinery used in mining are at present being made in Canada, that this interest is rapidly being extended, and that great care would have to be exercised to see that this industry was not interfered with."

This is the soundest of logic, and we hope that the reported concession to British Columbia is true. Large smelting works for iron, steel, copper and lead, are likely to be soon erected in Nova Scotia, and the promoters of enterprises of such vast importance to the community should receive every possible encouragement. Where the machinery is manufactured in the country it would be unfair to ask for a remission of duties, but in the case of smelting works much of the plant has to be imported at heavy expense, and the remission of duties in these cases is right and should be insisted upon. British Columbia furnishes a wise example to our own Local Government, which we hope they will not be slow in following.

MOLEGA ITEMS.—Superintendent McGuire has returned from his Halifax trip.

The mill is running full capacity night and day, and there is plenty of ore to keep her at it.

The "Nine Boulder" lead, the largest of all, is steadily improving. A very important item for the Company.

An air shaft on the "Crow's Nest" lead, has reached a depth of ten feet, making an excellent showing. An underground cross-cut at a depth of one hundred feet, will soon connect it with the workings on the Chester lead. It is already half completed.—*Gold Hunter.*

Letters patent have been granted at Fredericton, incorporating Daniel W. McVicar, of Moose Brook, miner; James H. Stevens, farmer; Alexander Robertson, farmer; Robert Bacon, farmer, of Ardoise; John T. Dimock, farmer; Judson J. Dimock, farmer, of Newport; Frederick Knowles, of Avondale, merchant; Everitt A. O'Brien, of Noel, shipowner; Carwen C. Crow, of Lower Selmah, prospector; Henry T. Harding, of Truro, solicitor; all in the province of Nova Scotia, and John H. Harding, St. John, for the purpose of developing gold and silver mines and other mining properties, etc., by the name of The Ardoise Gold Company (limited), with a capital of \$50,000, to be divided into \$10,000 shares of \$5 each.

QUEBEC.—Capt. Adams, of Montreal, confirms his report of the discovery of gold on property of the Anglo-Canadian Phosphate Co., in Wakefield. Though giving a small average to the ton, the immense size of the vein of quartz may make it possible to work it immediately. The vein measures 69 feet in width and extends several hundred feet across a hill and descends into the valley on each side. The late Mr. Vennor in several of his reports, referred to the probability of gold being found in Wakefield in paying quantities, and it may be worth while for owners of lands in that region to make tests of the quartz.

The Megantic Mining Co. (Messrs. Fenwick & Selater) have taken out 100 tons of asbestos since the 15th of August, with a force of ten men.

The Weirtheim property is being opened up and gives good promise of being an excellent mine. Capt. Learmouth has 14 men at work, and is taking out an average of one ton of asbestos per day, worth \$50 per ton.

Macdonald Bros., Sherbrooke, have made a discovery of asbestos which promises well, on lot S, 12th range of Coleraine. The fibre is of good length and quality.

Col. Drew Gay has arrived and will superintend operations at the Excelsior Copper Company's mines. The daily reports from the mines are said to be most encouraging. The veins are reported to improve with depth, and richer ore is being taken out.

The shares of the Bell Asbestos Company, (limited) which were issued only a few months ago at £5, are now quoted in London at £19, and are still going up. The directors of this flourishing concern are: John Bell, sole member of the firm of Messrs. John Bell & Son, chairman; Francis Corbett Bell, of the same firm, managing director; Herbert A. Bell, Messrs. Bell & Co., Cardiff; Arthur J. Burnett, Kingston on Thames; James Hartley, D. L. (Messrs. Paton & Charles, Tunnel Soap Works), London; Thomas B. Lightfoot, C. E.

SUDBURY DISTRICT.—The output of the mines of the Canadian Copper Company for October was close upon 4,500 tons. At Copper Cliff the

smelting works are nearing completion. The trestle work over the roast heaps is fully two thirds of a mile in length, and is now ready for track laying. Twelve hundred tons of ore are now in process of roasting. Dr. Peters, an able copper metallurgist, is general manager. Captain Frank Andrews is the general superintendent, and his extensive practice serves him well in mining and handling the deposits of this district. Mr. John Grigg, late master mechanic of the Tamarack mine, fills the same responsible position here. Mr. Frank L. Sperry, late of Yale College, is the chemist and assayer. Each department appears systematic and orderly.

