

THE WEEK:

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The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

GENERAL STRANGE'S skirmish with Big Bear's forces fixed the location of the only Indians at all formidable who still remained on the war-path. After three hours intermittent fighting, the General had but two men wounded, and none killed. The Indians had taken up a position naturally strong, in which they were protected by hills, rocks and ravines. On receipt of the news General Middleton lost no time in setting out with seven hundred men to attack Big Bear's position. On this expedition he goes, let us hope, to finish the work of the campaign. Big Bear, who is fighting with a rope round his neck, will probably be inspired with the desperation of a man beyond the reach of hope. Among the troops who accompany General Middleton on this expedition, the Queen's Own, much to their disappointment, do not find a place. Garrison duty must meanwhile be done at Battleford, and the Queen's Own, having learned all about the surroundings, can do this duty with advantage. Big Bear may make a strong resistance, but his defeat, which must end in capture or flight, before many days pass, is certain.

THOUGH the last shot has yet to be fired in the North-West, it is not too early to express the gratitude which we all feel to be due to General Middleton. It is the more necessary to pay him this tribute because his services have not been of the most obvious kind nor such as are likely to bring him, as a General of the British Army, any great meed of professional reputation. The scale on which he has acted was small and the foeman was hardly worthy of his steel. Yet the difficulty of his undertaking and the risk of miscarriage under the circumstances were great. Had he commanded regulars, whose blood there would have been no special occasion to

spare, he would probably have made short work of Riel's rifle-pits. But his troops were volunteers, of whose blood, though they might be a living mass of impetuous valour, he was bound, as he rightly conceived, to be very chary. Every hair of their heads was numbered by the community, and even a private among them when shot, instead of being "shovelled into a trench" is carried to his home and buried with a pomp exceeding that of a general officer's funeral. General Middleton has managed to make his omelet, to the inexpressible relief of all of us, without breaking the eggs; at least he has broken as few of them as possible. He has also succeeded, by a manner rare among the officers of an aristocratic army, in winning the hearts, as well as the confidence of a citizen soldiery. We were unfortunate in having this work to be done, but we have been fortunate in having General Middleton to do it.

THE Half-breed Rebellion received its death-blow in the bayonet charge at Batoche, and of the Indian disturbance which grew out of it the life is nearly spent. It has been a calamitous affair, costing not a little life, wrecking a number of homes and a quantity of property, sowing, as all civil strife does, the seeds of future ill-will, throwing back the North-West, and entailing upon the country, at a time when our finances are anything but prosperous, an expenditure which will probably not fall short of three millions. While the country is in peril, criticism of those who are at the head of the nation is out of place: we must either change the Government or support it. But the peril over, the nation is entitled to ask, and it will ask, who was to blame. The Minister of the Interior protests that nobody on the side of the Government was to blame. That his intentions and those of his colleagues at Ottawa were as good as those of a partisan administration can be there is no reason to doubt: it is about the conduct of their subordinates that misgivings are felt and inquiry will be demanded. The promptness with which Half-breed Claims are now being settled and scrip is being served out surely indicates that there had been some delay of justice before. The Minister of the Interior avers that no complaints had been preferred at Ottawa. The answer to this is that Half-breeds, and still more Indians, have a very dim idea of constitutional processes and of legal appeals to a remote tribunal. They require to have justice done them by an authority on the spot. What were the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territories and his fellow-officials in the North-West about? Did no monitory sounds of the angry agitation among the Half-breeds reach their ears? Did not warnings of danger come from any other quarter? If they had reason for apprehension, why did they not take measures at once either to satisfy the Half-breeds or, if they deemed concession of the demands out of the question, to put the Government on its guard and prepare themselves for the prompt suppression of an outbreak? The answer probably is that they were politicians, and had more important things to think of than administrative duties and the security of their Province: perhaps some of them were also a good deal taken up with their private speculations in land. If so, it is an old story. The duty of an Opposition, however, in such a case, is to insist on inquiry, and the country will certainly second the demands.

THE armed insurrection we may reasonably hope will soon be in its grave. But out of that grave will evidently rise again the political insurrection of the Farmer's Union. It is idle to talk of this movement as a mere party machination of the Grits: party very likely finds its way into this as it does into everything else; but the discontent is genuine, extensive and well founded. This may be affirmed without accusing the administration at Ottawa or any member of it of any wrong intentions or want of right intentions towards the settlers. The policy of a single railway with monopoly clauses inevitably involved a sacrifice of the railway interests of the North-West. For this Imperialist aspirations have to answer; but otherwise the fault has been in the political system. A distant dependency under a party Government is sure to fare ill; and this is what the North-West has virtually been. It has enjoyed neither the advantages of a vigorous autocracy nor those of self-government. In a vigorous autocracy, when a community is in the first stage of its existence, and its political gristle has not yet hardened into bone, there is a good deal to be said,

The rule of a man of sense and honour, like Prevost or Simcoe, responsible to authority at home, and checked by the free expression of opinion on the spot, is probably about as good a rule as the early settlers can have. But the choice lies between this and self-government, into a full measure of which the sooner the North-West enters the better for all concerned. The attempt to rule that vast region, charged as it is with the interests of prospective myriads, as a dependency and to use its administrative appointments as a party patronage fund, must soon come to an end; and the only question is whether its termination shall be amicable or violent. Representation in Parliament will have soon to be conceded to the Territories, the unfortunate sparseness of their population notwithstanding. The present representation of Manitoba would be wholly inadequate as a guardian of the special interests of the whole North-West even if it had retained its independence. As a matter of fact it has been almost entirely captured and gone into the pocket of the Minister. This is partly the misfortune of the people of Manitoba, partly it is their fault or at least the consequence of their error. It is difficult, no doubt in a new community, amidst unsettlement and booms, to light on men who are beyond the reach of temptation: but unless such men can be found representation is worse than a farce.

