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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The London (Eng.) *Zoophytist* favors us with the following complimentary notice, apropos of a couple of editorial notes which appeared in our issue of 16th March: "Our clever Halifax contemporary, THE CRITIC, can rarely be opened without finding something worth reading this side of the Atlantic, as well as, of course, much interesting to its Nova Scotian subscribers."

Nova Scotia scarcely knows how much is done for her by her outside friends. Some time ago the *British American Citizen* offered a prize for descriptions of localities in Nova Scotia possessing attractions as summer resorts. The result has been a large number of descriptive articles which, in the last issue alone, occupy three columns and a half, and form a splendid series of advertisements of our province.

It is more than probable that the delay in taking steps with regard to the seal fishery is due to the Fabian tactics of the United States diplomats, dictated by the nearness of the Presidential election, and the terms of the Alaska Fur Company's Charter. It is said that the maritime nations are conferring with a view to the adoption of some uniform policy for preserving the seal from extermination. It is none too soon.

The *Evangeline* of Digby is a nice little paper, and we are indebted to it as an exchange for obliging us to read a little French, which, but for it, we should not likely do at all. We have been so enchanted with the *naivete* of the following passage that we cannot resist translating it for the edification and amusement of our readers. "The famous Gabriel Dumont, lieutenant of the unfortunate Louis Riel during the rising in the North West, is at present in Canada. He relates that there were but at the most 150 metis. At the celebrated taking of Batoche, where General Middleton had his legendary *desperate fighting*, (these words in italics in English,) there were *Armed metis*! (These italics are ours.) Dumont affirms that Riel was always opposed to taking up arms, and that he deliberately gave himself up to save his poor (petit) people." It is not perhaps altogether discreditable to Dumont that his fighting is of a better quality than his lying!

The Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Wolseley have crossed swords in the House of Lords about Lord Wolseley's outspokenness on the weakness of the army and navy. Lord Salisbury did not see his way to more than a mild deprecation of an officer attacking the *status in quo* outside parliament, and is evidently a little bit afraid of him of Cairo, while Lord Wolseley must be sensible that his action was not quite consistent with discipline and etiquette. There will probably be no great love lost between them in the future.

Bulgaria, Servia and Roumania are all in a more or less disturbed and excited state, evidently kept so by Russian intrigue. The whole European situation never looked more lowering, and any event, such for instance as the death of the Emperor, may precipitate an explosion at any moment. Rumor whispers of Russian intrigue everywhere, against Italy and against us in India, through Persia. Both France and Russia evidently chafe under the triple alliance, and fume at the probability of England joining it in the event of an outbreak.

The public cannot be too strongly impressed with the falsehood and worthlessness of the sensational "special" cable European news concocted to suit the unhealthy American newspaper appetite. The Irish news in particular is "made to order," and almost all the late German news has been absolute rubbish, flatly contradicted by events and facts. The alleged unpopularity of the Empress and the Queen was the grossest exaggeration, and the New York *Sun* stultified itself by one day asserting that the Crown Prince was the idol of the masses, and another that he is hated by them.

Mr. Gladstone's article in the May number of the *North American* against Col. Ingersoll, is in his best style, and the latter, notwithstanding the brilliancy of his rhetorical fence, is vulnerable to many keen, logical thrusts. But Mr. Gladstone's sustained courtesy should convey a lesson to the vulgar bigots who think they do well in never writing of the sincere and brilliant agnostic except as "Bob Ingersoll." Mr. Gladstone now proposes a criticism of the Papal Decree, which those who admire his polemics will look forward to with curious expectation, for, if he assail it he will be attacking the very foundations of social existence.

It is the fashion of conservatism in England to assume that the primrose was Lord Beaconsfield's favorite flower, and we know the superstructure of Primrose "leagues," "habitations," and heaven knows what, with which conservative leaders of both sexes solace and amuse themselves, built up on this assumption. But there is, in reality, no proof whatever that Lord Beaconsfield cared two-pence about the flower. The fancy is elaborated on the fact that when the Queen sent a wreath of primroses to be laid on Disraeli's coffin, she accompanied it with the words "His favorite flower." The italicised pronoun referring much more probably to Prince Albert, who was known to prefer the primrose to any other spring blossom, than to the deceased Earl.

George Francis Train, crank though he may be, knows how to make himself popular. At Digby while waiting for the Antapolis boat, he gathered around him some 25 little girls, who became his warm friends at once, a liberal supply of figs adding not a little to his popularity. In a body they followed him to the boat, where he showed them around, and when the time for his departure arrived the little ones set up a howl of grief that testified louder than words the hold he had gained on their hearts. Recovering themselves, they stood on the wharf and cheered at the top of their voices until the boat was out of sight. At Yarmouth, the western metropolis, he was the "lion" of the day, and everywhere met with a most cordial reception. Who wouldn't be a crank?

Truro furnishes a conspicuous example of the rapid growth in wealth and population of our provincial towns. We are indebted to the courtesy of its energetic Mayor, D. H. Muir, M. D., for a copy of the annual report for the civic year ending March 31st, 1888. In his address, which is a very concise one, the Mayor says. "In my report of last year I referred to the rapid growth, the sound prosperity, the progressive character of this business centre of the province, and stated that no better evidence could be afforded of these facts than a glance at the valuation of property for assessment purposes. In 1875 (the date of incorporation) the amount assessed was \$885,150.00. In 1877, the amount was a trifle over \$1,200,000.00, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in twelve years. That year (1877) had an addition of over \$100,000. The present one has well kept up this record, the assessors' books revealing about \$300,000 of an increase for 1888."

A TIMELY SUGGESTION.

The *Herald* in a timely editorial calls attention to a letter written by Mr. David Armstrong, of Ottawa, to the *Toronto Empire*, over his own signature, urging that the Dominion Government should grant a bonus upon every ton of Nova Scotia Coal which may be sold in that province. The removal of the duty on anthracite coal, instead of lowering the price of that article in Ontario, has been taken advantage of by the Pennsylvania coal ring, and that item now goes to swell their profits. Ontario imported during the year 1887 five and a-half million dollars worth of coal from the United States, and, as recent developments have shown, the Ontario consumers paid a bonus ranging from fifty cents to one dollar per ton to the Pennsylvania coal ring for the privilege of purchasing United States coal. The ring discriminates in prices against Ontario, yet as there is no way of escape, Ontario continues to purchase their coal. "The question arises," says Mr. Armstrong, "would it not be better to pay a voluntary bonus to ourselves on Nova Scotia coal than to continue to pay a forced bonus to a foreign ring." The legislation of the Canadian Parliament is sufficient to restrict domestic coal combines; but he points out that the Ontario people are utterly powerless to emancipate themselves from the wholesale inflictions of the Pennsylvania ring, "unless parliament can see its way to give a mileage bonus on Nova Scotia coal to distances west of a fixed point in Ontario." In support of this contention Mr. Armstrong urges that "the gain to the country will be at least 500 per cent. above the bonus required to supply the Ontario home market from sources within the Dominion. The transfer of from a million to a million and a-half tons of coal from the Maritime Provinces to Ontario will become a powerful artery of inter-provincial trade, carrying out the true principal of confederation, giving employment to thousands of men in the mines, on the railways and vessels, and keeping our wealth within our own country. In concluding his suggestive letter, Mr. Armstrong, in referring to the spirit which actuates the Ontario people, says: "Residing in central Ontario, the writer has discussed this question with people of all shades of political opinion, and has not yet found one voice dissenting from the means proposed."

We give the *Herald's* presentation of Mr. Armstrong's case, which is a very strong one, and should receive the unqualified support of every man, woman and child in Nova Scotia. Mr. Longley and other writers on the coal question have frequently called attention to the injustice done Ontario by the imposition of a duty on coal. The people in Ontario were themselves strongly opposed to it, but experience, the best of all teachers, has proved to them that they were wrong, and now one of their own number comes out in a vigorous appeal for such a bonus on Nova Scotia coal as will make its introduction into Western Ontario a certainty. Not only this, but he most conclusively points out that "the gain to the country will be at least 500 per cent. above the bonus required." After this strong showing, we cannot follow the *Herald* in its suggestions of "a more excellent way." Its proposed scheme of agitating for the deepening of the canals of the St. Lawrence, brings in a side issue that may take years to accomplish. Mr. Armstrong's scheme, if urged upon parliament and carried, would go into operation at once, and its beneficial effects would be immediate. We should be the last people in the world to raise objections, as the movement is of vital importance to us. In a case like this, political issues sink into insignificance, and we should unite as one man to forward Mr. Armstrong's contention of the necessity of a bonus on our coal.

ART MAGIC.

This was the term applied of old to things men could not understand, which as they understood nothing, amounted pretty nearly to everything.

Roger Bacon's science—wonderful for his time—procured him ten years imprisonment in his cell, and Joan of Arc's victories procured her the privilege of being burnt for a sorceress.

The inspiration, or at all events what she firmly believed to be inspiration, which prompted this heroic girl to a course of action which resulted in freeing her country from a very cruel invasion, was very closely akin to the kind of inspiration sought, and sometimes affirmed to be found by the modern spiritists.

Spiritism, or, as it is generally called Spiritualism, after having made much more noise and gained a much more extensive influence in the world than people imagine who are not conversant with it, literature shrunk quietly into the back ground for some years under the discredit brought upon it by a long continued series of exposures of fraud on the one hand, and gullibility on the other. The disapprobation of sensational methods felt by conscientious spiritualists contributed not a little to the rise of Theosophy, the quietism of which seemed of a higher nature than the commonplace cravings for materialisations, floatings through the air, and spirit photographs. This transcendental mysticism has, we believe, outlived its enthusiastic phase, and Spiritualism in some of the worst of its old forms seems to have cropped up anew. The exposure of one or two recent frauds which have amounted to swindling, has set the press and the pulpit rampant again, both the sensational journalist and the sensational parson being alike on the *qui vive* for an exciting topic.

Both approach it with the sort of convictional cant which the critical ear is quick to catch in the discussion of any thesis which it becomes the idle fashion of the moment to expatiate upon. The press, it is true, treats it in a dilettante manner, but the pulpit, especially where its occupant is gifted with a florid style and a copious flow of language, energetic and sensational, if she low, finds it irresistibly congenial to a frothy oratory, and to the display of what is authority to a good many very excellent people.

In the pursuit of this cheap reprobation long strings of Biblical texts are

drawn out which have, in reality, but little connection with each other, and in adducing which, it is forgotten that from scripture almost anything may be proved within the limits of submission to Providence, and that many texts on this particular subject do not now convey the single and literal meaning they did of old.

In sermons, the well-meaning, if weak and credulous, seekers for communion with the unseen, are told that they are dealing with the "Prince of the Powers of the Air," and the sulphurous locality he is supposed to preside over, with a solemnity which raises a smile; for those who have really studied the subject know that there is more to question in it than the mere scoffer thinks, while they also know that the generality of those who call themselves, or are called, spiritualists, are a moral and conscientious folk, sometimes betrayed by an excessive yearning after the spiritual, to devote their time and energies to a pursuit very unpromising of satisfactory results. The almost certainty that every one whose mind is nominally fairly balanced will, in the long run, find this out for him or her self, gives a slight touch of ludicrousness to the ponderous solemnity of warning and denunciation.

SAPPHO.

A fortnight ago we briefly alluded to Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin's article in the *Week* on "Sappho." The subject is a captivating one, and we make no apology to our readers for going into it a little more *in extenso*, using in many places Mr. Davin's own words.

Sappho was in the height of her fame about 610 B.C. During her life the wealth and glory of Tyre inspired the denunciations of the Prophets; Jeremiah began to prophecy; Daniel was carried to Babylon; Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem, Solon legislated at Athens, and Tarquinius Priscus probably reigned over Rome—the fifth of her early kings. There is ground for the belief that she belonged to the aristocratic and wealthy class. She was a native of Lesbos, and lived at Mitylene, the chief city of the Island. "Mitylene," says Strabo, "is well provided with everything." He adds that "it formerly produced celebrated men," among them Pittacus, one of the seven wise men of Greece, and Alcæus the poet. Strabo lived from about 54 B.C. to A.D. 24. The Lesbian wine was the most celebrated throughout Greece, and for a time the Æolians, whose temperament was passionate and intense, were in the forefront of Greek literature. The Æolian women were highly educated, and their intellectual and social status was superior to that of the Ionian women. Their land, prolific of the choicest luxuries of life, and of rare beauty and richness in flowers and fruit, olive groves, statues and temples, combined with the purple glories of the Ægean Sea to stimulate poetry, music and the love of the beautiful in art and nature. After a while, as was in the order of things, the Æolians degenerated, but in Sappho's time they were in their prime, and there is no doubt she was peerless among them.

The legend of her throwing herself from a rock into the sea for hopeless love of Phaon is undoubtedly a fable, though, as Mr. Davin says, "there are worse steps than Leucate from which the heart may fall." But she herself speaks in one place of being "somewhat old," a fact which in itself militates against the legend.

It has been popularly supposed that Sappho's life was not marked by what we should call morality and propriety, but, besides the difference of tone and sentiment of Greece, which looked up to Olympus, and of Christendom, which looks up to Christ, she was commented upon to a great extent by the licentious literati of Augustan Rome to whom purity and love presented no affinities.

Erinna of Telos, and Damophyla of Pamphylia, poetesses of celebrity in their time, were among her pupils, and she speaks of and to her numerous "girl friends," in terms which have the purity and grace of the letters of refined and warmhearted girls still at school. The Lesbians gloried in her, her image was engraved on the coins of Mitylene, and Plato ranked her as a tenth Muse.

So subtle and delicate were her effusions that so considerable a poet as Catullus tried to translate her "Ode to Anactoria," and utterly failed. Swinburne declares it beyond him and beyond all men to translate her odes.