The Vermillion mine closed down on the 1st ult. This is said to be "a weak invention of the enemy," or, in other words, a game of "freeze out," it being well understood that the discoverer cannot meet the necessary assessments levied upon him. This is an ore deposit comprising a great variety of minerals, and two analyses resulted in five ounces of platinum to the ton. Nuggets of gold have also been extracted from this interesting deposit, while the amount of nickel in the ore, from special tests made in Toronto for your correspondent, resulted in from 17 to 30 per cent. of nickel. But, notwithstanding all this rare combination of the "economic and ornamental," work is shut down, *pro tem*, and the poor prospector is left to reflect on the possibility of his having too much of a good thing.—*Engineering and Mining Journal*.

A late despatch reports that the Canadian Copper Company has purchased the interests of the original shareholders of the Vermillion Company.

ONTARIO.—We hear that negotiations for the sale of the Frontenac mica mine to English capitalists are in progress.

Through the kindness of Doctor Honeyman we are enabled to lay before our mining friends a most interesting and instructive paper on the "Origin and mode of occurrence of gold-bearing veins and of the associated minerals," by Jonathan C. B. P. Seaver, C. E., F. G. S.—read before the Royal Society of New South Wales, on the 7th September, 1887, and published in vol. xix. of the Journal of said Society. In a number of instances references are made to plates of sections and cross-sections of the mines referred to, and in these cases we have taken the liberty of omitting the matter, which would be unintelligible without the plates.

"The origin of metalliferous veins and lodes has given rise to many conjectures and theories from time immemorial, and great have been the differences of opinion held by scientific men of all ages as regards the question. In modern times, however, the large amount of information that has been collected, and is yet in course of collection, bearing on the different modes of occurrence of metals and minerals, their chemical and physical properties, and their geological and geographical positions, has placed certain theories regarding the origin of lodes and veins upon a more solid basis from which to reason, and has at the same time relegated others almost to oblivion.

In the following notes my remarks will be confined more particularly to auriferous veins and deposits: not that I believe they have peculiarities in their modes of occurrence distinct from all our metalliferous lodes, but because this essay is understood to be one on veins and deposits containing gold in such quantities as to be principally worked or prospected for that metal. I propose, moreover, to confine my description chiefly to the gold deposits of Australasia. I not only believe that most of the peculiar phenomena connected with the occurrence of gold veins and other auriferous deposits, may be better studied in that country than anywhere else, but also because a large amount of authentic information has been collected in Australasia regarding these deposits, and I have, personally, had considerable experience there in this class of mining, and so can speak in most cases with a certain amount of authority as to the actual phenomena connected with the mode of occurrence of gold and the associated minerals.

It has generally been conceded, that by whatever means the veins have been filled, the process of opening the fissures, cavities or crevices in which they exist has been to some extent independent thereof, and so these two branches of the subject ought to be considered separately, but it must be borne in mind that gold also occurs under conditions which cannot be classed as belonging to veins at all, being in fact impregnations through certain rocks.

As regards the origin of quartz veins and the minerals occurring in them, much has already been said by those who have advocated one or other of the theories of igneous injection, sublimation, lateral secretion, etc., to account for their forming, and perhaps it will be best to endeavour in these pages to see which of these may be most applicable to the phenomena observed in connection with the auriferous quartz veins of Australasia.

It is in Victoria that auriferous quartz mining has been carried on upon the largest scale in the colonies, and we find that the veins, or "reefs," as they are logically called (which name is synonymous with the term "ledge" used in America), may be sub-divided under two or three classes, which embrace most, if not all, of the special features of the gold veins in the colony."

(To be Continued.)

CONSUMPTION CURED.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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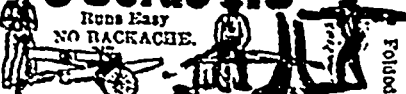
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The 19th Monthly Drawing will take place
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At 2 o'clock, p.m.

PRIZES VALUE, \$50,000.

Capital Prize—1 Real Estate worth \$5,000.00

LIST OF PRIZES.

1 Real Estate worth.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	2,000	2,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	1,000	1,000
4 Real Estates worth.....	500	2,000
10 Real Estates worth.....	300	3,000
30 Furniture Sets worth.....	200	6,000
60 Furniture Sets worth.....	100	6,000
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1000 Silver Watches worth.....	10	10,000
1000 Toilet Sets.....	5	5,000

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 Winners' names not published unless specially
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HOME AND FARM.