IN answer to an inquiry in the House of Commons, the Government replied that the expense of defraying the cost of sending home the bodies of volunteers who fell in battle would be borne by the public Treasury. Apart altogether from the question of expense, the sending of the bodies home for burial is a questionable policy. The soldier's way is to bury the dead on the field of battle, and it is the better way. The desire of friends to see the dead bodies of their relatives can be gratified only at the expense of destroying the illusion which it would be more pleasant to preserve, and the end is disappointment. It would be better if we all became resigned to the idea of having the dead buried where they fall. It is on the field of battle that they find their most honoured graves.

WHEN Riel is put on his trial a strong effort is likely to be made to prove that he is insane. A letter from a high dignitary (*une personne haut placée*) in the North-West, whose name has not been given, describes him as having been insane ever since he was confined in the Beauport Asylum. He declared himself the envoy of God whose mission was to save his people, and the fact is recalled that he recently signed his name as "Louis David Riel," believing himself to be King David. He spoke in parables and had recourse to mystic demonstrations by which the Métis were deluded. He set the savages against the priests, describing them as their worst enemies: the massacre of the Oblates followed. When he received General Middleton's proclamation, inviting the Métis to return to their homes, Riel replied: "Bring to me Dewdney, Lawrence, Clarke and Archbishop Taché, and I will cease hostilities." These statements are made to prove that Riel has been insane since the insurrection broke out. That he has been insane ever since he was in Beauport Asylum is very doubtful. Against this assumption is the fact that when he was brought back a year ago from Montana to champion the cause of the Half-breeds, he had been in a lay college kept by the Jesuits where he had been employed as teacher. The reality of his insanity, when he was in Beauport Asylum, will probably be established beyond doubt. When there he wrote, under inspiration of the Deity, as he pretended, prophecies in which he foretold the fate of the different nations, including France, Germany, Austria, Russia and England. There can be no doubt, if the document be genuine, that when this prophecy was composed Riel was a maniac, and that religion had a foremost place in his disordered mind. That this mania should have a tendency to reappear is probable, almost certain; but that he is now insane is not the general opinion of those who have recently come into contact with him. When he came back to Canada last year, he spoke rationally and even moderately, going so far as to say that he did not desire uselessly to embarrass the Government. For and against his alleged insanity much evidence will probably be produced. At present, it looks as if it would be hard to prove that he was insane from the time of the encounter at Duck Lake to the bayonet charge which cleared the rifle pits of Batoche and ended his career as insurgent leader.

A MEASURE of gratitude is due to any one who has the courage to breast the tide of popular feeling when he thinks that it is hurrying the nation to the commission of injustice, above all when he believes that the multitude is clamouring for innocent blood. Mr. Phillips Thompson is therefore to be commended for publishing his protest against the execution of Riel, even though the language in which his letter to the *World* is couched may not be of the kind best calculated to allay the wrath of the people. But we submit that he hardly states correctly the question

between Riel and the community. The people demand, not that Riel shall be put to death, but that he shall be brought to trial before a trustworthy tribunal, and that, if he is found guilty, political or ecclesiastical intervention shall not be allowed to snatch him, as it did before, from the penalty which he has deserved and which every one else found guilty of the same crime would undergo. That there is reason to apprehend political or ecclesiastical intervention Mr. Thompson himself admits when he rejoices that the French Canadians have a controlling influence in our affairs. Riel's case is essentially different from that of the other Half-breeds, who there is reason to believe had, or at least fully believed themselves to have, grievances for which they could not obtain redress, and who have paid the penalty of their insurrection, some by the loss of their lives, others by the wreck of their homesteads. But Riel was not an ill-used or neglected claimant of land. He was domiciled in the United States, and came over as an incendiary, for the purpose of getting up a rebellion. He had already got up one rebellion, had committed what the mass of the community regarded as the dastardly murder of a loyal citizen, and had been allowed to escape unpunished. Nor did he merely kindle rebellion among the Half-breeds. He did what was far worse: he scattered firebrands among the Indians, who, as no man knew better than he, were accustomed, when on the war-path, to perpetrate the most devilish atrocities on men, women and children who fell into their hands. The reason and the right feeling of mankind have drawn, it is true, a distinction between political offences committed in the pursuit, however mistaken, of the public good and offences committed for a mercenary or personal object, though those who take the sword ought to be prepared to perish by the sword when they are vanquished. But if the mere name of a political insurgent, which may be assumed by any brigand, or by any one who prefers incendiarism to honest trades, is to act as a charter, not only for disturbing at will the peace of the community, but for every sort of outrage, for blowing us up by the score or setting Indians to scalp and torture us, our normal condition is likely to be civil war. Once more, the nation desires that Riel shall have a fair trial; it wants justice and not blood; but it is resolved, if we rightly understand its attitude, that justice shall not be overborne by any "controlling influence" and that there shall be no repetition of a criminal farce.

