

THE WEEK:

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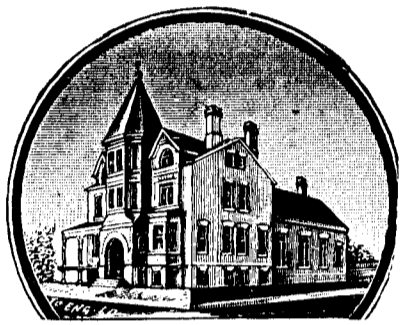
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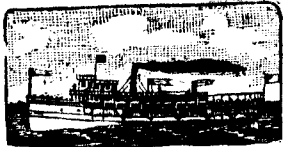
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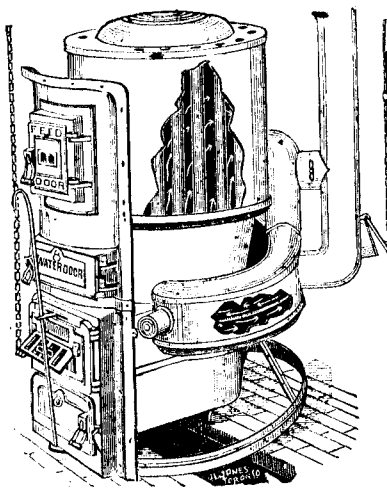
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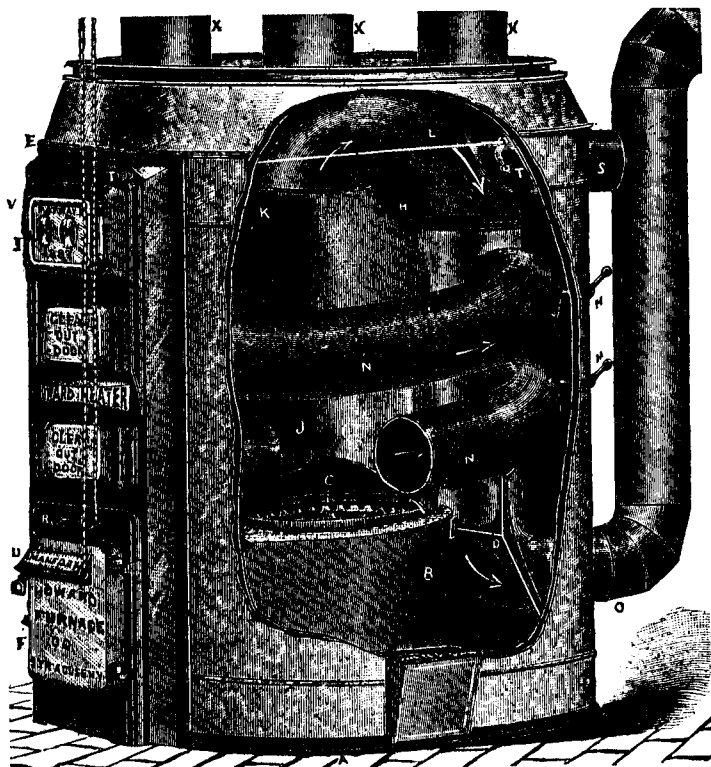
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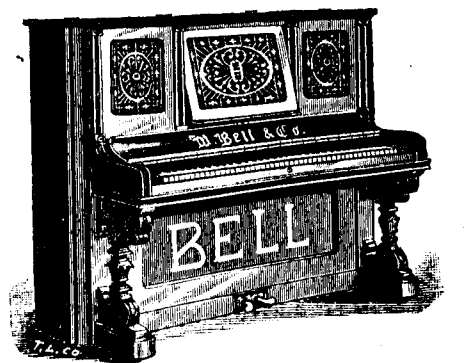
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PROBABLY the most difficult, and unquestionably the most important problem now before the people of Canada for solution is that of the Public schools in their relation to the Churches and religious instruction. Recent discussions in the Church courts have set in a pretty clear light the objections that lie against any solution yet proposed. It will be admitted by most of those who have given thought to the subject, and whose opinions carry weight, that the existing educational methods are unsatisfactory in more than one respect. They are politically unsatisfactory, because they accord special privileges to one section of the population, and permit funds collected by the agency of the State to be used for the propagation of religious tenets which are not only peculiar to one Church, but deemed erroneous and hurtful by the members of all the other Churches, that is, by a large majority of the whole people. The Public schools are unsatisfactory on moral grounds, because they fail to impart that thorough moral training which is the most potent influence in the formation of good character, and consequently essential to the best interests of society and the State, and which, in the opinion of many of those who have given thought to the subject, can be made effective only when based on definite and positive religious teachings. As a matter of fact and experience, nearly all competent educators and nearly all thoughtful and observant men and women of every class must admit that, viewed from the standpoint of their success in moulding virtuous character and giving to the State highminded as well as intelligent citizens, the Public school systems of Canada and the United States have been more or less disappointing. The expectations so fondly cherished a generation or two ago, of great things to be accomplished through the agency of free schools and universal education in the way of diminishing vice and crime, have certainly not been realized. Many are, we dare say, ready to go much farther and agree with Mr. LeSueur that the vaunted free schools have, to a large extent, failed even in that work of mere mind-training or intellectual development which is too often made their almost exclusive aim, to the neglect of those

higher faculties of the soul which must always be the criterion of the truest manhood and womanhood. But, leaving aside for the present this branch of the subject and confining our attention wholly to political and ethical considerations, the still unsolved problem is to devise a Public school system which shall include the essentials of sound religious instruction, and yet neither do violence to the rights or convictions of any citizen, nor permit unwarrantable intrusion by either State or Church within the exclusive domain of the other.

SPEAKING generally, the modes of dealing with this difficult question, which have been proposed and advocated, may be reduced to three. First, it is proposed that the State should undertake, in connection with the Churches and subject to their approval, the work of unsectarian religious instruction. It is recommended that the Churches should agree upon a series of Scripture readings, and, we presume, expository or catechetical exercises in connection therewith, and that the course of religious instruction thus agreed on by the Churches should be made compulsory by the Government upon the teachers. This may be said to resemble, to some extent, the system now in vogue in Ontario, but it would go much farther. Though the course of Scripture readings now prescribed by the Education Department had the sanction of individual clergymen of the various denominations, they were not prepared by representatives of the Churches, nor were the leading clergymen who are said to have approved them authorized, so far as we are aware, to represent in the matter the various religious bodies of which they were members. Moreover, no religious instruction is prescribed or permitted in connection with the Scripture readings. The plan for concerted denominational action above outlined seems to have the approval of at least large and influential sections of most of the leading Protestant denominations. It is open, however, to very serious and, in the opinion of many, fatal objections. It takes no account of the views and convictions of agnostic, Jewish and infidel parents, and of many Christians as well, who might not approve of the selections or the accompanying instruction. It trenches upon the principles which are generally in America considered sound touching the relations of Church and State. It empowers the State to impose upon its officers, the teachers of the Public schools, religious duties which lie beyond its proper sphere. It virtually authorizes and requires the Government to undertake religious teaching as a part of its duties, thus implying that the Government shall undertake to enquire into the religious opinions of candidates for the teacher's office. It also tacitly involves the exclusion of sceptics of all classes from the teaching profession, inasmuch as there would be an impropriety and lack of good faith in religious instruction imparted by irreligious, or agnostic, not to say atheistic teachers. All Christians will, no doubt, agree that religious teaching, which is merely perfunctory, much more that which is irreverent or hypocritical, is worse than none. Moreover, *quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* When the Government undertakes the work of religious instruction and of testing the religious qualifications of teachers who shall instruct or test the Government, and the chiefs of the Education-Department, in order to be sure of their fitness to superintend such a work? Difficulties multiply on every hand. It is tolerably clear that the solution of the problem can never be found in religious training by the State.

A SECOND method is that proposed by Dr. Langtry and approved no doubt by a considerable section of the Christian population—denominational schools supported by state-imposed taxes, but managed and controlled by the different religious denominations; in short, Separate schools not only for Roman Catholics but for each of the various bodies of Protestants, or such combinations of them as might be agreed upon. This plan would certainly have its advantages. It would leave each Christian sect free to exert its fullest influence in the work of moral and religious instruction. But it would be beset with difficulties at the outset and a host of minor evils would follow in its train. In the first place the limits of the aggregated Christian Churches are by no means identical

with those of the whole population. A large number of citizens of various nationalities and of non-Christian creeds, or of no creed at all, would thus be left unprovided for. The children of such parentage must either be forced within the precincts of one or another of the sectarian schools, or the State must provide secular schools for them, leaving the problem of religious education still unsolved so far as those who most need it are concerned; or worse still, these children must be wholly neglected. The Government must either undertake the invidious task of supervising and inspecting religious schools, or prove recreant to the political principle that Government supervision is the correlative of Government aid. There would be an end of all uniformity, and schools would overlap each other as churches now do far beyond the needs of the different localities or their ability to support competent teachers. Petty and perpetual rivalries and jealousies would spring up amongst the competing sects. Both education and religion would be very likely to suffer and the last state of public education would be worse than the first. Moreover what could be more wasteful and absurd than for the Government to use its money and machinery to educate the children of the country in religious systems in many respects diametrically opposed to each other, knowing that a large part of the powers thus developed would be devoted in after life to mutually combatting the doctrines inculcated at school. Clearly the solution of the educational problem is not to be found in a denominational or sectarian system of Public schools.

THERE remains only, so far as we can see, the method of absolute secularization of the Public schools, so far as the laws and regulations of the State are concerned. This does not imply, as we may presently show, that the schools must necessarily be destitute of religious teaching and influence of the best kind. Because the Government may not prescribe it does not follow that it must forbid. It is certainly its duty—there can be no quarrel or question on this point—to prescribe and enforce a course of thorough moral training in the schools, and it is worthy of serious consideration whether it is not now a radical defect in our Ontario system that no text-book, dealing with questions of character and conduct and the right and wrong of things connected with civil and social life, is in the hands of teachers and pupils. Surely a book can be had and prescribed such as will meet the approval of all classes, and be of great service in inducing that habit of moral thoughtfulness to which Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, rightly attached so much importance. A basis for the morality inculcated in such a book, which should, of course, avoid dogmatism on doubtful or difficult questions, could be found in the individual conscience on the one hand, and in such axiomatic principles as the Golden Rule on the other. As such teaching should be entirely practical, aiming solely at the development of judgment and conscience, no troublesome questions of the origin and nature of the moral faculty need be raised, at least in the elementary schools. The fact of the existence of this faculty with large capacity for culture is all that is needed. But, further, assuming that the teacher in a given school is a man or woman of high religious character, and profoundly convinced that to be forbidden to appeal to religious motives of a direct and positive kind is to be deprived of incomparably the best means of cultivating the moral nature and forming high character in the pupils, and assuming that the patrons of the school are all of the same way of thinking, should such teacher be prohibited from doing his best work in his own way? In a word, could not and should not the question of religious exercises and teaching in the schools be left entirely to local option, with ample provisions for guarding the rights of conscience in the case of individuals? If so, the way is open for religious training in the schools, of the only kind which can ever be made effective; that is, as imparted by teachers who are themselves intelligently and sincerely devout. To whatever exception our remarks on this very difficult topic may be open in other respects, we affirm with confidence two conclusions of no trifling importance: First, whatever system may ultimately prevail, immediate provision should be made, at the sacrifice, if necessary, of some other less important subjects on the programme, for clear, systematic, and positive moral training

in the schools. Second, whatever changes in school laws and regulations may or may not be desirable, the only means by which the most effective training, moral and religious, can be secured is already in the hands of parents and trustees, in their power to secure, at whatever cost, in the teachers of their choice, those intellectual, moral, and religious qualities with which, under any conditions, and without which under no conditions, can such moral and religious training be secured. Under any circumstances, the moral and religious character of the schools will be determined by the teachers, and so by the trustees who select the teachers, and so by the parents who elect the trustees.

WILL there ever be an end to questions of jurisdiction between the Dominion and the Provinces? Probably not until the Constitution is amended in the direction of a clearer recognition of the full autonomy of the Provinces in local affairs. The question just now before the Chancery Court of Ontario is evidently, if regarded as a question of interpretation, a very nice one. It is, in a word, whether the Legislature of the Province can or cannot, under the Constitution, give to its Lieutenant-Governor "the power of commuting and remitting sentences for offences against the laws of this Province, or offences over which the Legislative authority of the Province extends." The argument before the Court by two of the most profound and acute legal minds in the Dominion, was, in itself, an interesting event. From the somewhat meagre summaries given in the newspapers, it is pretty clear that the two set out from different premises and followed distinct lines of reasoning, and that each was successful in drawing his conclusion from his premises. Mr. Blake, taking a broad and common-sense view of the principles of interpretation to be followed in such a case, set in a clear light the absurdity of supposing that the authority to pass laws does not carry with it the right to provide for their administration. Mr. Robinson, on the other hand, demonstrated, scarcely less conclusively, that according to the Constitution the Province has power to deal only with those matters which are specially and specifically committed to its charge, and that the exercise of the pardoning power is not one of the matters thus handed over to it. To the lay mind it seems tolerably clear that between these two lines of argument is to be found the gist of the whole dispute. If the British North America Act is interpreted with strict regard to the letter of its clauses it is not easy to see how Mr. Robinson's conclusion can be escaped. If it is to be interpreted in a broad spirit, as Mr. Blake contends it should be, with special regard to its general meaning and intention, the right of the Province in the case in hand must be sustained. Whatever the decision of the three Canadian judges, it is highly probable that the case will have to be finally settled by the British Privy Council. At least, it is not at all likely that Mr. Mowat, in view of his previous successes, would submit without appeal to a decision unfavourable to his claims; though it is possible that Sir John A. Macdonald, whose views in regard to provincial rights and powers seem of late to have undergone a marked expansion, might accept a judgment favourable to Mr. Mowat's contention. What could he lose by doing so?

MR. MOWAT having been sustained at the polls, the usual unseemly sequences of a successful contest are beginning to appear. The party workers are receiving their rewards. Appointments and rumours of appointments to offices vacant or specially created, are rife in political circles. The bestowment of a lucrative office upon a retired member of the Government is bad enough, though, where the man is thoroughly competent for the office, there is something to be said in its defence. The appointment of a political partizan, who may have been defeated in the struggle, or who may have displayed special zeal and activity as a party worker, to an office for which he has no special fitness, is utterly indefensible. Should it be in any case that by such appointment an untrained or incompetent man is foisted into a position, over the heads of trained and faithful servants who must still be relied on to do the work, it can only be said that such a mode of rewarding a follower, though unhappily very common under a party system, is really a betrayal of the interests of the public. Mr. Mowat will not probably follow the old practice to such disgraceful lengths as other Premiers have often done. The pity is that he should follow it at all. Two large rewards, in the approbation of his own conscience, and the approval of all highminded citizens, await the successful Premier who shall have courage and principle enough to

discard the unworthy practice entirely and inaugurate a grand reform by making all appointments to office on the principle of merit alone, irrespective alike of personal services and of party preferences. We fear the hour and the man have not yet come.

PURSUANT to the earnest request of the Prisoners' Aid Association of the Province, seconded by resolutions passed by the representatives of the various Churches in their annual meetings, the Government of Ontario is about to appoint a Commission to investigate and report on the subject of prison reform. This is a praiseworthy movement. Few questions are more difficult or more worthy of profound study than that of the best mode of dealing with the prisoners in our gaols and penitentiaries, whether they be hardened convicts or youthful transgressors who have just made their entrance into the criminal ranks. The century is now too far advanced to admit of any but the best and most intelligent modes of treatment being used by any enlightened and Christian people. The day is past when simple punishment, legal vengeance, was regarded as the chief or sole object of imprisonment. The day is past, too, let us hope, when a criminal was regarded as a criminal, and little or no account was taken of heredity, environment, age, temptation, and the various other circumstances which really set one convict wide as the poles apart from another, so far as either the degree of guilt, or the hope of reformation is concerned. Few changes of opinion and practice more clearly indicate advance in civilization and the science of sociology, than that which substitutes the reform of the prisoner, and the well-being of society, for simple vengeance, as the leading motives to be kept in view in dealing with convicted prisoners. The science of penology, though it has made great advances, is yet in its infancy. It is the duty of every Government to encourage its study, and there is no better way of encouraging such study than by the employment of properly qualified men to collect and arrange available facts and statistics, examine the most approved methods and give them to the public. The names of Inspector Langmuir and Dr. Rosebrugh, which have been announced as on the list of commissioners to be chosen, will meet with general approval. Mr. Anglin, as an experienced journalist, may be able to render good service. But as the Commission is yet incomplete we may be permitted to suggest that, in order to the best results, it should contain at least one who has had practical and successful experience as governor of a gaol or penitentiary. Such a man would be sure to detect both merits and defects in systems examined, which would escape the notice of any but an expert.

BY the decisive and emphatic vote of Saturday, the Toronto City Council has been empowered to use the option secured to it, on the expiration of the charter of the Street Railway Company in March next, and buy, on such terms as may hereafter be made, the real and personal property of the Company. The vote of 5,385 to 427 shows that there is no doubt in the minds of the citizens as to the direction in which their interests lie. Public opinion is being rapidly educated in these days in regard to the folly of permitting private companies to control monopolies of this kind and grow rich at the expense of the whole body of citizens. At first thought one feels disposed to wonder how a long charter arrangement could have been made in the first place. But then we remember that in the beginning such undertakings are usually regarded as doubtful investments, and entered upon with caution. It is but just that those who were ready to undertake a risk which the city itself would have shrank from incurring should reap a liberal reward of their courage and enterprise. This the Company in question has no doubt done, and now that the contract is expiring the matter becomes one of simple business calculation. That calculation has clearly shown that the monopoly is too valuable, and the interests and convenience of the citizens too deeply involved to admit of any renewal of the charter. It was, we observe, thought necessary by the advocates of the By-law which has now been so heartily passed, to assure the rate-payers that the Council has no intention of retaining the management of the railway in its own hands. The purpose is to lease it for short terms to responsible companies who will be bound, of course, to run it on such conditions as may be thought fair and advantageous to citizens. This arrangement is no doubt wisest under the circumstances. With our present loose and disjointed municipal machinery nothing else could be thought of. It by no means follows that at some

future day, when the self-governing abilities of the citizens of Toronto shall have proved equal to the task of devising a simple and thoroughly effective system of municipal administration, it may not be found practicable to have all such monopolies directly managed by and for the city. Many cities are now trying such experiments on a more or less limited scale, and in many cases, we believe, with gratifying results. It would be hard to show, on abstract principles, why street railways and gas and electric lights and similar services may not be carried on directly for the benefit of citizens, with as much propriety and advantage as, for instance, the distribution of water.

SEVERAL executions have taken place, during the last week or two, in different parts of the country. The descriptions of these which have appeared in the public press bring afresh to the minds of thoughtful persons the enquiry whether such horrible scenes can be necessary in the interest of justice, or conducive to the well-being of society. Two distinct questions are suggested—that of the death penalty itself, and that of the mode of its infliction. If we are agreed, as a majority of our readers probably are, that capital punishment, in cases of atrocious murder, is a sad but stern necessity—a duty which organized society owes to itself and to its individual members—we can scarcely doubt that so revolting a mode of inflicting it, as that of hanging, must inevitably tend, in proportion to the public growth in humanity and refinement of feeling, to discredit the penalty itself and strengthen the cry for its abolition. In any case, therefore, it seems highly desirable that some less harrowing mode should be found and adopted. There are surely many such modes, though we need not now further shock our readers' sensibilities by discussing them. The test question, it seems to us, is this: Does the method at present in use produce the effect upon the mind of the spectators, or of those who read the descriptions in the newspapers, that it is designed to produce, or that it is desirable should be produced? Is the general impression that of solemn warning, or of just and awful retribution? Does not rather the sensation of the horrible and the revolting drown every other, and leave behind a suggestion of that which is cruel, loathsome, or barbarous, in association with the task of the ministers of justice? How else are we to account for the fact that the proper executive officer invariably shrinks from the personal discharge of his duty, and that his wretched proxy becomes an object of general execration? We know not how it may appear to others, but to us it seems clear that the Governments of English-speaking States will shortly have to choose between the substitution of some less revolting mode of execution and the abolition of the death penalty itself.

DURING the greater part of next week Toronto will be in holiday attire, receiving and entertaining, to the best of her ability, the multitudes who are expected to honour with their presence her first attempt at a carnival. There seems every reason to expect a large influx of visitors. The city is in the happy position of being able, with pardonable self-complacency, to invite strangers from all quarters to see the evidences of her remarkable growth and prosperity. No doubt she will be on her best behaviour, and will sustain the high reputation for orderliness and decorum which she has already acquired. While these great gatherings give a temporary impulse to trade and thus are not without material advantage, it would be well if they could also be made useful in other respects, for instance, in stimulating to greater effort those responsible for the tidiness and cleanliness, not only of the public streets but of the back lanes and by-ways of the city. While our citizens can point their visitors with pride to some evidences of enlightened and energetic civic administration, there are unfortunately other matters about which the more intelligent will feel disposed to say as little as possible. For instance, should any curious stranger happen to ask, How do you dispose of the immense quantities of household refuse and sewage which must be produced every day in such a city? the shrewd entertainer will do well to change the subject as soon as possible, and direct attention to the schools, universities, public buildings, charitable institutions, etc. Should his interrogator be disagreeably persistent and insist on a definite answer, how the intelligent citizen will blush as he finds himself forced to confess that we simply dump the refuse in festering heaps on the outskirts of the city, and pour back the sewage in foul rivulets to pollute the fountain from which we take our water supplies, and to defile the water front which should be one of our most charming places of resort.