There have been Agricultural Exhibitions recently at Regina and Moose-
 Jaw, which are described as affording ample evidence of the productiveness
 of Assinbois, and the rapid progress made in those regions in every branch
 of product and stock raising. But among the remarks of observers the
 following strikes us as worthy the attention of our farmers and breeders:—
 "There were 102 prizes offered for horses of all kinds, general purpose,
 heavy draught, road or carriage, and native ponies; the entries were far
 more numerous, and the animals generally of a much higher type than one
 could possibly have expected under all the circumstances; but there, as else-
 where all over the Dominion, though there were many beautiful fast trotting
 and pacing horses on exhibition, the fast walkers were conspicuous by their
 absence—and yet the fast walker is for all practical farming purposes an
 almost infinitely more valuable beast than the fastest trotter or runner on
 the turf." Fast walking is a trait too much neglected all the world over,
 except in Australia. There, owing to the necessity of long bush-journeys,
 it was early a point of culture. The culture was perhaps facilitated by the
 strong strain of Arab blood which pervaded the Australian stock from a
 period of some forty years ago. At that time, or thereabouts, the East India
 Company had a breeding establishment in New South Wales, in aid of the
 remounts required for the Cavalry of the Indian Army. Their stud horses
 were originally selected Arabs, Bubs, and Persians, and the supply was
 kept up. The establishment was maintained for many years, and, when it
 was eventually broken up, the stock was dispersed through New South
 Wales and Victoria. We believe Eastern stock are generally good walkers,
 and Australia was permeated with it. Its marks—the straight back,
 horizontally inserted tail, powerful shoulder and fore-arm, small head,
 expansive nostril, full bright eye, delicate ears, intelligent face and broad
 chest—were long conspicuous, and met the eye everywhere. We do not
 know how it is now—when much of the travel formerly performed on
 horseback, with a blanket, a tin pannikin, a pound or two of tea, a few
 pounds of flour, a long halter coiled round your horse's neck, a pair of
 hobbles, and a brace of pistols, is now probably done by railway—but, 40
 years ago, when a man might be thus in the saddle for a week together, and
 would accomplish with perfect ease his 50 or 60 miles a day, the five mile
 an hour walk, common enough among Australian horses, was the most
 valuable of paces, which could be varied at will by an easy, steady canter,
 which took but little more out of the horse than his walk.

But the fast walk, which may be cultivated early even with indifferent
 beasts, is of almost as much value to the farmer, as well as to the ordinary
 driver of any country, as it was, and very likely still is, to the Australian
 bushman. Let the Nova Scotian consider the difference it would make to
 him in his long journeys to market, if his horse could walk, say even four
 miles an hour, instead of two and a half, or at most three, which we take
 it, is about the average pace. As long as the weak-shouldered scrubs with
 which we are familiar prevail, this cannot be expected, but we have every
 hope and expectation that our equine stock is on the road to improvement,
 and, with better bred animals, there should be no difficulty in training
 young horses to a fast walk.

"The growth of the Ontario cheese trade is wonderful within a few
 years. The exports of the Dominion now amount in value to over \$7,000,-
 000, and the season just closed shows the largest business on record. The
 shipments from Montreal this season were 1,134,349 boxes, as against
 1,104,065 boxes last year, 507,019 in 1880, and 359,252 in 1874. Of this
 season's exports 499,391 boxes went to Liverpool, 140,394 to Glasgow,
 235,176 to London and 259,388 boxes to Bristol. In striking contrast to
 this statement is our foreign trade in butter. The exports this season were
 46,528 packages, as against 60,353 last year, 194,366 in 1880, and 80,206
 in 1874. Of this year's shipments some 26,014 packages went to Bristol,
 and 20,253 to Liverpool."—Toronto Globe

Wake up Nova Scotia! You are nearer the British market than Ontario.

The farmer who thinks his farm paper is not practical enough, should
 contribute some of his own practical knowledge and experience.

Every tricyclist carries with him a handy tool bag containing a small
 wrench, screw driver, oil can and the special tools required, besides often-
 times a few nuts, etc, and a coil of wire. Every locomotive carries tools for
 simple repairs, and every steamship on the sea is provided with a small
 machine shop. Wagons regularly engaged in teaming are sometimes provided
 for in this direction, but how many carriages, wagons and other farm vehicles
 carry even a monkey wrench?

Be satisfied with one breed of poultry, it will be far better, give you far
 more pleasure, and pay you far better to spend your time on one variety
 than several. Select the variety you like best and study it well. Unless
 you have some money to spend and some room to waste, keep only one kind.

We have for the past two seasons sprinkled the boards beneath the
 perches liberally with road dust or loam, cleaning all off together and keeping
 it dry until spring, when it was mixed with the same amount of ashes, and
 applied to the hills of corn, when coming through the ground. The results
 have been very encouraging, especially the past season, when there was
 sufficient rain to dissolve it.—New England Farmer.