TORONTO has been enjoying almost a cataract of American eloquence. Among other orators the Hon. John F. Finch, of Nebraska, has been delivering himself of a lengthy argument against paying any compensation to Canadian liquor-sellers for the abolition of their trade. We hope we are not guilty of any inhospitality or discourtesy toward this distinguished stranger in asking why he, as a foreigner, should feel called upon to interfere in a question of right between our Government and its citizens? He tells us that the case of Canada is quite different from that of the United States. In the United States, he says, the Constitution provides that private property shall not be taken without just compensation, but in Canada there is no such provision; here Parliament is absolute, and may despoil the citizen under legislative forms to any extent that it pleases. We beg leave to assure the Hon. John Finch that though the rules of natural justice may not be formally set out in the British North America Act, or in the Canadian Statute Book, they are not the less written on Canadian consciences, and that, if he thinks that in crossing the Line he has left behind all restraints on his philanthropic propensities, he never was more mistaken in his life. Of his invectives against those engaged in the liquor trade we can only say that, if a Christian church was the suitable theatre for their delivery, Christian churches in general, and those belonging to the communion of John Wesley in particular, must have undergone a great change of destination. Suppose the policy of the State requires that the calling of these men should be suppressed, and they should be deprived of their livelihood, is that a reason for overwhelming them with foul abuse, imputing to them crimes which are mere figments of a malignant fancy, and hunting them down like beasts? Is it not rather a reason for treating them, at all events, with scrupulous equity, if not for showing them some consideration and sympathy? Mr. Finch admits that not very long ago, and at the time when many of these men entered the trade, it was deemed by all persons, including clergymen, perfectly moral; and in order to make out that the liquor-sellers are nevertheless fit subjects of penal treatment, he affects to believe that they have broken faith with the community which, when it licensed them, was led to suppose that their trade would promote happiness and virtue. Does he mean to say that the community did not know that intoxicating liquors would intoxicate? The liquor-sellers have obeyed the laws passed from time to time for the regulation of their traffic. What more could they do? It is difficult to believe that any person in that congregation not beside

himself with party feeling can have thought that Messrs. George and William Gooderham, Mr. O'Keefe and Mr. Quetton St. George were with truth and reason described as men who "deliberately and maliciously buried their arms to the elbows in the blood of the best interests of a free people," and as miscreants "whose crimes have not been committed in moments of passion, but after coolly and deliberately figuring the profits to come from such ruin, and paying for the privilege of carrying forward such work"? Whom did they pay? The State, which by receiving the license fee expressly sanctioned their business and pronounced it moral. What does the Methodist Church itself say about the benefactions which it is receiving from Mr. Gooderham? Are these the products of social crime and tainted with human blood? There are men in the trade as respectable, as upright, as incapable of deliberate or wilful crime against society as Mr. Finch himself. There are some black sheep, and experience shows that the number will be increased tenfold if Mr. Finch's policy of Prohibition is adopted; but are there not also some black sheep in Mr. Finch's trade, which we presume is that of a politician? The motive for bringing against the manufacturers and sellers of liquor these charges, which no sane being even on a party platform can believe, is that, in order to get rid of the inconvenient claim to compensation, it is necessary to harden the heart and deaden the conscience of the public. A Christian Church, we repeat, is hardly the proper scene for these orgies of uncharitable invective. We will add that sins of malice are worse than sins of sense; bad as drunkenness is, it is not so bad as malignity and injustice.

The Scott Act people, it appears, are circulating as a campaign document a sermon by Canon Farrar on the evils of drink. Canon Farrar is to say the least highly rhetorical, and even as regards England his language is somewhat Apocalyptic. After all, as has been said before, these beer-drinking English are not a race of valetudinarians and imbeciles: they are both in body and mind about the most energetic of all races, their greatness is the envy of other nations, and they happen to be remarkably long-lived. But when will people understand that Canada is not England, and that language which may be applicable to one is totally inapplicable to the other. In England not only are the natural habits of the people less temperate than those of our people, but the Licensed Victuallers are an organization of enormous wealth and overweening power, pushing its branches almost by force into every corner of the country: not waiting for a demand, but thrusting its beer on the people and exerting in aid of its commercial objects a political influence of the most formidable and tyrannical kind. We have nothing like this organization of evil here, and those who transfer Canon Farrar's dismal descriptions from his own country to ours might almost as well transfer to our sanitary condition a description of that of New Orleans at the time of the yellow fever. The people of Canada, we repeat, are on the whole temperate and have been giving during the last half-century the most satisfactory proofs of their power of self-reform. Of the cases of drunkenness brought before our police courts, the majority belong, we believe, to an immigrant nationality, and are those of people not yet assimilated to Canadian habits. But Canon Farrar, denunciatory as he is, does not go anything like the length of the promoters of the Scott Act. He positively repudiates the doctrine that total abstinence is a duty; he admits that there are "millions of wise and virtuous men" who are not total abstainers; and he belongs to the Church of England Temperance Association, of which temperance, not abstinence, is the aim. The clergy of the Church of England as a rule are highly educated, and their high education preserves them from fanaticism and extravagance.

THERE was a double slip of the pen in our last number. It is in the *Nineteenth Century*, not in the *Fortnightly*, that Sir H., not Sir W., Thompson states his conviction that more mischief accrues to health from erroneous habits in eating than from alcohol, and intimates his impression that a similar comparison might be made between the respective influences of those agencies in regard to moral evil also. We are not sorry to be recalled to this weighty deliverance even by the necessity of correcting a mistake. Temperance is a thorough-going principle. It prescribes not merely a spasmodic and isolated abstinence in regard to one particular article of diet, but strict moderation in regard to all. Gluttony is just as strongly condemned by Christianity as drunkenness: excess in tea, which debilitates and unnerves, is just as wicked as excess in wine. But the result of forced asceticism almost always is an outbreak of sensuality in some other direction. Mahomet is being lauded by Prohibitionists for having forbidden his followers to drink wine, though the history of Caliphs and Sultans shows that his precept has, even by the Commanders of the Faithful, been most imperfectly observed. But if Mahomet forbade his followers to drink

wine, he indemnified their sensual passions by abundant license of another kind, to say nothing of the scope which he afforded to their lust of war. A philosophic writer whose work is before us seems to think that man might have remained for ever in the Paradisiacal state had it not been for two fatal inventions, fermented liquors and cookery, the first of which has led to drinking and the second to feasting. This view is at all events comprehensive, and there is more reason in it than in the view which ascribes all the ills of mortality, bodily and mental, to errors in liquid diet alone.