The poet Alcæus, her contemporary, addresses her as "Violet-weaving, pure, soft-smiling Sappho," and Plutarch says "when he read her poems he set aside for very shame the drinking-cup, such was their exalted influence over him." Speaking of herself she says, "I am not one of a malignant nature, but have a quiet temper." Plato numbered her with the "wise."

Fame, no doubt, she longed for, but it cannot be believed that a woman loved of maidens and honored as Sappho was among her countrymen, could have been other than pure and good, especially when judged by the standards of her country and time. Ovid's "Sappho to Phaon" is valueless as to her character, but it proves the celebrity of her teaching. A Roman of the time of the Cæsars would think of Sappho as he would of the women of that most licentious court, and the author of the "Art of Love" was little likely to understand a pure, earnest and passionate nature.

It is said that the Duke of Edinburgh is to succeed Admiral Sir Geo. Willes as Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth. If this be true, it is a monstrous job. Of course the Duke was promoted to post rank at the earliest possible period, both of age and of service. Then he is made a Rear-Admiral over the heads of a number of senior captains, the navy rule being one of absolute seniority from that rank upwards. He is given the command (a full Admiral's) of the Mediterranean when a Vice-Admiral, with local rank as Admiral. He is now, it is true, a full Admiral, but if he goes straight to Portsmouth from the Mediterranean, it will be an utterly disgraceful exercise of court influence, and it will be surprising if it do not elicit a very strong feeling among naval officers.

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Sweet spring is returning ; she breathes on the plain,
And meadows are blooming in beauty again.
Now fair is the flower and green is the grove,
And soft is the shower that falls from above.

Full gladly we greet thee, thou loveliest guest,
Ah, long have we waited by thee to be blessed !
Stern winter throw o'er us his hoary, cool chain,
We longed to be breathing in freedom again.

And welcome, thou loved one again and again,
And bring us full many bright joys in thy train.
And bid the soft summer not linger so long,
E'en now we are waiting to greet him in song.

Personally, of course, the doctor wishes no man ill, but professionally how can he help it ?

It is the middle-aged man whose increasing girth tells him what the waist of time is.

A German physician has traced ninety-two distinct diseases in one of his patients to the corsets she wore.

It is mighty hard fur er man dat neber was in trouble ter bo yer true frien'. It takes a frost ter sweeten de wild grapes.

Timid woman to the ferryman who was rowing her across the river "Are people ever lost in this river ?" "No, ma'am," he replied, "we always find 'em in a day or two."

Guest (to landlord)—"I say, landlord, have you such a thing as an encyclopaedia about the house?" Landlord—"No, sir, we have not; but there is a gentleman from Boston in the reading room."

Wife—"What do you mean, John, when you say that my studying German is a real act of kindness?" Husband—"I mean, my dear, that it will give the English language a little needed rest."

An aesthetic Chicago tailor sends to his patrons in lieu of bills a beautifully colored print of a forget-me-not. He says the scheme works nicely, and his patrons never paid up so promptly and cheerfully before.

A Connecticut woman has embroidered the words and music of "Home, Sweet Home," on a linen sheet which is on the spare room bed. Her guests have not decided whether the hostess meant to indicate that they must feel at home or had better go home.

Lady—"I'm getting tired of modern fiction, can't you recommend me a good exciting standard work?" Librarian—"Have you read the 'Last Days of Pompeii'?" Lady—"No, I believe not. Can you tell me what he died of?" Librarian—"An eruption, I believe."

THE KENTUCKY MIND.—"Mamma," inquired a little Kentucky boy, "what was Adam's full name?"

"He only had one name, my dear; simply Adam."

"And did Eve call him Adam?"

"Certainly. What else could she call him?"

"She might have called him Colonel."

The end of education:—To think; to reason; to feel nobly; to see the relations of things, to put the ages together in their grand progress, to trace causes; to prophesy results; to discern the sources of power; to find true beginnings instead of unknowable causes, to perceive the moral as governing the intellectual, and both as dominating the material; to discern the lines along which humanity is moving, and distinguish them from the eddies of the day.—T. T. Munger in the Century.

The young English electrician, to whose ingenuity, I believe, Mr. Irving owed the cleverly-contrived effect of the sparks which fly from the blade of Mephisto's sword in "Faust," has been further proving what I may call his electric versatility. His latest invention, I understand, turns electricity to account as an aid to laryngo-scopical examination by means of a tiny electric lamp which is actually put down the throat of the patient. It was with this novel electric apparatus which Mr. Vesey has invented that Sir Morrell McKenzie examined the throat of the Crown Prince. The lamp is appended at the end of what looks like a long, slender penholder, and the proportionately small battery which supplies the electricity is worn about the examining surgeon's neck.

It would have been out of the course of (journalistic) nature if the recent story of the hand of thirteen trumps had not been capped, the only wonder is, that it has been so long coming. Here is the new yarn, however, and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat is responsible for it. A few evenings ago four young gentlemen of Oskaloosa, Ia., met out and participated in a game of whist. The party was composed of Ed. Himes and C. F. Hoffmann, and G. B. McFall and D. F. Flemming, who were partners as named. Thirteen hands had been played, and then came Mr. McFall's deal. He picked up the cards in the usual way, shuffled them in the ordinary way, in the sight of all, and dealt, after Mr. Hoffman had "cut" for trumps, which was spades. When the hands were picked up by the players, this was what was found to have happened, without any collusion of any nature whatever: Mr. Himes's hand, thirteen hearts; Mr. Hoffman's hand, thirteen diamonds, Mr. Flemming, thirteen clubs; and Mr. McFall, thirteen spades, and all trumps, of course. The gentleman will make an affidavit to the occurrence.

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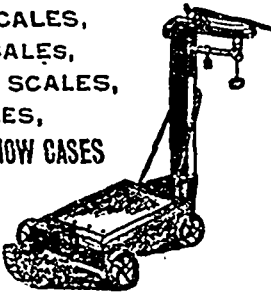
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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 12. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy nine of the most readable and reliable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Rev. H. A. Harley, lately curate of Windsor, has been elected Rector of Pictou.

It is rumored that Rev. Dr. Partridge will be asked to accept the Rectory of Dartmouth.

The *Militia Gazette* is down on both helmet and forage cap, which latter, it is said, is the only article of which the Indian will not clear a camping ground.

Rev. John Harrison, of Falmouth, has accepted the position of missionary at Tusket and Barrington. He has done a good work at Falmouth. His parishioners will be sorry to lose him.

We regret to learn that Dr. Leo H. Davidson, Q.C., editor and proprietor of the *Church Guardian*, is seriously unwell from overwork, and may have to give up the management of his paper.

The *Sardinian*, bound to Liverpool from Baltimore, passed numerous timber logs, and on May 12th "passed the timber raft." Surely the sending to sea of these great rafts should be legislated against.

The officers of the 66th P. I. F. are "at home" this evening at 8 o'clock at the Masonic Hall. An enjoyable smoke, enlivened by good music, may be anticipated by those who are favored with invitations.

Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, died suddenly on the 11th inst., from the effects of a cold caught while visiting St. Catherines. The deceased was highly esteemed and respected as a liberal minded Prelate.

The April army orders make a clean sweep of a lot of useless manoeuvres. All countermarching, right and left wheels, and furling to the right or left about from fours or files, disappear, and there is no more wheeling into line (like a gate) or charging front by wheels.

The Bishop of N. S. has appointed four examining chaplains. The Ven. The Archdeacon, the President of King's College, Canon Brock; Rev. C. E. Willets, D.C.L., head master of the Collegiate School; and Rev. Francis Partridge, D.D., Rector of St. George's.

Arthur Rehan's company of comedians will on Monday night begin an engagement at the Academy for the performance of Augustin Daly's comedies "Nancy & Co.," and a "Night Off." The pieces are said to be good, pure comedy, and the company talented.

Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzee, D.A.G. of No. 5 Mil Dist., was recently entertained at dinner by a large number of prominent citizens of Montreal previous to his departure from that city to assume command of another district. The D. A. G. is a most popular officer, and was presented with a magnificent silver service for Mrs. Van Straubenzee.

Mr. J. C. Ashton has been appointed superintendent of the Halifax Cotton mill, in succession of Mr. Louis Simpson, who resigned his position to take charge of the works of the Montreal Cotton Co., as reported in our last issue. From our knowledge of Mr. Ashton we have to congratulate the directors of the Halifax Co. in having secured the services of so competent a manager.

Nautical sports are much interested in Mr. David Lynch's model of a yacht which has been designed to compete for America's cup. Mr. Lynch is the most skillful and experienced of Canadian shipbuilders, and claims, with every show of right, that the hollow midship section was first seen in America in his fleet pilot boat *Lightning*. The Americans are regarding Mr. Lynch's progress upon a new and competitive model with considerable curiosity.

The attention of the public is called to the card of the Mutual Relief Society, of Nova Scotia, which appears in our columns. This home company has entered upon its seventh year. The confidence of the public has been secured by this company by its fair dealing, prompt payment of death claims, and cheapness. No insurance company has come under our notice that equals it for cheapness, as no plan can do better than provide insurance at the simple net cost. Cheapness, if coupled with safety, is the essential of insurance.

The daily press has published a *resumé* of the deaths and fires due to the electric light. The former are said to have amounted to over a hundred in the States alone, and the latter are becoming very numerous. There has been great want of scientific care and foresight in the wire used, the coating of which has proved to be utterly inefficient. This the jury in the Crocker case took account of, their verdict insisting on the adoption of an insulator impervious to damp, and on there being distance enough between the wires to allow of the ascent of a man amongst them without danger of contact.

Lord Lansdowne visited the Military College at Kingston on the 14th, and addressed the cadets. His Excellency said that he had had some figures prepared by his own special request, which showed that "out of 173 young men educated at the college, only 13 are at this moment serving outside the limits of the empire, while 41 are in civil employment within the Dominion." His Excellency also spoke of the probability that out of the cadets holding Imperial commissions many, under the rules of Army Retirement, would eventually gravitate to their native land. It should not be forgotten that the country is indebted for this admirable institution to the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie.

"A Manual of Engineers' Calculations," from the pen of Mr. D. McLaughlin Smith, of St. John, N.B., has recently come to hand. It is intended chiefly for the use of young mechanics who are desirous of passing the prescribed examination entitling them to a certificate of competency as mechanical engineers. The author seems to have spared no pains in collecting and tabulating much valuable information, and, though his diction is somewhat crude, it is nevertheless intelligible, and his work well merits the perusal of all interested in the subject. Unfortunately typographical errors are very frequent throughout the book, and numerical statements particularly should therefore be accepted only with considerable caution.

A new feature of travel is from Halifax to Montreal *via* Yarmouth. At the present time, a traveller leaving Halifax on Saturday morning, may reach Montreal Monday morning. When the W. & A. summer time table comes into operation, a person leaving Halifax Wednesday will reach Montreal the next night. This beats the Intercolonial by six hours in time, gives a great variety of scenery and pleasure, and on the fare a traveller saves \$2 or \$3—the difference between the cost of a berth on the steamer, \$2, and a through Pullman to Montreal, \$5. By the Yarmouth route the passenger passes through the Annapolis Valley, thence to Yarmouth, a 15 hours sail on the *Yarmouth* to Boston, thence connecting with the Vermont Central fast train, leaving Boston at 1 p.m., and reaching Montreal at 11 o'clock that night; and through passengers for the West can connect with the night train for Chicago.

The second Chamber Music Concert of the Beethoven Trio, which took place at Orpheus Hall on Thursday evening last, attracted a large audience. The concerted selections were from the works of Schubert & Rubenstein, and the performers more than sustained the place won by them at their first concert. Such delicacy of expression, accuracy in execution, and in short, finished excellence in rendition, have seldom been heard by those who have not had the good fortune to listen to some of the artistes in great musical centres; but although the selections were in every way admirable, a friendly critic might suggest that the once hearing of a masterpiece is not sufficient to allow amateurs to gain any knowledge of its full depth and beauty, and the Beethoven Trio would lay Halifaxians under obligation if they would select some meritorious work, and let it stand as the principal number in each programme of the concerts given during the season. Herr Klingensfeld's violin solo, by Franz Ries, was admirably rendered, the second movement being particularly pleasing. The vocal work of the evening was undertaken by Dr. Slayter, who, although suffering from a slight cold, succeeded in winning two encores for the finished manner in which he sang the numbers allotted to him. "Severance," a little gem of a poem written by Professor C. G. D. Roberts, and exquisitely set to music by Mr. C. H. Porter, was rendered by Dr. Slayter in a most pathetic manner, and the audience were not altogether pleased when the Doctor, in responding to a spirited encore, chose a new selection, rather than repeat the one he had just sung. Considering that "Severance" is one of those charming songs which, despite its apparent simplicity, is in reality quite difficult, taxing the powers of the singer in no small degree, Dr. Slayter was quite justified in not attempting it a second time. The Trio is to be congratulated upon the success of its concerts, which, considering the high standard of the music, is phenomenal.

The Fenian brotherhood of New York repudiate and condemn the Papal Rescript, and declare "Parliamentary agitation an utter failure," which of course means murder and dynamite.

A Bill is before Congress to aid the construction of an aerial ship. It provides that the Government shall not be called upon to pay until the ship shall have stood tests, to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy.

The Canadian Club of New York, finding the great majority of its members are not Canadians, but Englishmen, Scotchmen, North Country Irishmen, Welshmen and "Colonists" from all over, very sensibly proposes to assume another title.

In Steuben Park, Utica, N. Y., a broken wire hung from an electric light, several young men standing around dared each other to touch it. Finally Thomas Murphy, aged 18, reached for the wire with a short suck. Immediately he seemed to be drawn towards the suspended wire, and then fell down and died in a few minutes.