THE sensation of the week in British and European political circles has been the announcement of the agreement entered into between Great Britain and Germany for partitioning large portions of Africa between the two nations. It is curious to observe the widely divergent opinions expressed in regard to the arrangement. Leaving out of view the moral right, which no one seems seriously to question, of civilized nations to take possession thus unceremoniously of the territories occupied by savage tribes, it is probable that the division is as fair a one as could well have been made. No one, save those who think that Great Britain should grasp everything and yield nothing, can deny that her claims in Africa have been pretty liberally conceded. It is difficult, without access to more recent and accurate maps than are yet available, to trace the boundaries as described in the cablegrams, but England's protectorate of Zanzibar, and the inclusion in her sphere of the greater portion of the lakes, and the regions embraced in Stanley's treaties with the chiefs, must secure to her every reasonable facility for opening up the country to trade and civilization. If Germany has also received large portions of territory, what Englishman can object? Why should not her right to them be considered as good as that of Great Britain? At any rate, it is pretty clear that England's share will afford abundant scope even for all her energies for many years to come, and that, whatever Germany may do in the way of civilizing and colonizing her part of the dark continent will be so much clear gain. If the civilization of Africa is to be considered as in any measure the end in view, that work must be carried on much more rapidly by the two great nations than it could have been by England alone. As to the cession of Heligoland, which seems to be the sorest point with many of Lord Salisbury's critics, one can hardly glance at its position on the map without feeling that it would have been but a gracious and friendly act to hand it over in any event. Its value to England even from a strategical point of view, is not apparent, and it is probable that with Germany its acquisition is as much a matter of sentiment as of utility. The only point that seems really worthy of consideration is that of the inhabitants. The fact that they are few in numbers does not diminish their rights as British subjects, and if they have really been transformed against their will to another nation, the transaction will leave an ineradicable stain on the British escutcheon. If, however, their interests have been secured in the matters of taxation and conscription in such a manner as to reconcile them to the change, as we understand Lord Salisbury affirms, the commotion in other respects dwindles to the dimensions of a tea-pot tempest.

THE MUSES OF NEW FRANCE.

THE year that Marc Lescarbot passed in Acadia was an active year in his life. Having taken but one day to come to a decision, he probably never regretted that he had availed himself of his friend Pourtrincourt's invitation to "flee from a corrupt world" and join in an expedition beyond the sea. Every educated Canadian is familiar with Lescarbot's share in what, notwithstanding later reverses, must be called the success of the infant colony that built a fort, erected "a splendid trading post," made friends with the aborigines, mainly by his aid, and began to teach them at once farming and Christianity. The bare facts are modestly set forth in his "Histoire" and "Relations," and are within the reach of readers, but less common is his volume of verses, all having reference to Acadia, and printed at Paris, in 1609, under the title of "Les Muses de la Nouvelle-France." A perusal of this metrical and dramatic work forces the conclusion that an advocate of the parliament of Paris, a fair historian and worthy man of good administrative abilities, yet not averse to the genialities of a *tabagie*, is not necessarily a good poet. He had previously impeded his wing by composing and publishing at Rochelle, in 1606, an adieu to France, which effusion, he says, was received with plaudits of the people.

The writer of this article thinks "Les Muses" has not been reprinted in Canada, although, no doubt, copies are to be found in private hands. *Apropos* of which a Toronto comic contemporary recently offered the excellent suggestion that now is an appropriate time to overhaul old lumber rooms, dusty shelves and unlikely places generally, and if old French volumes or early books printed in Canada be found, as many would probably be, to send them bound in library calf to the new library of the university. The cost to the donor would be trifling, while the value to history and bibliography might be great.

Lescarbot's volume, in accordance with the custom of the time, opens with a dedicatory ode, but not quite so fulsome as taste then sanctioned, to the king, Henry IV. This is followed by a metrical "send off" to a party returning to Old France. The adieu conveys an appreciative and kindly feeling expressed in passably good couplets. Our worthy *avocat* had a high admiration for the new country, and makes his ode a vehicle for praising land and

sea, fish, flesh and fowl, the harbour, rivers and woods, the rich pastures, everything in short excepting that the land was wanting in the vine. Nevertheless after comparing the attractions of Old and New France, to the advantage of the former, he sums up:—

No, I am wrong. Here in this solitude
The man of mind serenely balanced would,
In scanning all its lovely features o'er
Heaven's majesty, from nature's charms, adore.

Amusement, as is usual on ships of exploration, was not wanting to sailors of the fleet, for Lescarbot wrote a nautical drama that was represented on board the flagship *Jonas* in the harbour of Port Royale. One regrets to have to say it was sorry stuff. Neptune of course is the leading character, attended by six Tritons, one of which is a Gascon. Savages offer various tributes to Pourtrincourt, and the whole concludes with a general fanfare and salute of cannon, repeated by the glen of thirty echoes.

When the dispirited colonists ill-advisedly deemed the time had come to abandon Port Royale on the lapse of the Fur Company, Lescarbot's muse was ready with an adieu to New France, in tolerable verse and really showing a good deal of feeling. The beauties and resources of the country they were leaving, and to which they seem to have formed an attachment, were fondly gone over, although somewhat in the manner of a catalogue. The beautiful coast and hills that shut in the port with a double rampart, the fertile valleys where the deer graze, the founts and brooks are all remembered. Descending to minuteness of detail the poet makes manifest a close observance equally of animate and inanimate nature. His list of birds might have been compiled by a professor. Of the birds of the noblesse, *oiseaux chasseurs de haute volerie*, the eagle, falcon, vulture, by which he probably means the great fish-hawk, the merlin, tassel-gentil, goshawk and sparrow-hawk, to which he adds the large horned owl. Of water-fowl the heron, crane and bustard, goose, six kinds of duck, also woodcock. Of song and other birds the lark, nightingale, merle, song thrush, greenfinch, with the jay, the smaller owls, swallow, wood pigeon, turtle dove, and crested wood-pecker, besides the crow, and seabirds, as gulls and cormorants. On land the industrious beaver, the royal moose, the swift-footed deer, cariboo, hare, fox, bear, squirrel, otter with its velvet coat, porcupine, wild cat (so called) but more like a leopard, the martin whose pelt of sable is a vestment for kings, likewise the muskrat and the fat little animal called *nibaché* that hides in trees. Adieu all! Nor is this paradise of venerie the only attraction of Acadia. The waters—or "the humid element," as he prefers to call them—abound with all the game fish of the north. Briefly dismissing clams, mussels and razorfish, he speaks respectfully of lobsters and becomes pathetic in taking leave of the cod, herring, dolphin, sturgeon and a variety of others, not forgetting an occasional whale. Farewell, too, to the fire-flies; to the climate; to the raspberries, strawberries, mouse peas and red gooseberries that grow spontaneously. To the "babillard voice of echo," and to the mines that hold in their veins seams of brass and iron, steel and silver—to each and all adieu! Finally he prays God to guard the good ship *Jonas* while the returning colonists are on board, for he himself, Lescarbot, is constantly astonished that the humid element does not come up and overwhelm it because of the sea-faring language used by those whom Thackeray calls the too-often blasphemous mariners. However, he hopes it may be all right, and concludes with an apology common to beginners—that he wrote his ode in a hurry,

Cherchant dessus Neptune un repos sans repos
J'ay façonné ces vers au branle de ses flots.

The poem of most pretension, and of which the author himself is evidently proud, is a regularly constructed epic, in rhyming couplets, intended to immortalize an Indian war between the Souriquois under their chief Memberton and their aggressive foes the Armouchiquois. The minuteness of detail—*arma virumque cano*—of the hero, his warriors and arms, the wiles of Indian fighting,

Il convoque ce peuple embouchant une trompe
Et trompant, les trompeurs trompement il trompe :

the treatment of captives and the spoil, and the *fêtes* consequent on the defeat of the Armouchiquois adhere so closely to the *rotund diction* of the blind bard and the Mantuan, that in the reader it unintentionally provokes a sense of burlesque. The mutual rhodomontade of the opposing chieftains is quite Homeric. Altogether the epic is useful as a contribution to Indian history.

Society verses were not above the flight of the "Muses of New France." In a "tabagie marine" Lescarbot as the poet of the Colony lets fly a sportive wing:—

By my soul I wish the king
Would do me this pleasant thing,
To endow me with good rents
And by way of contingents.
Say 10,000 crowns a year,
If 30,000 none too dear,
Here to plant a stalwart race
Worthy of his good grace.

Il ne reste que trouver
Bon nombre de jeunes filles
A porter enfans habiles
Pour bien-tot nous rendre forts
En ces mers, rives et ports,
Et passer melancholie,
Chacun avec s'amie
Pres les murmurantes eaux
Qui gazouillent par les vaux,
Ou à l'ombre des feuillages,
Des endormons verd-bocages.

Two sonnets, addressed to friends, whose names are as well known as his own, may be given here:—

TO THE SIEUR CHAMPLAIN,

Geographer of the King.

Once a Numidian king, in purpose grand,
Made seek the sources of that mighty stream
Of which all Egypt and all Lydia deem
The flow is pleasant running through the sand.
So, Champlain, long I've noted thou thy stand
Hast taken to trace out the unknown source
Of that great tide that in resistless force
To strike the shore flows from the new west land.
Accomplish, then, the scheme thou dost devise
And who can tell what glory will be thine
To gild thy name,—which all already prize.
If thou succeedest, as thou brave hast planned,
A new and undiscovered route thou'lt line
By which to reach far distant China's strand.

TO MESSIEURS DE MONTS

And his Lieutenant and Associates.

If in the ages old they hymned the name
Of him who carried off the Colchian fleece,
And if, even to this day, they do not cease
To magnify the son of Aeson's fame,
Much more should we too celebrate the aim,
Not now of Jason, but brave French of you,
To whose praiseworthy enterprise is due
A worthier object and more noble game.
The Greek acquired a territory then,
For he was well equipped with means and men,
Backed up by Princes' gift of stores immense,
But you, with nought but goodwill of the king,
Courageous men, devoid of everything,
Have won a province at your own expense.

Throughout these verses, of little merit in themselves, there runs a pleasant significance showing that amid all the hardships of colonial settlement there still remained a surplus of energy for the composing and appreciation of rhyme. Characteristic French buoyancy and gaiety may be read between the lines. In other respects Lescarbot's realistic narrative verse is as instructive as his history. The rhymes thrown off by men who have otherwise achieved more or less of celebrity are not without use, as sometimes turning a hidden leaf in character, and hence we read with an interest beyond their poetical merit. They indicate, too, the literary taste of the era. Those gay and sentimental lyrics, for instance, were they extant, that Caesar Borgia in his youth acquired some fame in composing, might help towards an analysis of the laudatory picture given of him even by Machiavel. HUNTER DUVAR.

PARIS LETTER.

THE Grand Opera, following M. Delpit, is in full decadence, and the building itself is the most perfectly organized crematory in case of a panic. The Government endows the opera, as it does the cod and lobster fisheries, with 800,000 frs. a year. The institution is farmed for five years; the present tenants being Messrs. Ritt and Gailhard. These gentlemen are freely denounced from all quarters for not having executed their contract, namely, the bringing out of two brand new operas annually, and giving a monthly representation, a popular night, at a reduced tariff. They have thus incurred fines amounting to 275,000 frs., which it is urged should be deducted from their accumulated profits of 1,500,000 frs. during their tenancy. Every act in a new opera costs 40,000 frs. to stage; the managers have provided no new scenery or costumes, but have unduly worn those in store.

In addition to original operas not having been brought out, talented artistes find it difficult to get on with the managers, being underpaid. Jean de Reszke, M. Lassalle and Madame Melba have left, and they had annual salaries of 120,000, 90,000 and 60,000 frs., respectively. The two exit corridors of the opera house have been so narrowed by new *loges* or boxes, that in case of fire, a lady tripping in her dress and falling would suffice to block the passage and so lead to the burning of all the spectators. The architect protested against this narrowing in of the exit alleys; the Prefect of Police ordered the removal of the obstruction, and yet both remonstrances remain a dead letter. Visitors henceforth going to the opera ought to make their wills.

A horrible case of miscarriage of justice. At the close of May, 1887, three Spaniards, Guillaumet, Rossel and Villaroubia, labourers, united to kill and rob Pradies, a farmer, at Petit-Condom, two miles from Narbonne. It was six o'clock in the evening when they repaired, singly, to the house. Villaroubia watched while his accomplices entered the house. The wife of Pradies ran to the aid of her husband, and with a cane sword attacked Rossel. But he killed her, and fled. Pradies, terribly mutilated, resisted Guillaumet, who decamped. The police arrested Guillaumet and Villaroubia. Unable to find Rossel, they laid hands on Borrás, a married man and father of three children, six days later, apparently because gossip accused him. Pradies described the second assailant as a "blonde man and pock-marked." Just before expiring, and when unconscious, Borrás was brought into his presence, and he identified him, because rumour said so. No doctor was present, and it was not pointed out to the deceased that Borrás was black-haired and pock-marked.

The trial took place, the jury, the prosecutor and the judges being under the influence of the public rumours. Borrás, though four respectable persons established a clear *alibi* for him, was found guilty, and all three were condemned to be guillotined. While the judges were deliberating in their room on the sentence, Villaroubia whispered to a lawyer that Borrás had nothing to do with the crime. His declaration was unheeded by the judges and prosecutor. Borrás appealed; the court rejected it; then he petitioned

the President of the Republic for a pardon. The Pardon Committee, after an exhaustive examination, declared Borras' crime was as clear as noon day, and reported that the law should take its course. The President was on the point of signing the death-warrants, when public opinion instinctively felt something to be wrong. Ultimately the sentences were commuted to transportation for life.

Seven months after the triple condemnation, a man was discovered in Spain, washing his linen in a stream, near the Montjouieh mountain, that refuge for malefactors. A guard, not liking his answers, brought him before the magistrate, when, after much embarrassment, he confessed that he was a Spaniard; his name Rossel; that he had fled France, fearing arrest for his participation in the crime—details given—of Petit-Condorm. The judge informed the French authorities, who, strange to say, made no demand for Rossel's extradition. Friends now drew up a petition of the whole case and presented it to the President of the Republic, who referred it to the Minister of Justice, M. Thévenet. The latter simply placed it in his drawer for a twelvemonth, where it was recently found by his successor, the present minister, Fallières.

Senator Marcon had now taken in hand the case. He caused Borras and the two condemned, already on board the transport for penitential and pestilential Guyane, to be debarked. M. Fallières was convinced of the innocence of Borras; he delegated the Inspector-General of Prisons to report on the moral character of Borras while in gaol and found that it was most exemplary; that neither his fellow-prisoners nor gaolers considered him to be guilty. On the minister's recommendation the President then granted Borras a full and free pardon. A public subscription is being raised to indemnify him, as the law accords him nothing, and it will take three years to fulfil all the formalities before the judicial blunder can be erased from the records.

Professional syndicates or trades unions do not exist in France. For example, there are 6,000 saddlers in Paris, yet its guild includes only 200 members. There are the same number of printers, but only 2,000 have a union. The disinclination to federate is due to the fear of the rates of wages being made public, thus attracting provincials to the capital who would "pull the rate of usance down."

The hours of labour, wages, and mode of payment are interesting; the scavengers work ten hours, but longer when snow has to be cleared off during the night, and the streets watered. The men gain 64 and the women 40 sous per day; the men are paid monthly, and the women fortnightly. The carpenters earn from 12 to 16 sous per hour; are paid every five weeks, and work in summer 10 and in winter 8 hours. Cooks, 12 to 14 hours daily; wages 5 to 6 frs. Clerks in government offices work from 8 to 10 hours; in commercial houses 10 to 16 hours; salaries 600 to 3,000 frs. Sweeps have no fixed hours, are paid daily, and at the rate of 16 sous per hour. Lithographers work 10 hours, at 8 frs. a day. Butlers 16 to 18 hours, the salary is unfixed; occasionally it consists of only board and lodging. Plumbers earn 7½ frs. per day of 9 hours. Navvies, 10 to 13 hours, and make by day or task work from 4 to 4½ frs. Printers, 8 to 10 hours; salary by piece work, or 6½ frs. daily; if on newspapers, 8½ frs.

However, the average number of hours of labour in the Paris trades is 10½, and supposing there were no dead seasons, the average daily wage would be six francs and fourteen sous. As a rule salaries are paid weekly and fortnightly, save in the case of clerks, shop men, etc., when payment is monthly. The tendency to slack seasons is on the increase, as well as the length of their duration. It is as much as four months in the building trade. The influx of outsiders is one of the chief causes, and so is the importation of cheap foreign merchandise. It is most gratifying to learn that in "nearly all the trades Sunday is observed as a day of repose," in addition to the usual holidays and *fêtes*, save in the case of bakers, scavengers, waiters, barbers and tavern-keepers; the masons only observe one Sunday in the month a holiday—their pay-day.

The plan of "sharing of profits" is not a success, they say, in Paris. The syndicates demand that the hours of labour be fixed at 8 per day, and the wages at 8 frs. per diem; they object to women working out when they ought to keep to home duties, and that apprentices ought only to work when 15 to 16 years of age, for six hours daily, and at a salary from 2 to 3 frs. In Paris, workmen, to be independent of intermittent alms-relief, claim an annual income of 2,600 to 3,000 frs.; in the provincial cities 1,800 frs., and in the country towns from 1,500 to 1,600 frs. Z.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.—The address of the General Manager of the Merchants' Bank, a report of which will be found in another column embodied in the annual report of the prosperous institution over which he so ably presides, is a comprehensive and valuable review of general banking interests all over Canada during the past and present year, with a lucid statement of the amendments to the Banking charter lately renewed. The Merchants' Bank has, we are glad to see, still prospered and with a favourable agricultural and lumber outlook should continue to do so. A notable fact in this Bank's history of the last ten years is that from a comparatively weak state it has grown to be one of the strongest institutions of its kind in the Dominion and has actually in the same time *quintupled* its Rest Fund. Mr. George Hague looks with a hopeful eye upon the immediate future and we have no doubt but that at the next Annual Meeting we shall have the pleasure of hearing that this forecast has been justified.

"SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI."

[With apologies to Hood.]

NOTE—At a session of "The Society for Historical Studies" held in Montreal April 1st, 1890, the chairman announced, on the authority of the "Heralds' College," that the Beaver and the Maple-wreath had no part in the armorial bearings of Canada, and that their position as commonly depicted in the so-called "Dominion Coat of Arms" was unwarranted.

I CHANGED, one day, by a woodland stream
That threaded its silvered way, a-gleam
With dancing sunlight's mirrored beam,
Among its rocks and sedges;
And canopied under a Maple's shade,
That sentinelled the forest glade,
I dreamily watched the ripples that played
Along the river's edges.

Idly dreaming and drinking in
The breath of the woods—sweet Nectar's kin—
Antidote for the fret and din
That age the city craftsman,
When out on the river I heard the thrash
Of falling oars, with their rhythmic splash,
And the chanson's gay and joyous dash
Trolled by some passing raftsmen.

At least I thought 'twas this I heard,—
But I give you my purest rhyming word,
Although you may doubt and cry, "Absurd!"
On a pine-log there, a-straddle,
A Beaver sat with his household goods,
Like a chopper returning from the woods
When work is done on the high spring-floods,
Swinging his tail for a paddle!

Beating the time with his paddle's sweep,
He chanted in tones both full and deep
A pitiful lay, 'twould make you weep
To hear its doleful measure.
Seeing me beckoning on the bank,
He steered his raft through the sedges dank,
And beaching her there with a sounding clank,
Demanded to know my pleasure.

"Oh whither away, my friend?" I said;
"Can you not earn your daily bread,
Here in your home, that your sails are spread
In this truly emigrant fashion?"
He shook the wet from his jerkin buff,
And wiped away with his furry cuff
The tears that sprinkled his whiskers rough,
And thus claimed my compassion:

"I am leaving," he said, "my native land,
Though her name be proud and her record grand,
But ingratitude I never will stand—
Come death before dishonour!
My country has taken the fullest toll,
And levied her taxes on each round poll
Of the Beaver clan, till every soul
Hurls maledictions on her.

"To die for one's country is no disgrace:—
'Mong the names that honour's bead-roll grace
A grateful country awards a place
To the soldier who dies in action.
Do you wonder I shake my native damp
From my dripping coat, and quick decamp,
When I'm known to fame by a postage-stamp,
A hat, and a party-faction?"

"When the Heralds quartered a coat-of-arms,
Of beasts and birds and fishes in swarms,
And I saw my hairy-coated charms
Its blazoned crest adorning,
Contented I was to die; my name,
I said, shall have undying fame!
But when the news to my castle came
My joy was turned to mourning."

As he ceased, a patter of drops came down
And showered us over from toe to crown;
It seemed as if her sorrow would drown,
In tears the Maple was weeping.
In a flood that drenched her shapely limbs,
The grief-sapped tears that beauty dims,
Welled from her bird-eye's round red rims,
From out her wreathed locks peeping.

"'Tis sad, my brother, past all belief,"
She said, when sorrow had found relief:
"My life fed yours, we're one in grief
For treatment unprecedented.
I had burned my way to my country's heart
I thought, I had taxed the painter's art
To limn my charms, and for my part
With this would fain be contented.

"I bore it when my tinted leaves
Were bound and pressed in treasured sheaves
To which the fond collector cleaves
As to some dear possession.
And Fame seemed very near to me
When thou and I were called to be
Twin-emblems in some jubilee
Or *St Jean Baptiste* procession.

"My wreathed chaplet 'rime had bound
A grateful country's Arms around,—
I deemed my name would far rebound
By Heralds' trumpet bruided.
Alas for fondest dreams of fame!—
I'd voyage with you and hide our shame—
To native land renounce all claim—
Were my ties less deeply rooted.

"But take, my brother, a pledge with thee;
This token of love wear thou for me
In thy lonely travels by land or sea,
Nor deem me thus soft-hearted
In wishing to be remembered still;
Though age may wither, and grief me kill,
May kindly fate keep thee from ill
When thou and I are parted!"