AMONG the other problems of this restless and sceptical age, the Sunday Question is ever and anon becoming the subject of debate. Here it has just been brought up by the controversy about Sunday newspapers. It is one of exceeding and multiform difficulty as well as of the highest importance. Our own sympathies are strongly with those who desire to preserve to humanity, choked with worldly cares and worn with toil, a day of spiritual life and a day of rest. Two things, however, are clear. One is that it is impossible to stand any longer on the old Puritan, or as it is called Sabbatarian, platform. The day is not the same, nor is there any shadow of evidence for the theory that by Christ's ordinance the Jewish observance of the Seventh Day was transferred to the First, while the reason given in the Commandment for the consideration of the Seventh Day is manifestly addressed to the conceptions of primitive man. The other thing is that legislation must not lose its touch of the real convictions and tendencies of the great body of the people. Its practical scope is limited to the repression of individual self-will or cupidity which sets itself against the general conviction, as when a single storekeeper persists, in defiance of the wishes of the trade to which he belongs, in keeping open his store and thus forcing his fellows under penalty of loss of custom to do the same. Spiritual life cannot be constrained; the utmost that can be done is to say that the opportunity for it shall not be withheld from anyone, and that nobody shall be prevented on a Sunday morning from worshipping God. The remainder of the day people must be allowed to give to rest, and there is no use in insisting that their rest shall be mere stagnation and dulness, which, instead of having a religious tendency, have often the very reverse, even if they do not impel to vicious excitements. Innocent and quiet enjoyment must be sanctioned, and the only question is how it can be afforded to the mass with as little sacrifice as possible on anybody's part of the day of rest. Sunday excursions, unfortunately, do involve some sacrifice of the day of rest on the part of those employed on the railroads and steamboats. Yet to escape from the street into the fields and the fresh air on a Sunday afternoon in summer is not only the greatest of enjoyments but a vital necessity to the languid inhabitants of the city; and we cannot help receiving with satisfaction the assurance that the local legislation of last session will not practically interfere much with the Sunday excursions of the citizens of Toronto. Country members of the Legislature, who are always breathing fresh air and enjoying nature are not very fair judges of this subject. Their Puritan legislation is at the cost of others. Let no boat start before two o'clock, so that nobody may be prevented from attending Church. This, if not a wholly satisfactory platform, is one on which for the present we can stand.

THE Russian war-cloud has evidently rolled away, though a few angry drops fall from its skirts, and the roll of its receding thunder is still heard. Every rational being must surely welcome this result, and feel that the British Government took the right course in preparing with spirit for war, and at the same time doing its utmost by patient negotiation to preserve peace. Spirited preparation for war was unquestionably necessary in order to keep under control the military party at St. Petersburg, the tendencies of which could not be mistaken, and to restore in the Russian Councils the ascendancy of wisdom represented by statesmen like De Giers and of the Czar's personal wishes, which were understood to be in favour of peace. Such a front has been made and so united a determination has been shown by all the members of the Empire, including the Indian feudatories, to repel aggression, that the fire-eaters of St. Petersburg will probably be less impetuous for the future, and thus the millions spent on preparation will not have been wasted. Difficult questions are too likely again to arise with regard to the Afghan frontier and the relations of both Empires with Afghanistan, not only because Russian commanders are restless and ambitious, but because the Afghans are unsettled, turbulent, predatory, apt to give provocation to their neighbours, and very intriguing at the same time. A common frontier for the two Empires would probably be safer than such a neutral zone, but this can be attained only by the most desperate of operations, the partition of Afghanistan. Yet there is no reason why this feud between England and Russia should not pass away and be succeeded by a renewal of the friendship which

once united them, if England will only lay aside the notion that Russia is the incarnation of all evil and bring herself to view generously or even equitably her not unreasonable desire of a great and growing empire for access to an open sea. It is natural that freemen, as the English are, should hate despotism, without carefully considering whether it is the despotism of a usurper or that of a legitimate sovereign and rendered necessary by the present circumstances of a half-civilized and widely scattered population. It is natural perhaps that they should drink with eager ear the stories of Stepniak about Russian dungeons, though the Tartar is no more voracious in the dungeon than in the official bureau, and it is impossible to say how much of these hideous revelations is truth and how much is fiction. But misgovernment in a foreign nation is not a sufficient cause of war; nor is it likely to be cured, but rather to be aggravated, by increasing the ascendancy of the military spirit which is also that of arbitrary rule. The Jingoism of course are angry at missing an opportunity of going to the front and pouring out their hot blood in a crusade. The continental press is angry because, as the London *Spectator* too truly says, most continental journals are owned or edited by Jews. But those who are neither Jingoism nor Jews will rejoice that without loss of national honour, desertion of principle, or tame submission to the wrong-doer, a great calamity has been averted from England, the Empire and mankind.