The French Canadians resident in the United States now number 1,000,000, and are to hold a convention at Nashua, N. H., on the 26th and 27th of this month. Ten thousand of them signed a petition to President Cleveland, urging him to attend, and he promised to do so if he could leave Washington at that time. The invitation was entwined with the national color, beautifully embroidered with the names of the delegation. The red in the centre of the roll bore a golden eagle at each end, and in their backs were streamers with the names of the twenty states.

The sensational story of Miss Minnie Freeman, the Nebraska school teacher, who was reported to have saved her pupils by tying them together and leading them through the blizzard, is now said to have been purely fictitious, and that if two of the big boys had not escorted her home, she would have perished. Probably most of the other blizzard stories are of the same sort. This one is said to have been concocted by the girl's lover, a telegraph operator, for an Omaha paper. By and by it will be sufficient to see an account in a newspaper to pronounce it a lie!

General Boulanger has tried his hand at phrase-making. Speaking at a luncheon at Douai, he called the constitution "a ridiculous compromise between a pseudo-monarchy and a false republic." There is no particular brilliancy however, and scarcely much truth in the *mot*, and the Republic may possibly prove too strong a fact for the General.

The condition of the German Emperor seems to have really improved. He drove out in a closed carriage on Wednesday.

The Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand, (Dr. Cowie) has lately ordained two new Maori clergymen. Both had been lay readers for several years.

It is reported that the Emperor has effected a partial reconciliation between King Milan and Queen Natalie, of Servia, and that the Queen will soon return to Belgrade.

A bill totally abolishing slavery has been passed by the Brazilian Chambers. A gradual emancipation has been going on for some years, but this edict gives the institution a summary *coup de grace*.

The Gladstonians and Parnellites seem to be thankful for small mercies. There is said to be jubilation over the carrying of the Under Secretary's salary by eight votes only, a large number of members having left the House before the Division.

The Papal Rescript is to be read from the Irish pulpits at an early date, with an episcopal explanation, to be submitted to the Vatican for revision, that the Pope does not condemn the National agitation, but only the means employed for attaining its objects.

It is stated that Mr. Parnell's speech at the Eighty Club has proved that the Tories were, in 1885, willing to concede Home Rule as a means of obtaining a majority. This may be doubtful, but if true, will very essentially weaken the cause of coercionism.

The Chinese question is making difficulty between the Australian and the Home Governments. China complains to England, and New South Wales says she must bow to public opinion, and take her own measures to exclude the Mongolian, if the mother country will not interfere.

Burmah is in a somewhat similar state to Ireland. The Government decided to disarm the people, with the result that the law-abiding surrender their arms and remain at the mercy of the evil-disposed, who do not. So there is a new sort of reign of terror. If a man gives information of Dacoits his murdered, and his village has no arms with which to resist.

General Boulanger's popularity certainly does not seem to be waning, and there is much probability of an early upset of the existing state of things. France will never go on long submitting to a principle unrepresented by a "man," and Boulanger is the only "man" offering, though the role he would play would probably be that of a General Monk, most likely to the *Compte de Paris*.

Miss Martha Hook, the youngest and surviving child of Theodore Hook, died last month, in London, in extreme poverty. She had gone out to look for work, but had fallen in the street from sheer exhaustion. Her last words were, "I am so glad father did not live to see me." Such is life. Theodore Hook, the quaintest novel writer of his day, died in a London suburb 46 years ago, at the comparatively early age of 53.

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[FOR THE CRITIC.]
ON A SUMMER DAY.

The shafts of sunlight pierce the dark wood-depths,
And ling'ring fall on shadowed stream or pool;
Where tiny minnows sport in the golden gleams,
And all bespeaks sweet rest serene and cool.
The babbling brook sings softly as it flows
From its pebbles, drawing sweeter undertones,
Anon, it flows more swiftly on its way,
And gaily dances over sticks and stones.
The white-winged clouds sail slowly o'er the blue,
The sunshine glides the waving corn with gold,
The wind creeps softly thro' the scented pines,
Whose breath beguiles me back to scenes of old.
The meadows stretch before me gold and white,
The catwax stand knee-deep in summer grass,
Like some sad thought across the fair expanse,
The shadows of the sun clouds darkly pass.
The wild thyme breathes sweet fragrance 'neath my feet,
The buttercups and daisies gently bow
Their salutary heads beneath the soothing wind
Which softly lifts the hair from my heated brow

COLLEEN BAWN.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]
ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRES.

To the Editor of the Critic:

DEAR SIR,—Surely the law compelling those using machinery to box up or
otherwise fence in such portions as are in situations exposed to contact and
dangerous to employees or passers by, applies with great force to the electric
wire used for lighting the streets.

Ought not non-conducting material, such as glass or porcelain, similar to
that used to prevent interruption of the current at the various points of con-
tact, be overlaid on the wires whenever there is danger of impact to persons
in their neighborhood.

Could not the fact of the current being, or not being turned on, be indi-
cated by some very simple contrivance, so that even those who run my
read.

You will have seen a toy experiment in old days of a doll bust with its
head covered with long hair, which rose up bristling when the electric cur-
rent was passed through the body by one of the old-time friction machines.
Some such dodge could surely be placed at each lamp-post to warn the
patrolman or other person concerned; but the wire should certainly be
armed with non-conducting material at all accessible points. Expense may
be an object, but life is a greater one; and to expend two patrolmen a week
is beyond a joke.

It is ill to joke in the jaws of death, but the calm way in which the acci-
dent were related in a local print, threw an air of hoax over the matter,
suggesting the well-known Irish translation of Virgil's line:—

Obstupui—
I was bothered,
Steteruitque comæ—
And my hair stood on end,
Et vox faucibus hæsit—
And the devil a word could I get out.
Yours truly,

HABITANS IN SICCO.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

The following, somewhat condensed from an English review of the book
alluded to, seems of sufficiently sound historical interest to warrant your
insertion of it, should you agree with me, and should space admit of it.

FRANC-TREVR.

THE "ENGLISH PALE."

Although the English Pale has long ceased to exist, its evil influences are
bearing their baneful fruit even down to our own day. The acts of the
Tudor Sovereigns and their prejudiced and inhumane advisers, both in Eng-
land and Ireland, rendered matters intolerable to the Irish people, and pro-
longed, under more grievous oppression, a system which would otherwise
have died out.

We see from the "Carew Papers," recently published under the auspices
of the Master of the Rolls, that before the Tudor times the English settlers
were taking the very best means to remedy the evil by intermarriage with
the native Irish, and by employing Irish servants and laborers, and there
can be little doubt that, had matters been simply left alone, the "English
Pale" would have become amalgamated and dissolved, and many of the
troubles of future times might have been avoided. In the introduction to
the "Carew Papers," written by one who was a staunch Conservative and
Unionist (the late Rev. J. S. Brewer, Chaplain to the Master of the Rolls)
we find the following startling picture of the evils resulting from the "Eng-
lish Pale," and the acts of the Tudor Sovereigns to keep that iniquitous
institution on its already tottering legs. "We may clearly see what it was,
how by the Tudor times it was rapidly dying of natural death, and how it
was revived in a more intolerable form and spirit by the Tudor Sovereigns
and their injudicious advisers. The English settler adopted Irish habits. The
English farmer, moved by his interest, and the difficulty of providing Eng-
lish servants, was happily tempted to employ Irish laborers. English
gentlemen were continually forming friendships and intermarriages with Irish
chiefs and their families. English Deputies, aware of the misery of the
times, alive to the impolicy and weary of the endless labor of rousing Irish
blood into rebellion by undue strictness and severity, were continually
relapsing into milder habits, and more congenial treatment of the native

Irish. . . . The English Government (of the Tudors). . . . passed Acts from time to time, disabling Irish chiefs, forbidding Irish labor, denouncing the least approach to Irish manners and customs, and levelling the whole force of indignation and disgrace against the very name of Irish. The protection of the English law reached not beyond the narrow limits of the 'Pale.' . . . On the lower orders of the English retainers the consequence was perilous. They learned to regard the Irish as fit subjects for plunder, to commit all sorts of atrocities under the degraded name of patriotism, to fill the whole country with discontent, immorality, and disorder, that no government, however wise, considerate, or judicious, could hope to overcome; whilst, on the part of the native Irish, the feeling that they were beyond the pale and protection of English law tended to increase their lawlessness and violence. Hunted down like wild beasts, they turned like wild boars upon their pursuers. As the Englishman learned to associate with the name of Irish all that was vile, savage, and degrading, the Irish man was naturally taught to connect all forms of oppression, cruelty, and wrong with the name of Englishman, to hate what his conqueror loved, and to love what he hated. . . . The English Deputies and their Council, mainly interested in the narrow and immediate safety or prosperity of the 'Pale,' could not be expected to raise their eyes beyond their own exclusive province, or entertain broad and comprehensive views for the amelioration and improvement of Irish outcasts. . . . These English Governors had but one security, but one precaution, the power of the sword."

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—The company which has been organized for the construction of the Inverness and Richmond Railway, not having given the Government satisfactory proof of its ability to carry out the work successfully, no Dominion subsidy has been secured; and unless the company satisfy the Government of its financial strength without delay, the Richmond-Inverness Railway project will be hung up for the next year at least. In a discussion which took place in Parliament with respect to the branding of all cases containing American cheese, the fact was brought out that Canadian cheese, being of a better quality, is in demand in British markets, and that American cheese imported via Canadian ports, being an inferior article, injures the good name which our own cheese product bears. It was suggested that American packages passing through Canada should be branded, so that buyers on the other side might not be misled. The suggestion, it appears, is impracticable, but the fact that our cheese is better than that manufactured by Uncle Sam is well worth knowing. The Government has obtained leave from Parliament to borrow \$25,000,000, provided the money can be obtained at 3½ per cent. About \$5,000,000 of this new loan will be required to liquidate the floating debt, but it is not quite plain to what purposes the balance of the money is to be applied. A portion of it will be required to pay railway subsidies, and part of it can be expended without the sanction of Parliament. In this connection it is gratifying to note that the Government has announced its intention not to allow of any further increase in our public debt, and if this policy be vigorously adhered to, the credit of the country will be more than maintained in coming years. Mr. Davies, of P. E. Island, brought up the matter of the imprisonment for contempt of court of editor Hawke, of the *Moncton Transcript*, but the House was not in a mood to spend much time in discussing a question which had already been settled by the courts. The Minister of Justice was evidently impressed with the conviction that Hawke's punishment was richly deserved. We have already expressed our views upon the action taken by the Judges, but while condemning the method of trial and conviction, we cannot in any way endorse the utterances of Mr. Hawke, who endeavored to blacken the character and injure the reputation of one of the ablest Judges that ever sat on the New Brunswick bench. Perhaps the incident will have a wholesome tendency, and teach journalists to draw a broad line of distinction between law and those who administer it. Manitobans should now be happy, for they are now at liberty to build railways north, south, east or west, without respect to the C. P. Railway. The monopoly clause of the latter company's charter has been annulled, and the Parliament has agreed to guarantee the interest upon \$15,000,000 of its bonds, taking as collateral a first mortgage upon the company's land grants. Sir Charles Tupper, in presenting this proposition to the House, pointed out that the three parties interested in this transaction, were Manitoba and the N. W. Territories, the Canadian Parliament, and the Railway Company. Through this guarantee of the bonds, the hobgoblin of monopoly had vanished into thin air, and the West is now free to build a network of railways if required. The Canadian Parliament, in securing this release from a monopoly had assumed a liability for which they held ample security, and Parliament might well feel satisfied with the result. The C. P. Railway Company, in obtaining a guarantee for its bonds, has secured available funds for increasing its rolling stock, building branch railways, etc. Extreme partisans may cavil at the terms of this compromise, but most sensible men will regard it as equitable and satisfactory to all parties concerned therewith.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Under the heading of "Canada Exporting Textile Fabrics," the *Cotton Factory Times*, *Manchester Guardian*, and other leading English papers, quote in extenso the able article on that subject which appeared in this column, and which was written for THE CRITIC by a gentleman who thoroughly understands the subject.

The following figures, taken from the last census returns of Manitoba, show the strides that industrial progress is making in that Province. The trades enumerated range from the making of aerated waters to sheet-iron

working, and altogether, while in 1881 there were but 344 factories, of all kinds, in 1886 there were 545. The capital invested in 1881 amounted to \$1,383,330; in 1886 to \$3,411,133. The value of the raw material in 1881 was \$1,924,820, in 1886 it was \$2,814,837. The value of the articles produced in 1881 amounted to \$3,413,026, and in 1886 to \$5,399,466.

A GREAT INVENTION.—Christie, Brown & Co., the well known biscuit manufacturers, have purchased a five tons automatic coal scale from C. Wilson & Son, 86 Esplanade street, Toronto. The scale dispenses with the use of loose weights, and subtracts the weight of the wagon from the load without the use of any figures. They are also making improved grain and farm scales on the same principle. A free catalogue is sent to any person requiring first class scales at a moderate price.

The firm of Baker & Greenor, North Sydney, carries on the most extensive lobster business in Cape Breton, having four factories on that Island, the annual output of which is over one quarter of a million of 1 lb. canned lobsters, the market value of which is about \$30,000. To fill this quantity of cans over one million lobsters are used, and six hundred hands are employed. Some 7,000 cages are fished, the rope of which, if stretched in a straight line, would cover a distance of 90 miles. Their factory at Gabarus is the largest in the Maritime Provinces, and in it all their cans are made during the winter, and shipped to their other factories in the spring. Owing to the drift ice remaining on the Cape Breton coast until late in May, the fishing season seldom opens before June 1st; and as the present law compels factories on that coast to close July 15th, the time for prosecuting this valuable industry is limited to about 35 active working days out of the year. Messrs. Baker & Greenor recently went to Ottawa with a petition of some 4,000 names, praying for an extension of the season for Cape Breton, but the result of their visit is not yet known.