The Beaver kissed the leaflet that fell
In his outstretched paws, while the forest dell
Seemed wrapped about with a mystic spell
That breathed its sad insistence;—
I helped the Beaver his craft to launch;
And, straddled aboard its timber staunch—
In his mouth tight-gripped the Maple-branch—
He paddled away in the distance.

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS.

OCEAN CURRENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGES.

EVER since the mist of the earth became cool enough to develop any condition which could be designated as a climate, its temperature and, consequently, the aspects of animate and inanimate nature have gone through long successions of local and general changing. The first dawn of conscious life is supposed to have occurred somewhere about the North Pole, which was probably the locality first liberated from the power of extreme heat. Then the habitable region gradually extended southward and northward from such isles as may have existed about the South Pole, until the land surface of the entire globe, excepting mountain tops, rocky barrens and sand deserts, became covered with a luxuriant growth of giant vegetation, and peopled with animal species who more than made up in size for what they lacked in number and variety. After this the first glacial period is thought to have set in. Successive cold waves swept from either pole, farther and farther toward the equator, and the freezing up steadily grew in extent and intensity, and finally restricted all the higher forms of life to a belt which could not have extended much beyond the limits of the present torrid zone. How long this chilly state of affairs continued is a question upon which scientists find much cause for disagreement. There is an equal uncertainty as to whether our planet has endured only one or a dozen of these wide spread refrigerations when considering the events of the world's early morning, the first scholar of the age might find himself floundering in dangerously deep water. On many important points in this connection the most that we can do is to explode the theories of rival investigators. Since the beginning of human history, which may be somewhere between six and ten thousand years ago, no climatic revolutions have occurred of anything like this magnitude, although very important changes have been numerous and far reaching.

Modern science has demonstrated that the climate changes, of which we have certain knowledge, are due in a great measure to the effect of ocean currents. These rivers of the sea, which may be occasioned by the motions of the globe, flow in every direction. They cross the largest ocean, sweep around continents, and in some cases almost extend their courses from pole to pole. Being usually of vast extent with a tide whose tendency is deep and steady, it is easy to see how they convey immense volumes of water through many degrees of latitude without its undergoing any important change in temperature. Thus the effect of an ocean river upon a country whose shore it washes must be great almost beyond estimation. As the stream comes from the north or south the atmosphere is rendered dry or moist, and the climate becomes frigid or balmy. From such modifications all appearances are changed, renewed, and, in numerous instances, altogether transformed, and animal life from the lowest to the highest form will be greatly altered in feature and character. The Gulf Stream to us is the most notable of these saline currents. It may be considered a continuance of the North Equatorial current which rushes into the Caribbean Sea along the northern coast of South America, and thence between Cuba and Yucatan into the Gulf of Mexico. Here, reinforced by the tide of the Mississippi, it flows onward with new energy, and passing out through the comparatively narrow channel between Florida and the Bahamas, sweeps away to the north-eastward at a rate of more than six miles an hour. The combined influence of the Grand Bank and the Baffin Bay current are supposed to split this great ocean river and send a large portion of it back towards the equator. The other branch, which proceeds to the north-east, is again divided, a portion flowing away toward the Pole between Greenland and Iceland. The other subdivision washes the shores of the British Islands, and also the entire coast of north-western Europe. The Gulf Stream water and the warm, humid winds which blow in the direction of its course, furnish the chief reasons why these regions have a warmer and more genial climate than any other situation so far from the equator. Were any cause to deflect the tepid flood so that it would no longer touch either the islands or the main land, we may conclude that countries now thickly populated and rich in natural resources, would become as barren and desolate as Labrador.

If such a decided westward shifting ever occurs, its effect upon the climate of North America will be as beneficial as it is disastrous upon that of Europe. The Polar current which is responsible for most of the severe weather along our shores would not get south of the Gulf of St.

Lawrence; and even in this stormy water would have its chill nearly destroyed by the warm tide flowing from the Atlantic. The piercing winds of early spring would no longer cut through our bodies like invisible knives, and later in the season, the coasts of Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island would not be decorated with a picturesque assortment of towering icebergs. Should the Gulf Stream come to leave the rocky shores of our maritime provinces, the change of climate for these regions and for all the eastern portions of the continent would certainly be of a marvellous character. At present a singularly cold current runs along the coast of Nova Scotia from twenty to fifty miles outside the head lands. This river comes partially from the North Atlantic, and partially through the Strait of Canso, and is doubtless a portion of the great Polar current which flows from the east side of Baffin Bay. The tide holds its southward course until stopped by the projection of Cape Cod. It is here hurled back upon its track, and gives to the water of Massachusetts Bay that chilliness which is unpleasantly apparent at all seasons. From this cold river blow the famous east winds which make New England's climate so deadly for any one not favoured with strong lungs. The southeastern limit of this current mingles with the northwestern border of the Gulf Stream. But the distinction between them is very marked, and buckets full of water taken up only a few miles apart show a surprising difference in temperature. Between these opposing rivers a constant battle is going on. At certain seasons the Gulf tide is pushed many leagues out into the Atlantic; and again it forces its way so far westward that part of it flows over the Grand Bank, and may even come very near to the coast of Newfoundland. But these sways back and forth in the struggle of the liquid giants, by those in a position to know best, are now thought to have a pronounced westward tendency. Every time the Gulf Stream swings toward the coast it swings a little farther than ever before, and every time it swings the other way it does not go quite so far. If such is really the case, we should already observe important modifications in our climate. And judging by what everyone says on the subject, we must conclude that the weather of to-day is very different from that of fifty or even twenty-five years ago. All records and oral testimony unite in affirming that such weather was unknown in olden times. Then, in Halifax they had a good honest winter, with four months of steady sleighing, and a summer hot enough for anybody's notions. Now, the summers are cool and foggy and the winters only cold by fits and starts. A peculiarity observed along the coast of Nova Scotia proper and also in Cape Breton is that nearly all the storms are from the southeast, and accompanied by a wind, which in the course of twenty hours brings air from directly over the Gulf Stream, a circumstance in itself almost sufficient to account for the prevailing mildness. The change from cold winters and hot summers to cool summers and warm winters is equally marked in all the maritime country excepting New Brunswick, and even there a great difference is observable. It surely results from some important and general cause, and, knowing of nothing else, we may accept the evidence in favour of the Gulf Stream, and conclude that its course is slowly bending towards our continent. In a century or two North America will feel the full heat-producing force of its many trillions of tons of tropical vine, and with results important in the largest degree. The facts that the British Islands, and all of Northern and Central Europe, seem to be experiencing a climate change in the opposite direction is another evidence in favour of such a movement. During recent years constantly increasing heat in summer and constantly increasing cold in winter has been the rule in all of these countries. Scientific observation on both sides of the Atlantic, if carefully continued for a few years, is likely to furnish data that may conclusively show the cause and obvious end of our present climate changes.

ADDISON F. BROWNE.

AN Alabama girl, now ten years of age, who lost the sense of sight, hearing and speech in infancy, was sent North by her wealthy parents to be educated in one of the institutions for the blind. The first year she acquired a vocabulary of 3,000 words, showing greater mental activity than did Laura Bridgman. A few months ago Miss Fuller, of the Horace Mann school, began to teach her to articulate, instructing her how to place her tongue, and all the mechanical elements of articulation. The child now talks quite readily, uses accent, and, with her private teacher as interpreter, can carry on a conversation with her friends. Her voice at first disagreeable is no longer unpleasant, though slightly guttural and aspirated. This is one of a very few and remarkable cases of deaf-mutes learning to talk.

BANK OF TORONTO.—It is satisfactory to notice the prosperous condition evinced by the report presented to the shareholders of the Bank of Toronto at their recent annual meeting, which will be seen by perusing the statement presented in another column. The directors in addition to declaring a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. have added \$100,000 to the Rest Fund which now equals three-fourths of the paid up capital—a very pleasant feature, no doubt, to those interested in the concern. The unsatisfactory state of agriculture during the past year does not seem to have affected the Bank to any noticeable extent, as the balance sheet shows. On conclusion of the ballot for election of directors, Messrs. George Gooderham and Wm. Beatty were respectively elected President and Vice-President.

CROP PROSPECTS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

WE have had abundance of rain and now one hears "Forty bushels to the acre" uttered on all sides. All over the country the crops—notwithstanding a late cold spring—look well, and the farmers are jubilant. There is still, as I write, a prospect of more rain; the sky completely covered with clouds. On Thursday, as I left my office to walk home to lunch, I lingered, watching the forked lightning breaking out here and there on the vast inky cloud, which covered the western half of the concave; the eastern half was curtained up—here with lace-like, there with downy, pillowy, clouds; little bits of the clearest, loveliest blue—like the eye of a child peeping out from its cot—shining through in some dozen places. The houses under the thunder-cloud looked weird, desolate, forsaken; those in the east bright and happy. At first the thunder was distant; soon it was right overhead; then came the rain, sweeping down and making a mockery of such frail protection as an umbrella. The few citizens of Regina who were out and about fled, and the little birds hurried to their nests. In a few minutes the streets were mud, into which the foot sunk deep, and the sidewalks became very dirty. Any one who knew he had a change of clothing at home might well still linger, so full of blessing to the country did he know that rain to be. The lightning was a spectacle of wonderful grandeur, and the thunder, as though whole cities were being hurled down some dread abyss, was sublime. I tried to picture it in the following sonnet as I walked on:—

A quivering, crooked bar of silver fire
Starts out!—is gone!—into the blue-black clouds.
And hark!—Are these young lions roaring loud?
Or parks of guns that boom in dreadful choir?
And here—and there—again—until they tire.
Attention, sudden forked lightnings sped,
And crash on crash went ruining overhead,
As though, heaven stormed, hell had its fell desire.
And down, and quick, and deep, the spears of rain
Shot to the earth's heart, jocund for such scars;
The grass grew greener, brighter, bold and glad;
And birds and men for shelter fled in vain;
And still above the tumbling ruins crashed; the bars
That all things hold seemed smashed by demigods gone mad.

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

June 14, 1890.

THE RAMBLER.

NOT many months ago the Contributors' Club in the *Atlantic Monthly* contained a note upon the conscious or unconscious poetic rhythms scattered throughout the prose of "Lorna Doone."

Of this sometimes reprehensible trick, Charles Dickens was also more than occasionally guilty. Take his ever-memorable description of Niagara as one instance:—

I think in every quiet season now,
Still do those waters roll and leap and roar
And tumble all day long.
Still are the rainbows spanning them
A hundred feet below;
Still when the sun is on them do they shine
And glow like molten gold. Still, when the day
Is gloomy, do they fall like snow, or seem
To crumble away like the front of a great chalk cliff,

But always does the mighty stream appear
To die as it comes down.

This is very excellent—nay—noble, blank verse. Then here is a short passage out of Martin Chuzzlewit. You recollect the evening upon which Montague was slain by Jonas. The former walked along a footpath to the wood:—

The glory of the (departing) sun was on his face.
The music of the birds was in his ears.
Sweet wild flowers bloomed about him,
Thatched roofs of poor men's homes were in the distance;
And an old grey spire, surmounted by a Cross,
Rose up between him and the coming night.

David Copperfield, too, is rich in similar rhythmical passages.

When I heard the . . . voices die away,
And saw the quiet evening cloud grow dim,
And all the colours in the valley fade,
And the golden snow upon the mountain-tops
Become a remote part of the pale night sky,
Yet felt that the night was passing from my mind,
And all its shadows clearing—there was no name
For the love I bore her, dearer to me, henceforth,
Than ever until then.

Well, Dickens himself knew of these rhythmical intrusions and did his best to keep them out, but we cannot but be glad that he allowed some to remain. In the opening passages of "The Cricket on the Hearth," you may recollect this rhyming paragraph, looking like prose at first sight to the uninitiated:—

It's a dark night, sang the kettle, and the rotten leaves are lying by the way;
And above all is mist and darkness, and below, all is mire and clay;
And there's only one relief in all the sad and murky air;
And I don't know that it is one, for it's nothing but a glare
Of deep and angry crimson where the sun and wind together
Set a brand upon the clouds for being guilty of such weather.
And the widest, open country is a long dull streak of black,
And there's hoar-frost on the finger-post and thaw upon the track,
And the ice it is not water, and the water isn't free,
And you couldn't say that anything is what it ought to be,
But he's coming, coming, coming!

Traces of this unconscious rhythm appear, however, in many standard English works. I have not remarked it in foreign writers, though Victor Hugo should afford some examples, for in his impassioned prose there is a force of emotional intensity almost certain to be wedded to musical expression.

One of Victor Hugo's most amusing efforts may not be generally known to English readers, although it contains a hit at English habits.

Pour me guerir du spleen,
J'entraî dans une Inn
Ou je bus du Gin,
God save the Queen.

Anything more foolishly sentimental and maudlin than this cry about street-and-shop-decoration, I never heard. If private residents were told to plant beautiful shrubs and grow rare and delightful plants, to encourage the grass both on lawn and boulevard, to keep their back lanes in good condition, and premises generally in neat and picturesque order, this, one thinks, would be enough and a good deal too. But the citizens of Toronto are too apt to take the rustic cackle of their burgh for the murmur of the world! The rubbish that is talked and written upon this topic is without end. Shops are shops, and business streets are business streets, and will continue so to the end of time. For my part I prefer my flowers at home than in the city. Window-boxes here and there would indubitably result in pots of all kinds as well, and the number of broken heads would affect the census—a point Torontonians are very rigid about. However, there need be no immediate cause for fear. The tradesmen of Yonge and Queen streets, for example, are sober, sensible, self-respecting individuals, not given to day-dreaming, nor do I fancy their young daughters ever leaning out over a box of mignonette set, like one dear in literature, upon a casement window. These be the days of exams, and degrees; of furred hoods and University honours for all who care to have them, and young ladies have no time for floriculture. No. The home cultivation of flowers is abandoned. I do not know a single young lady who can show me a plant of her own raising. But I know about twenty dozen who, night after night all winter, order, or have ordered for them, corsage and hand bouquets of superb hot house blooms from the Florist. *Peste!* I am becoming misanthropical and will even change the subject.

June is the month of School Closings. It is too warm to be original over them, but at least I will spare the Laureate and my readers the much-quoted line from the "Princess." You know the one I mean, of course. It is not always applicable moreover, for in this country brunettes predominate. But about School Closings I will say this—that to enjoy them thoroughly you must go at them thoroughly. I have taken in two Roman Catholic, one Presbyterian, one Methodist, two Anglican, and have as many more before me. If, therefore, the "Rambler" appeareth not in next issue you will know why, for this species of dissipation hath that quality in it, that, like Cowper's cup of tea, it cheers, nay, oftentimes soothes, but never inebriates—I beg pardon—inspires. No. I have been chased from Valedictory to Closing Essay and back again to Valedictory, have listened to Speeches Long and Speeches Short, Remarks both Terse and Tiresome upon the "Present Age and Former Ages," beginning at Shakespeare and ending with the musical glasses, and I have just one little remark of my own to make in this connection which, I trust, will be amiably received and commented upon. Why do not the teachers and principals of female educational institutions insist and agree upon the adoption of *white* as the regulation costume for the closing exercises? It would be a great improvement. I have lately had my artistic senses tortured—and I hope you have observed that I am a very artistic person—by visions of young girls in black satin, young girls in rose-coloured crape, young girls in mauve poplin, young girls in *black and scarlet*, and so on *ad nauseam*.

Girls of tender age do not know enough to choose their costumes properly. This should be the duty of the matron or mother or whoever the person is that usually manages such things. But white should be considered distinctly *de rigueur*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HATRED OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—In THE WEEK for June 20th you notice Mr. Goldwin Smith's article in the May number, also the seven essays by representative Americans "on the feelings cherished by the people of the United States" towards the Old Country. You observe that the American writers agree in ascribing whatever may exist of unfriendly feeling chiefly to the conduct and sympathies of the ruling classes in England during the civil war—instancing the recognition of the Southerners as belligerents, as a case in point. American reasons like these go to prove, what has often been charged, namely, that partly owing to the systematic mis-statement of facts whenever Great Britain is concerned by nearly all the U. S. Press, there is not only a want of depth in their international political judgment, but a widespread shallowness. They have been mentally reared on historical untruth. If the Southerners had not been recognized as belligerents then the blockade of their ports would not have been allowed, and the ships of all nations could have entered them. The capture of a vessel lawfully entering a port is an act of piracy, but the capture of a blockade-runner was and is lawful by the laws of all nations. The unlawful capture of French ships would have given Napoleon the excuse he sought for. His fleet, nearly as strong as that of Great Britain, could have raised the blockade in a fortnight. The cotton famine (see "Chambers' Encyclopædia") caused in Great Britain one million of men, women and children to suffer grievously. The British Government, by acceding to the urgent de-

mands of Napoleon, and by giving way to Gladstone—the only British statesman with Southern proclivities—could, by leaguings with France and Spain, have at once terminated the troubles of that suffering million. All that was necessary was to recognize the independence of the South; not even to fire a shot. The recognition would practically have increased the power of the South by one-third, and have diminished that of the North in like proportion. Even with England neutral, the British ministers publicly disavowing Gladstone, keeping Napoleon also neutral, the North was so exhausted that it could not have carried on the war for another year.

It has always been kept back that a strong minority in the North were of the same opinion as the majority of the British, and deprecated the fratricidal struggle. It is certain that from various motives the majority in the Old Country, both high and low, did not approve of it, and believed that the British way of freeing the slaves by a payment of £25 per head, without bloodshed, was far preferable to outlaying £200 per head, with the additional loss of 500,000 lives. A Scotch commercial traveller, whose journeys took him over the United Kingdom, a very intelligent and inquisitive man, and who was very strongly in favour of the North, told me after the termination of the struggle that he had found during his journeys that the majority of the people (he met mostly the lower middle class) were opposed to the civil war, but that no one ever advocated interference.

A Practical Experience of American Feeling in 1870-71.

In 1870-71 I lived in the States. I was in New York, Boston, Providence, R. I., Worcester, New Bedford, etc., etc. I must have interviewed thousands of the middle and lower-middle class. I sought for information, letting it be known that I was an Englishman. At that time the Alabama question was being discussed between the two governments. Having read so much at home about the supposed ill-feeling in America, I fully expected to meet with very strong expressions of opinion upon the subject. I was, however, most agreeably disappointed. During the ten months that (excepting Sundays and public holidays) I came into contact with people who generally knew that I was an Englishman, I only met with three or four (I think three) instances where any feeling was shown, and one of those was an Irish-American. I found the genuine Americans peaceable and rational people, without any trace of the ill-feeling that I had expected to find. I was impressed by the straightforwardness and good feeling of the genuine Yankee. Neither was there any sign of boasting. They were far superior to what the Jefferson Bricks represented them to be. At that time the same class who now largely rule the tone of the American press did, as they do now, distort news and season it to suit the American-Irish palate. One consequence was that the English papers contained imaginary news from the States about the supposed warlike proclivities of the people. The British editors have never "read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested" Dickens' humorous description in "Martin Chuzzlewit" of Jefferson Brick, the war-correspondent of the New York sensational journal. Jefferson Brick still flourishes.

Fearing that the British Government might be deceived by the continuous cabling of fictitious facts, late in the fall of 1870 I wrote to Earl Granville, the then Foreign Secretary, setting forth the truth. It only resulted in a bare acknowledgment. The fact was there was a member of the British Cabinet who had determined indirectly to give way, while ostensibly acting otherwise.

To sum up—is it reasonable to believe that the genuine American feeling is more hostile now than it was in 1870-71, when the memory of the war was strong and the Alabama question unsettled? We must disregard those Celtic-Irish editors (like that dynamite editor who is officially recorded to have deserted from the U. S. army when his regiment got in front of the foe) who get a living by exciting one nation against another. The genuine Americans are very far removed from such people, and regard them with well-deserved contempt.

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

THE "MODERN MYSTIC" REPLIES.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—In your issue of the 6th of June, I noticed a good natured literary and poetical caricature of myself by Nicholas Flood Davin, M. P. The article is headed "A Modern Mystic." Of course everything is more or less a mystery until it is thoroughly understood, and I suppose upon the same principle any man, who happens to be a little in advance of the age, may be said to be a "mystic" until his advanced ideas become more generally understood. If I am a "mystic" it is much in the same sense that Galileo might be said to be a "mystic" when he knew positively, and with absolute certainty, that the earth does actually revolve on its own centre every day, and revolve also round the sun every year at the tremendous speed of much more than a million miles a day, while other men at the time (only about two centuries ago) found it almost impossible to accept facts so astounding to them then, though so very common-place and indisputable to us now.

I feel confident that the grand truth, which I explain so clearly in "World-life," will appear about as common-place and indisputable to educated men generally of the next generation, as the facts relative to the movements of our earth appear to us now. I enclose a copy of

"World-life," in case you may think it worth while to notice it in THE WEEK. Professors Owen and Tyndall, and several of the most distinguished men in England wrote to me about it, but the general public seemed disposed to utterly ignore anything so far beyond what is yet generally accepted by educated men in reference to such matters.

"How to Do it" was written for the members of the House of Commons, and the Senate about a couple of months ago, and "A Noise and a Shaking" was printed about ten days ago, in time for the General Assembly of the Presbyterians in session here last week. It was written for the benefit of the clergy generally, whenever any of them may be disposed to take advantage of the practical suggestions therein. I enclose copies of both these little pamphlets also. Someone must soon do something towards bringing these very important subjects to the attention of the world generally. Why shouldn't THE WEEK do its share now—much to its credit—supposing it should be perceived that the best welfare of "all nations" is the one grand object of these and all my other writings?

Faithfully yours,

HENRY WENTWORTH MONK.

Ottawa, June 23, 1890.

WHEN NIGHT IS STILL.

RONDEAU.

WHEN night is still, the world asleep,
A thousand stars in silence creep
Across the unending stretch of sky,
Where not a gloomy cloud floats by
To mar the glory rare and deep.