It seems the Cable misinformed us about Lord Randolph Churchill's silly and offensive letter. The letter was directed not against Mr. Gladstone but against Lord Granville, who had incurred Lord Randolph's ire by a speech on the Russian question in the House of Lords. The confusion, however, is easily explained. The noble writer of the letter had about the same time brought on himself almost equal reprobation by a grossly personal attack on Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons. After quoting a description of Redschid Pasha as "a little, ferocious-looking, shrivelled, care-worn man, with a brow covered with wrinkles, and a countenance clouded with anxiety and thought," and as one who had been guilty of the blood of thousands "while he protested that the peace of the world was his only object and the happiness of mankind his only wish," Lord Randolph turned to the Treasury Bench and declared that there, in the person of the Prime Minister, sat the resuscitated Redschid Pasha. A man who said such a thing in a drawing-room would be kicked out of it, and a man who says it anywhere must be devoid of sense as well as of good manners. By his lordship's admirers it is pretended that these sallies are not outbursts of passion but strokes of deliberate policy, intended to attract public attention, and that they are imitations of the early manner of Disraeli. Supposing this whimsical theory to be true, how can a man prove his want of original genius more decisively than by servile and unseasonable imitation? In the political situation of England nothing is more dangerous and deplorable than the absence of a great Conservative leader to make that party perform its proper function in the State; and that the want may be speedily supplied must be the wish of every rational and patriotic Liberal almost as much as of the Conservatives themselves. But the idea that Lord Randolph Churchill is destined to fill the place can linger now only in the Music Halls, to the denizens of which impudence, smartness, volubility, and a violence of language congenial to their tipsy passions may seem identical with greatness. All theories of heredity would have signally failed if a national leader had come of the stock of Churchill. Lord Randolph's double escapade is, however, most timely, and may be the means of averting a great danger from the country. After this, the Morley-Parnell-Churchill combination can be successful only if the nation has sunk into such a depth of moral apathy and self-betrayal as to deserve humiliation and dismemberment.

In the revision of the French election law *scrutin de liste*, that is a general ticket for the whole department, has been finally adopted in place of *scrutin d'arrondissement*, or the system of one-member constituencies. For proposing to introduce *scrutin de liste*, Gambetta was hurled from power on the morrow of his advent to it; now he is dead his proposal is accepted. But when he lived the Chamber feared that he would have the making of the departmental tickets and that a dictatorship would be the result. What the party now in power fears is local influence, which makes itself felt in the one-member constituencies, and is generally Conservative. The object of the party in power is to impose its opinions on the nation, which it can best do through general tickets made up by a party organization. Such has been the tendency of almost all French parties from the Jacobins down to the present time; and the consequence has been that each of them in turn has parted company with the genuine convictions of the people and has exposed itself to a violent reaction. Local influence, so long as it is natural, and not, as under the old regime, artificially sustained

by privilege, is but the healthy action of the social tissue. Parochialism, the bugbear of centralizers, is almost a thing of the past. Popular education, the press and telegraph, have in all civilized communities carried the ideas of the great world into the hamlet and rendered an isolated existence impossible. The trickery of the wire-pullers on the other hand is by no means a thing of the past. The leading man of the locality is at least as likely as any political manager to guide the people to their real interest. But these are arguments to which French politicians never give ear. They are bent on making the world think aright, that is think with themselves, by force, and so *scrutin de liste* carries the day.

MR. THOMAS RITCHIE, President of the Belleville Board of Trade, has reprinted some letters which he addressed to the local press on the "Fallacy of Insolvency Laws," and of which he in vain attempted to procure insertion in the daily and commercial journals of the large cities even though he offered to pay advertising rates. The objection probably lay to his mode of treating the subject rather than to the opinions he expressed. Objections have before now been taken to the provisions of law which direct the equal distribution of the estates of insolvents, and Mr. Ritchie might have reinforced his own arguments by quoting the opinions of a late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Lowe holds that the creditors of an insolvent are not entitled to an equal distribution of the assets, but that each is entitled to what he can get. It cannot be denied that each transaction had a separate origin and that each creditor expected that it would maintain its isolated character to the close. On the extreme doctrine of *laissez faire*, there is no reason why the legislature should interfere so long as no fraud is attempted, and with fraud the criminal law must be left to deal. It is also true that secured debts and preferences are sometimes innocent. All mortgage debts are specially secured and properly so, for if they were not the means of improving real estate would be wanting, as we see by the single exception which the Island of Jamaica presents of commercial preferences over mortgage debts. A preferential claim is not necessarily prejudicial and may under some circumstances be beneficial to non-secured creditors: a man's position may be such that he cannot further extend his credit without giving special security, and his commercial fate may depend upon his obtaining more goods. Still though the usual assertion of the right of each creditor to an equal share in the distribution of the assets of an insolvent estate be wanting in proof, it is better, on the whole, that the rule of equal distribution should be acted upon; and in these days when the tendency is to treat the property of a married woman as if it were the property of a single woman, the precautions against doubtful transactions need to be increased. That credit is often dispensed with too great facility Mr. Ritchie is correct in stating. The Americans are more careful than Canadians in this respect, and their terms of credit, when selling to foreigners, are much shorter than those which the English give. English creditors could protect themselves by adopting the American rule, but one effect would be greatly to curtail their transactions; and in the face of increasing competition this is a course which they are not likely to take.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

WHAT a painter, like any other artist or worker of any kind, most desires and respects is of course the judgment of a good professional critic. But he will not disdain an expression of opinion from one who, loving art but ignorant of its technicalities and pretending to no critical power, comes to an exhibition of paintings only to be pleased. After all, it is for the multitude, at least for the multitude of those whose taste is tolerably cultivated, that the artist works; not one in a thousand of those to whom he appeals can be a technical critic.