The celebrated Foyle Brewery of Messrs. P. & J. O'Mullin is situated on Artz Lane, in this city, and continues to maintain its well earned reputation for superior ales and stout. Their India pale ale in especial has been the subject of many eulogiums by connoisseurs, and its flavor, free from any harshness and acidity, has been marked by competent judges, so much so, indeed, that at the Colonial Exhibition, where the Messrs. O'Mullin had a greatly admired trophy, English beer drinkers did not scruple to compare it favorably with the world famous brewings of Bass and Allsops. Of the strengthening qualities of brown stout, little requires to be said, as its beneficial effects are well known to many a worn out invalid, and the article brewed at the Foyle Brewery has few, if any, equals in this respect. A marked feature in the brewing business of late has been the introduction of mild and non alcoholic beers to meet a popular demand, and this, Messrs. O'Mullin have met in the most complete manner. In addition to the ordinary table and hop beers, they manufacture and are the sole proprietors of Kraizer and White Spruce beer, and their latest is the now popular Viennese beer, one of the pleasantest drinks one could imbibe on a hot summer's day, being absolutely non-alcoholic. This firm has shown great vim and enterprise in thus meeting the views and demands of all classes of society, a difficult thing to do at the best, where people differ so widely on points like the above. The head of the firm reports business to be very good, the season having opened well. A large business is done all over the Lower Provinces, and extensive shipments made to the Province of Quebec.

The extensive paint works of Wm. Johnson & Co. are located on the Lachine Canal, close to the St. Gabriel Locks, Montreal. The main buildings extend from William street to the Canal bank, a distance of 300 feet long by 150 feet wide. On entering from William street, a broad roadway leads straight through the works to the Canal, where boats, barges, and in fact, craft of every description, both steam and sail, are found unloading their cargoes of raw materials, or taking in their freight of the manufactured article. These raw materials are carried into their respective departments by means of immense power hoists, and thence distributed through the various buildings. The founder of these works, Mr. William Johnson, in 1880 became the general manager of the Canadian branch, for Messrs. Lewis Berger & Sons, (Limited.) of London, England, who, about that time, began in Montreal the manufacture of white lead, paints and colors; and in 1882, Messrs. Lewis Berger & Sons selling out to him their entire manufacturing interest in Canada, he became possessed of the nucleus of his present enterprise, and has succeeded in building up this business to the splendid proportions it has now attained. Entering the factory from the Canal bank the visitor will find himself in the white lead and zinc department, where ponderous granite rollers, like the mills of the gods, are grinding "slowly but surely," and where the daily output is over ten tons. This department has grown year by year, and to-day "Johnson's Decorators" and "Genuine" white leads are familiar names to consumers in Canada. Leaving this floor the coach color grinding department is gained, where a long row of patent mills are busily grinding every shade of color, both for coach and decorative work. Previous to the year 1885, the Canadian paint trade had been supplied with coach colors of various American brands; and although several ineffectual attempts had been made, it remained with Wm. Johnson & Co., of Montreal, to make a perfect success of manufacturing superfine coach colors in Canada. The firm manufactures its own dry colors, and has established a complete laboratory and color works under the management of practical chemists and color-makers, and in order to make a complete success of the coach color business, they also make their japan. To meet the wants of the house painter, these manufacturers are manipulating and grinding their pure colors in oil with the same care as their coach colors, so that the house painter has at his command a variety of brilliant shades with a guarantee that he can make the combinations he requires. Our space is too

limited to enter into detail of all the various processes employed, but suffice it to say, that everything that the newest and latest labor-saving machinery can effect is in requisition in this interesting and extensive establishment. Putty grinding receives especial attention, and "Johnson's pure putty" commands a ready sale. A chemical department, tinmith's shops, shipping rooms, and stores for packages, etc., are some of the features that command attention. The manufacturers were awarded the Bronze Medal of the Industrial Exposition Association of Toronto, 1886, and also the Grand Gold Medal of the Dominion and Provincial Exhibitions, Sherbrooke, 1886. They do a business ranging from Vancouver, B. C., to Halifax, N. S.

SPRING HOUSE CLEANING.

We publish this week an interesting article on an interesting topic. It is only one of the many useful papers published in *Demorest's Monthly Magazine*, 15 East 14th Street, New York.

If there is one time more than another in the average house-keeper's life when she longs for a sight of those burnished golden pavements, whose eternal brilliancy needs no application of brush or labor, it is when she faces the dreaded task of house-cleaning.

If she has a large family who permeate every available corner of the house, then is the problem yet more complicated; for one cannot clean an occupied room without first dislodging the occupant. There is but one way,—unless the family are turned out-of-doors,—which is to take one or two rooms at a time, and so proceed until all are cleaned.

It is always more satisfactory to wait until the furnace heat and coal fires, and all their attendant dust and gas can be dispensed with before beginning the work of renovation and cleaning.

Begin with one room at a time, without turning all the household into a state of chaos, and then slowly evolving order from the confusion. Even if it be necessary for the men of the family to beat the carpets and calcimine the walls themselves, and they would like to get their part of the work done at one time, try and persuade them to divide their labors, and the result will be more satisfactory to all parties.

Begin at the top of the house, and clean one room or two small ones at a time. In the first place, empty the closet, if there be one, and after brushing what clothes need such attention, have them aired while the cleaning is progressing. Then dust all the furniture and remove as much as possible to another room. Then take down the curtains and other draperies, and have them dusted and folded carefully, and laid aside or sent to be renovated at a professional cleaner's. Before taking up the carpet, have it swept well, and dust will not be carried to other parts of the house in removing it. Then let the floor be swept, and all the wood-work, walls and ceiling dusted before beginning to calcimine or clean with soap and water.

When the room is ready for the floor-covering to be relaid, and the furniture returned to its place, have every piece thoroughly gone over, brushed, oiled or polished, before bringing it in the room again. The windows need to be gone over again the last thing, and then if the curtains are to be hung up again, their adjustment is the finishing touch which will leave the room in its pristine order, except for the arrangement of the dainty knick-knacks, which is only a matter of taste.

COMMERCIAL.

Little change has transpired in the trade situation during the past week. The weather has been decidedly against the development of spring trade, and heavy masses of ice, which cling about the shores of Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, delay communication by sea with ports to the eastward to an extent unprecedented in recent years. Still our merchants claim—and, doubtless, truthfully—that the aggregate volume of trade that they are likely to accomplish, will be nearly as large as that of last year, and larger than previous years showed.

The committee of the U. S. Senate has presented a majority and a minority report on the proposed Fisheries Treaty. The majority advise its rejection vigorously, and present strong arguments, from an "American" point of view, for their recommendation. The minority report in favor of the treaty, but in a half-hearted way, that looks as if they were swaying between "loyalty" to their party and to their country. "Party" has ostensibly got the advantage, but the "country" evidently retains a "strong pull" upon even Democratic senators.

The City Board of Works is gradually settling itself into regular "working order." It is wholly composed of "new material," and will, of course, find a difficulty for a while in learning the ropes, but, as all are well-intentioned, and most of them fairly intelligent gentlemen, this civic department will probably be as well administered this year as it has been in the past. In common with the majority of our citizens, we shall watch their proceedings with interest.

The new City Prison Committee promises to be a vigorous one, that will closely look after the management of that institution.

The action of Newfoundland in obtaining the assent of the Imperial Government to the act prohibiting foreigners from catching or buying bait on the shores of that island, has not resulted very satisfactorily to the Newfoundlanders, as we learn that Canadian vessels have no scruples against purchasing bait on their coasts and selling it in the best markets.

A few months since we noted the sudden disappearance of a victualler on Barrington Street, who, after doing a "flourishing" business for a few months, "departed" without going through the formality of bidding his creditors farewell. It has recently transpired that after leaving Halifax he went to Boston, and there, with the alleged amount of \$10,000, which his creditors state that he realised from them, set up a butcher shop on Tremont

street. It is reported that those who suppose that they were swindled by him, are taking steps to follow him, and attempt to recover their money.

It is claimed, with considerable reason, that, as the Dominion Government appears to have adopted the principle that the country at large should assume the charges of construction and maintenance of public improvements to harbors, rivers, etc., and has carried it out by voting some millions to deepen and remove obstructions from the channel of the St. Lawrence, to create the harbors of Montreal and Quebec, and to build extensive docks thereon; it should assume the cost of our dry dock, and do a large amount of dredging to make a harbor of St. John, N. B. We agree with this contention, while we recognise the difficulty that the Government necessarily meets in trying to do too much at once.

The following are the business changes in this Province during the past week. No assignments:—J. N. Scott, boots and shoes, Halifax, sold out to A. W. Reddon; Chambers, Turner & Layton, hardware, etc., Truro, dissolved, R. J. Turner retiring; N. P. Marshall, general store, Middleton, sold out to G. W. Andrews; Davidson & Leddon Bros., brokers, dissolved, Thos. Davidson retiring.

DRY GOODS.—There has been some improvement as regards the general dry goods trade during the past few days, and sorting-up orders are coming in rather more freely. Payments still continue to be very slow, but indications of more promptness in the near—we had almost written immediate—future are not wanting. Dealers, it is said, expect to offer now and better "styles" of goods very shortly for fall and winter wear, and country tradesmen, having apparently "got wind" of this fact, are "holding off." Therefore, few advance orders are given in this line.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The market for pig iron is decidedly dull, and prices are barely more than nominal. Little or nothing is doing in the local market. Scotch warrants are quoted at Glasgow at 38s. 2d. Other advices are:—Middlesborough No 3 foundry G. M. B 31s. 3d.; London—Tin, spot or 3 months futures £80, with a quiet market; Chili bars £80; best selected copper £82; Soft English and Spanish lead £13 5s. Owing to somewhat lighter offerings there is a little more steadiness in the pig iron market, although nominal rates are unchanged, iron can be had at the asking. The fact is, that holders are not pressing sales, fearing lower prices without increasing business. A little more enquiry is noted for manufactured iron, but it is difficult to secure fair-sized orders without shading prices. Steel rails are dull and weak, with a tendency for lower figures.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local business transacted in flour has not been large but prices have been firm, and a better demand is noticeable. In many cases holders show a reluctance to sell, seeming to expect an advance in figures soon. The *Mark Lane Express*, in its weekly review of the grain trade, says:—"Native wheat values are firm. There is a fractional advance in the provincial markets. The rates of country flour are maintained. Prices of foreign wheats in London are against sellers. Russian wheat declined 6d. White wheats are firmer. Corn is in demand, and 1d. per cental higher. Wheat was inactive. Sellers refused business under last week's prices. No corn was offered on the spot." The shipments of wheat from South Russia continue fair, but the continent still takes a large proportion of the same, for out of 44 wheat laden vessels that passed the Dardanelles recently, only three were destined for England, the Mediterranean ports taking 23, and the remainder being absorbed by France, Brussels, Holland, and Germany. A decided advance in steam freights has tended to check fresh shipments from Odessa. Nevertheless, sales were reported of some 2,500,000 bushels of the United Kingdom and the continent from 9 cents per bushel to 13 cents. The last maize crop of South Russia proves to be from 50 to 60 per cent less than last year. Beerbohm thinks the wheat trade is now in a very interesting condition, and much more so than has been the case for some time past. With the promise of 44,000,000 bushels deficiency in the American crop, and with the crop outlook in Europe certainly below an average of previous years, and with no sign of any superabundance of supplies during the next three months, it is clear prices should show more buoyancy in the immediate future than seemed likely a few weeks ago, when excessive supplies were generally expected for the summer months. As the shadow of coming events is proverbially unmistakable, so will the prospective deficiency on the other side of the Atlantic, which alone will be sufficient under present circumstances of only moderate stocks and low price level, make itself felt long before the actual scarcity is apparent. In Germany and Austria Hungary, the weather has been improving after the recent cold spell, but late mail advices are to the effect that no very positive opinion can yet be given as to the condition of the crops. Farmers in France complain of the thin and patchy appearance of the young wheat plant which has evidently suffered from the recent severe weather, while spring-sowing is so late as also to give rise to some apprehension. Beerbohm's cable as to prices reads:—"Wheat a turn dearer, and corn steady, for cargoes off coast. On passage and for prompt shipment the same. In Liverpool wheat buyers and sellers are apart, but the tendency is upwards. Standard California and fair average red winter wheat 9s. 9d. to 9s. 10d. French country markets firm. The Chicago wheat market has fluctuated, but has a general upward tendency. Quotations were 84½c. June, 85½c. July and August. Corn has been stronger and advanced ½c. to ¾c, standing at 55½c. June, 55½c. July, 55½c. August. Oats have been steady at 33½c. June, 32½c. July, and 28½c. August. The report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says:—"Low temperature and deficient rainfall, with drying winds and some frost have reduced the condition of winter wheat in the central states. It has also been cool on the Atlantic coast, and not favorable to improvement, yet the plant has held its own in this region. On the Pacific coast only a medium development is reported. Spring ploughing is not quite so well advanced as usual."

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has been without change or animation, except that there has been a perhaps better enquiry for smoked

meats. Lard is nominally a shade higher, but the demand is slow, and holders find it difficult to induce buyers to share their views. In Liverpool the market has been steady. Quotations there are:—Pork 67s. 6d.; lard 41s. 3d.; bacon 38s. 9d.; tallow 26s. In Chicago, the pork market was active, though weaker. Lard quotations were \$14.07½ June; \$14.17½ July; \$14.37½ August. Lard was easier and fell off to \$8.20 June; \$8.22½ July; \$8.27½ August.