A cooling breeze with gentle sweep,
Ripples the stream, the light leaves keep
A music soft as lover's sigh,
When night is still.

The night-bird's notes o'er dell and steep
In plaintive strains from pine-woods leap;
On cliff and river, far and nigh,
A myriad shadows rise and die,
While rest falls on the eyes that weep,
When night is still.

Gananoque.

T. G. MARQUIS.

MUTE WITNESSES OF THE REVOLUTION

IRONY was the great intellectual power of the eighteenth century. Its reign began in England, having its origin as far back as the reign of Charles II.; and that reign was extended through Voltaire to Paris and Berlin, where Frederick sought in it an intellectual pastime. The wits were masters of the age. Ribaldry and raillery filled its literature, and held the first place in letters and in the conversation of the great. Voltaire towered above them all, because he had a burning hatred of injustice and of those legal iniquities which were giants in his time. What wit before him ever elected to be an exile for the best part of his life rather than cease attacking inhuman laws and customs? There was no such reforming purpose in Bolingbroke, Sterne, or Fielding, whatever there may have been by fits and starts in Swift.

Voltaire and Rousseau occupy the largest space in the Precursors' Hall. Both great men are in many subject-pictures. Fancy has no part in those of Voltaire, who often gave hospitality to artists. One of them did for him from life a picture of the Colas family, which is here. But imagination runs riot in most of the subject-pictures about Rousseau. There are cursory sketches of Voltaire in pen and ink worth close study. Obviously they were also done from life, and perhaps he was not aware when the artist's pencil was busy setting down his traits that he was being sketched. His visage is worn away, his mouth sunken from want of teeth, and the body attenuated and bent. A few lines mark the contour of jaw, strong cheek-bones, nose, forehead, and goggle eyes, which are still watchful, bright, and eager, and, it may surprise many to hear, strangely and beautifully soft. Indeed, all the harshness lies around the mouth. In another sketch he is writing, and looks as though he knew that vitriol flowed from his pen. A portrait of him in pastels of singular charm was done when he was a young man. The limner caught and fixed a bright fugitive expression.

Lafayette is handed down to us in an engraving by Paon, "war painter to his Highness the Prince of Condé," as he may have wished himself to be shown to posterity, and as the bourgeoisie of Paris expected to see him when he was "camp marshal to the king, and commander of the national guard." Lafayette, a finical, natty person, stands before a neighing war-horse (which is held by a negro man-servant) in an American Volunteer uniform and the feathered hat of a French nobleman. His wide brim is thatched all round with ostrich feathers, the ends of which droop over the brim. The General points towards an army which marches in the direction of a bay filled with transport-vessels, but his eyes look in an opposite direction. The letterpress tells us that—

L'Amérique était asservie
Ce héros vint briser ses fers,
Son succès au delà des mers
Présageait ceux de la Patrie.

And so we come to Washington as a young colonel of the United States Militia, and also as a soldier under

Braddock in the service of King George, whose weakness he learned when serving him against the French in Ohio. I deem it a piece of good luck to have had my former impressions of Washington corrected by this portrait. By the time he was raised to the dignity of Father of his Country, his countenance was spoiled by an ill-fitting set of false teeth (American dentistry not yet existing). We have him among the mute witnesses in a large oval water-colour miniature, done on rough paper, and in the French style of the time. Washington, under Braddock, took a good many French prisoners. It is possible that there was one among them who knew how to paint a good portrait. The American patriot in this miniature is a young man, and ought to be a man of strong impulses and passions, held well in hand. There is no constrained set expression in the under part of the face, and there is manly beauty and dignity in the whole head. You get at once into sympathetic feeling with the Colonel, who must be as courageous as he is thoughtful and judicious. The hazel eyes, accustomed to watch for ambushes of French and Indians in a wild country, have an eagle glance that scours the horizon. Washington was an eager as well as a judicious man. He shrank from no responsibility when once he saw his way to do a daring thing which it was well to venture upon. The hair is less carefully brushed than in most of Washington's portraits, and grows from the scalp, though young men wore wigs when he was sent to Fort Ohio. There is a slight dust of powder on it. George, the founder of the United States, followed the gentlemanly modes of his time at a distance. Possibly he might have evolved into George the First of the Kingdom of America, if about the time he sat for his sketchy likeness he had not been jilted. We may assume that his lady-love was insensible to those qualities which make him to our eyes the greatest political man of his century and the idol of the Americans. Mrs. Martha Custis, when he married her, had gone through a sobering experience of life, and learned wisdom in that school. Her head was as solid as her husband's, and she was appreciative of the quiet happiness of her lot as the wife of a Virginia planter of mental and moral worth, and in the enjoyment of a fair opulence. We do not hear enough of Mrs. Washington. No vestige of her is to be found among the relics with which I deal.

Franklin, according to Greuze, is also widely different from the prosaic patriarch of the United States postage-stamps and from most of his other portraits. In him and Washington there is a characteristic expression that I do not find in a single great Frenchman of their time. They were both weighted by a sense of their responsibilities, purposeful, patient, and self-reliant, and Washington was high hearted. All this told in their physiognomies. Madame Roland truly said that the tyranny of the Monarchy for eleven centuries left no place for steadfastness in the French character. Wit and quick apprehension were the paramount qualities, and wit too often was degraded to ribaldry. She attributed the crimes of the Revolution to want of moral courage. The upper classes lacked backbone. Franklin, as he looked to Greuze, had an interesting and strong countenance. A thoughtful habit is shown in deep-set, brown eyes. His face explains better than his writings why he was so successful a negotiator, and made his way so far in a society which, if corrupt and light-headed, was quick to perceive and penetrate.

We mount the stairs, and find at the top Mirabeau on an "Altar of the Country." Altars of the country sprang up in the public places between 1789 and 1794, when the Revolutionary tide began to ebb. Mirabeau appears as he was, a blusterer of genius and an arrant posturer. He was only ballasted by love of money. His clumsily-shaped body was the incarnation of the tempest. When he was popular, his roughly blocked-out head was made to serve for decorating pottery statuettes, and busts of him were made in Sèvres biscuit, plaster, bronze, marble, Rouen delf and terra-cotta. These objects are displayed on the Altar of the Country. The cast (there also) of his seamed face, taken after death, was regarded as a sacred object, but, on the discovery of his "grand treason," was flung aside as recalling one whose memory deserved to rot. I know of nothing in pictorial art so bombastic as "The Death of Mirabeau," which is too elaborately engraved not to have been intended for rich bourgeois. I assume it was for them, because the aristocracy did not like bombast.

A triumphant Liberty, belonging to the Rheims museum, overshadows the Altar of the Country. The room next to the lobby is devoted to the royal victims offered thereupon—namely, Louis XVI. and his family. Of these royal personages there is a variety of portraits, autographs, and other relics. Nearly every one has seen busts of Marie Antoinette. A particular one at this Exhibition betrays just a touch of silliness which I have not noticed in any other. Yet, what nobility in her mien! Her husband's bust is idealized; but one feels as if really in his presence when one stands before a portrait of him by Greuze, who makes him obese, homely, kindly, with pale-blue eyes (in the corner of which there is the ghost of a sly twinkle), and gives him a vast expanse of sun-burned fleshy face. A brown print, in which he wears a red cap of liberty and a cockade excites pity—he is so resigned and good-natured. "Monsieur," his brother, wearing the Order of the Holy Ghost, is of a cynical countenance. His sister, Madame Elizabeth, whose stiffly-erect and slender neck is to pass under the axe of the guillotine, has the duck-bill retroussé nose of her grandmother, Marie Leczenska, and generally resembles her, but on a small pattern. She is upright in carriage, and of an ordinary intellect, but is about the most heroic character of the Revo-

lution, and certainly the most simple in her submission to duty, and to the dictates of sisterly affection. The hair of this princess is dressed high. Madame Royale, a girl of nine, and the image of her mother (who treated her with severity), is in the family group. Later in life, her contour took an expression of masculine harshness, and her voice became a rough and deep bass. A toy house, built in dark-grey cardboard, and having windows of wire network, stands nearer, and suggests prison gloom. The King and Dauphin made it for the amusement of the latter when they were virtual prisoners at the Tuilleries. The ladies beguiled the tedium of their captivity with needle-work. Elizabeth was expert with her needle, and taught her niece, of whose handiwork there is a specimen in a bit of feather-stitch embroidery. Yon miniature of the guillotine, which stands beside a model of the Bastille, cut out of a stone of that State prison, is no toy, but a model, by Schmitt, submitted by Doctor Guillotin, "physician in ordinary to the King," to Louis, who improved its mechanism by changing the shape of the blade.

The Princess de Lamballe, *née* Princess de Savoy Carignan, and great-aunt of Victor Emmanuel, in a degree belongs to "the Royal Family," and is the most poetized martyr of the Revolution. Maria Theresa objected to her intimate companionship with the queen, because of her hyper-sensibility, which made her faint when, one day boating at Choisy with Marie Antoinette, a man fell out of their boat and was drowned. The German Empress (who be it remembered urged Marie Antoinette to be friendly to Madame du Barri when the latter was the Sultana of Louis XV.) thought it disgraceful to faint when a drowning man was to be rescued. Presence of mind would have been noble, whereas the over-mastery of head by nerves was contemptible. We must get rid of the idea of the Princess de Lamballe's beauty, fostered by the photographs of her sold in Paris printshops. A mute witness in the form of a large oval portrait, coloured in chalks, establishes that she was plain, and had a complexion to match with sandy hair, and was of the Savoy Carignan, or House of Italy, type. Though her features are ordinary, she has not a vulgar face. In this portrait there is bitterness beneath her smile, and a spice of primness in her bearing. A stiffly-garlanded hat is set on the side of her high-dressed, powdered hair. When she found herself supplanted by the Duchess de Polignac in the queen's favour, she wept till she thought the source of her tears dried up. Her grievance might have been fresh when those flowers were being woven into the wreath for her hat. The weird she had to dree was one of heart-bitterness, ending in gruesome tragedy. Married to the heir of the richest nobleman in France, she was a widow at the age of eighteen. Her husband, who was not much her senior, died of debauchery. All her affections were then vested in the queen, of whom she became, during several years, the confidante and daily companion. The poor princess, when the royal family were prisoners, came back from a place of safety abroad, to see how she could serve them. Her head was for the last time seen by her royal mistress, held up on a pike before a window in the Temple.

As a set-off against the Temple relics, comprising a model of that prison-like castle made in dark cardboard by the Dauphin, there are other objects which at one time set blood boiling in France. They are the tools made by Latude, and the ladder, manufactured out of his bedclothes, by means of which he escaped from the Bastille. A deep window-niche is given up to documents relating to the taking of that fortress prison, to padlocks of cells made by clumsy smiths who thought ponderousness a guarantee for security. Turgot's great-grandson lent the portrait of that economist and administrator, who foresaw that a grinding *fisc* would be as ruinous to the French Monarchy as it was to the Roman Empire. What is so remarkable in Turgot as here portrayed is that he looks not the business man whom we conceive him, but a man of imagination. Is it possible, without the imagination which enables one to put oneself in the place of others, to be an earnest and eager reformer?

Events came and went so fast between the opening of the States-General and the seizure of the king and queen in their palace, as to keep on the alert all who wanted to chronicle them with pen or pencil. They had to hit their birds on the wing. Camille Desmoulins wrote a legible and even hand before the Revolution. But in the hot haste in which he had later to jot down his impressions it appears to have got disjointed, snagged, and scratchy. We are enabled to see what manner of countenance he had. Well, he was a *beau laid*, sallow, lantern-jawed, and wide-mouthed, but with a glorious pair of black eyes, though one of them slightly squinted. Camille was one of the three or four who, in 1789, thought of and hoped for a Republic. His classical books which he used at school are scored with pen and ink, in passages relating to the grandeur of Republican Rome. A deputy's order for the sitting of the Assembly on October 5, 1789, at Versailles, is signed by Dr. Guillotin. We see in other wreckage thrown up by the sea of oblivion how the Revolution struck those who watched its course. At the start, there was much aiming at effect and staginess. Trifles connected with points of etiquette were thought of prime importance by the Court, which snubbed and teased the deputies of the people rather than oppress them. A pattern mantle, which the Grand Chamberlain insisted on their adopting for their official costume, is in coarse, black serge, and resembles a pinafore worn behind instead of before. Quite a gallery of likenesses in black and white bring down to us the faces of the men who were emerging from

obscurity into public life. "The Tennis Court Oath," depicted at the time, does not impress one with a high idea of the sincerity of those who took it. They attitudinise too much to be really in earnest. Did they mean it to divert from the palace the anger of the crowd that raged in the streets outside? Probably.

We obtain a glimpse of the social condition of France, as the Monarchy was tottering, by scanning the sumptuary relics. Gentlemen dressed in richer stuffs and in as bright colours as ladies. The lay figures clad in the coats and waistcoats of men of rank have to our eye a fancy-ball character. One effect of the Revolution was to plunge the manhood of the civilised world into black. Muscadins and Incroyables reacted against this in a spirit of levity, and Napoleon, as Emperor, in the spirit of a snob. His Imperial trappings are now absurd, and in his own time must have excited the derision of men like Talleyrand.

Skipping much precious matter, we glance at a letter of Louis XVI., dated August 10, 1792, and penned in the logographs' (read "reporters'") gallery at the Assembly. This is his last act of authority. The letter is addressed to a Captain Durier, whom the king orders to cease to defend the Tuilleries. As to the handwriting, it is that of a placid, painstaking schoolboy. Though pictorial "interviewers," as we find from sketches taken of the Royal prisoners, followed them into the box, and a decisive step on the road towards the guillotine was being taken, one may examine this State paper with a magnifying glass and find no trace of nervous tremour. Temple relics come after the letters. A night-shirt which was made for the king's prisoners has the Government stamp of "Louis Rex." Louis Capet slept in this garment the night before his execution. The Dauphin, when he went to the Temple, had on a pretty little silken suit of a quaint cut: the coat is green and white, the waistcoat pink and white, and the knee-breeches are lavender-grey with steel figured buttons. His stockings and shoes are elegant, though not particularly expensive. The stitching of the clothes betrays an inexperienced seamstress. The Queen and her sister-in-law, it is stated in a letter of Clery, the King's faithful valet, made this suit, which was not greatly worn before the young Prince had to change it for a plainer one given for winter use by the Commune of Paris. When he was under Simon the cobbler bonds were issued in the name of Louis XVII. by "the Catholic Army, payable when monarchy is restored." They circulated in the west of France, where the assignats of the Republic did not run. These debentures for the first time are exhumed. Historians who plead extenuating circumstances for the harsh usage the ill-starred Dauphin met with should not forget the bonds of the Catholic Army.

The activity of the guillotine in the Reign of Terror and in the Thermidor reaction comes home to one in looking over quite a gallery of black and white portraits of men of the Revolution. The word *decapité* is written under the greater number. Savants are among the few exceptions. Defeated generals have no choice between flight and decapitation. The will of the beheaded king was taken from the Temple to the national archives, whence the organisers of the Exhibition obtained a loan of it. There are tear stains on the yellow letter paper on which it is drawn up, and the handwriting is shaky where the dis-crowned testator asks pardon of his wife for any offence he may have given her, as he forgives her what pain she ever caused him. The speech of his counsel Desèze lies with the will. It was published by order of the Convention—a plucky act. Belonging to this set of papers is a decree of the Convention in the names of Liberty, Equality, and Justice (no Fraternity), decreeing the execution of Louis Capet. One is horror-struck in glancing over the surrounding objects. "Louis mounts the scaffold," "Louis is shown to the people," "Food for reflection, dedicated to the crowned heads of the world." This "food" is the holding up by a coarse masculine hand, which grasps a pigtail, of the freshly decapitated head. An awful picture truly! How describe it without being a naturalist? The ex-sanguine face is the colour of a calf's-head at the butcher's. Infinite suffering and resignation are still expressed, though life has fled, in the region of the eyes. In all that deals with civic, or republican, or revolutionary sentiment there is force. Whatever was done in Paris, so far as we can ascertain from the relics in this Exhibition, shows that Royalist art was feeble. The artists at the service of the Monarchy ran into poor conceits. Puzzle pictures of an elegiac nature of king, queen, and royal children met the taste of their partisans. But, contrasting with these affectations, is an intercepted letter of Marie Antoinette to the Comte de Provence, enclosing him the signet-ring of her husband. Grief was never expressed in more pathetically lovely and simple terms.

Robespierre and Marat are enigmatical characters. Their deeds were horrible; but the casts of their heads taken after death are of ineffable sweetness. In both the cerebral development is poor, particularly in the coronal region. The skulls, each of which goes up into a point, may have pressed there on the brains. Phrenological developments, or lack of development, taken with facial traits, betoken ill-balanced minds. Marat's face, in David's portrait of him, is in all but complexion that of a Red Indian. Robespierre's sister, on the other hand, is sweet, serene, pensive, and of a lovely purity of expression.

Charlotte Corday, according to Danloux, one of her portraitists, was a rather good-looking young woman, more the peasant than the lady. She had a hard, quick, wilful glance. Tallien was another ill-balanced creature. He had the profile of an Egyptian dog-god. Carnot, the

one noble character of the Directory, looks sweet and shrewd. His watch a plain "turnip," and bunch of seals, have little intrinsic value. Two gold medals granted him by the Academy of Dijon belong to the relics, lent by his son's widow. His spectacles have heavy steel rims, his inkstand is in plain bronze, and his snuffbox of the same metal has on the lid a *gouache* portrait of himself. Carnot's Director's sword bears on one side a motto which he proposed as the rule of conduct of the Directory: "Unity to restore peace."

But his love of peace and his contentment with a slender income did not suit the men and women who rose to the top in Thermidor. To escape banishment to Cayenne, he had at the *Coup d'Etat* of Fructidor to fly to Switzerland, and was obliged to remain a long time in exile. The principle of corruption which was at work originated greatly in the temptations to plunder which were held out to common people by the sweeping confiscations and the guillotining of rich aristocrats, and especially by the army of Italy being invited to plunder by Bonaparte. Mechanics who were dishonest presidents of sections were as if fixed in amber by the artists who did the embossed pictures for the vulgar. Those who got rich on plunder began to fear the return of the Bourbons, and went with a rush to Napoleon. Pleasure and financial speculation absorbed the newly enriched class. The streets were as a fancy-ball. Prints of the period show women chanting, as amazons, war songs in the streets. "Bals masqués at Paphos" are now subjects on ladies' fans. Civilians wearing corkscrew curls, and having a mincing air, plot for monarchy. Theatrical costumes are invented for old men, who look like Druids. Churches are transformed into temples of sentiment. Josephine Beauharnais becomes a society queen, and intrigues with Barras for Louis XVIII. She writes good English, an accomplishment that later served her in wheedling English agents, when Bonaparte was hemmed in at Acre. She was a luxurious being. Her scent-bottles and pocket-handkerchiefs retained her first husband's coronet until she became Empress of the French. The gay world of the Directory flocked to her house in the Rue Chantereine. Lucien Bonaparte engaged the pictorial journals to puff his brother. He came out in their cartoons as "Bonaparte the Clement," "Bonaparte pointing on a map of Germany at Rastadt," "Bonaparte, Pacifier of Europe," "Bonaparte contemplating the Pyramids," "Bonaparte braving the plague at Jaffa." Nobody thought of the other generals. Bonaparte is made to "question the Sphinx on his destiny." She says, "Make haste to touch again native soil." Though crushed on the Nile, he came back as if a victor. The Revolutionary Museum ends in a show of Imperial frippery worthy of Tussaud's, and in savage caricatures of Napoleon and Josephine by Gilray.

The caricaturist had no conception of the physical grace and refinement of Josephine. He heard of her as a middle-aged woman, the mother of two nearly grown-up children, and as being twice married, and assumed her to be a staringly-dressed, blowzy materfamilias who, though good-natured, is puffed up. In Marie Antoinette's dressing-room she is quite the handmaid who is heir to her mistress. In one of his caricatures, Gilray saw farther than most men of his day. Nelson, with a following of Nile crocodiles, Prussia, Russia, and Napoleon are busy carving at a plum-pudding which represents the globe. The other Powers scarcely count. John Bull is willing to let the three Continental Powers have a free hand if he be allowed right of passage in the Mediterranean, and Egypt as a road to India and to undiscovered lands in Africa.—*Emily Crawford, in Contemporary Review.*

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THURSDAY, the 19th inst., gave us two recitals, one by W. H. Sherwood, the well-known pianist, and the other by Mr. S. P. Warren, of Grace Church, New York, both of whom were in the city in connection with the examinations held by the Conservatory of Music and the College of Organists respectively. Mr. Sherwood was in excellent form, and while we cannot agree with those critics who would rank him with Rubenstein and Von Bülow, we must admit that in point of *technique* and that fine perception of *tempo* which is the secret of artistic phrasing he ranks very high. A feature that was undoubtedly of high value to those who attended with a view of learning something, as well as of enjoyment, was the "argument" with which each number was prefaced. Pupils of Signor D'Auria furnished vocal selections and gave evidence of careful training; indeed, in one instance the impression left on our mind was that the training and not Dame Nature was entirely responsible for the voice. Of Mr. Warren's recital, under the auspices of the College of Organists, a body which, although without "local habitation" at present, is making its influence felt for good in elevating the standard of organ and choir music, we are glad to speak with hearty appreciation. His playing of the elaborate Bach selection evinced a phenomenal command of the instrument, especially in registration, and the interpretation of Mendelssohn's charming "Dream" overture was delicate and poetic. His "combinations" in the latter piece were very fine. The meretricious Concert-stück in C minor was brilliant but exaggerated. A picked chorus of between two and three hundred picked voices represented that important part of an organist's work, choir-teaching, and both volume of tone and a keen attack were not wanting. The soloists were Miss Ryan, who should endeavour to get rid of the abominable *vibrato* which ren-

ders her articulation perfectly unintelligible, and Miss Waltz, who sang "O Holy Father," by the French baritone and actor, M. Faure, some of whose sacred songs are examples of devotional writing.