To one who went to be pleased, the Exhibition of the Royal Academy afforded a good deal of pleasure. Mr. Brymner's "A Wreath of Flowers," for instance, which caught the eye immediately on entering, with the group of children sitting on the brow of a hill above a seaside village, could hardly fail to charm; it is a picture which breeds happy thoughts, and which one would like to have in one's home. It has been noticed that the faces of the children are not so bright as they ought to be; perhaps the criticism is true, but the general effect of the picture is certainly happiness. Some perhaps may be a little repelled by a French manner which is on the brink of mannerism. For my part I enjoyed almost all Mr. Brymner's pictures, including "One Summer's Day," which has in it the same elements as his "Wreath of Flowers." He ought surely to bring a wreath of fame to his Canadian home. Mr. Lawson's "Village Green," with its perfect peacefulness and the calmness of the air indicated by the straight-rising smoke, was another picture in the same style on which I

dwelt with pleasure. Mr. Watson's landscapes perhaps appeal chiefly to the instructed eye. To me his small picture, "A Torrent," was the most expressive and attractive. Mr. Martin's "Showery Day" struck me as a good rendering of Nature in her melancholy mood. From "Potatoes in Bloom," by Mr. Raphael, there also came a pleasant breath of the country. Mr. Perré is always pre-eminent in the treatment of trees: the Dryad of the Canadian Elm must regard him with special fondness. The most popular picture in the Exhibition no doubt is Miss Brook's "Interior of an Omnibus;" and there can be no doubt as to the skill shown in the faces of the different girls—the simple one, the modest one, the impudent one, the one puzzled over the counting of her change. But "clever" was the epithet that occurred to my mind, as it does when I see a picture by Frith. More highly should I prize the picture of the girl with the hoop, which is about as much as a picture of childhood can be, and, above that still, the little picture entitled "Edith," on which, though it hung in rather a humble place, I confess my eye dwelt long. In "Othello and Desdemona" Desdemona was sweet enough, but Othello was a refined and poetical gentleman with an olive complexion, not the hot-blooded Moor, or the wandering soldier of fortune whose soul has settled at last in an absorbing attachment. That Othello would never have killed Desdemona from excess of passion. "Good-Bye" and "For His Sake" seem each of them to tell a simple tale well; and a simple feeling finds pleasant expression in "Water Lilies" and "A Saturday Afternoon." Mrs. Schreiber always shows the same power of telling a story, though critics say she lacks perfect mastery of the brush. In spite of the connoisseurs, I could not help liking Mr. Harris's "Roman Model" and "Old Soldier," and fancying that if they appeared in a London Exhibition they would be commended as good pieces of colouring. Of portraits, one who is not a connoisseur can say nothing unless he knows the originals. That of a lady, by Mr. Pinhey, while it took one rather aback by its boldness, appeared to me to show a force capable of being improved into excellence. On fruit, flowers and vegetables the eye seldom rests; but excellence is excellence, and these humble styles are the handmaids of the higher. A painter of "The Last Supper" must know how to paint a dish.

Among the water colours one fixes at once, and without needing any reference to the catalogue, on the works of Mr. O'Brien. He has been on the St. Maurice, and gives us to perfection the spirit of the headlong waters and of the wild scenery through which they rush. His "Windsor Castle" received general homage and the special homage of those who happened to be most familiar with the view across from Eton to the historic and majestic pile. "Off Clovelly, Drifting for Herring" struck me also as a masterly piece of work. Mr. O'Brien generally gives us a sea-piece, of which we have surely too few: hardly anything equals a sea-piece in opening a window for the soul when it is pent up in a city, and the Canadian artist has plenty of sea to paint. Mr. Fowler's pieces I have heard criticized as rather compositions of the closet than transcripts of nature: but if they are I am not sorry that we have something from the closet. I find in them at least the hues and the poetry of Italy. In a very different way I always enjoy Mr. Bell Smith, and I particularly enjoyed his "On the Bay Shore, St. John, N.B." But there would be no end to rehearsing the water colours which give one pleasure, and which one would like to possess. These are merely the jottings of recollections, uninstructed as well as individual, and very different from them probably would be the order of merit according to the verdict of a trained judge. They would not appear at all if Canada had a first-class critic. But a first-class critic is what Canada wants, and without one sure progress in art can scarcely be made. In this respect we are at a sad disadvantage, as well as in the lack of models. Pseudo-critics who have learned to brandish a few technical phrases will always be really worse than nothing. That art is a science, or that there is any science of art, I do not believe: I look upon all talk of that kind as fine phrases and nothing more. But the union of the well-trained eye and the thorough knowledge of technical execution with the cultivated mind and the feeling heart is necessary to make a critic; and to get such a man to criticize justly but kindly one of our Exhibitions would be to render the best of services to Canadian art.

I came away from the Exhibition meditating on the condition and prospects of art in general and of Canadian art in particular, and the result of my meditations was not altogether comforting. Surely there is something in the situation not satisfactory. The sails of the ship are set, but she seems to be waiting for a wind. Technical skill, I suppose, never was greater: it is inspiration that appears to be wanting. Art is a mode of expression. In the springtide of painting there was plenty to express. The artist of Assisi, or of the Arena Chapel, had his story to tell: his soul burned to tell it, and the souls of those for whom he painted were just as eager to have it told to them. Now, as one looks round an Exhibition one