We would urge our readers engaged in butter making to strip the cows
 clean, as the strippings contain from twenty-five to thirty per cent. cream. If
 milk is left in the cow's bag to dry away, there will be lumps in the teats.—
 New England Farmer.

Mr. H. E. Buck, Lancaster, Mass., is a breeder of poultry, who devotes his chief attention to Plymouth Rocks, and the highly spoken of Wyandottes. The *New England Farmer* has an engraving of a magnificent looking Plymouth Rock cock—Blue barred Pilgrim 2nd, which seems to be about as near perfection as has been produced.

Keep the harnesses well oiled and give them an occasional dressing of harness soap. When cleaning look out for weak spots, and, if any are found, have them mended and thus avoid a runaway.

Charcoal is an aid to digestion and should be given occasionally to fowls and swine. Corn burnt on the cob is the best form to give it in, and a little properly charred will benefit the human organism.

From an experiment tried at the New York experiment station, it would seem that coal ashes hitherto accounted almost worthless possess some value when applied as a mulch to the strawberry bed.

Farmers and horsemen who raise colts and fillies should look well after the condition of the colt's feet until they arrive at the age of three years. Many young animals have deformed feet through the neglect of the breeder. The toes are frequently several inches too long and the weight in consequence is thrown chiefly upon the heels, producing low weak heels and a far too great obliquity of the pasterns. With careful treatment, such a gradually shortening the toes, leaving the heels untouched, etc., the feet in time grow into natural shape, and the pasterns acquire their proper shape or slope. In other cases when the feet were almost perpendicular through the toes having worn away, the desired end was obtained by gradually lowering the heels. The changes produced in young animals by such simple means are so great that I believe badly shaped feet would scarcely ever be seen in well bred horses if they were not mismanaged or neglected while young and growing. The external form of the hoof is influenced by the pressure of the internal parts including even the bones, but as the latter become consolidated with age there is more difficulty in modifying their shape, and so far as I have seen, but little improvement can be effected after a horse is three years old.

OUR COSY CORNER.

A great many black hats and bonnets are worn.

Lace is the favorite trimming for evening dresses.

Armure silk is the latest fancy for brides' dresses.

The orange buds and blossoms are not the only flowers chosen for brides' wear this season. The small white bridal roses, tea roses, white lilacs, lilies of the valley and other white flowers are given them for garnitures.

It was Mrs. Mackey who started the fashionable fever for black underwear by wearing it under a wondrous ball gown of black tulle, with diamond ornaments, that she wore in Paris at a private fancy ball, at which she personated the Queen of Night.

And now word comes from Paris that the ostrich plume is restored to favor, while the demand for ostrich feather boas and ostrich feather trimmings of all kinds, and ostrich tips as well, is so great as to create a fear that the ostrich farms of Australia cannot supply what is called for.

None but young girls wear the catagon tied in a bow in the nape of the neck. Young girls' evening dresses are made in the Directoire style, with a low plaited bodice and short puffed sleeves, a short waist, a straight skirt, very little looped, and a very wide sash tied at the back or one side.

Tulles, gauzes and crepes are the favorite materials for ball gowns. The tulles without tinsel or beads are preferred, but the gauzes are nearly all shot with gold or silver threads in lengthwise stripes or lines across the goods, or in crossbars or plaids. The crepes are plain or embroidered in gold, silver or bright colored silks, or in silk the color of the crepe.

The young Princesses of Wales are having new winter gowns made. One set of dress is made of a checked tweed, the squares being of the size of dice, in dark blue, brown and white. These are made with skirts, simply draped, and tight bodices of dark blue cloth, with jackets of the tweed, fastening with one button on the chest, just like a riding-jacket. The jackets are turned back, with a man's collar, and lapels faced with dark-blue cloth. The high collar of the tight fitting bodice beneath is also in blue cloth. Another set of their dresses is in a very soft, thick, warm tweed with faint checks in black, amber and dark red. These are made with tight-fitting bodices and collars, to be worn with a collar and tie like a man's. The skirts are gracefully draped. The third set is in a material which is a little like frieze, or the rough tweeds that men's suits are made of. The skirts are plain, meeting in front in plaits, and draped at the back. The bodices are made Norfolk jacket shape.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

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5. The Standard Letter Writer for Ladies and Gentlemen, a complete guide to correspondence.
6. The Frozen Deep. A Novel. By Wilkie Collins. author of "The Woman in White," etc.
7. Red Court Farm. A Novel. By Mrs Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne," etc.
8. The Lady of the Lake. By Sir. Walter Scott. Of all the works of Scott none is more beautiful.
9. In Cupid's Net. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne"
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A. MILNE FRASER,
MANAGER OF THE CRITIC, HALIFAX, N. S.