THE commencement exercises in connection with the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby, took place last week, and occupied three or four days. On Monday the 23rd special cars brought down a large contingent from Toronto to witness Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" beautifully rendered by the pupils, and accompanied by Mendelssohn's incidental music. This performance went very smoothly and was most creditable to Prof. Harrison and Miss Graham, respectively, the Musical Director and Elocution Mistress. Eminent divines from Toronto also assisted at the evening concert when prizes and medals were distributed to the numerous successful students. Dr. Hare, the Principal, spares no effort to make his college a power in the land, which is perhaps best shown by the fact that pupils have attended during the past year from Ohio, Illinois and Prince Edward Island, from Ottawa, Stanstead, Hamilton and Pembroke, as well as Whitby and Toronto. The beautiful building and situation make this college one of the finest in the Dominion, and the health and comfort of the pupils were particularly cared for during the year just passed. The college re-opens Sept. 8th.

THE *soirée musicale* given by the Conservatory of Music on Tuesday night last at Association Hall attracted a large audience, who went not altogether unrewarded for the penance of sitting in a hot and stuffy hall on a particularly warm evening. The class of compositions performed was of a high order, and such selections as the minuet and presto from Beethoven's Sonata Op. 31, No. 3, particularly well played by Mrs. J. L. Nichols; Mendelssohn's Capriccio Brillante, Op. 22, finely rendered by Miss Macdowell, evinced not only careful training but much natural ability. The programme was distinctly well performed throughout.

LIBRARY TABLE.

THE CRIMINAL. By Havelock Ellis. London: Walter Scott.

This the latest volume which has reached us of the "Contemporary Science" Series is an intensely interesting and valuable contribution to the science known as Criminal Anthropology. It is a summary of the latest research upon lawlessness viewed from the standpoint of science, and it presents the criminal as a problem which calls for deeper and more philosophical thought than has hitherto been vouchsafed to him. The cranial and physical characteristics, physiognomy, physical and moral sensibility and insensibility, intelligence, religion and other points of the criminal are carefully studied, and heredity is also taken into account. The illustrations add materially to a thoroughly interesting and thoughtful discussion of an obscure yet very important subject.

NOTES ON AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND TRAINING COLLEGES. By J. G. Fitch, M.A., LL.D. London and New York: Macmillan.

These brief notes are by one of Her Majesty's Chief School Inspectors, who took a tour through America during vacation and collected what material he could *en route*. The author does not attempt to institute comparisons between the methods, scope and results of educational work in Europe and in America, but simply aims to draw for the benefit of his countrymen such hints and information as he might be able from his survey. He declaims, and very justly, against indulging in generalizations from hastily gathered or imperfectly understood data, and cites, as a warning against such action, a passage from Dr. Hale's article in the *Forum* of last July, on the amount spent in education in America compared with that expended in England. According to Dr. Hale, Massachusetts with 2,000,000 of a population spent \$6,000,000 in 1886 on public education, while in England with 35,000,000 people but \$17,000,000 was spent in the same year. The inference, of course, is that there some twenty times as many readers in the same population as there are in England. So misleading a statement and the fallacy of the inference may well justify Mr. Fitch's warning.

GREAT ODES: English and American; selected and edited by William Sharp. "Canterbury Poets" series. London: Walter Scott.

Mr. William Sharp, as we might take for granted, has done his work well, although we may not agree entirely with him in his estimate of several odes. He has ranged from Spenser to Swinburne and Coventry Patmore, and, it would seem to an unprejudiced reader, has, perhaps, included several poems that hardly take rank under any of the three kinds into which he has divided the ode proper. However, as it is a natural and not an arbitrary law that governs the ode, we may conclude that, independent of any rhyme-law or stanzaic arrangement, any lyric that possesses passion or sublimity, with unity of thought, may fairly be classed under the general name of ode, whether elegiac, nuptial, or impersonal. That at least has evidently been Mr. Sharp's conclusion despite the limitations of other authorities. Of the obscurer names we notice Crashaw in the English section, and Hildreth in the American. We regret, with Mr. Sharp, that he did not find it practicable to insert Bliss Carman's really fine "Matthew Arnold" ode. We leave the reader to find out the poets Mr. Sharp has laid under tribute, though it would be no great task to name them before seeing the volume.

The *Phonetic Journal* published weekly in London and New York, by Isaac Pitman, is a useful little review and manual of shorthand, and should be valued by those learning that useful accomplishment.

Queries for June has for initial articles a paper on the great archaeologist and explorer, Henrich Schliemann and a selected *excursus* on John Ruskin. The *Multum in Parvo* department is comprehensive and interesting and the News, Notes and Query Departments are as full as usual.

THE June *Domestic Monthly* makes us realize that summer is close upon us. All sorts of dainty seaside and outing toilettes are illustrated and described. Parasols, millinery, and all the gorgeous summer raiment find page after page devoted to them. The usual departments of Fancy Work and Knitting and Crochet are especially full of hints for pretty piazza work in the long, hot days.

CASSELL'S *Family Magazine* for June has two complete stories by W. Paget and M. Morison, while the serials "To be given up" and "The Stronger Will" are continued. Other papers are "The American Parliament;" "How Sounds are Made Visible;" "A Most Unwelcome Guest," and the poetry is by J. R. Eastwood. A very readable number.

WE acknowledge Nos. V.-VI. of the eighth series of the Johns Hopkins University Historical and of Political Science Studies. The number concerns itself with the study of history in Germany and France and is by Paul Frédéricq, Professor in the University of Ghent; translated by Henrietta Leonard of Philadelphia. The account is thorough without being tedious, and a great many personal details add to its interest.

"THE New Highway to the Orient" is the title of a beautiful little work just issued by the General Passenger Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, descriptive of a tour to the Pacific Coast over the trans-continental line. It is superbly illustrated with many full-page engravings and its forty-five pages of gracefully written matter contain much useful information concerning the cities, towns and scenic marvels reached by the Canadian Pacific system.

THE *New England Magazine* for June opens with a descriptive paper on Columbia College, presenting portraits of the buildings and the most prominent professors. "The Early Home of H. W. Grady" will attract those who regret the too early demise of that well-known journalist. Dorothy Prescott sends a pleasant paper entitled "Why I married Eleanor," and "The Home of Lydia Child" is described by Rev. Alfred Hudson. There are various other interesting papers, too numerous to mention, and some average verse.

THE June *Political Science Quarterly* is a very full number. John A. Jameson seeks a solution of the question of national sovereignty, its existence and location, and E. T. Revick and Charles B. Elliott, Ph. D., contribute papers on "Comptrollers and the Courts" and "Legislatures and the Courts." The most interesting article in the number is by Prof. Seligman on "The Taxation of Corporation," while other papers are by R. Mayo Smith on "Census Methods," and Horace White on "Well's Recent Economic Changes." The Review Department is unusually full.

WE have received the April, May and June issues of the *Modern Science Essayist*, containing papers in pamphlet form on "Evolution of the Wages System," by George Gunton; "Evolution of Arms and Armour," by J. C. Kemball, and "Evolution of the Mechanical Arts; also "Land Transfer Reform," a pamphlet containing the proceedings of the public meeting held under the auspices of the Canada Law Amendment Association, at which Professor Goldwin Smith and others delivered addresses, and "Christianity and Biblical Criticism," a concise little essay by Rev. J. DeSoyres, M.A., of St. John's, Toronto.

TO the *Popular Science Monthly* for June Mr. Léon Frédéricq contributes a sketch of the scientist Theodor Schwann, a portrait of whom forms the frontispiece for the number. "The Affirmative Side of Agnosticism," with letters from Lyman Abbott, Spencer, and Huxley, bearing upon a proposed new series of terms, will attract readers, as will Barr Ferree's "Utility in Architecture," an ably written paper, and "Education and Crime," by Rev. A. W. Gould. Various other papers are by Andrew White, D.D., Dr. Marcet, Prof. Henderson, and Herbert Spencer, who sends his concluding paper on "Justice." The usual departments bring up the rear.

BOOK Chat for June has a comprehensive review of Tolstói's last sensation, "The Kreutzer Sonata." Other books noticed are "Pactolus Prime," by A. W. Tourgee; "Russia" in Putnam's "Story of the Nations" series; the Phelps-Ward collaboration, "The Master of the Magicians," with its Oriental locale and Occidental dialogue; "Broughton House," by the new writer, Bliss Perry, and Andrew Lang's "Old Friends," of which an amusing extract is given in the shape of a letter from Miss Harriet to Guy de Maupassant, in very literal French. "Pactolus Prime" and the "Master of the Magicians" are also quoted from and the usual short book notices follow.

Macmillan's for June gives another Indian sketch by Rudyard Kipling, which has plenty of local colour but is hardly up to his previous efforts. We hope Mr. Kipling's fresh, striking style will not be allowed to suffer from over-production, which is apt, in these days of hurry, to be a young author's greatest danger. George Saintsbury contributes a readable sketch of De Quincey, in connection with Professor Masson's edition of Quincey's

works in course of completion. There is a pleasant country ramble "In the Valley of the Teme," by C. Parkinson. Mrs. Oliphant continues "Kirsteen," and an unsigned paper "On the Character of Nero," is a sarcastic apology for the evil done by one with whom evil was innate. Other papers are by Harold A. Perry and E. P. Wyld.

LAWN Tennis has hitherto been the only leading sport not represented by a publication devoted exclusively to its interests. But at a recent meeting of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association the publishers of *Outing*—the illustrated magazine of out-door sport and recreation—were authorized to publish a weekly supplement devoted exclusively to lawn tennis and to officially represent the Association. The initial number is at hand. It is called *Outing Weekly Tennis Record*, and is a handsome affair typographically, its 16 pages being patterned after the shape and size of *Outing*, to which it may be bound with perfect ease. The *Record* reports lawn tennis in a full and pleasant manner, the matter covering the movements, play and players all over the country. The contents will include letters from England, Ireland and the leading tennis centres of America. There also appears in the first number an illustration showing style of Tennis Dress, a full page picture of the Tennis Court of the Berkeley Oval, and portraits of J. S. Clark, the President of the U. S. N. L. T. A. and A. H. S. Post, the Southern champion.

No. 1 of the new *Dramatic Mirror Quarterly*, edited by Harrison Grey Fiske and published by the *Dramatic Mirror* Company, has made its appearance dated June, 1890. It is a neatly gotten up magazine of 64 pages with a terra cotta cover. The contents of this number includes "The New Departure," by Dion Boucicault; "Progress in Realism," by Elwyn A. Barron; "The Play's the Thing," by Edward Fuller; "The Modern English Stage through French Spectacles," by Max O'Rell; "How to Protect a Play," by A. J. Dittenhoefer; "The Villain," by Charles M. Skinner; "Does Shakespeare Pay?" by Alfred Ayres; "Personality and Situation in Plays," by George Parsons Lathrop; "Criticism and Applause," by W. J. Henderson; "Mirth in Melodrama," by Albert E. Lancaster; "Tricks of the Trade," by Minnie Maddern Fiske; "The Dramatic Author and the Theatrical Critic," by Brander Matthews; "Will it Live?" by William Gillette, and, "Realism and Truth," by Henry Arthur Jones. Editorially the *Quarterly* appeals for "the support of that class, more or less numerous, that regards the stage seriously and solicitously," and it promises to sustain the distinct character of its own which it gives evidence of possessing at the beginning. There certainly should be a field for such a quarterly.

THE *Contemporary Review* for June opens with two brief papers on "Compensations for Licenses," which is one of the burning questions of the hour in England. One is from the pen of Cardinal Manning and the other from W. S. Caine, M.P. Professor J. E. Thorold Rogers writes, interestingly, of "Vested Interests," which he defines as a claim on the part of individuals to levy a more or less enduring tax on the industry, profits, or income of others, and this by force of law. He describes the origin of this doctrine and traces its development and application at the present day. A valuable paper by Lord Coleridge on "The Law in 1847 and the Law in 1889" describes the differences in the practice of law that have come about in the last forty years. Professor Edward Caird contributes an article on Dante in his "Relation to the Theology and Ethics of the Middle Ages," which is an important addition to Dante literature. R. Donald writes on "Trusts in America," dealing with the development of the more important of the great monopolies and the legal questions growing out of the attempt to suppress them. A dialogue by J. M. Barrie, entitled, "Brought back from Elysium," is an amusing imaginative account of a meeting of modern novelists of the most advanced schools, and the great writers of the previous generation. The eminent English lawyer, Montague Crackenthorpe, Q.C., writes on the "Perils of Trustees" presenting a popular account of the difficulties which beset the acceptance of a trusteeship, difficulties which are not generally known or appreciated by the public at large. Mrs. Emily Crawford contributes a paper on "The Mute Witnesses of the Revolution," a walk through the historical exhibition of the French Revolution, and describes some of the more remarkable relics that have been brought together in this collection. "A Palestine Utopia," by Thomas Hodgkin, treats of a regenerated Palestine, and aims at picturing the state of that long suffering country under a beneficent form of government. The Rev. H. R. Haweis has an important paper entitled, "The Broad Church; or What's Coming?" in which he discusses the present condition of the English Church, and especially the relative growth of the Broad Church movement. The number closes with a short article on the "Betterment Tax," by the Duke of Argyll, a reply to a paper on the same subject in the May number.

IMPERIAL BANK.—We take pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the annual report of the Imperial Bank printed in another column of this issue. The state of the bank's affairs as evidenced by the balance sheet is of a highly satisfactory nature, the comfortable dividend of 8 per cent. on the year's transactions being declared. The Rest Account also increased to nearly 50 per cent. of the paid up capital. Altogether the affairs of the institution evince the prosperity consequent on careful business management, and the shareholders are to be congratulated on such a favourable outlook. The retiring President and Vice-President were re-elected after the usual ballot.

PARISIAN LITERARY NOTES.

LETTRES SUR L'EXPÉDITION DU MEXIQUE. By Colonel Loizillon. (Baudoin)—This is an unpretentious work, yet its contents must have had in their time a political import of much importance. The book is composed of a series of very interesting letters, addressed by the author to his sister, which set forth events from day to day from 14th October, 1862, till March, 1867, when he presided over the complete evacuation of Mexico by the French. In the interim he took part in the attack on Puebla and the occupation of Mexico. The letters are the private life of the expedition to Mexico—that "most grand thought" of the Second Empire, as M. Rouher assured Napoleon III. As some of the letters were addressed to Madame Cornu, the most intimate friend of the imperial family, no doubt they came under the eyes of the Emperor. The Colonel is very severe upon the Emperor Maximilian, General Forey and M. de Saligny. The Mexican phase of the Second Empire cannot be written without consulting the present volume. The author asserts that the fundamental vice of the expedition was to go to a country to support a party which did not exist, and that if it had existed, and had been successful, would have turned against the French. No people like to be invaded, not even the French themselves.

The Colonel forgets facts. England, Spain and France agreed to a joint occupation of Mexican ports, to seize the customs' dues to pay off their claims. Later, Napoleon III.—always scheming—decided to "plant the Latin race" in Mexico; that is, establish French supremacy. England and Spain at once withdrew, while the United States Government protested against the conduct of France, till, having terminated the Secession War, she bluntly requested France to go away—which was complied with. With the evacuation of Mexico—a veritable Waterloo—followed the collapse of the Second Empire itself. The Colonel might have told us a little more about the Comte de Morny; the Jecker Bonds; the intrigues of Bazaine's Mexican friends to supplant the Emperor Maximilian, to enthrone the Marshal, and the resolution of the Mexican nation to have no form of monarchy, no foreign dynasty, no interference with its form of Government. The Latin race-bubble burst.

GABRIELLE D'ESTRÉES. By M. Desclozeux. (Champion).—Those interested in the life and misfortunes of the *belle Gabrielle* will find much to interest them in this volume, drawn from the family documents of the Comte de Bertier. Although laden with every favour from her royal lover Henri IV., Gabrielle never employed her influence or wealth save for the interest of the State. It is fair to add, however, that Henri in his various *laissons* never permitted any of his sirens even to allude to State business; then he ceased to be a lover and became the monarch. Gabrielle's mother was bad, and her five sisters went wrong and Gabrielle was the worst of all. Sainte-Beuve has left us the best portrait of this queen of beauty, who might have been Queen of France, but for her premature death. Her skin was white as snow, and her hair a golden yellow, naturally crisping round her high and noble forehead; she had a Grecian nose, a small smiling mouth, with pouting, cherry-ripe lips; her eyes were blue, mild and clear and her features full of tenderness and charm. She was a thorough woman in her tastes, ambitions and defects. Her manner was full of grace and seduction, but she was not learned. Her library contained only one book—her *Missal*. The author shows that it was not Henri who married Gabrielle to Amerval, and that Sully has been maligned, when charged as her persecutor. The lovers of art and of curios will relish the chapter on Gabrielle's jewels and furniture.

DES ANDES AU PARA, EQUATEUR, PÉROU, AMAZONE. By Marcel Monnier. (Plon).—While European powers dispute over the possession of Africa as an outlet for their redundant populations, M. Monnier draws attention to the vast and neglected plains of the Amazon. These he visited, but more particularly the republics of Equator and Peru, one of which desires to progress slowly, and the other at full speed. The Equator is a state, half republican and half theocratic, possessing only 125 miles of railway, while the country has an area equal to that of France. During one half of the year the communication between the low and the high lands in Equator is interrupted. It appears that the country cannot be entered without a passport, nor left without a permit. Quito, the capital, is 10,000 feet above the level of the sea; it has no hotel; but it has about fifty churches, chapels, monasteries and convents, for a population of 40,000. At each corner of a street or a cross road, there is either a statue of the Virgin or of a Saint, before which a small lamp perpetually burns. In Equator, revolutions are as frequent as earthquakes. The converted Indian, according to the author, may be seen in the church sitting on his heels with hands behind his back before his favourite saint, making some request or indulging in upbraidings. He relates to the image his intended purchases or sales, and promises to regulate his offerings to the shrine, following success; thus he explains his desire for the cure of a relative, or for the happy issue of a voyage. It is the custom when the secular arm relinquishes a trial for theft, for the church to take up the prosecution—and with success.

Peru has been ruined by the Chilean war and over railway construction. Three francs in silver will purchase 100 francs in paper, so that Lima is the only place in the world where the traveller can afford to pay forty francs for an omelette and five francs for the blacking of his boots.

However, during the French Revolution 3000 francs in *assignats* were required to purchase twenty francs in silver. A waiter might then receive a tip of 150 francs without the donor being ranked extravagant, or a "milord." The railway from Callao to Oroya was made by an engineer, who, like Guzman, knew no obstacles. It ascends from the level of the sea to an altitude equal to the highest summits of the Alps; it spans abysses, and passes through quite a chain of Mount Cenis tunnels. But the line has neither mineral, merchandize nor passenger traffic. A train only runs three times a week; the receipts do not pay the cost of fuel, and when a passenger occasionally turns up he is a surprise for the employés. The Chinchales had served since time immemorial as halting places for aquatic birds, and the guano resulting has been at once the fortune and ruin of Peru. M. Monnier frequently encountered on the roads of Peru detachments of peasants with drooping heads and handcuffed, escorted by well-armed horsemen. "Criminals?" he asked the officer in charge. "No, Señor; volunteers." The book is agreeably written and attractively illustrated.

FLEURS D'HIVER. By E. Legouvé. (Ollendorf).—The eminent academician is now in his eighty-third year, and this "last fruit from an old tree," is delightful reading. The more the author sinks in the vale of years, the more his spirits become gay and his mind juvenile. He is content with what fortune has given him, and has not a regret for what the goddess has taken away. From an early age he was taught that it was not good taste to complain and sound sense to be content with his lot. The secret to be happy, he says, is not to be wearied at anything and to feel interested in everything. Old age cannot but derive comfort from these "winter flowers."

In the *Journal de la Société de Statistique de Paris*, M. Neymarek writes a solid article on what France has gained by the 1889 Exhibition. The *Nouvelle Revue* has a tea-party article on the "Labour Problem in the United States," by the Marquise de San Carlos. "French Soudan" and "Trans-Sahara," in the *Revue Française de l'Étranger et des Colonies*, show what France has done, is doing, and intends to do in those not very promising regions. Russia will study the paper on the Chinese army, and Italy that on her prospectings in Central Africa. The *Archives de Médecine Navale* has an interesting article on fish-eating people and leprosy. Military men will find in the *Revue Militaire de l'Étranger* two *à propos* articles on the new German rifle, and the organization of the forces in Roumania. The *Revue Bleue* has a curious contribution on "Sin in Russian Novels;" also an estimate of M. Jules Ferry's work at Tonkin. Opinion appears to be decidedly resolved that M. Jules Ferry must wear his Tonkin blunders as a "Nessus" shirt.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

A SECOND edition of "The Fair Maid of Connaught," by Mrs. Kate Duval Hughes, is promised at an early date.

THE report that Idlewild, the home of N. P. Willis, is to be converted into a private asylum for insane is unfounded.

MESSRS. HARPER AND BROTHERS have just issued "The Burnt Million," a new novel by the popular author, James Payn.

"THE Birds' Christmas Carol" bids fair to be as popular a story for public reading as it has been, and still is, for private reading.

W. H. ANDERSON, 222 East Broad Street, Richmond, Va., is preparing a book of negro authors, with an account of their lives and writings.

MR. WHITTIER intends to write a poem of one hundred lines for the approaching two hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of Haverhill.

A SUPPLEMENT to "Charles Dickens by Pen and Pencil," containing many contributions by relatives and friends, is to be issued in four parts by Mr. Kitton.

THE *Atlantic Monthly*, for July, will contain the opening chapters of a serial story, "Felicia," by Miss Fanny Murfree, sister of "Charles Egbert Craddock."