cannot help feeling that, instead of there being a subject which sought expression, the power of expression has been seeking for a subject. The connection of high art of all kinds with religion and with a strong religious faith has certainly been very close. Then, in the unlettered days, painting was for the multitude the only book. The word-painter now divides the kingdom with the painter on canvas: indeed, he has the larger share of the heritage, since he can express things beyond the power of the pencil. In literature itself the drama which depicts actions and appeals to the eye has given way to the novel, which goes deeper into the recesses of character. There has hardly been a fine tragedy since Shakespeare. The most satisfactory pictures in the present day as a rule are landscapes: here the painter has still the field to himself, for a description of a landscape by a writer, even one so skilful and painstaking in that line as Mr. Hardy, fails to convey to common minds an impression anything like so vivid as that conveyed by the canvas. Nor is landscape-painting to be spoken of as secondary art: to transcribe the moods as well as the scenes of nature faithfully and so as to produce the right emotion in the beholder, much more than technical excellence is required; while Turner has shown us that by the help of imaginative genius, the art, without losing its hold upon the truth of nature, may be exalted into the highest poetry. Still, we should not like to think that the highest aim henceforth was to be landscape-painting. Nor should we be content with animal-painting, in which, perhaps, Landseer surpassed and Riviere surpasses all their British predecessors; still less could we content ourselves with paintings of fruits and flowers. Common life, it is true, furnishes many pleasant and many pathetic subjects; but here the painter is most at a disadvantage compared with the writer; and while we keenly enjoy Millais, and other painters of that class, it is always with a feeling that we are on a level lower than that of the great masters. Our Canadian painters have been advised to resort for subjects to the heroic portions of Canadian history. Let them try, by all means; but historical paintings, like historical novels—even Scott's historical novels—are apt to be unsatisfactory. They generally run into melodramatic exaggeration, and one who knows the history cannot help feeling that the representation is not true, but probably very wide of the reality. Thus the critical faculty is awakened and ruins the pleasures of imagination. That religion will again furnish subjects for painting, and that art will drink inspiration again from the old spring, seems too much to hope. There is a class of subjects of which Titian's "Sacred and Profane Love," and his "Three Ages" (in the Bridgewater Gallery), are instances, not religious, yet high, which would seem available in our age.

It is not painting alone that languishes. Sculpture is really a dead art or retains a spark of life only in the department of portraiture. Architecture is mere reproduction. Nor is the decadence confined to the material arts. The art of the novelist, which I have compared with painting, seems itself to have fallen into a state of suspended animation. We could hardly pray for its revival, if we thought that by exhaustion of its repertory of subjects it had been finally reduced to the realism of Zola's dunghill. Nay, literature altogether seems to be in a very comatose state. Hardly anybody comes to take the place of the great writers who are passing off the scene. Is the planet cooling down? Is its youth over? Are poetry, art, perhaps even religion, about finally to pass away and to be succeeded by a universal and exclusive reign of science? Appearances at present point that way, though something whispers us that in the end the other part of our nature will have its own again: otherwise those may count themselves happy who have seen the last of the world's youth. But it is not only the scientific spirit, in its antagonism to the æsthetic the poetic and the religious which is beginning to affect the calling of the artist. The mechanical multiplication of existing works of art of which practical science has invented methods, and will probably invent more, is also likely to have its influence. So is the improvement of mechanical decoration, the facilities for which are likewise increased by practical science. Art, like man and everything that is human, has its foundation in the dust: it needs for its existence a market; and, if pictures are to be displaced by beautiful wall-papers and other ornamentation tastefully executed with appliances furnished by practical science, the artist's market and his livelihood will be curtailed. It is true this touches not the great masters of art, with whose works the loveliest arabesque cannot vie; but we must remember that the great masters of art, like the great masters of everything else, are the flower of which the stem and root are ordinary effort, to which, on that account, we ought to be kind; and that, if ordinary effort should die for want of its fees, the flower which grows out of it will perish too. The great miniature painters, though their works are worth all the photographs in existence, have not survived the general extinction of miniature painting by photography. However, while a picture can be sold, like the Blenheim Raphael, for \$160,000, there is hope for the craft.

Canadian Art, as represented in our Exhibitions, suffers like other Canadian productions of the highest class from narrowness of area. A Province is attempting to do and to support that which can only be done or supported by a nation. Canada is a political expression. For the purposes of art, as for those of literature, commerce and society, the country is really Ontario with the British part of Montreal. The Maritime Provinces are completely cut off from us by Quebec. That there should be many artists within such a space is impossible, it is only wonderful that there are so many as there are. The same thing may be said with regard to literary men and enterprises, as some of us know to our cost. It is not a reason against doing what we can, but it is a reason for moderating our expectations and not criticizing what is really little more than a Provincial Exhibition as though it contained the Art of a nation. Would any single State of the Union, saving perhaps Massachusetts, which is now an old country, or New York, which is immensely wealthy or populous, produce a better show than we have seen at Toronto? Probably not.

IGNORAMUS.