BUTTER.—No important change has occurred in the butter market, business having remained quiet and of a jobbing character beyond supplying local consumption. Now butter comes in rather more freely, and is absorbed as fast as it is received. Our Montreal exchanges report that Newfoundland and the Lower Ports are taking up small lots of old butter in that market at 15c. to 16c., but that the quality is "very far from fine."

CHEESE.—The new season for cheese has begun to fairly open, and producers as well as dealers are eagerly watching the probabilities. So far as can be predicted at this date, everything points to a heavy make this season. In view of the high price at which old cheese went out, it is satisfactory to know that the new season's business has been initiated on a comparatively low basis of value. It is not to be expected that even present prices will be maintained, but with prudence, serious loss will easily be avoided. It is to be hoped that, profiting by the disastrous experience of last year, the element of speculative manipulation of the markets may be eliminated, and that values may be permitted to adjust themselves on the basis of supply and demand which will best serve the interests of all concerned. Reports from England indicate a determination on the part of the trade there to buy cautiously, and there is a strong probability, that until prices have touched bottom—or at least have reached a safe basis—the bulk of the stock will have to go forward on shippers' or factorymen's account. A despatch from Utica, N. Y., says:—"At last the ice is broken, and a price has been paid for cheese. It isn't very high, but perhaps all that could have been expected under the circumstances. Two or three buyers had orders for a few choice lots, and on this account were able to make a market. But so far as we could learn, no cheese was bought outright, except such as the purchaser had a place for. There is beginning to be considerable complaint in the country at the continued lateness of the season. The snow is all gone, and the roads are in fair condition, but the weather remains cold and very dry, and pastures are perfectly bare. Cows have shrunk in their milk the past week, and factorymen generally are making less cheese, where they have the same number of cows, than they did a year ago. The season was quite as late then as now, but hay was plentiful and cows were in good condition. It is the universal decision now that the cattle have not been turned out in such poor heart in many years as they will be this spring. And for the springing out, quite a number of dairies will be turned this week on to nearly bare sod, simply because there is so little for them to eat in the stable. It will take a warm, soaking rain to start the pastures into life, and until that comes, the cows will simply have to grub at the roots of the grass. Following are the transactions: 650 boxes at 9½c.; 917 do. at 9½c.; 4,271 commission. All the cheese sold at 9½c. was colored stock, and all that at 9½c. was white. So we make no general ruling, as it would not be fair where there is such a difference between white and colored. Transactions one year ago were 4,317 boxes, ruling 11½c. Two years ago they were 2,550 boxes, all consigned."

FRUITS.—The market for dried fruits has been quiet, pending the arrival of new stocks. Meanwhile old supplies are in little demand, though certain speculators are reported to be quietly taking up whatever sound old fruit comes in their way—presumably to put themselves to mix them with the new when the latter arrives, and to thus make an excellent "average." As to apples the market is very dull, the supply of poor and more or less rotten stuff being comparatively large. The English market is much firmer, quotations being up to 20s. and 30s. per bbl.

TEA.—A cable from Yokohama under date of the 5th instant, says:—"The settlements to date are 3,000 piculs against 4,000 piculs to the same time last year. Prices here at the opening of the season for the three last years have been:

	1888.	1887.	1886.
Choicest	£35 to 37	\$38 to 40	\$35 to 37
Choice	30 to 31	35 to 36	30 to 31
Finest	27 to 28	29 to 30	28 to 29."

The local tea market is quiet, but prices have a steadier tone as buyers recognize the fact that bottom has been touched.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—The market has been quiet though prices are nominally steady. It is believed that holders would not hesitate to shade quotations.

FISH.—The local market remains unchanged, but no accessions to stocks and have been realized, with the exception of about 2,000 bbls of herring in sailing vessels, and half that quantity by steamer, all from Newfoundland. The latter is the first receipt of herrings by steamer from the North-West coast of Newfoundland, and forms a "new departure" in the traffic with part of the island. Bait continues to be in demand. Very little has as yet been taken on the coasts in this immediate vicinity, but members of bankers have succeeded in "baiting up" in Caps Canso, Bras d'Or Lakes and vicinity. The weather, however, has been very unfavorable, and the sea too boisterous to permit the successful prosecution of fishing on the banks. The catch reported to date is far below the average. Some of the West India markets remain fairly profitable for shipments, but too much reliance should not be confided in the probability of their permanency. The Gloucester, Mass., market remains virtually unchanged. The supply there is small and, at present, barely equal to the demand. Bait-fish are reported to have struck in on the American shores from Long Island to Newport, and their fishing vessels are being rapidly supplied with their requirements in this line.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

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

GROCERIES.

SUGAR.		
Cut Loaf	7½ to 8	
Granulated	6½ to 6¾	
Circle A	6½	
White Extra C	6½	
Extra Yellow C	5½ to 5¾	
Yellow C	5½	
TEA.		
Congou, Common	17 to 19	
" Fair	20 to 23	
" Good	25 to 29	
" Choice	31 to 33	
" Extra Choice	35 to 38	
Oolong, Choice	37 to 39	
MOLASSES.		
Barbadoes	32 to 33	
Demerara	34 to 36	
Diamond N.	42 to 43	
Porto Rico	31 to 35	
Cleatuegos	30 to 31	
Trinidad	30 to 31	
Antigua	30 to 31	
Tobacco, Black	34 to 44	
" Bright	12 to 58	
BISCUITS.		
Pilot Bread	2.60 to 2.90	
Boston and Thin Family	5½ to 6	
Soda	5½ to 5¾	
do. in lb. boxes, 50 to case	7½	
Fancy	8 to 15	

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Quotations below are our to-day's wholesale prices for car lots not cash. Jobbers' and Retailers' prices about 5 to 10 cents per bbl. higher than car lots. Markets quiet and steady. Breadstuffs are sold fine. Cornmeal quiet; Oats quiet. Flour strong and dearer.

Flour		
Graham	4.40 to 4.60	
Patent high grades	4.75 to 5.00	
" medium	4.45 to 4.65	
Superior Extra	4.20 to 4.35	
Lower grades	3.60 to 4.00	
Oatmeal, Standard	5.55	
" Granulated	6.00	
Corn Meal—Halfax ground	3.55 to 3.65	
" Imported	3.45 to 3.65	
Bran, per ton—Wheat	23.00 to 23.50	
" —Corn	21.00	
Shorts	25.00 to 26.00	
Middlings	26.00 to 28.00	
Cracked Corn	28.00 to 30.00	
" Oats, per ton	28.00 to 30.00	
" Barley	nominal	
Feed Flour	3.25	
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs., retail	43 to 45	
Barley of 48 " nominal	60	
Peas of 60 "	1.60 to 1.10	
White Beans, per bushel	2.45 to 2.80	
Per Barley, per barrel	5.00 to 5.40	
Corn of 68 lbs.	75 to 85	
Hay per ton	13.00 to 14.00	
Straw	9.50 to 10.00	

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

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Pr. Mess, duty paid	10.50 to 11.00
" Am. Plate	11.00 to 11.50
" Ex. Plate	12.00 to 12.50
Pork, Mess, American	18.00 to 18.50
" American, clear	19.00 to 19.50
" P. E. I. Mess	17.00 to 17.50
" P. E. I. Thin Mess	15.50 to 16.00
" Prime Mess	13.00 to 13.50
Lard, Tubs and Pails	11 to 12
" Cases	12.50 to 13.00
Hams, P. E. I.	8 to 8½
Duty on Am. Pork and Beef \$2.20 per bbl.	

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

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

MACKEREL—	
Extra	12.50
No. 1	13.50
" 2 large	12.50
" 2	12.00
" 3 large	9.50
" 3	9.00
HERRING.	
No. 1 Shore, July	4.25 to 4.50
No. 1, August	3.25 to 3.50
" September	3.25 to 3.50
Round Shore	3.50
Labrador, in cargo lots, per bbl.	3.25 to 3.50
Bay of Islands, from store	2.75 to 3.00
ALSAWIVES, per bbl	4.75 to 5.00
COVVISIT.	
Hard Shore	4.00 to 4.15
New Bank	4.00
Bay	4.00
SALMON, No. 1	14.00
HADDOCK, per qtl.	4.00 to 3.25
HARE	2.50 to 2.75
COD	2.75 to 3.00
POLLOCK	2.25 to 2.50
HARE SOUND, per lb.	30 to 35
COV OIL A.	22 to 25

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

LOBSTERS.

Per case 4 doz. 1 lb. cans.	
Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing)	4.75 to 5.40
Tall Cans	4.00 to 5.00
Flat	6.00 to 6.40
Newfoundland Flat Cans	6.25 to 6.50

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Pine, clear, No. 1, per m.	25.00 to 28.00
" Merchantable, do. do.	14.00 to 17.00
" No. 2, do.	10.00 to 12.00
" Small, per m.	8.00 to 14.00
Spruce, demension, good, per m.	9.50 to 10.00
" Merchantable, do. do.	8.00 to 9.00
" Small, do. do.	6.50 to 7.00
Hemlock, merchantable	7.00
Shingles, No. 1, sawed, pine	3.00 to 3.50
" No. 2, do. do.	1.00 to 1.25
" spruce, No. 1	1.10 to 1.30
Laths, per m.	2.00
Hard wood, per cord	4.00 to 4.25
Soft wood	2.25 to 2.50

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

J. A. CHIPMAN & Co., Liverpool Wharf, Halifax, N. S.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints	22 to 25
" (to Small Tubs)	22 to 24
" Good, in large tubs	20 to 22
" Store Packed & oversalted	12 to 16
Canadian, new	22 to 25
" Township, old	16 to 20
" Western	14 to 16
Cheese, Canadian	13

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

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Wool—clean washed, per pound	15 to 20
" unwashed	12 to 15
Salted Hides, No. 1	5 to 6
Ox Hides, over 60 lbs., No. 1	6
" under 60 lbs., No. 1	5
" over 60 lbs., No. 2	5
" under 60 lbs., No. 2	5
Low Hides, No. 1	5½
No. 3 Hides, each	4
Calf Skins	25
" Deacons, each	25
Lambskins	25 to 75
Tallow	2

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Apples, No. 1 Varieties, new, per bbl.	5.00
Oranges, per bbl., Jamaica (new)	8.00
" per case, Valencia	6.25
Lemons' per case	5.00 to 5.50
Cocoanuts, per 100	5.50
Onions, Egyptian, new, per lb.	3½
Dates, boxes, new	3½
Raisins, Valencia	5½ to 6
Figs, Eleme, 5 lb. boxes per lb.	13
" small boxes	11 to 14
Prunes, Stewing, boxes and bags	6½ to 7½
Grapes, Almeria, kegs	none

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

POULTRY.

Turkeys, per pound	16 to 18
Geese, each	none
Ducks, per pair	none
Chickens	none

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Steers best quality, per 100 lbs. alive	4.25 to 5.00
Oxen	3.50 to 4.50
Fat Steers, Heifers, light weights	3.00 to 4.00
Wethers, best quality, per 100 lbs	4.50 to 6.00
Lambs, scarce	3.50 to 4.00

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

SADDLE AND SABRE.

(Continued).

"Pray don't mention it," rejoined Bertie, "it's one of the canons of the service that we must stick to each other; we did the best we could for Charlie, but you know there was nothing for it but India."

"I know," replied Lettie, "but I am afraid he finds the life out there very dull."

"Not a bit of it, Miss Devereux," rejoined Slade. "Charlie is engaged in quite a lively pursuit out there; he and half the soldiers in the Madras Presidency apparently are engaged in hunting down the craftiest and most murderous old robber that ever took to the roads. This Shere Ali keeps them tramping continually up and down the Presidency, and seems as difficult to lay hands upon as a Will o'-the-Wisp. We shall perhaps get there in time to get a turn at him too."

"You, Mr. Slade! Why what do you mean?"

"Ah! I forgot I hadn't told you we've got our orders for India; and, as luck has it, are going to the same Presidency that Charlie is in. We are off in about three or four weeks."

Then the conversation rather languished. These were two young people, very desirous of saying something to each other, and neither of them knowing exactly how to begin. Of course, it was all remarkably simple. Bertie Slade wished to impress upon Miss Devereux that she really ought not to marry Furzedon; while the lady on her side was equally anxious to impress upon him that she had not the slightest intention of doing so. It is all very well to smile as a bystander, and say, "Absurd! These people could not fail to come to an explanation at once." But have you no experience of these comparatively easy explanations *not* come to? Have you never thought, as you gained the street, of the thing you wished you had said in the drawing-room? And do not all of us know that the explanation so easy at first becomes more difficult day by day? Now, Lettie Devereux had good grounds for thinking that Bertie Slade was rather smitten with herself, and this seemed to make it rather difficult for her to volunteer the information that she was not engaged to Mr. Furzedon. If Bertie would only afford her the slightest opening it would be so easy; but then, Bertie, on his side, felt that he could not congratulate her. And that was the only way he could see of alluding to what he supposed to be a settled thing.

"You will probably see Charlie, then?" said Miss Devereux, at length, with that usual disregard of the size of the country apt to characterise people who have never been there.

"Probably," replied Bertie, "though it may be some time first; and I have come to say 'good-bye,' Miss Devereux; and I have one favor to ask you before I go. I wrote a note a short time ago to Mrs. Connop. I don't know whether she showed it to you, but at all events, I hope she will."

"I have seen it," interrupted Lettie. "Still, what have I to do with it?"

"I only want you to believe that I am quite certain of what I say in it, and that I am not merely detailing idle gossip."

"As I said before, I really don't see anything in it that concerns me."

Gilbert Slade was troubled. It was evident that he could depend upon no help from Miss Devereux. It was possible that she might indignantly refuse to listen to any impetation on her lover. But Bertie was resolute to speak out.