MRS. A. D. T. WHITNEY has written a new story entitled "Acute Street," which will be published in the autumn by Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

A NEW and less expensive edition of Sidney E. Lee's "Stratford-on-Avon" will be published by Macmillan and Company with reproductions of the original etchings.

MR. T. FISHER UNWIN will have ready the second volume of "The Century Dictionary" shortly; its contents range from "Conocephalus" to the musical abbreviation, "Fz."

"THE Master of the Magicians" is pronounced by the *New York Independent* "one of the most powerful and admirable historical romances ever written by American hands."

THE "Devil's Daughter" is the title of William Fléron's translation of "La Cousine Bette" by Balzac, to be published by the Eytinge Publishing Company, New York.

THE first edition of Mr. Joseph Hatton's new novel, "By Order of the Czar," has been exhausted within three weeks of publication. A second edition will be ready in a few days.

WE are glad to hear that the Civil List Pension of £50 a year has been granted to Mrs. Wood, in recognition of the services to literature of her late husband, the Rev. J. G. Wood, the naturalist.

THE publication of a volume on John Jay in the "American Statesmen" series recalls to public attention one of the wisest, purest, and noblest of men who have served and honoured the American people.

MR. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S popular novel, "The Wrong Box," which met with such success on its publication last year, is soon to be reissued by the Scribners in their "Yellow Paper Novel Series."

IT is now definitely announced by the Scribners that Mr. Stanley's new book, "In Darkest Africa," will be published on the 28th instant, simultaneously in the United States, England, Germany, and other countries.

"RIDER HAGGARD," says the London correspondent of the *New York Sun*, "has just sent his new book to the press. It is called 'Eric,' and is a Scandinavian romance of the bloodiest description, with but few survivors in the last chapters."

MISS SARA JEANNETTE DUNCAN'S new book has been published in London. It is entitled "A Social Departure: How Arthodocia and I went Round the World by Ourselves," and is profusely illustrated. The book is well spoken of by the critics.

W. D. HOWELLS has made arrangements to write a serial for the *New York Sun* and a syndicate of newspapers in England and Australia. The *Sun* has also made arrangements for a novel by George Meredith and for Mr. R. L. Stevenson's "South Sea Letters."

THE *New York Journalist* lately contained a portrait of Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., a frequent contributor to THE WEEK, on the first page, with a sketch, and the same well-known *litterateur* has been elected a member of the Trinity Historical Society, of Dallas, Texas.

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR has employed artists at an expense of something like \$10,000 to illustrate one copy of each of his novels. These copies form a private *édition de luxe*, each one being labelled "my personal copy" and occupying a prominent place in his library.

READERS of "Robert Elsmere" will be interested to find in Dr. G. P. Fisher's "Nature and Method of Revelation," just issued by the Scribners, a chapter devoted to the discussion of the religious views of Matthew Arnold as advocated by Mrs. Humphry Ward in her novel.

ONE of the leaders of the Republican party will contribute to the July number of the *North American Review* an adverse criticism on the action of Speaker Reed in Congress. The article is an unusually striking one, but every effort is to be made to conceal the identity of its author.

THE Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour, the Secretary for Ireland in the British Cabinet, has cabled to the editor of the *North American Review*, that he has mailed a reply to Mr. Parnell's strictures in the current number of the *Review* on his Land Bill. Mr. Balfour's reply will appear in the July number of the *North American Review*.

THOSE puzzling over the important question of where to go for their summer holidays will find the little volume "Summer Tours," issued by the General Passenger Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a most useful adviser. It describes a delightful variety of tours by rail, lake and river to popular inland and sea-coast resorts.

LONG before Stanley, Paul Du Chaillu discovered the dwarfs in the great forest of equatorial Africa. When his narrative of his adventures was first published, the Royal Geographical Society was inclined to doubt his amazing account of these diminutive people; but his testimony is now amply confirmed by the experiences of Stanley.

THE house in Great Cheyne-row so long occupied by Carlyle has been sub-divided, apparently to suit the exigencies of modern house-letting. "Some of the rooms still retain, however, the old-world air that pervaded the building in the days when it was the centre of attraction to the eminent *litterati* contemporary with its illustrious tenant."

A VOLUME has been lately prepared by M. Antoine Gullois, and published in Paris from the papers of Roucher, himself a poet of no small merit, though more generally remembered as the friend of André Chenier. Roucher was imprisoned for eleven months during the Reign of Terror, his papers being all sealed up, and only just brought to light again.

THE Haliburton Society of King's College, Windsor, Canada, prints in a pamphlet the biography of its patron saint, "Sam Slick," otherwise Judge Haliburton. The sketch is by Mr. F. Blake Crofton, who records the life and character and criticises with affection the writings of the Canadian humorist. Mr. Crofton's portrayal is vivacious, appreciative, and impartial.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* recalls the snub that Carlyle is said to have given to an American university that proffered him the honour of LL.D. "That you should ask me," he wrote, "to join in leading your long lines of D.D.'s and LL.D.'s, a line of pompous little fellows, hobbling down to posterity on the crutches of two or three letters of the alphabet, passing on into the oblivion of all universities and small potatoes is more than I can bear."

WILL CARLETON is reported as having recently said: "Other writers of verse have laid great stress on the artistic faculty which many of them have possessed in an eminent degree, but with me the aim has always been first and last to reach the heart of the people, and to say those things which should both entertain and make better. I hope I have not altogether failed in my efforts. I would rather appeal to the heart of a man than to his intellect."

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

GEMS AND PRECIOUS STONES OF NORTH AMERICA.

WHILE it is a fact that nearly all the precious stones are to be found in the United States, the deposit, of most of the varieties, so far as we know, are too meagre to warrant the application of capital and systematic labour to their production. In two states only, Maine and North Carolina, has a systematic search for gems been carried on. Of diamonds, for instance, 95 per cent. of the current supply comes from the Kimberley Mines of South Africa. Over nine tons of diamonds, valued, after cutting, at \$500,000,000, have been taken from those mines since their discovery in 1867. The South African mines are all contained within a radius of a mile and a half. The deposit is concentrated and its working profitable. Since Brazil, India, and Borneo are to be included among the contributors of the remaining 5 per cent. of the world's diamond supply, it will be seen that the share of the United States as a producer is hardly recognizable. A few years ago a very lively hope was started of the existence of diamond fields in Kentucky. It was based upon a striking resemblance between certain earthy formations in Kentucky and those at the Kimberley Mines. Theoretically, there is strong reason to believe in a Kentucky diamond bed, but the theory has not yet developed into fact. Less reason but a more brilliant plausibility was given to the promise of a diamond mine in Arizona, some twenty years ago. Representations were made in San Francisco of the discovery of an immense treasure of diamonds and rubies in one of the neighbouring territories. In confirmation, there were exhibited so-called rubies amounting to 80,000 carats, and numerous diamonds, one of 108 carats weight. The stones were deposited in the Bank of California, and the news spread across the continent. Capitalists became interested. A bill in the interest of diamond miners was passed in Congress. A great combination party from the East and from the West went prospecting. They carried along an expert from the Royal School of Mines in Freiburg. They found the promised spot. Everybody picked up gems. In a week the party secured 1,000 carats of diamonds and something like 7,000 carats of rubies. Then Mr. Clarence King, director of the United States Geological Survey, went out and proved that the mine had been "salted." The rubies were shown to be ordinary garnets, and the 108 carat diamond a piece of quartz. Part of the salting had been done with a large quantity of rough diamonds bought by an unnamed American in London. The swindlers made by their venture \$750,000, the greater part of which was contributed by California capitalists. Of corundum, the mineral which, in some of its varieties, bears the names ruby, sapphire, Oriental amethyst, Oriental emerald, and Oriental topaz, we have some specimens, but the country is not rich in stones of this order. The North Carolina corundum excels in variety of colour. Many specimens have been cut and mounted, especially of the blue and red shades, and make good gems, though not of the choicer quality. The chief locality for gem sapphires in the United States is near Helena, Mont., where they occur as loose crystals, usually small, but often transparent and of good colour. Turquoise we get from New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and California. —*New York Sun.*

AN INTERVIEW WITH BISMARCK.

AN account of a most interesting interview between Prince Bismarck and the French journalist Henri des Houx, which took place at Friedrichsruh, is published in the *Matin*. M. des Houx spent several days at Prince Bismarck's country mansion, and was received and treated with the utmost kindness and hospitality. He had no introduction to Prince Bismarck, and was therefore much astonished at his reception. At dinner in front of each of them was a magnificent bunch of Maréchal Niel roses, and as a delicate compliment to France, the guests were served with the choicest French wines. The Prince remarked of his son Herbert that, as the post of sub-prefect was vacant in the district, he intended to propose him, and that his influence was probably still sufficiently great to procure this position for his son. "That," remarked M. des Houx, "would be beginning a new career," to which Prince Bismarck replied with a laugh, that there were many people not sub-prefects at forty. He occupies himself largely with his forests, and said that he could well afford to saw wood now that he could no longer saw (*scier*) men." This *mot* is sufficiently good to become historical, for in French *scier* has the slang meaning of irritating or bullying. Referring to his resignation Prince Bismarck said he did not understand the French law which necessitated the retirement of public servants at sixty or sixty-five. He had been forced to retire at seventy, but too young to do nothing. He was accustomed to politics, and now felt the lack of them. His resignation, however, was absolutely final, more so than was generally supposed. Among his reminiscences of the Tuilleries, Prince Bismarck described a scene which occurred between Napoleon and himself, when the French Emperor proposed an offensive naval alliance between France and Prussia against England, on condition that Prussia permitted the Emperor to declare immediate war against Austria. "I might," said Bismarck, "have enquired of the Emperor how he reconciled these designs with the Crimean war, but I contented myself with saying, 'Sire, his Majesty King Frederick William has no subject more faithful but at the same time more independent than I. Among his representatives here I alone possess sufficient independence

not to report to him a single word of the confidential declaration you have just made me. I beg your Majesty not to utter a word of it to my colleague, Count Hatzfeldt, who is not so independent as I am, and would report all to the King. Your Majesty would then see the consequences.'" Prince Bismarck was convinced that, had a syllable of the Emperor's propositions been uttered to the King of Prussia, Europe would have been plunged into war. After 1866 Prince Bismarck employed all his efforts to prevent war with France, though it was known at the time that Prussia was stronger than France. "I have never admitted," he said, "that the state of inferiority of a nation was a sufficient motive for declaring war with it. I said to the King, my master, that war was in God's hands. The fate of combats depended on Providence. It had long been necessary in the interests of German unity to raise a barrier between France and Southern Germany, by the acquisition of the entire valley of the Rhine, but still war was not declared, and but for the rash politics of Napoleon never would have been."

THE PIRATE AND THE PIRATEE.

SAYS Pirate A to Victim B:—

"You've got no reason to complain;
Just see how popular you be;
Your books is read from Tex. to Maine.

"Were not your foreign stuff 'free grat.,'
I'd buy some native fellow's wares;
Just paste that 'memo.' in your hat,
And don't go puttin' on such airs."

"Ay, true enough, my books *are* read,—
No doubt your imprint makes them sell;
But if on air I must be fed,
Why won't that fare serve you as well?"

"Henceforth we both will work for fame,—
I write, you publish, free of charge;
Whatever type proclaims my name,
Yours shall be printed just as large.

"Should profits by some chance accrue,
Deed them forthwith to charity:
I'm rich, of course; and as for you,
What's wealth to popularity?"

—*J. B. Gilder, in The Critic.*

THE TARANTULA.

THE well-known tarantula is one of the largest, but by no means the most venomous, species of spiders found in Europe. It belongs to the mining section of the family termed *Lycoside* or Wolf Spiders, and attains a length of three-quarters of an inch. The tarantula's body is covered all over with down, chiefly of an olive dusky brown colour. The upper border of the thorax and the outline of the eyes are yellow, and the back of the abdomen is marked with a row of triangular dark spots with whitish edges. Their eight eyes are arranged in three transverse rows, the front row containing four small eyes, while behind these are two pairs of larger eyes. During the summer months the tarantula, while creeping among the corn, bites people employed in the fields, but the bite, though painful, is seldom dangerous. Dr. Zangrilli, an Italian naturalist, who has had many opportunities of observing people bitten by this spider, says that soon after the occurrence the part bitten becomes deadened, and in a few hours there are slight convulsive shiverings, cramps of the muscles, spasm of the muscles of the throat, followed by vomiting and a three days' fever. Recovery generally follows after copious perspiration, but in one case there was tetanus and death on the fourth day.

ADVICE TO A LITERARY ASPIRANT.

"If your story or poem makes a successful sensation, it may cause the papers to talk of you, and that you cannot help; but if you cause the papers to talk, it will never make your story or poem a success, and can only cast a reflection on your good sense and good breeding." If the "literary aspirant" would only remember this and act upon it, it would be a good thing for him or her. A newspaper success is not a real success. If you happen to belong to the Pegasus Club, which is largely composed of journalists, and if you are a pretty good fellow and—like Colonel Sellers—"love the newspaper boys," you will find your name constantly appearing in print. Indeed, you will read so much about your genius that you will wonder why the publishers are so slow to accept your manuscripts, and why the public, which has seen so much in the papers about your "cosy little flat," your "bric-a-brac," and your manner of working, is so slow to buy your books. The reason for this apparent want of appreciation on the part of the publisher and the public is that your success is only that of "puffing." Your work has no real merit, and your name would never be seen in print if you were not on such good terms with the amiable but indiscriminating young men who fill the columns of the daily papers.—*Writer.*

M. FOUQUE, the mineralogist, claims to have discovered in a mixture of copper and lime the beautiful color *azur-rino*, the composition of which has so long been a puzzle to artists. His tint is said to be perfectly unchangeable, and is identical with the famous Alexandrine blue.

THE IMPERIAL BANK.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS.

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Canada was held, in pursuance of the terms of the charter, at the Banking-House of the Institution, 18th June, 1890. There were present:—

Messrs. H. S. Howland, T. R. Merritt (St. Catharines), T. R. Wadsworth (Weston), Robert Jaffray, Hugh Ryan, G. M. Rose, Rev. E. B. Lawler, George Robinson, R. S. Cassels, A. McFall (Bolton), John Stewart, W. T. Kiely, Major James Mason, R. Beaty, Robt. Thomson, W. B. Hamilton, Joseph Ketcherson, Thomas Walmsley, David Kidd, J. Kerr Fiske, G. H. Wilkes (Brantford), T. Sutherland Stayner, D. R. Wilkie, etc., etc.

The chair was taken by the President, Mr. H. S. Howland, and Mr. D. R. Wilkie was requested to act as secretary.

Messrs. R. S. Cassels and R. Beaty were appointed scrutineers. The Secretary, at the request of the Chairman, read the report of the directors and the statement of affairs.

THE REPORT.

The Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Shareholders the fifteenth annual balance sheet and statement of profits for the year ended 31st May, 1890, from which it will be observed that the business of the Bank for the past year has resulted satisfactorily; dividends at the rate of eight per cent. per annum, amounting to \$120,000, have been paid to shareholders; the Reserve Fund has been increased by \$50,000, and now amounts to \$700,000; and a balance of \$48,020.05 is carried forward at credit of Profit and Loss Account.

Your Directors take this opportunity to express their deep regret at the loss by death of their late *confreere*, the Honourable Alexander Morris, whose opinions and advice, based upon long experience upon public and private affairs, were at all times held in high esteem.

The Charter of the Bank, which, under the Bank Act of 1841, would expire in July, 1891, has been renewed under 53 Victoria, Cap. 31, with other Bank Charters, for a further period of ten years from that date, upon conditions that on the whole are satisfactory to your Directors and in the interests of the public.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. S. HOWLAND,
President.

STATEMENT OF PROFITS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1890.

Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss Account 31st May, 1889, brought forward.....	\$21,911.02
Profits for the year ended 31st May, 1890, after deducting charges of management and interest due depositors, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts.....	199,035.55
	\$220,946.57
From which has been taken: Dividend No. 29, 4 per cent. (paid 1st December, 1889).....	\$60,000.00
Dividend No. 30, 4 per cent. (payable 2nd June, 1890).....	60,000.00
	120,000.00
Written off Bank Premises and Furniture Account.....	\$ 2,926.52
Carried to Rest Account.....	50,000.00
	52,926.52
Balance of account carried forward.....	\$48,020.05
REST ACCOUNT.	
Balance at Credit of Account, 31st May, 1889.....	\$650,000.00
Transferred from Profit and Loss Account.....	50,000.00
Balance of account carried forward.....	\$700,000.00

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET.

Liabilities.	
Notes of the Bank in circulation.....	\$1,207,540.00
Deposits not bearing interest.....	\$1,358,100.38
Deposits bearing interest (including interest accrued to date).....	4,830,773.27
	6,197,873.65
Total liabilities to the public.....	\$7,405,413.65
Capital Stock paid up.....	1,500,000.00
Rest account.....	700,000.00
Contingent Account.....	18,532.00
Dividend No. 30, payable 2nd June, 1890 (4 per cent.).....	60,000.00
Former Dividends unpaid.....	346.19
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried forward.....	48,020.05
	\$9,732,431.89
Assets.	
Gold and Silver Coin.....	\$324,423.92
Dominion Government Notes.....	730,916.00
	\$1,055,339.92
Notes and Cheques on other Banks.....	198,856.21
Balance due from other Banks in Canada.....	188,638.04
Balance due from Agents in Foreign Countries.....	289,536.92
Balance due from Agents in the United Kingdom.....	29,479.48
Dominion of Canada Debentures.....	\$252,785.06
Province of Ontario Securities.....	423,893.51
Municipal and other Debentures.....	329,143.98
	1,005,822.55
Loans on Call, secured by Stocks and Debentures.....	508,549.69
Total Assets immediately available.....	\$3,276,222.81
Loans to Municipal and other Corporations.....	676,076.94
Other Current Loans, Discounts and Advances.....	5,393,313.49
Notes discounted overdue, unsecured (Estimated Loss provided for).....	13,292.84
Notes discounted overdue, secured.....	19,773.57
Real Estate, the Property of the Bank (other than Bank premises).....	88,043.94
Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank.....	66,974.55
Bank Premises, including Safes, Vaults and Office Furniture, at Head Offices and Branches.....	168,121.24
Other Assets not included under foregoing heads.....	30,612.50
	\$9,732,431.89

D. R. WILKIE,
Cashier.

The usual votes of thanks were passed to the President and Directors, also to the cashier and other officers, for their attention and zeal in promoting the interest of the Bank.

The ballot was then taken for the election of Directors, which resulted in the election of the following Shareholders, viz., Messrs. H. S. Howland, T. R. Merritt, Wm. Ramsay, T. R. Wadsworth, Robert Jaffray, Hugh Ryan, T. Sutherland Stayner.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors Mr. Henry S. Howland was elected president, and Mr. Thomas R. Merritt vice-president, for the ensuing year.

THE BANK OF TORONTO.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bank of Toronto (being the thirty-fourth since the commencement of business) was held, in pursuance of the terms of the Charter, at the Banking House of the Institution, June 18th, 1890.

On motion, George Gooderham, Esq., was called to the chair, and Mr. Coulson was requested to act as Secretary.

Messrs. Walter S. Lee and T. G. Blackstock were appointed scrutineers.

REPORT.

The Directors of the Bank of Toronto have pleasure in presenting to the Stockholders the Thirty-fourth Annual Report, accompanied by a statement of profit and loss account and a balance sheet showing the position of the Bank as on the 31st May last.

The general condition of trade and agriculture in the country during the past year has not been favourable to an increase in profits, but your directors have to report that the business of the Bank has yielded a fair return upon its operations.

As your directors have for several years past been enabled to declare a bonus of two per cent. in addition to dividends amounting to eight per cent., they deemed themselves justified in paying dividends this year at the rate of ten per cent., believing that this would be more acceptable to the Stockholders.

The Net Profits of the year, after deducting interest due depositors, allowing rebate on current notes discounted, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to the sum of..... \$281,845 68

Add balance from last year..... 41,962 99

..... \$323,808 67

This sum has been appropriated as follows:—

Dividend No. 67, five per cent..... \$100,000 00

Dividend No. 68, five per cent..... 100,000 00

..... \$200,000 00

Added to Rest Account..... 100,000 00

Carried forward to next year..... 23,808 67

..... 123,808 67

..... \$323,808 67

From the foregoing it will be observed that the Rest Account has been increased \$100,000, making the total amount of that account \$1,500,000.

Since the last report a branch office has been opened in King Street West for the convenience of many customers of the Bank, and the results have been satisfactory to the Board.

The business of the Bank in Montreal is now of such an extent that it has been deemed advisable to purchase premises in a desirable location, and thereby secure a suitable and permanent office for the Branch in that city.

An Act was passed during the recent session of the Dominion Parliament extending the Bank Charters for a further period of ten years from the first of July, 1891. The various changes in the provisions of the Act received the careful consideration of your Directors.

The Cashier and other officers of the Bank have discharged their respective duties during the year to the satisfaction of the Board.

The whole respectfully submitted.

(Signed) GEO. GOODERHAM, President.

GENERAL STATEMENT, 31st MAY, 1890.