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

All Checker communications and exchanges should be addressed to W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton Street, Halifax.

The proprietors of THE CRITIC offer two prizes—to consist of books on Checkers—to those subscribers who shall send in the greatest number of correct solutions during the current year. No entrance fee required.

PROGRAMME FOR 1889. — We purpose, in 1889, to offer two prizes of equal value to those given in 1888, for those solving the greatest number of our problems during the year.

We shall also present two prizes to the first and second best players in correspondence matches, to be played during the year.

Intending competitors for these correspondence prizes will send their names and addresses to our checker editor, W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton Street, this city, who will pair them off, assigning from time to time which pair are to play against each other. All details of such games are to be supplied to Mr. Forsyth when they are concluded, and such as may be of special merit will be published in these columns, and due credit given to those competing therein.

If, however, a larger number of checkerists do not evince sufficient interest to contest in the problem and in the correspondence competitions than did last year, we shall be obliged to abandon this department, and to withdraw the prizes we offered.

We shall not in the current year announce the names of the solvers of the several problems, for experience has taught us that when certain competitors found that they were leading in correct solutions they lost interest in the contest. The inverse has also proved true, that others who found themselves to be losing ground retired from the contest. These two causes have made our correspondence with competitors very dull and disappointing, especially during the last three months. We hope the uncertainty as to final results that the new plan will promote will have the effect of keeping up the interest of competitors during the entire year. In every case competitors must be subscribers to THE CRITIC to entitle them to be entered as competitors.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DIXIE, Antigonish. — Thanks for your real name. Result of competition will be announced next week or the week after.

SOLUTIONS.

PROBLEM 78. — We left the second part of the solution — the "inner wheel" — of this problem for the further consideration of our checker competitors. "Dixie," of Antigonish, sends us the following solution, which is correct. The position at this stage was as follows: — black men 4, 21; white man 20, kg. 31; black to move and white to win: —

4—8	25—30	23—19	11—8
20—16	2—7	14—18	27—23
8—12	30—26	19—16	8—11
16—11	7—10	18—23	23—18
12—16	26—31	16—11	11—8
11—7	27—32	23—19	18—15
16—20	31—26	11—8	8—12
31—27	32—28	28—32	15—11
21—25	26—23	8—11	white
7—2	10—14	32—27	wins.

PROBLEM 80. — The position was: — black men 1, 2, kgs. 3, 12; white

London.

New York.

Halifax, N. S.

SPRING, 1889.

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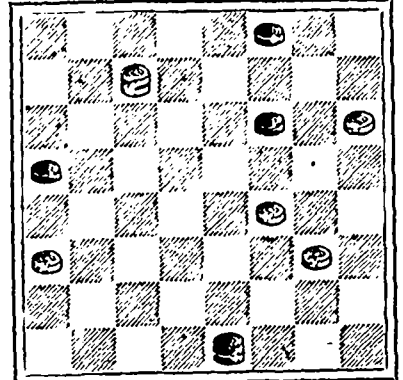
HALIFAX, N. S.

mon 14, 21, kgs. 9, 15; black to play and win: —

1—6	12—8	13—17	3—1
15—11	11—4	21—14	4—8
6—13	2—7	7—10	1—6
14—10	10—6	14—7	b. wins

PROBLEM No. 82.

By E. Bacon, Edinburgh.
Black mon 3, 11, 13, kg. 31.



White men 12, 19, 21, 24, kg. 6.
Black to play and draw.

The position is the first of our 1889 competition. It deserves careful study, for it is one of the sort of end games that players are very apt to lose in practice.

GAME No. 19.

SWITCHER.

An off-hand game played specially for THE CRITIC, between W. Forsyth and A. E. Robinson.

11—15	13—22	10—15	18—22
21—17	26—17	17—10	9—6
9—13	4—8	7—14	15—18
25—21	30—26	31—27	6—1
6—9	9—13	15—19	22—26
23—18	18—9	23—16	1—6
9—14	13—22	12—19	3—8
18—11	26—17	20—16	11—4
8—15	5—14	2—7	26—31
27—23	29—25	22—17	
1—6	8—11	14—18	drawn.
24—19	25—22	17—13	
15—24	11—15	7—10	
28—19	32—27	16—11	
6—9	15—24	10—15	
22—18	27—20	13—9	

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