"I should have thought," he remarked, "that you could not be indifferent to hearing that any one you had lived upon friendly terms with ran the risk of being brought to shame. I have no wish to discuss it; but I thought that, as he had stayed at North Leach, and was intimate with you all, you ought to know it."

"Why ought I to know it?" exclaimed Miss Devereux indignantly. "Why will you keep insisting that this specially concerns me? If Mr. Furzedon has done anything disgraceful, surely my father or my brothers are the people you ought to communicate with."

It is very rarely that loss of temper conduces to promote a good understanding between people who are at cross purposes. But Miss Devereux's natural exasperation somewhat cleared the air, and dispersed the fog in which they were both rapidly losing themselves.

Bertie, like herself, was now not a little nettled, and it was somewhat sharply that he retorted, "I can only say that, according to rumor, anything affecting Mr. Furzedon is likely to be more severely felt by Miss Devereux than by any of her family. I suppose I was wrong to touch upon the subject, but Charlie and I were staunch friends."

"I know that," rejoined Lettie, gently; "and you are only saying to me what you would have said to him, had he been in England. But you're under a misapprehension, Mr. Slade. You have heard an absurd and rather annoying rumour that got about last season, and for which, believe me, there has never been the slightest foundation."

"Do you mean to say," said Bertie eagerly, "that there is no engagement between you and Furzedon?"

"Certainly not. I hardly understand myself how the rumor got about."

"As far as I am concerned, I had it from your brother."

"What—from Charlie? When?"

"Last spring, and that is why I have regarded it as a fact. When a young lady's brother tells you the thing is so, you must admit you have it from good authority."

"Yes, indeed," replied Miss Devereux; "but who on earth could have put that into Charlie's head? I am perfectly sure it never occurred to himself."

But here their conversation was interrupted by the entrance of Mrs. Connop, who was unfemininely glad to see her old favorite again, and gave Gilbert Slade a most cordial welcome.

"How long are you up in town for?" she asked, as she settled herself in her chair.

"Mr. Slade has come to say good-bye, auntie," interposed Miss Devereux.

"Good-bye, child! Why he has hardly said how d'ye do? And I haven't seen him for months. I've got lots to say to you, Mr. Slade am dying for a long gossip with you. What day will it suit you to come out and dine with us?"

"I am very sorry, but I hardly think that is possible. I have only to-night and to-morrow night in town, and shall be so busy all day that dinner will have to be a very movable feast with me. There is, of course, a great deal to do, and we really are off at once, and at very short notice."

Then the conversation became general, and Mrs. Connop was deeply interested in the fact that the —th Hussars were going to the same Presidency that Charlie was in, and that there was a possibility of the young scapegrace coming across his old comrades once more. Then Mrs. Connop, ever sanguine, began to speculate on the chances of Charlie getting back to his old corps, which she thought might be effected soon after the —th Hussars got out there, and Gilbert Slade had to explain to her that the War Office people wouldn't stand quite such a rapid shuffling of the cards as that. Then Charlie's affairs were discussed, and Mrs. Connop was very anxious to know if any progress had been made in their settlement, as was loud in her expressions of gratitude to Major Braddock for all he had done for him.

"It really is very good of him to trouble himself about Charlie's business at all," remarked the good lady; "in fact he don't deserve help or pity from any one."

"Uncle Bob is a real good sort," interposed Slade. "He took a fancy to your brother, you see, Miss Devereux, at first start, and although I on he was awfully disgusted at his having to leave the regiment, yet he is always staunch and true to those he has once befriended. I don't know what he has done about Charlie's business, but I shall see him to-night, and will come down to-morrow, and let you know all about it. And now I must be going."

"Why, I've seen nothing of you," cried Mrs. Connop; "I've not had time to ask you about this business of Mr. Furzedon."

"I don't think there is any necessity for me to say more than I have done," replied Slade, with a meaning glance at Lettie; "the papers will tell you all about it before a few weeks are over. Good-bye, Mrs. Connop; good-bye, Miss Devereux," and as he bent over her hand he said in a low tone, "You can't think how happy you have made me," and then, with a hearty invitation from Mrs. Connop to come to luncheon to-morrow, Gilbert Slade took his departure. Not half a score of words, and yet Lettie Devereux seemed quite as content as if she had received a more explicit declaration.

CHAPTER XLI.

CHARLIE'S BAPTISM OF FIRE.

Charlie Devereux was once more upon the war-path, and he and his comrades, like baffled hounds, grew thoroughly savage in the pursuit of that perplexing marauder, Shere Ali. That the famous dacoit chief could assemble some hundreds at his back should he so will was now well known to the authorities, but that his influence through the Deccan is a thing that can be no longer borne with is a fact thoroughly recognized. It is true that rarely gathers together his followers in such numbers as he can command, but that he can put himself at the head of a most formidable band at two or three days' notice is now perfectly understood. His tactics are those of the old Highland caterans in our own country, who sallied forth upon their reiving expeditions, sped homeward with their plunder, and then rapidly dispersed.

Shere Ali makes similar outbursts in unexpected localities, and then, in like manner, disappears with his booty, and is apparently swallowed up in the adjacent jungles. The marauder, too, has acquired a strange notoriety through all that country. Information given detrimental to himself and his followers has several times been punished with swift and singular barbarity. The villagers are shy of any allusion to his whereabouts or proceedings, and his brigandage has attained such an extensive scale as to augur pitiful weakness on the part of any Government that fails speedily to repress it. Even the veteran Hobson shook his head over it, and said in the course of his varied experience that Shere Ali was the most aggravating customer he had to deal with.

"We have come across him once," Charlie, he said, as they jogged along one morning at the head of their now mounted men, "or else, upon my word, I should begin to think this was quite a legendary chieftain; but he and his rapparees did shoot at us once; and we were very close upon their track a few hours afterwards."

"Yes," rejoined Charlie Devereux, "and the massacre of poor young Blades and his escort was a startling proof of Shere Ali being very well alive and on the move; but the dream will come true, Hobson, I know will; we shall come up with him at last; and then, if I know anything of the temper of our fellows, they will be rather hard to hold. They have hunted him for many weary miles, and heard so many tales of the atrocities of himself and his followers, that I don't think there will be much quailing given when the day of reckoning does come."

"No; nor asked," said Hobson. "You will see these fellows will grimly as a fox in a trap, and with a like snarl upon their lips. But, what the d'uce is up? this looks like business of some sort." And, as he spoke, he bent pointed to one of the advanced guard, who was riding to them as fast as his horse could carry him.

"Now, Wilson, what is it?"

"Sergeant Rivers sent me back, sir," replied the soldier, as he saluted, "to say that he thought we were pretty close upon these dacoit chaps this time. There's a pretty sight when you get round the bend, sir;" and the soldier pointed to the turn in the road.

"Pass the word to close up, and sound the attention, bugler," said Hobson. "Now, what's round the bend, Wilson?"

"Well, sir, we must have pretty near caught these scoundrels at their hellish work; there's a tolerably strong travelling party, some of 'em well-armed, too, who have been massacred to a man. The sergeant bid me tell you that he thought the dacoits must be in considerable force."

"Bring them on at a trot, Devereux, as soon as they have closed up; I'm going to gallop forward and see what has taken place yonder."

Accompanied by a soldier, Hobson galloped forward, and the minute he rounded the turn in the road, the tragedy of the morning lay exposed to his view. About a score of men lay stretched upon the road, weltering in their blood; and the whole scene was easy of interpretation, as the sergeant in charge of the advance guard at once pointed out to Hobson. "These two men here by the side of the road were evidently the leaders of the party."

"Evidently Parsee traders," remarked Hobson, as he dismounted from his horse, "and the others their servants and an escort of soldiers, whom they had hired to protect them. They have apparently been surprised and butchered to a man, without offering much resistance."

"Just so," replied the sergeant, "there is a stream just away to the right here, and Shere Ali's people must have come upon them as they were cooking their midday meal under the trees by it."

"I see; and these fellows fled into the open, and were all cut down before they could make any stand at all."

"They weren't all killed quite in that way, sir," replied the sergeant, drily. "This Baboo here was murdered in cold blood, and tortured first; look at his fingers, sir."

"I see," said Hobson, "it's an old trick of theirs. Burnt nearly off; they've bound them in tow soaked with oil, and then set fire to them; whether they've done it from sheer devilry, because they didn't get so much money as they expected, or quite as likely to wring information from him about his property, I don't know. Ha! the other fared very little better; you can see the mark of the cord round his neck; they half throttled him before they killed him."

"We can't have been very far from catching them in the very act, sir," said the sergeant.

"You're right, Rivers; these bodies are not yet cold. I don't believe these villains can be above three or four hours ahead of us, perhaps not even so much."

The robbers had done their work cleanly. All the animals belonging to the murdered party they had carried off with them, and the dead had been stripped of everything valuable about their persons. Nothing was left but the corpses of the two traders, their servants and escort, to tell the story of that day's cruel work. By this time the remainder of the troop had come up, and were surveying the scene with critical eye. Old soldiers, most of them, who had been through the telling fight of the Mutiny, and to whom the sight of a field strewn with dead was no novelty.

"Not a wounded man amongst them," growled one of these. "These devils give no quarter, and, if ever we do come up with them, by —"

"They can't expect to get it. Look at that, too," and the speaker and several of his comrades gazed curiously at the charred stumps of the hapless trader's fingers.

"Now, Rivers," exclaimed Hobson, "I'm going to push forward at once. On you go with your advanced guard; keep your eyes skinned, and, of course, fall back the minute you get touch of the enemy. I suspect Shere Ali is at the head of a strong band this time."

So little trouble had the robbers taken to mask their movements, that the way they had taken was pretty evident. Some of the soldiers, too, by this time had become clever at scouting, and the best of these were riding in the advanced guard; a bare half-mile from the scene of the massacre, and it was evident that the marauders had left the main road and struck across one of the jungle-trails to the right.

It was further pretty apparent, from the horse-prints, that they were in considerable numbers. Hobson had no doubt that, according to his wont, Shere Ali, having placed a hundred miles or so between himself and the scene of his crime, would disband his followers, with the exception of a few, and then betake himself to his secret lurking-place, the whereabouts of which so completely baffled his pursuers; but its secret was well-kept, and, so far, the Feringhees had got no hint of it. Hobson knew that as long as he was close upon the trail of his foe, and that Shere Ali kept at the head of a numerous band, he would not be difficult to follow; but, so soon as he dispersed his rascals, there would be great danger of losing the trail of him. It had happened so near half a dozen times to patrols who had deemed him within their grasp, and Hobson had no doubt that upon one occasion he and Charlie Devereux had stumbled upon the dacoit chief, Shere Ali had but a mere handful of men with him, and thence the ease with which the wily Indian had evaded him.

Keeping his men well in hand, Hobson plunged into the jungle and followed fast in the footprints of his flying foe. The men were all on the qui vive, with both eyes and ears alert for the slightest indication of the robbers. Every man of them knew that their ride must be fast and far to give them any hope of coming up with the dacoit chief. The immunity he had so far enjoyed from the penalties of his crimes had been so far in great measure due to the celerity of his movements. He and his followers invariably fled from the scene of their murderous exploits by forced marches, and Hobson had seen it had been too long scouring the country in pursuit of him not to know that to capture Shere Ali involved beating him at his own tactics.

(To be continued.)

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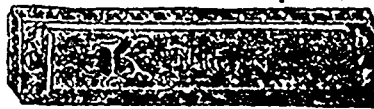
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49. Cardinal Richelieu. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. This is a masterpiece of dramatic composition.
50. Paul and Virginia. By Bernardin de St Pierre. This elegant household classic, renews its freshness and beauty with every reading. Part I.
51. Part II of above.
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68. Part III of above.
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75. The Trial of Pickwick. By Charles Dickens. This is the first time the entire story of the gallant Pickwick's adventures with the impressionable Mrs. Bardell has appeared in connected form.
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77. Part II of above.
78. Part III of above.
79. Part IV of above.
80. The Knightsbridge Mystery. By Charles Reade. One of those ingeniously devised and thrillingly told stories which immortalized Reade. The plot is a work of art.

MINING.

The returns for the month of April from the different gold districts are rather meagre. This is no more than should be expected, as most of the mills have been undergoing repairs, while many properties have been flooded with the heavy spring freshets. While the present system of allowing speculators to take up large blocks of areas, which they will not work, is permitted, we need not expect that gold mining will assume the proportions it should, or which the enormous mineral wealth of Nova Scotia warrants. It is time that the Mines Department bestirred itself, and took some decided action to forfeit all properties that have remained unworked for five or more years.

The following are the official gold returns so far received at the Mines Office for the month of April:—

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Ounces Gold.
Darr's Hill.....	Dufferin.....	780	276
Oldham.....	Oldham United.....	153	53
Waverly.....	Wallace.....	7	2
Caribou.....	Moose River G. M. Co.....	183	92
Rawdon.....	Rawdon United.....	200	46
Whitburn.....	The McGuire.....	38	17
Stormont.....	Tributers.....	150	25
Sherbrooke.....	No. 5.....	73	16

The suit of W. B. Reynolds against the Galligarr Gold Mining Co., has been decided in favor of the company.

The nature of the gold deposits in the Malaga Lake district is just evoking considerable correspondence in the *Herald* of a non-scientific character, that will hardly prove beneficial to that district. *Experience teaches that gold is where you find it.* As it is largely found at Malaga Lake, and as experienced men are laying out large sums of money to put mills and mine the many leads that have been opened up, we think Malaga Lake is in a good position to look after itself.

Prospectors are preparing to begin operations if the weather moderates.

Summary of the Mineral Productions of Canada in 1887, by Eugene Cox, Mining Engineer to the Geological Survey of Canada, etc.