LIABILITIES.	
Notes in circulation.....	\$1,261,539 00
Deposits bearing interest.....	\$4,745,254 54
Deposits not bearing interest.....	1,631,696 40
Balances due to other Banks.....	6,376,950 94
Unclaimed dividends.....	34,007 30
Half yearly dividend payable 1st June, 1890.....	8 117 00
.....	100,000 00
Total liabilities to the public.....	\$7,776,614 24
Capital paid up.....	\$2,000,000 00
Rest.....	1,500,000 00
Interest Accrued on deposit receipts.....	\$41,795 00
Rebate on notes discounted.....	79,669 00
.....	124,464 00
Balance of Profit and Loss account carried forward.....	23,808 67
.....	3,648,272 67
.....	\$11,424,886 91

ASSETS.	
Gold and silver coin on hand.....	\$290,118 85
Dominion notes on hand.....	549,851 00
Notes and cheques of other Banks.....	248,083 57
Balances due from other Banks in Canada.....	97,393 99
Balances due from Agents of the Bank in Great Britain.....	257,164 78
Balances due from Agents of the Bank in the United States.....	280,804 61
Municipal Debentures.....	82,688 92
Total assets immediately available.....	1,806,105 72
Loans and bills discounted.....	\$9,488,237 16
Overdue debts secured.....	1,546 10
Overdue debts not specially secured (estimated loss provided for).....	1,944 30
Real estate other than Bank premises.....	\$6,953 63
Mortgages on real estate sold by the Bank.....	100 00
.....	7,053 63
Bank premises.....	9,498,761 19
.....	120,000 00
.....	\$11,424,886 91

(Signed) D. COULSON, Cashier.

After the reading of the above, it was moved by George Gooderham, Esq., seconded by William H. Beatty, Esq., and

Resolved,—That the report now read be adopted and printed for the information of the Stockholders.

Moved by George W. Lewis, Esq., seconded by W. R. Miller, Esq., and

Resolved,—That the thanks of the Stockholders be hereby tendered to the President, Vice-President and Directors of the Bank for their careful management of its affairs during the year.

Moved by W. G. Gooderham, Esq., seconded by Albert E. Gooderham, Esq., and

Resolved,—That balloting for the election of Directors for the year now commence and be discontinued at two o'clock to-day, but if at any time five minutes shall elapse without a vote being tendered the poll may be closed by the scrutineers.

The scrutineers subsequently reported that the following named gentlemen had been unanimously elected Directors for the ensuing year:—

- GEORGE GOODERHAM, HENRY CAWTHRA, HENRY COVERT,
- WM. H. BEATTY, ALEX. T. FULTON, R. WADSWORTH,
- WM. GEO. GOODERHAM.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

Annual Meeting of the Shareholders.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

General Manager Hague Delivers His Annual Address—The Banking Act Referred to.

The annual meeting of the Merchants' Bank of Canada was held in the Board room of the Institution on June 18, when there were present Messrs. Andrew Allan (President), Robert Anderson (Vice-president), H. Montagu Allan, John Cassils, James P. Dawes, John Duncan, Hector Mackenzie, T. H. Dunn, T. D. Hood, John Crawford, J. P. Cleghorn, J. H. R. Molson, James Williamson, John Morrison, Capt. Beynon, G. C. Dunlop, J. Y. Gilmour, — Wallace (R. & J. Mont), Murdoch McKenzie, Robert Benny, James Moore, F. S. Lyman, J. Alex. Strathy, Murdoch Laing, J. T. Molson, M. Burke, William Francis, C. R. Black, D. McCarthy (Sorce) and E. Lichtenheim.

The proceedings were opened by the president, Mr. Andrew Allan, taking the chair.

The President asked Mr. John Gault to act as Secretary.

The Secretary having read the advertisement calling the meeting, the President submitted the following:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors of the Merchants Bank of Canada have pleasure in meeting the stockholders at the close of the year for the purpose of placing before them the result of the business done during their term of office.

The net profits of the year, after payment of interest and charges, and deducting appropriations for bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to..... \$606,363 61

Balance from last year..... 5,484 30

..... \$611,847 91

This has been disposed of as follows:—

Dividends No. 42 and 43, at 7 per cent..... \$405,944 00

Added to the "Rest"..... 200,000 00

Carried forward to Profit and Loss Account of next year..... 5,903 91

..... \$611,847 91

The business of the Bank has proceeded on the whole with steadiness and regularity, both in the matter of deposits, circulation and discounts.

The profits, however, have scarcely been equal to the expectations formed a year ago, inasmuch as the rate of interest allowed on deposits has not borne a reasonable proportion to the rate of interest on loans and discounts.

The business of the country in some departments has been prosperous, but in others the reverse.

The cereal crops of Ontario proved to be considerably below the average. The wheat crop of Manitoba, which at one time had a most promising appearance, was injured by a severe drought about the time of harvest. The quantity of grain from that source was thereby much diminished. Other farm products, however, have done well.

The lumber trade was fairly remunerative, but the severity of competition affected almost all lines of manufacturing and importing business.

A severe scarcity of money was experienced during the winter, which occasioned the Directors and the General Management of the Bank some anxiety, and caused an unusual amount of care to be necessary during the progress of the year. This scarcity has been mitigated to some extent, but money is by no means plentiful. The result of the next harvest will be looked for with considerable anxiety.

Though the number and amount of failures in the Dominion during the year has been considerable, the Directors are glad to say that not many of their customers have been affected by these adverse times, and the losses have not been of an unusual amount.

The final result of the business has enabled the Directors to add the sum of \$200,000 to the Rest, which now amounts to the proportion of 40 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

The important matter of the renewal of the Banking Act has been before the Parliament of the Dominion during the recent session. As a result of its deliberations, a measure was passed which, in many respects, is an improvement on the Act now in force, and which will preserve, unimpaired, the power of the Banks to accommodate their customers and carry on the business of the country.

The Officers in the Bank's service have discharged their duties with zeal and fidelity, and to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

The whole respectfully submitted,

ANDREW ALLAN, President.

STATEMENT OF THE LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE BANK AT 31st MAY, 1890.

LIABILITIES.	
1.—To the Public:	
Notes in circulation.....	\$2,563,897 00
Deposits not bearing interest.....	\$2,469,184 47
Deposits bearing interest.....	6,212,038 09
Interest due thereon to date.....	64,558 81
Balances due Canadian Banks keeping Deposit Account with the Merchants' Bank of Canada.....	8,745,841 36
Balances due Canadian Banks in Daily Exchanges.....	563,883 98
Balance due to Agents in Great Britain.....	13,390 53
Dividend No. 43.....	391,777 21
Dividends unclaimed.....	292,972 00
.....	3,271 71
.....	\$12,484,973 79

2.—To the Stockholders:	
Capital paid up.....	\$5,799,200 00
Rest.....	2,335,000 00
Contingent Account.....	92,660 00
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried to next year.....	5,903 91
.....	\$20,717,737 70

ASSETS.	
Gold and Silver Coin on hand.....	\$238,438 41
Dominion Notes.....	731,750 00
Notes and Cheques of other Canadian Banks.....	468,654 50
Balances due by other Canadian Banks in daily exchanges.....	88,840 97
Balances due by Banks and Agents in the United States.....	780,825 86
Dominion Government Bonds.....	668,967 33
Railway and Municipal Debentures.....	104,650 00
Call and Short Loans on Bonds and Stocks.....	424,561 31
.....	\$3,506,708 40
Time Loans on Bonds and Stock.....	\$90,735 85
Other Loans and Discounts.....	16,114,369 34
Loans and Discounts over-due and not specially secured (loss provided for).....	119,223 51
Loans and Discounts over-due, secured.....	24,676 07
.....	16,348,999 77
Mortgages, Bonds and other Securities, the Property of the Bank.....	150,469 28
Real Estate.....	203,532 82
Bank Premises and Furniture.....	480,273 28
Other Assets.....	27,754 15
.....	\$20,717,737 70

G. HAGUE, General Manager.

The President then moved, seconded by the Vice-President, Mr. Robert Anderson:

THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

The General Manager observed:—As the wisdom of these annual addresses is sometimes called in question, I observe at the outset that it seems reasonable that the stockholders of banks, having interests in all parts of the Dominion, should be informed of those conditions of trade and finance that bear upon these interests. Those who have the general direction of such banks have the best opportunities of forming an accurate acquaintance with these matters. The pressure to do this, and to take means for doing it well, is upon such banks every day in the year. There is not an interest in the country that is not your interest. In speaking at these annual meetings, of every trade and industry in the Dominion, from Nova Scotia on the Atlantic to British Columbia on the Pacific, we are not travelling one iota beyond matters that affect the business and profits of the Bank. The fact is, the various provinces of the Dominion are bound together by a much stronger bond of interest than some persons suppose.

There is one item in our balance-sheet that is the final test of the whole position of the bank, namely, loans and bills discounted. If you examined the lists that make up the total of over sixteen millions, you would find bills of persons in every line of trade, not only in the provinces where the bulk of our branches are situated, but in British Columbia, the North-West Territories, the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. And no bank with many branches can be successfully conducted unless the men at the head of it keep themselves in touch with all that is going on throughout the whole extent of the country.

The interests of this bank indeed are most diversified. The Merchants' Bank is not the largest in Canada, as you know, but it is owned by nearly 1,700 stockholders. It is our business to earn dividends for them and such as can be fairly relied on. We have a vast army of depositors living in all parts of Canada, who are customers and friends of the bank. They number over 13,000. The bank has served them faithfully in the past, and we mean to serve them faithfully in the future. We have another army of customers who require loans and discounts to carry on their business. They number between three and four thousand. It is a heavy responsibility to conduct this part of the bank's business, with due regard to the interest of the borrowers as well as of the bank. We desire to avoid unduly cramping those who are carrying on legitimate business, and at the same time to avoid encouraging injudicious trading by a too free supply of borrowed money. For experience shows that for one man who is injured by not having power to borrow enough, ten are injured, and many of them ruined, by borrowing too much. Competition between banks can be depended on to prevent the former, but it is to be regretted that the abuse of competition has often brought disaster both to the customer and the bank in the opposite direction. Nearly every loss made by the banks of Canada can be traced to this cause, and the practice of borrowing from more than one bank greatly facilitates it. Our own experience is that when a customer has failed, it is almost invariably the case that he has had discounts from more than one bank. It is our aim to treat our customers well, and especially to support those who entirely rely on us. The task of keeping the trading community supplied with adequate funds, bears heavily and continuously upon the judgment and fortitude of bankers. In addition to the above, every bank has a number of holders of its notes. These holders are protected by law, and very properly, for they do not enter into a contract with the bank as do the others. All these classes have a close connection with one another. They are bound in a community of interest which is finally focussed round the board table and in the room where we stand to-day. I name these things not as being new but simply to show that we appreciate the responsibilities attaching to the working of this great corporation. Whether with that appreciation there is also judicious management, the results of every year's business must bear testimony. For whatever theories we may advance, the management of a bank must be judged by results.

RESULTS OF THE WORKING OF THE BANK.

The results of the working of the bank since its capital was reconstituted twelve years ago have been placed before you every year. It may be worth while to-day to look back on this period and note what has been accomplished.

For the first three years, viz., 1878, 1879 and 1880, a condition of depression prevailed in Canada, and the large sum which was reserved as a contingent fund on the reorganization of the bank was gradually depleted until it was reduced to a mere nothing. During this time the bank only earned sufficient to pay 6 per cent. dividend. The depression which had prevailed for seven years passed away in the beginning of 1881. From that time the course of the bank has been steadily upwards. Dividends have been increased from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent., and have been so maintained. The "Rest" has been increased from \$475,000, which is all we had ten years ago, to \$2,335,000.

But during the first few years so many of the bank's customers failed that the amount of indebtedness of such insolvent customers to the bank exceeded seven millions of dollars. The net loss sustained is now a matter of history. It was dealt with long ago. But the failure of such a number of persons left the bank with a largely reduced clientele. It was extremely difficult during those years to make even the modest dividend we then paid. This bank had as able a body of directors as ever sat round a board table. Some of these have passed away. Others still remain to lend the weight of their great influence and knowledge of business to the management of the bank. Under the administration of the Board during the last ten years a business has been built up that is largely a new creation. This business has on the whole been very satisfactory. While none can claim to be infallible, the stockholders may rest assured that no mistakes involving serious and heavy losses have been made for many years back. For your information I will give you the position of the Bank as it was ten years ago and now:

Its capital was.....	\$5,520,000
It is now.....	5,799,200
But our deposits were then.....	7,296,000
They are now.....	9,309,000
Our loans and discounts were.....	10,822,000
They are now.....	16,348,000
Our circulation was then.....	2,127,000
It is now.....	2,563,000

The main difference, however, is in the "Rest." This stands as a sort of breakwater to defend the capital and to preserve your property. It serves, also, to guarantee your dividends, and to prevent a repetition of the unfortunate events of twelve years ago.

The "Rest" now amounts to 40 per cent. of the capital. Canadian banks have generally settled to the conclusion that a "Rest" of 50 per cent. should be accumulated. I need not say this has my hearty concurrence, as I was among the first in Canada to emphasize it. And experience confirms its wisdom.

Some may think that such a reserve fund would be too large. But in looking over the masses of loans and discounts of the Bank, and considering the risks involved in them, I have often thought the Bank can never have too large a Rest. For, after all, the true method of considering a Rest is to look at its proportion to the risks carried on our books in the shape of loans and discounts. Viewed in this light, a Rest of 50 per cent. on the capital would be by no means a large one.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S BUSINESS.

This year has been a difficult one. The results are not bad, seeing that we have paid you the usual dividend and added \$200,000 to the Rest. But both profits and losses have been affected by unforeseen circumstances.

The crops of cereals in many parts of Canada was considerably below the average. A short supply ought to bring about better prices. But it is not the crop of Canada that determines the price of cereals. It is the crops of the world. Our farmers, then, for a diminished crop, got a range of low prices.

This simply means a diminution to the extent of millions of dollars of deposits, circulation and earning power to the banks as a whole.

It is to be noted, however, that the crops growing on the ground are not of the relative importance to Canada as a whole that they used to be when Canada simply consisted of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Our great dairy and cattle interests, and even such apparently trifling matters as eggs, have all become prominent of late years as sources of profit. Dairy products and animals of various kinds have been estimated as contributing fully one-half to what is sold from our farms.

In respect to those, our farmers, on the whole, have had a fair year. Our forests still afford a supply of timber that would be practically inexhaustible if properly conserved. European governments have long had to give attention to this matter. It may soon become a pressing question in Canada.

The lumber business requires for its prosecution an enormous amount of capital in proportion to its annual volume. Much of it is owned by individuals in the trade, but a very large sum in the aggregate is contributed by the banks. This capital has had a fair return, on the whole, during the year. There have been exceptions, no doubt, and legislation in the United States will require careful attention from the Dominion Government.

Our mining, manufacturing and importing interests, together with our fisheries, have all contributed their usual quota to the volume of business done by the banks.

This Bank has no branches in the Maritime Provinces, though we have large indirect interests there. It is a satisfaction to learn that business on the Atlantic coast has been highly satisfactory during the year. The same may be said of business in British Columbia.

But banking profits are below what is commensurate with its risks. In this respect banking here compares unfavourably with the Australian colonies and Great Britain.

LOSSES.

An effort, as you are aware, was made during the recent Parliamentary session to compel the banks to publish the amount of their losses. Parliament, however, though disposed at first to entertain the proposal, on further consideration declined to allow this provision to become law. I will, however, tell you one or two things about the losses of the year that may interest you.

During the year, in the circle of our customers, there have been a certain number of failures and embarrassments. In a number of these cases the Bank loses nothing. Our securities bring us out.

In a majority of those that remain our loss will be less than \$1,000. In none of the other cases was the loss a serious one, considering the magnitude of our business.

But I much regret to say that the largest of them all was brought about by the unfaithfulness on the part of one of the officers of the Bank. This loss remained after his bondsmen had honourably discharged their obligations.

These are rare experiences. The Bank has only had two during the last fifteen years. May we never have another.

Had it not been for this untoward occurrence the losses for even such a year as this would have amounted to less than the average. In addition to loss from actual failures, we have thought it prudent to make provision for some cases where failure has not taken place and where loss is only apprehended.

This information with regard to losses should be sufficient. Whether the same amount of information will be communicated in future must be left to the judgment of those who have the direction of the Bank.

It should be borne in mind that though these are technically meetings of stockholders, they have become, by reason of publication, practically meetings of citizens. The bearing of this remark, I think, will be apparent.

BANKING LEGISLATION.

You are aware that during the recent session of Parliament a measure has been passed for extending the charters of the banks until 1901.

The Banking Act now in force is a complicated measure of about ninety clauses. Your rights and responsibilities as stockholders are regulated by this Act.

Banking, I may say, as a simple business and apart from the issuing of notes, can be carried on by private firms without any Act of Parliament to regulate it.

But circumstances in this country have brought about a general organization of banking on a joint stock principle, that is by duly constituted corporations.

This necessitated provisions of law with regard to the issuing of notes, the liability of stockholders, and the manner in which stock is to be held, transferred and bequeathed, with regard also to lending, discounting and taking security, the position and powers of directors, and a multitude of other matters with which you are no doubt familiar.

From time to time disputes have arisen in regard to the operation of various clauses in our Banking Acts. To guard against these new provisions have been introduced, until in course of years this Banking Act with its 89 clauses has become what it is.

Under this law, which expires next year, the business of the Banks has to be conducted day by day all the year round. Bankers, therefore, have ascertained by experience wherein such a measure is defective and what would be desirable in future legislation.

It will not surprise you, therefore, to learn that many conferences of Bankers took place with regard to the renewal of the Act.

There was a general agreement that certain improvements were desirable.

1. That bank notes should be made to pass without discount all over the Dominion.

2. That in the event of a bank failing, though its circulation is preferential, its notes should be kept at par until liquidation.

3. That measures be taken to still further strengthen the security of the note-holder under all possible contingencies.

4. That additional precautions for the protection of the public should be taken in granting new charters.

5. It was considered also that the clauses regulating advances on the security of merchandise could be much simplified, and that the returns to be made to the Government might be made clearer and less open to misconception.

The representations of the banks were received with all possible consideration by the Government, and their recommendations were generally adopted.

The Government, however, had views of their own upon several matters which they courteously communicated for consideration. Some of these were considered so objectionable that we felt constrained to oppose them, not only in your interest, but in the public interest.

The proposal to make it compulsory upon stockholders to appoint auditors was judged to be inappropriate to the circumstances of Canadian banks, that an audit, in fact, would be necessarily imperfect and illusory.

The proposal to compel the holding of a fixed reserve of money in proportion to their liabilities was demurred to by a large majority. It was pointed out that to insist upon the banks keeping locked up in their safes at all times any fixed sum of money would interfere with the rights of creditors, to meet whose demands all a banker's cash is held.

It was shown that such a measure had never been tried in practice except in the United States, and that there, when banks attempted to keep the law, violent fluctuations in the rate of interest ensued. And, further, that circumstances nearly every year had compelled them to disregard the law altogether.

The proposal of an audit and of a fixed reserve were, therefore, withdrawn.

Another proposal for the transfer to the Government of all moneys of depositors and stockholders unclaimed for a period of years was deemed objectionable. This was finally modified so as only to require the sending of annual statements to the Finance Department of balances unclaimed for five years.

With regard to the further securing of the circulation, the banks had proposed the gradual formation of a guarantee fund; not that this was deemed necessary, but as an evidence of the willingness of the banks to go even beyond what was useful in order to make their notes absolutely secure. The Government, however, modified this proposal so as to make the provisions dangerous.

The chief part in opposing this dangerous modification was taken by the Bank of Montreal. On its real bearing being pointed out, the Government consented to alter the clauses in such a way that they could be carried out by the banks without danger.

During the progress of the Bill through the House a remarkable absence of political feeling was manifest. Members of both parties gave themselves to the work of considering how to make the Act as nearly perfect as possible.

We were much indebted for assistance to members on both sides of the House of Commons and of the Senate who are connected with banking institutions.

The measure will come into effect in July next year, and will amend the present Act in the following particulars:

It provides a banking currency that will circulate at par in every part of the Dominion, and guaranteed, not only by being made a preferential lien on all the resources of the Bank, but by a guarantee fund in the hands of the Government.

These notes in case a bank fails will be guarded against depreciation by being made to bear interest until liquidation takes place.

No new banking corporation can be chartered unless \$250,000 of capital be actually paid into the treasury instead of \$100,000 only as at present.

Banks are empowered to lend on the security of merchandise to certain classes of traders, and to take security thereon by a simple assignment on a specified form.

Power is given to stockholders of banks either to increase or decrease the capital, subject to approval by the Treasury Board. And the returns to be made by the banks will be made more clear and simple.

Commencing, then, on the 1st July, 1891, the Dominion will have a banking law, which, on the whole, is likely to benefit every interest of the country.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF BUSINESS.

With regard to the prospects of business in the country it has already been observed very appropriately in another place, that it is not wise to forecast too much. The same thing has been said in this floor more than once. I shall not attempt much in that direction, but may simply remind you, and it is safe, I think, to go so far, that Canada as a country has attained such a state of development that an assured general progress may be looked for notwithstanding temporary drawbacks.

We have a vast and diversified area of farming lands, and a body of farmers who are, as a whole, year by year becoming more conversant with their business.

The farmers and farming lands of Canada are generally as good as any to be found on this continent.

The business has not been so remunerative for some years back. But that is no new thing with either farming or any great industry.

In my short experience I can remember times in which for years together farming in England had periods of prolonged depression, and the value of land depreciated heavily. But the farming interest recovered itself again and went on prosperously year after year in succession.

When we remember that the farms of Canada have been hewn out of the depths of untrodden forests and brought to their present condition (largely within the memory of living men) by the labour and skill of the farming class, one certainly need not despair of what our farmers may do with the land in future years. They have already created properties worth hundreds of millions, and I think the farmers of Canada are not the men to allow a few years of adverse circumstances to discourage them.

There is room for improvement on the part of some farmers, no doubt. If a farmer (and there are some such) knows a mere nothing about his business, or pays no attention to it, or if he is not ready to adopt modern improvements, or falls into lazy or intemperate habits, it is not likely that he can prosper, no matter what the seasons are. But there are not many of this sort amongst us. Legislation on both sides of the line has to do with the condition of the farmers as well as every class of persons amongst us. Without saying a word about the wisdom or unwisdom of particular legislation, which I think would be out of place, I may say that the farmers and people of Canada have generally shown themselves able to adapt themselves to the new legislative conditions. There is no reason to doubt their ability to do this in the future.