Name of Product.	Quantity.	Value.
Antimony ore, tons.....	434	\$18,960
Arsenic, tons.....	30	1,200
Asbestos, ".....	4,573	227,716
Baryta, ".....	400	2,000
Brick, thousands.....	139,185	725,691
Building stone, cub. yds.....	223,835	450,931
Cement, bbls.....	69,843	81,909
Charcoal, bush.....	1,610,900	88,823
Chromic iron ore, tons.....	38	570
Coal, tons.....	2,368,041	5,208,429
Coke, ".....	32,198	86,244
Copper, lbs.....	3,260,424	342,345
Flagstone, sq. ft.....	110,925	10,811
Gold, ozs.....	62,289	1,111,877
Granite, tons.....	15,128	98,995
Graphite, ".....	300	2,400
Grindstone, ".....	2,772	35,368
Gypsum, ".....	154,008	157,277
Iron, ".....	31,527	1,087,728
Iron ore, ".....	76,330	146,197
Lead, fine, contained in ore, lbs....	204,800	9,216
Lime, bush.....	2,303,667	359,369
Limestone for iron flux, tons.....	17,171	17,500
Manganese ore, tons.....	1,630	39,672
Marble and serpentine, tons.....	242	7,845
Mica, lbs.....	22,083	29,816
Miscellaneous clay products.....		78,670
Ochre, tons.....	100	1,500
Petroleum, bbls. of 35 imp. galls...	694,411	463,641
Phosphate, tons.....	23,690	319,815
Pig iron.....	24,827	366,192
Platinum, ozs.....	1,400	5,600
Pyrites, tons.....	38,043	171,194
Salt, ".....	60,173	166,394
Sand and gravel (exports).....	180,860	30,307
Silver.....		322,602
Slate, tons.....	7,357	89,000
Soapstone, tons.....	100	800
Steel, ".....	7,326	331,199
Sulphuric acid, lbs.....	5,477,950	70,609
Superphosphates, tons.....	498	25,943
Tile, thousands.....	8,355	136,112
Whiting, bbls.....	500	600
Total.....		\$12,959,073

The Hale and Norcross property, which has resumed the payment of dividends this month, with one of fifty cents a share, aggregating \$56,000, had previously paid thirty-six dividends, aggregating \$1,598,000, the last

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MINING.—Continued.

dividend, one of \$5 per share on 8,000 shares owned by the stockholders, having been paid April 10, 1871. Its bullion yielded up to 1881 was \$8,010,768. It lies between the Savage on the north, and the Choilar-Potosi on the south. It has been assessed to the aggregate amount of \$5,086,000 up to July 7, 1887, the date of the last assessment, since which time the property has been self supporting. There was in the treasury of the company on May 1, 1888, \$104,097 77, of which \$88,000 was in gold. So, after payment of dividend there will be left \$64,000 in the treasury— together with the bullion product that may accrue during the present month.—*The Financial and Mining Record.*

A NEW CHLORIDE OF GOLD.—Some years ago a new chloride of gold was discovered by Prof. Thomson, but as his results could not be obtained by other chemists, who did not follow his method of production in its entirety, it has been assumed to be a non-proved discovery. Lately, however, by improved methods, he has completely demonstrated the existence of the new chloride. The process is very simple, and the result beyond dispute. All that is required is gold in a fine state of division, and a supply of chlorine gas. He took fifty grammes of finely divided gold, obtained by precipitation of the trichloride with sulphurous acid, and thoroughly washed, and dried to the consistency of thick mud, was placed in a weighed glass tube, a rapid stream of the gas was passed under suitable conditions, and the gold end of the tube slightly heated. Being kept afterward covered with cotton wool, enough of heat was supplied by the process of decomposition to continue that initiated from external sources, and in half an hour the action was completed. The operation was repeated several times with identical results, thus establishing the fixed character of the new salt, whose formula is Au-2 Cl-4.—*Br. Jour. Photo.*

CONDITION OF COPPER—At the present rate of exportation, it cannot be long before American manufacturers will be compelled to buy American copper from France, and the price will depend upon the good nature of the syndicate. But in England and France the competition of outside producers will, for obvious reasons, be more keenly felt than here, so that American copper manufacturers, living in one of the great copper producing countries in the world, will find themselves in the curious position of being obliged to pay the highest price in the world for copper. More than this, our Government, for the protection of American miners who are assumed to be unable to take care of themselves, now levies a duty of 2½ cents a pound upon all copper ores brought into the country, and four cents a pound upon all copper ingots. When, therefore, the syndicate gets into full operation the situation of affairs will be this: Copper will be mined in this country, exported to France, the profits of smelting a considerable portion of it will go to French labor, and then American manufacturers will have to pay four cents a pound for the privilege of importing it back. When that time comes, as it seems now almost certain it will, the last vestige of reason for keeping the tariff on copper must be considered destroyed. The Mills bill, which, if passed, would cut the ground from under many trusts and monopolies, proposes to put copper ores on the free list, and to reduce the duty on ingots two cents a pound. That would at least be more sensible than the existing law. But in view of the present state of affairs it would seem that the bill might well be amended so as to remove the tariff altogether from copper in all save its manufactured forms. Even then the syndicate could fix market prices to suit itself, since an international trust is beyond the reach of control through tariff rates. But to make copper free would at least relieve our manufacturers from the absurd burden of paying a tax for the privilege of paying a domestic commodity shipped back to us from a foreign port.—*Providence Journal.*

A WORLD-'ROUND RECORD!

THE UTMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH PRAISE WARNER'S "SAFE" CURE

Merit wins! In the past decade H. H. Warner, who was restored to health from an "incurable Kidney disease" by what is now known as Warner's Safe Cure, and made a vow that he would spread its merits before the entire world of sufferers—has seen the most STONAT. PROOFS OF THE WORLD'S NEED of a Scientific Kidney Specific. All nations recognize and welcome Warner's Safe Remedies as standards of the highest excellence because their curative effects are PERMANENT—a sure proof of power and merit. Read a few of their voluntary testimonials. They speak a varied language, but tell a common story:

FRANK STUART, 28 Free School Street, CALCUTTA, INDIA. "In 1875 was prostrated with a sudden attack of liver trouble. From '75 to '81 I had twenty of these terrible attacks. On the way to Japan, Capt. Connor of the "Genka Maru" recommended me to use Warner's Safe Cure. After using 15 bottles, I had a sound, hearty appetite, thorough enjoyment of life, thanks to which I had been a stranger for six long years."

GEORGE BICKNELL, Editor Daily Telegraph, MELBOURNE, AUST. "In 1875 was prostrated with a sudden attack of liver trouble. From '75 to '81 I had twenty of these terrible attacks. On the way to Japan, Capt. Connor of the "Genka Maru" recommended me to use Warner's Safe Cure. After using 15 bottles, I had a sound, hearty appetite, thorough enjoyment of life, thanks to which I had been a stranger for six long years."

DR. GUSTAV WEBBER, of Dessau, Duchy of Anhalt, GERMANY, May 30 1887, writes:—"For several years I have suffered with inflammation of the kidneys. Rheumatism, Pain, etc. for which I go every summer to Carlsbad, and find a little relief. To this suffering is added a Diabetes Mellitus (sugar diabetes), which appears alternately with Rheumatism. With the use of the 15th bottle of "Warner's Safe Cure I have completed my cure, for which I am greatly indebted to you. My general health has apparently been restored. I repeat with this my sincere gratitude."

REV. HENRY PLUM, M. A., Archdeacon, Townsville, NORTH QUEENSLAND, Oct. 15, 1887, writes:—"During my long bush tours I have come across many wonderful cures effected by Warner's Safe Cure. For fever, so prevalent in the bush, it seems to be a certain cure. From what I have seen on my late trip, I should never start on a journey without my pack being furnished with a bottle."

GEORGE THORNE, Ex-Premier, QUEENSLAND, at Ipswich, Sept. 2, 1887, writes:—"I have recommended Warner's Safe Cure to many people who have suffered from different complaints, and in every case a cure has been effected. Personally, I have used the medicine and derived the greatest benefit from it."

CAPT. CONNOR, of the Steamer "Geuka Meru," JAPAN. "Suffered from congestion of the kidneys and liver, losing four stone in weight, determined to give up his steamship, almost contemplated suicide. One day an American passenger recommended him to use Warner's Safe Cure. In two months use he recovered his lost strength, and was the personification of health and strength. "God bless the day I took Warner's Safe Cure," he says.

GEN. W. F. NUTHALL, of 10 Edith Terrace, Brompton, S. W., LONDON, ENGL., who contracted Kidney and Liver Disease in India, March 10th, 1887, writes that he "was at times prostrated with the most agonizing attacks from passage of travel. I was firmly of the opinion that I should never recover my health, as the long residence in India had caused so much disease of the Liver and Kidneys that I was beyond permanent help. In this depending condition I began Warner's Safe Cure, and in eight months I fully recovered my health, and to-day am in its full and perfect enjoyment, never having had a particle of trouble since my remarkable recovery. As this was five years ago, I can safely say that the wonderful cure was permanent, and is all to be attributed to Warner's Safe Cure. —Author of "Staff Corps Guide"

DR. WM. EDWARD ROBSON, Late Royal Navy ENGLAND, writes April 12, 1887, from New Echam, Stains, Eng. "My attention was first called to Warner's Safe Cure about a year ago, when a patient of mine suffering from Bright's Disease was cured by its use. Since that time I have prescribed it in hundreds of cases, with the most gratifying results, and I am willing to acknowledge and commend the value of this great remedy."

WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY, J. C., Privy Councillor of the Queen, Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES, writes February 21, 1888: "I can bear witness to the very great improvement in my health consequent on the persistent use of Warner's Safe Cure."

The Right Hon. W. B. Dalley is the most celebrated lawyer in the Colony, and the most brilliant orator and greatest statesman in Australia. He is ex-Premier of the Colony of New South Wales.

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AVLESFORD, N. S., May 5, 1888.

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Gentlemen—Your cheque for \$2000 was this day handed me by your agent, in full of claim for insurance by your Society on the life of my late husband, James B. Kirkpatrick. This receipt is given expecting that you will publish it, thereby making known to the public that just claims on your Society are promptly paid.
Yours respectfully,
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Our average pastures are not such as to warrant the opinion that they cannot be improved upon. Late in spring, stock can be turned on them, and they will usually furnish good to fair pasture for about two months, then they begin to dry up. For the rest of the season, ordinarily they give but indifferent returns. When the fall rains set in they refresh the growth and there may be some good feed produced during the fall.

It is the custom in many parts of the Province to use woodland and waste for pasture. As a rule this is objectionable. There may be exceptions, but they are few, where such a practice pays. Generally it means a loss. There are a number of factors making up this loss.

One of these is: That often young cattle are turned on to these pastures in none too good a condition in the spring. pass the entire summer without the owners scarcely having seen them, and return to the barn when "snow flies," as poor, or poorer, than when turned out in the spring. In this case, the loss consists not only of a whole summer's growth, but the animal has been stunted. If the animal had simply stood still in its growth, it would have required more food to produce a pound of flesh at the end of the year than at the beginning. As it is, however, the animal is stunted, and will not be able to make even as much use of the food as this.

Then there is the loss of growth of the animal. Raising cattle is not such a very profitable business, that we can afford to ignore the loss of one season's growth.

For milk cows this practice is still more reprehensible. In order to give her full quota of milk the cow should have plenty of rich food within easy access. This is not presented by the woodland pasture. If, in order to avoid this, she is given extra food as she should be, the manure from this food is practically wasted.

Two remedies present themselves. The first is good or permanent pasture; the second is SOILING.

The advantages of soiling are many. Of course the farmer who takes it up for the first time will find that he can learn something about it by experience; still, even the beginner, if he uses a fair amount of common sense, will be reasonably rewarded.

There can be no doubt that, as a rule, more food per acre is produced in this way than for pasture. This hardly needs arguing, as will appear later in this article. None of the food is wasted by being trampled on, nor is any lost on account of the droppings, or where the cattle stand or lie. A great saving is accomplished with the manure. This is, in pastures scattered unevenly, often in places where it will be wasted; not so in soiling, it may all be saved. At times the pasture is liable to dry up, and the stock be short of food, but, with a properly arranged succession of crops in soiling this can never occur. The cattle are kept quiet, and not allowed to waste their food running around, which they must do in pasture in order to get their food. Then they chase one another, and are out where the flies trouble them, and exposed to the hot sun. All of these act to weaken the cow and draw upon the food that would otherwise go to make milk or beef. By this system no fencing is required on the farm, except a small run where they may get exercise.

Usually it does not pay to soil stock unless there are from twelve to fifteen head. Still, there may be cases where it would pay with less. The amount of land required depends upon its fertility, but with good land, properly tilled, an acre per head of stock over one year old would be all that would be required in unfavorable seasons. It is necessary to base all calculations on the assumption that the season will be unfavorable, otherwise in such a season one would be short of fodder. In favorable seasons there will always be a great deal more than required, but it may be saved for winter feeding.

The object to be aimed at in selecting and sowing the crops for soiling is to provide a continuous succession of green crops, following one another in such a manner that when one is consumed the next will be ready. Again, that they shall be cut when they will give the most food in the most assimilable condition. To accomplish this, each particular farmer must exercise judgment. I can only point out the general plan.

The following crops, which grow in all parts of the Province may be used, although the farmer is by no means restricted to them: grass, rye, oats, peas, sweet and evergreen corn. I take these as an example.

This calculation is based on the assumption that there are twenty head to be fed, and the soil is only fairly good. Then the farmer should pursue the following course:—The fall previous to the season during which he intends to soil his stock, he should prepare manure, and sow two acres of rye the first part of September, and two weeks after two more should be sown to rye also. Then four acres should be prepared for the next spring. Early in the spring, even while the snow is on, oats may be sown on two acres of this prepared land, and as soon as the land can be worked, the next two acres should be sown to oats. Every ten days after this, two acres of oats and peas mixed should be sown for three sowings, if the spring was late, or four sowings if it was early. During this time, as early as the season will admit, two acres each of early sweet and evergreen corn should be sown, and this should be repeated every ten days for three times. This might be tabulated thus:—September 1st, two acres rye; Sept 15th, two acres rye; April 10th, two acres oats; April 24th, two acres oats; May 4th, two acres oats and peas; May 14th, two acres oats and peas; May 14th, two acres early sweet corn; May 14th, two acres evergreen or early field corn; May 24th; same as May 14th; June 3rd same as May 14th; June 13th, same as May 14th, except the oats and peas. Of course, these dates given here are purely arbitrary, and only show the relative dates of sowing. In most localities they will be found too early.

A succession of crops are here arranged to last throughout the spring, summer and fall. On account of varying weather or irregularity of growth there may be short gaps between the time one of these is ready to feed, or the time another is consumed. This can be provided for by having two acres of grass, which may be cut at these times. It should be kept cut often enough to be always green.

The rye, oats and peas should each be cut and fed from the time the heads appear until in blossom; then the remainder of that sowing should be cut and cured for fodder. The corn may be cut and fed until the kernels are fully in milk, when it too must be cut and shocked. These shocks are to be fed late in the fall, after other green food is killed by frost. All the corn must be cut and shocked before the frost kills it. In the above table the crops would be fed in the order sown, except that all the early sweet corn would have been fed before commencing on the evergreen. If the corn is shocked in large shocks, it is as green to feed, and may be fed through the fall long after all green fodder is dead.

The fodder should be cut twenty-four hours before being fed. In order to avoid having to cut every day, two or three days' feed may be cut at one time.

It will not do to feed this green food alone. The stock must have some grain or concentrated food to supplement this, as these green foods are very full of water, and not complete rations in themselves.

On the land used for rye, oats and peas or corn may be sown after the rye has been taken off. Thus only eighteen acres would be used besides the two for grass, making twenty in all.

THE PREPARATION OF THE SOIL FOR CROPS.

Into the preparation of the soil for crops, two important considerations enter. One is, that the farmer has the proper tools, and the other is that he knows how to use them. Proper tools are very important, for without them, he can only do a passable job at best. In some cases he cannot do even that. Often times, when he has the tools, his lack of knowledge of their use renders them practically useless to him. It is not, however, intended to discuss implements in this article, but the principles underlying the preparation of the soil.

The first thing to do is, to remove all sticks, stumps and stones. This is applicable to many fields of so-called cleared land. Sticks and stumps, if fast, may be lifted with a charge of dynamite. The same is true of large stones, or these may be buried by digging a large hole quite deep close beside them, rolling them in it and covering them. Small stones should be picked both before and after plowing, the plowman taking care to leave all large enough to pick on top of the plowed ground. Too often a large stone or stump encumbers valuable land, not only being unsightly, but also causing a loss, which could be removed without much trouble.

Of course, if the land needs draining, it must be done. It is then ready for tillage. To be ready for seeding, it should be in a fine slightly granular condition. This cannot be attained if the soil was plowed too wet the previous season. No amount of work can put it back where it was before being injured. It may be made to appear all right, but as soon as it has dried after the first good rain has fallen on it, it will show that it was not all right after all.

The granules of the soil should be soft and easily crumbled, readily accessible to moisture. It is on them the plant's rootlets feed. These rootlets can only penetrate where moisture can.

The entire aim of the farmer should be to make the soil a fit receptacle for these roots. When it is remembered how delicate and tender they are, it is evident that a thorough preparation of the soil is necessary if they are to live in it. Nor should it be forgotten that it is only through the mechanism of the roots that the plant extracts its food from the soil.

NOTES.

Although the spring was late in most parts of the Province, it has been so favorable since it commenced that crops will soon recover the lost time.

Undoubtedly the grange has been of great benefit to the farmers of Nova Scotia. Every grange is just what the members have a mind to make it. If they love their work, and try to improve and study it, they will make their meetings interesting and instructive, but if they do not, their meetings will soon lose interest, and that grange will be deserving the criticism of its enemies.

It pays to destroy the weeds when they are small, for, if left until they grow, they take food from the soil, besides being much harder to kill.

A farmers' institute was organized at Truro last winter. The object of these institutes is to get the farmers out to public meetings, where they may discuss agricultural topics and assist one another with friendly advice and counsel; and by the aid of their organization induce able men who would not be likely otherwise to lecture to them.

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

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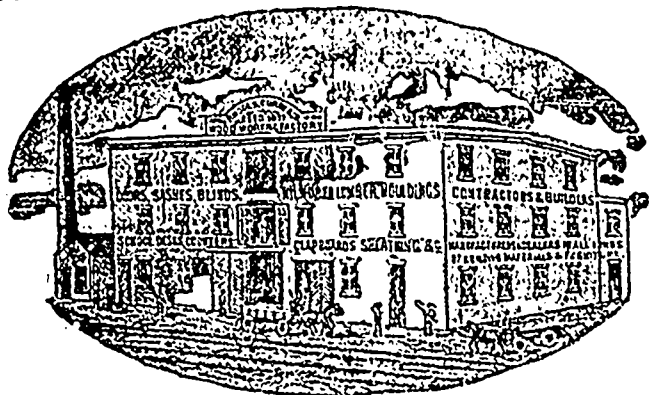
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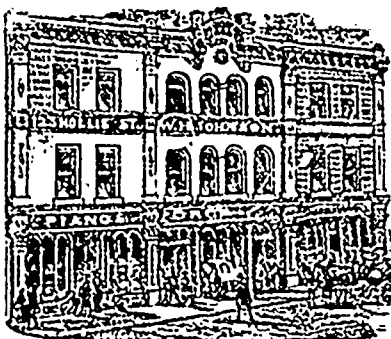
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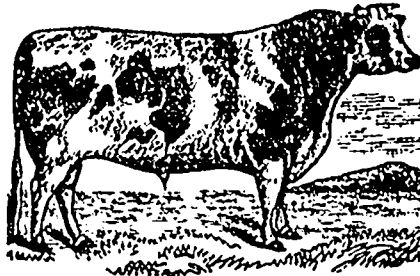
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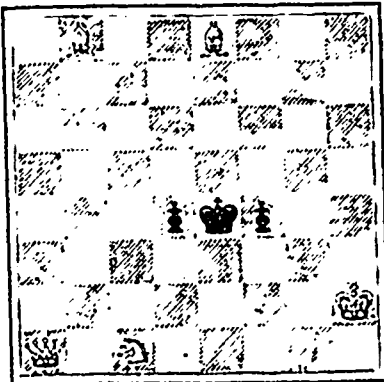
Quebec Chronicle.—Your issues of March 22nd, April 26th, 3rd and 10th inst., have not yet been received.

Toronto Week.—Issues of 5th and 26th ult., and 20th inst., have not yet been received.

Solution to Problem 29.—Q to K sq., etc.

(Correct solutions received from Rev. C. E. Willets, L. M. Wilkins, H. B. Stairs, Mrs. H. Moseley, W. J. Calder, C. Cutbill, Dr. E. S. Creed, J. W. Wallace, and F. W. Beckman.)

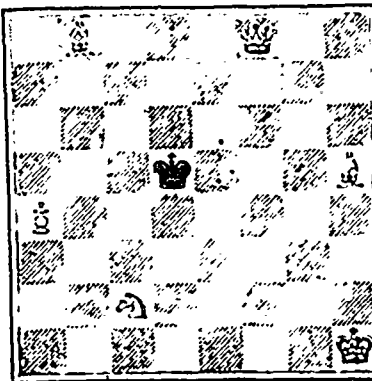
PROBLEM No. 32. From "Chess Fruits." BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in 2 moves.

PROBLEM No. 33. From "Chess Souvenirs." BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in 2 moves.

Game played recently at the Liverpool Club.—From Liverpool Courier.

MUZIO-CASCIO GAMBIT.

- WHITE. O. Lucovich. 1 P to K4, 2 P to KB4, 3 Kt to KB3, 4 B to B4, 5 Castles (b), 6 Q takes P, 7 P to QB3 (c), 8 P to Q4, 9 P to K5, 10 Kt to Q2, 11 Kt to K4, 12 Kt to B6 (ch), 13 B to Q3, 14 Q to R5, 15 R takes P (i), 16 Q takes B (ch), 17 R to R4 (ch), 18 B to R6 Mate.

(a) The attack in the Muzio is so

powerful that it is scarcely advisable for any but a first-class player to undertake the defence. It would be better to play 4 B to Kt3, which would leave black a pawn ahead, and a theoretically won game.

(b) Steinitz frequently, even in tournament play, used here to play 5 Kt to K5, a position known as the Salvio or Cochrane Gambit, according as black answers 5 Kt to KR3 or 5 P to B6. The books agree in considering the game as lost for white—only, unfortunately for them, Steinitz generally won. The text move initiates the strongest attack, 5 P to Q4 and 5 Kt to B3 ranking next, while 5 B takes P (ch) is very weak.

(c) The book move is 7 P to K5, the variations consequent upon which have been well thrashed out by L. Paulsen and Zukertort, the result being in black's favor. We do not care much for the text, but we believe 7 P to Q3, known as the Russian attack, will require considerable attention from future analysis. The following is the continuation.—7 P to Q3; B to R3, 8 B takes P; B takes B, 9 Q takes B; Q takes Q, 10 R takes Q, etc., and black's KBP cannot be saved. White, moreover, will soon play Kt to B3, and bring both rooks to bear.

(d) Black's defence has too much "routine" about it. The correct move is 7 Kt to QB3; and if 8 P to Q4, then 8 Kt takes P.

(e) If 9 Q to B3, the answer might be 10 Q to R5; Q takes B, 11 Q takes B, etc.

(f) If 10 Castles, 11 Kt to K4; B to Kt2, 12 B to Q3; Q to K3, 13 Kt to R6 (ch); B takes Kt, 14 Q to R5; R to K, 15 Q takes P (ch); K to B, 16 P takes B; Q takes P, 17 B takes P and wins, is a likely variation.

(g) This is bad, but there is nothing better, unless it is 11 Kt to Kt3. He could never survive white's attack if he ventured 11 Castles.

(h) 13 Q to Kt4 might have delayed the fatal Q to R5, although white could then have won the exchange and a pawn by 14 Kt takes P (ch), etc.

(i) A remarkably fine move, and followed up in capital style. If black replies 15 B takes R, then 16 B takes B; P to KR3 (the only move), 17 Kt to K8 (ch); K moves, 18 Kt takes P, Q to QB3, 19 P to K6, and wins.

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

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

We will give the solution of Problem 11 in our next issue.

SOLUTIONS.

- PROBLEM 23.—Solved by Mrs. H. Moseley and F. Foshay. Position:—Black men—2, 5, 10; 11, 12, k. 27; white men—13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25; black to play and win. 27—24 11—16 8—11 1—16 (1)18 14 20 11(2)25 21 21 17 24—15 15—8 2—6 16—20 14 7 7 3 17 14 b. wins. (1)25 22 (3)14 7 13 9 9 6 24—15 2—11 11—16 8—3 18 14 17 14 20 11 black 11—16 16—19 15—8 wins.

- (2) 3 7 3 8(4) 8 12 21 17 11—16 16 19 15—11 24—28 7 3 25 21 17 14 black 12—16 2—6 19—24 wins. (3)20 11 16—8 14 7 2—11 black wins. (4)17 14 8 11 16 19 23 18 15—18 19—23 26—30 25—21 21 17 11 16 19 23 black 18—9 23—26 30—25 wins.

PROBLEM 24.—Solved by F. Foshay. Position.—Black men—1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17, 20; white men—10, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32; white to play and win. In giving this solution we also give the beginning of the game, so that our readers may see how the position was reached:

GAME VIII. "Bristol."

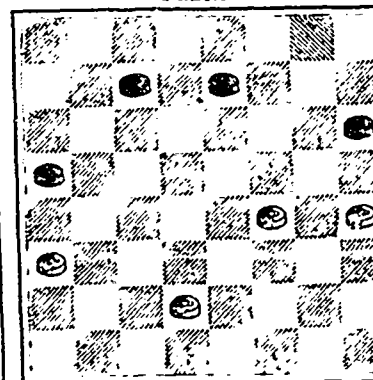
- 11—16 11—16 9—13 7—14 24 19 25 21 25 27 9 6 8—11 6—9 7—11 1—10 28 24 23 18 19 15 18 9 16—20 16—23 12—16 5—14 22 17 26 19 15 10 23 18 9—13 4—8 (a) 2—7 14—23 17 14 29 25 27 23 21 7 10—17 13—17 20—27 3—10 21 14 31 26 14 9 26 3

(a) This creates the position that forms Problem 24, and the following moves constitute the solution.

We take both of our Problems below from the American Checker Review, Chicago, Ills.

PROBLEM 27.

By James P. Reed, Champion Blind-fold player of America.

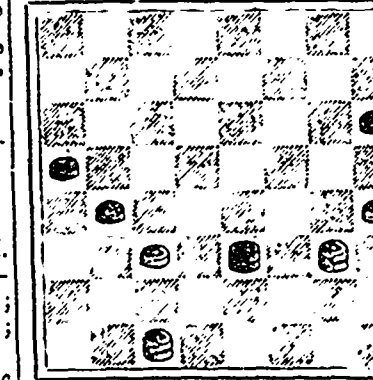


WHITE.

Black to play and draw.

PROBLEM 28.

By Isaiah Barber, Cambridgeport, Mass.



WHITE.

White to move and win.

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