To correct some prevailing misconceptions, I may say that a large amount and a great number of deposits made in the banks, lying there at this day, are from farmers. We have ourselves more than two thousand farming depositors who have lying at their credit with us more

than a million dollars. And, what may surprise some persons, I may say that the banks lend a considerable amount of money to farmers. We have at our various branches over seven hundred farmers who borrow money from us. This class of business consists almost wholly of small temporary loans, and has generally proved very satisfactory. In all cases where it has not, the fault has been in allowing a farmer to borrow too much. No farmer in a good position and living near to a chartered bank finds any difficulty in getting temporary loans, and when he is so far from a banking town that the journey would cost more than the money is worth, he can generally find a private banker in his own neighbourhood who is ready to lend him money. And if a private banker charges more than a chartered bank the farmer is recompensed by the saving in time and labour in undertaking the journey.

I have already spoken of dairy industries. One great advantage of these is that instead of impoverishing the soil they enrich it. The advantage of this is being more appreciated in all parts of the country. Even in Manitoba, the natural home of wheat, production, dairy farming is rapidly coming to occupy the place it deserves. There is no part of the country in which cattle and horses thrive better than in the Northwest. On the great cattle ranches at the foot of the Rocky Mountains the herds are rapidly multiplying and will soon be numbered by the hundred thousand, affording a steady line of exports growing year by year. Our great lumber and timber interests are almost wholly affected by the condition of trade in the United States and England. The saw millers who find their market in the United States are likely to have a fairly prosperous season, though the legislation formerly referred to may prove a drawback.

In the manufacturing of timber for the English market there has been a considerable development during the year, following upon the demand arising out of a revival of trade in Great Britain. It is to be hoped that this production will continue to meet a good market and be disposed of at satisfactory prices. But it will be prudent to curtail production somewhat next year. Our manufacturing industries are becoming more diverse and their interests more complicated every year. And it is becoming more evident that nothing but practical knowledge applied to all the details of business day by day can bring about success in any line of manufacturing. The idea that it needs nothing but to erect a mill, stock it with machinery, and set it going, to make money, has been dissipated by the logic of events. Success comes only by practical knowledge, close attention to details, and watchful economy. In all these respects we are gaining ground every year, and we are also educating a manufacturing population.

Our various lines of importing business are subject very much to the same style of remark. It is evident more and more that nothing but a practical knowledge of the goods dealt in, of the best markets in which to buy, and of the varying tastes and circumstances of the population, combined with a reasonable capital and good financial management, can possibly lead to success. This applies both to the wholesale and retail trade. But with respect to the wholesale trade, the force of capital is becoming more important as a factor every year. And every year it is becoming more important to have the crediting department of a wholesale house under watchful management. For it is generally here, rather than in the business department of a house, that the mistakes are made which bring about insolvency. And this leads me to say what has been said again and again before, but we must keep on saying it, that in many departments of the wholesale trade the credit given and taken is unreasonably long, bad for the buyer, bad for the seller, and not good for the consumer. It is one chief hindrance to success and prosperity. Capital is frittered away by it and the labour of years lost. If there is one thing that calls for attention for persistent labour, and even for sacrifice, until things are put on a better footing, it is the credit system of Canada. Of the intimate connection of this with banking I need not say a word. All the crediting of the country is finally reflected and focused in the bill cases of the banks.

The extraordinary railway development of the country during the last few years has often excited attention. This has a most intimate bearing upon the development of the country. Without the means of communication the finest territory is valueless. In Ontario and Quebec our railway systems are so ramified that they now reach within a few miles of every man's door. But it is in the Northwest that our great hope of future development through a well devised system of railway extension mainly centres. There is land there and room for a population of several millions. The effect of such a population, if we had it, on the commerce and banking of the Dominion generally would be hard to over-estimate. The foundations are laid already. Let us hope that within a reasonable time these great stretches of fine country will be occupied by a productive population whose wants will give an impetus to our manufactures and imports, and whose productions will swell our exports to many times their present proportions. All of which would tend to the advantage of the great centres of trade in Canada and to the increase of the business of the banks.

STAFF.

Let me say a word in conclusion about our staff of officers. In the service of the Bank altogether we have a staff of 230 persons. Of these thirty-seven are managers or assistant-managers, and have much of the responsibility of conducting the business of the Bank.

It was observed long ago by one of the ablest bankers that ever lived—Mr. Gilbert, of the London & Westminster Bank—that the training of clerks and officers of a bank is a matter of first-rate importance and deserves constant attention at the hands of the general management.

On this conviction we have long acted. Rules and regulations with that end in view have long been in force in the Bank, and a considerable part of the time of the general management is occupied with the work of increasing the knowledge and efficiency of the staff at all points.

I am glad to see that such efforts have been rewarded by a good measure of success. Our managers as a whole understand their business well, and appreciate their responsibilities, and we are constantly on the look out for indications of intelligence and ability in the whole circle of our employees, and of stimulating endeavours after success by judicious promotion.

Without their co-operation it would be impossible to carry on the Bank successfully. I desire to remind the stockholders on this occasion that they have a number of valuable servants who never make their appearance at the annual meeting and are for the most part entirely unknown to them, but whose character, ability and good conduct are of the very essence of the management of the Bank.

They have endeavoured to serve you faithfully in the past and with some amount of success. I speak for every member of the staff along with myself in saying that it will be our endeavour to do at least as well in the future.

The President: We will be happy to hear any remarks from any of the shareholders present upon the business of the Bank or to answer any question which they may desire to ask.

Mr. John Morrison, in the course of some remarks, advocated the completing of the capital to \$6,000,000, which would require an amount equal to 2,008 shares at par, and he moved that eight shares be sold to the highest bidder, and the proceeds added to capital and rest, the remaining 2,000 shares to be given as a bonus to stockholders.

There being no seconder to the motion it fell to the ground. Mr. John Crawford alluded to the resolution proposed by Mr. Morrison and suggested to the Board that the increasing of the capital to a round \$6,000,000 would lift the Bank out of a third-class to a second-class position. He did hope that the question would hereafter occupy the Board. Speaking of the rebate on discount, he said that almost all the banks gave the same amount of rebate taken from the net profits every year, and he wanted to know whether in the Merchants Bank that amount had been deducted from the net profits or if the practice had been the same as obtained in the Bank of Montreal up to the past year. Turning his attention to the new Banking Act, he said that bankers and others who hold divergent views upon that Act aired them generously before the public, the clause relating to the guarantee circulation fund being specially selected for criticism, and so far as he was able to learn it was unsparingly condemned, chiefly owing to a compromise between principle and expediency. He was glad that the General Manager had approved of the Act. But he would like to have been at the meeting when the Directors, in their wisdom, assembled the stockholders thirteen years ago to hear a report on the condition of the Bank. The amount of the losses was then fully stated, though it was greater than at any time since the present General Manager assumed office. He was astonished that this had not been continued. If there was anything in this matter that was detrimental to the interests of the Bank, he would say "Don't give it." But the Government had no alternative; they were entitled to demand from banks the publication of their debts, due, not due and overdue, together with an estimate of the probable loss that might accrue thereon.

The motion to adopt the report was carried unanimously. Mr. Hagin, in reply to Mr. Crawford regarding the increase of the capital, said that if it were a mere matter of putting the figures there it could be done to-morrow, but it would involve a disturbance of the relations between the Capital and the Rest. It would also involve the paying out of \$14,000 a year more of the profits, while it would be doubtful if they could make \$14,000 more out of the additional capital. Probably some day, however, the Board would bring the matter before the shareholders. In connection with the matter of rebate, it was one in which the practice of banks in Canada has been different for a long time. He believed that it was the Bank of Toronto—he was the cashier at the time—which first made an entry for rebate on bills discounted. It was a very reasonable proposition, and the Merchants' Bank would, no doubt, make the entry in their books at some time. This rebate simply meant the amount it would take to bring all the bills in our bill case up to a cash value.

Mr. Crawford did not think any shareholder desired to impose any difficulty upon the Board, but he thought the increase in the capital could be easily arranged. The rebate question would have to come sooner or later and they would have to fall into line with the custom of other banks.

THANKS TO THE DIRECTORS AND GENERAL MANAGER.

Mr. J. H. R. Molson moved:—
"That the thanks of the stockholders are due and are hereby tendered to the President, Vice-President and Directors for the manner in which

they have conducted the institution during the past year, and to the General Manager for their efficient management during the year."

He said: Some people may consider a motion of this kind as a matter of form, but in connection with this institution we can hardly look upon it as such. We have an able and faithful body of men on the Board of this Bank, and we have an equally efficient gentleman as General Manager. The Bank has been for several years steadily progressing, which is most satisfactory. It has also been adding steadily to its Rest, and I think, therefore, that these gentlemen are entitled to our heartiest thanks. I have very much pleasure, therefore, in moving this resolution.

Mr. Murdoch McKenzie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Crawford inquired if the question of increasing the dividends had engaged the attention of the Board.

The President replied that it had not engaged the attention of the Board as yet.

Mr. John Crawford moved, seconded by Mr. T. D. Hood.

"That Messrs. F. S. Lyman and James Williamson be appointed scrutineers of the election of Directors about to take place, that they proceed to take the votes immediately, that the ballot shall close at three o'clock, p.m., but if an interval of ten minutes elapse without a vote being tendered, that the ballot shall thereupon be closed immediately."—Carried.

It was finally moved by Mr. J. P. Cleghorn, seconded by Capt. Benyon and carried.

"That the thanks of the meeting are due and hereby tendered to the Chairman for his efficient conduct of the business of the meeting."

The meeting then adjourned, and the scrutineers shortly after reported the following gentlemen to be duly elected as directors for the ensuing year:—

ANDREW ALLAN, Esq.,
ROBERT ANDERSON, Esq.,
H. MONTAGU ALLAN, Esq.,
JOHN CASSIDY, Esq.,
JAMES P. DAWES, Esq.,
JOHN DUNCAN, Esq.,
T. H. DUNN, Esq.,
JONATHAN HODGSON, Esq.,
HECTOR MACKENZIE, Esq.

The new Board met in the afternoon, when Mr. Andrew Allan was re-elected President, and Mr. Robert Anderson, Vice-President.

IN order to understand the measure of perfection reached in construction of the modern steamship, it is necessary to make a comparison between the first vessels of the kind built and the latest ones. The first attempt ever made to apply steam as a motive power to ships was in 1543, when Captain Blasco de Garay exhibited a steam-boat of his invention in the harbour of Barcelona, Spain. The first steamboat, however, that proved the practical utility of steam navigation, was the *Clermont*. This vessel was built by Robert Fulton, at New York, in 1807, and made a trip from that city to Albany at the rate of about five miles an hour. The boat was 130 feet long, 18 feet wide and 160 tons burden. The engine was made by Watt, in England, and was 20 horse power. In 1815 a voyage was made by a steamboat between Glasgow, Scotland, and London, England, and in this country, three years later, one plied from New York to New Orleans. The *Sirius* and the *Great Western* were the first steamships to cross the Atlantic ocean. The *Sirius* sailed from Cork, Ireland, on April 4th, 1838, and the *Great Western* from Bristol, England, on the 8th of the same month, both vessels reaching New York on the 23rd. The latest additions to the Atlantic fleet of great steamers are the twin vessels, *City of New York* and *City of Paris*, of the Inman Line, the *Teutonic* and the *Majestic*, of the White Star Line, and the *Augusta Victoria*, belonging to the Hamburg American Packet Company. It took the *Great Western* fourteen days to make the voyage from England to the United States, but the average time required now by the fastest vessels is from six to eight days. The latest ships are provided with two screws, each screw being worked by a separate set of engines. The *Majestic* is furnished with triple expansion engines, of 17,000 horse power, and she has twelve boilers and seventy-two furnaces. To maintain the speed of one of these vessels, about three hundred tons of coal is required daily. The *Majestic* is 582 feet long, 57½ feet wide, 39 feet 4 inches deep, and 9,685 tons tonnage. Her first voyage, recently made from Liverpool to New York, was accomplished in six days and eighteen hours. The vessel is illuminated by 1,200 electric lights.

FIVE LITTLE PEPPERS MIDWAY.

By MARGARET SIDNEY.

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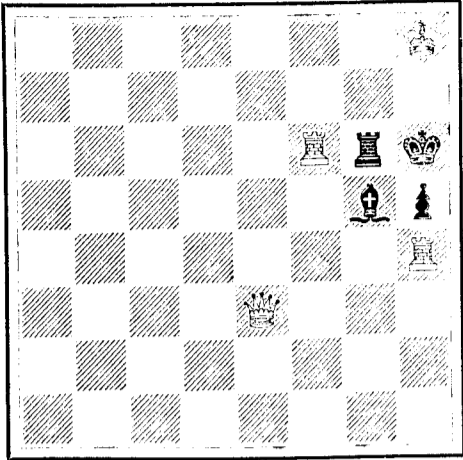
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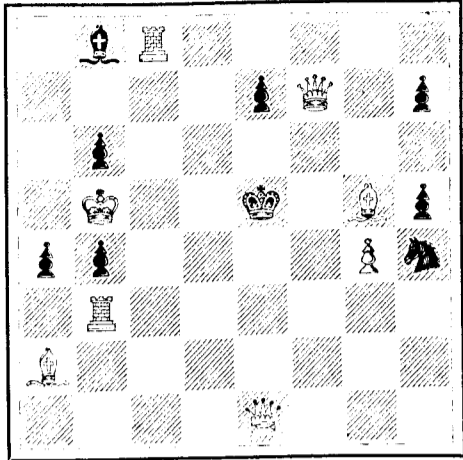
CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 473.
S. LOYD.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 474.
By M. NORLIN, Stockholm.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 473.
R-Kt4

White.
1. B-B7
2. B x R +
3. Q mates

No. 468.
Black.
P moves
K x B

If 1. B moves
P x Kt

In this problem there should be a white K on white K 5, instead of a Kt.

In Problem No 471 there should be a black P on black's Q R 5 instead of on Q R 4, also a black B on black Q Kt instead of one on Q Kt 5.

THE JUDD-SHOWALTER MATCH.

Seventh game of the match played at the St. Louis Chess Club, May 27, 1890.

RUY LOPEZ.

Mr. J. W. Showalter

Mr. Max Judd.

Mr. J. W. Showalter

Mr. Max Judd.

White.
1. P-K 4
2. Kt-KB 3
3. B-Kt 5
4. B-R 4
5. Castles
6. P-Q 4
7. B-Kt 3
8. P x P
9. Kt-Kt 5
10. B x Kt
11. Kt-B 3
12. K-R 1
13. B x Kt
14. P-B 4
15. Kt-K 2
16. Kt-Kt 3

Black.
P-K 4
Kt-QB 3
P-QR 3
Kt-KB 3
Kt x P
P-Q Kt 4
P-Q 4
Kt-K 2
Kt x Kt (a)
P-QB 3
B-K 3
P-KR 3
B x B
Q-Q 2
Castles (KR)
P-Kt 3

White.
17. P-B 3
18. Q-Q 2
19. P-B 5
20. P-B 6! (b)
21. P x B
22. QR-K 1
23. R-B 4
24. Q-Q 4
25. B-B 2 (d)
26. Q-K 3
27. R-KR 4
28. Q-Kt 5
29. B-Q 1
30. P-K Kt 4
31. Q-R 6 (h)
32. Q-Kt 7 (h)

Black.
B-K Kt 5
B-R 5
B x Kt
K-R 2 (c)
R-KR 1
K-Kt
P-KR 4
B-K 3 (e)
R-QB 1 (f)
P-QB 4 (g)
K-B 1
KR-Kt
P x P
K-K 1
Black resigned.

NOTES.

- (a) Up to White's ninth the moves are identical with the third game of this match, but here Black exchanges Knights and does not give White a chance to play the double sacrifice of his Knights as in the game mentioned.
- (b) Elegantly played.
- (c) The correct move, for if 20. B x KP; 21. Q x R, B x KBP; 23. R x B, with a powerful attack, threatening to win the B or mate.
- (d) Threatening to win the exchange by B x Kt P.
- (e) The proper reply.
- (f) Black is evidently attempting to break through on the Queen's side.
- (g) We think Black should have played 27. Q-K, with the view of posting her at KR 4, but, being sorely pressed for time, overlooked the storm gathering about him.
- (h) A beautiful finish to a well played game. White might also have played 32. Q-R 8! with the same effect.

-St. Louis Republic.

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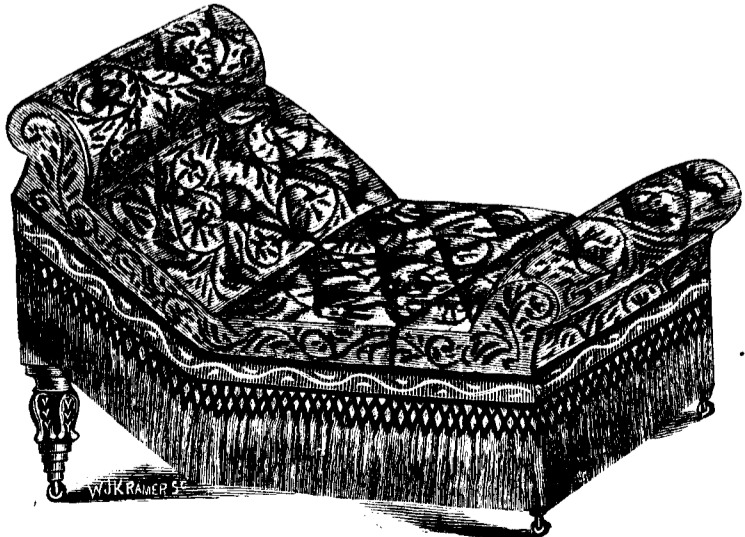
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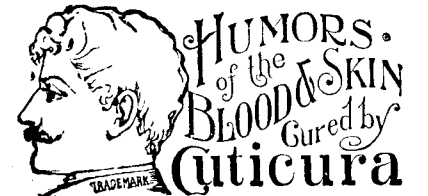
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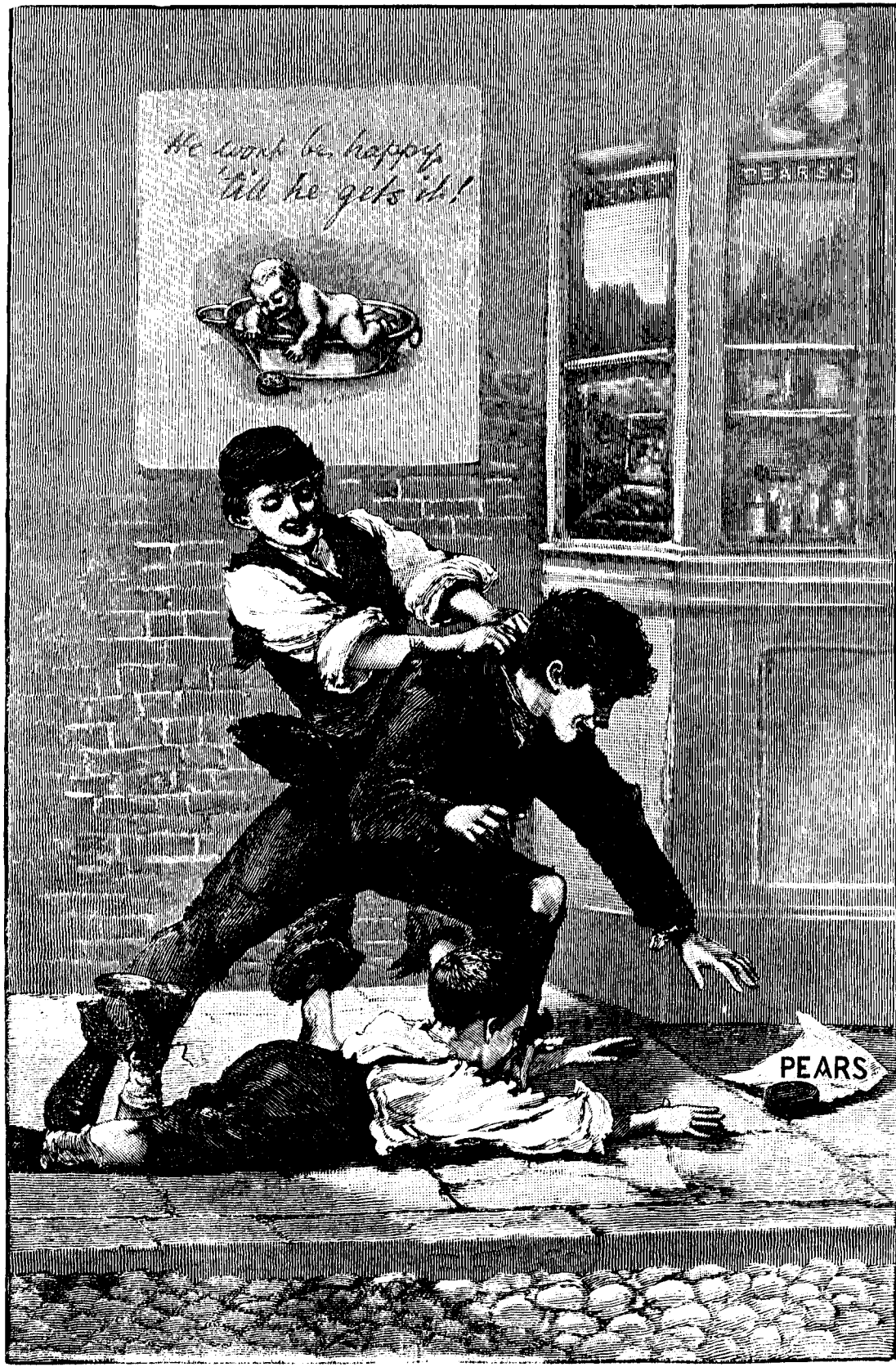


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