"GONE TO TEXAS."*

THIS unpretending book consists of letters written home from the wilds of Texas by three educated young Englishmen of reduced fortunes, nephews of the distinguished Editor, who supplies an explanatory preface. In this preface the reasons are briefly related which led these young men, one after the other, to make up their minds rather to struggle for an independent competence by roughing it as ranchmen in the Far West than to rest content with the easier but less certain prospects of prosperity open to them in England, while the letters themselves describe with delightful detail and refreshing simplicity the hardships endured and progress achieved within a period of five years, at the same time giving much information of value to intending immigrants concerning the conditions of Texan life. The plain unvarnished truth about that life, one may conclude, is to be found in these ingenuous pages, as it but too rarely is in the glowing accounts of interested colonizations agencies, and any young Canadian seriously revolving the now proverbial advice to "go west" would do well to study these letters before doing so. He will then know what are the real difficulties to expect, and how much courage is required to grapple with them; and so be in a better position to judge if he has grit enough to bear the strain. To the general reader the book will probably be chiefly interesting for the wholesome glimpses of character which it unconsciously affords. One cannot fail to be very strongly impressed, for instance, by the heartiness of these young men. They write about their harsh experiences in such a way as to make the harshness almost disappear. It is the hearty, sanguine spirit rising large and high, and dwarfing its adverse surrounding. Shirking no toil, not even the coarsest, shrinking from no inconvenience or deprivation, they yet manage to be always bright and full of a boyish but most enviable contempt for circumstances. No wonder they succeeded at last, as, comparatively speaking, they did; for surely theirs is the spirit which ever leads to success, smoothing the way thereto meanwhile. All a matter of the temperament? Perhaps not so much so as we are apt to suppose. Doubtless it is a thing to be cultivated, dyspepsia notwithstanding. The experiment is worth trying, anyhow. Then there is the filial and domestic loyalty of these self-exiled youths. Most of these letters were written to their father, many to other members of the family, and some even to a grandmother! A very healthy sign, this. How many lads who take themselves away from home to "seek their fortune" do the like? How many are careful to keep up a constant correspondence with the warm ingle they have left, much less to lay before a parent's eye the frequent, faithful record of their daily doings? Do we need in these selfish days to pray more earnestly against any calamity than that of the weakening of the natural ties? Another thing which comes out very agreeably in these letters is the fact that the gentleman still contrived to survive in the cowboy. Gentlemen by birth and education, and with many of the tastes and accomplishments of cultivated life, these young Englishmen could adapt themselves to their surroundings and yet suffer from them, apparently, no social or moral hurt. They were not snobs, still less could they become boors. As soon as they could they got their books around them, and in odds and ends of time one was faithful to his fiddle, another to his pencil, brushes, and palette, and a third to his science and photography. Such men are the saving salt of new communities. What strikes one most, perhaps, is the manly unconventionalism of this interesting trio. They had none of the current false and effeminate notions of respectability. They saw that the openings in England for young men of their class were

quite insufficient, that the learned professions were overstocked and the ordinary avenues to advancement gorged: "Every gate was thronged with suitors, all the markets overflowed." They saw, and made their choice; deeming it, in their simple manliness, more respectable to wrest a sufficiency from mother earth in the untried fields of the New World than to risk genteel penury in the practically worn-out ones of the Old. Their example may well point a lesson for Canadian youth. Canada, in its cities at least, is old enough to have become not a little conventional, as it would seem. Our young men must at all costs be "respectable"—that, if nothing else—which means, for the most part, that their dainty hands must be kept unsoiled; and so, while vast virgin tracts of Canada are waiting to be tilled and to yield an ample return to the honest hands that will till them, semi-starving doctors and lawyers are too many in our midst, and dandified but impecunious bank-clerks a multitude which no man can number.

R. A. B.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

THE scientific event of the month in Canada has been of course the fourth annual meeting of the Royal Society, which was held at Ottawa from the 26th to the 29th of May last, with an average attendance of Fellows. His Excellency the Governor-General presided at the formal opening on the first afternoon, when the President, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, in an eloquent address, amongst other things dwelt at length on the advantages to be derived both by science and commerce from the Hudson's Bay Expedition; on the action of the Society's Committee on Tidal observations appointed at the British Association meeting; in drawing the attention of the Government to this important practical question, with good prospects of obtaining substantial aid; and on the necessity for a scientific study of our economic fishes, on the basis of the fish commissions of other countries; besides alluding to the scientific advantages to be gained by the establishment of the botanic garden and arboretum at Montreal for the encouragement of "silviculture." Dr. Daniel Wilson, the Vice-President, in the course of his address, claimed that as the Society included in its scope the study of archaeology, ethnology and philology, the materials whence scientific results were to be deduced in these branches in Canada must be collected now or never, for the remnants of our aborigines, with their traditions and native arts, were fast passing away or being absorbed, while the language of that old France, long anterior to the Regency, which survives in Quebec in a modified form, is replete with interest to the philologist. His Excellency, in replying to a vote of thanks, while disclaiming any scientific knowledge, considered that in the last volume of their Proceedings two subjects of the utmost importance to Canada received deserved prominence—the ethnology of our native races, and historical criticism of our own country. He particularly referred to the necessity for a renewal of our forests as a subject deserving of the most earnest investigation. Three new Fellows were elected in the department of biological science, all comparatively young men: Mr. James Fletcher, of Ottawa, Professor Penhallow, of McGill, and Dr. Burgess, of London. The first-named, as honorary entomologist to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, has lately published a short preliminary report, rather suggesting the directions in which such an appointment may be useful in future years than attempting to give a full or systematic account of work done. It is satisfactory, however, to learn from it that insect pests were less numerous than usual last year, and that the midge, which played havoc with the clover crop, may be conquered by the simple expedient of pasturing the fields until the middle of June, so as to delay the critical stage of seeding to the interval between the first and second broods of midges.

LIEUTENANT GORDON sailed from Halifax on the 27th May with the *Alert* to relieve the six Hudson's Bay observing stations located last year, and to re-establish five of them for another season. The *Alert* is particularly well-fitted for the work before her, and an early start has been made for the purpose of practically ascertaining the earliest date at which the Bay can be entered. Lieutenant Gordon recommended this course, suggesting that the stations should first be relieved, or, if the ice prevented this, that the ship should push on and investigate once for all the condition of the ice in the Strait and Bay in the early part of the season. If the stations could be relieved, an effort should be made to reach Churchill by the opening of navigation there—about the middle of June; then a running survey should be made on the east coast, and some deep-sea dredging and sounding done. This would allow the ship to reach the Strait again by the middle of August, when any spare time could be employed in surveying it more accurately; or, as an alternative, the fishing, especially the whaling in Rowe's Welcome, which is becoming of some importance, might be investigated with a view to proper regulation of the trade. He also proposes to ascertain, definitely, if possible, whether there is, as has been asserted, a waterway between the Bay of Hope's Advance in Ungava Bay and Mosquito Bay, a channel into the "Mediterranean of Canada" which, if it existed, might be free from the heavy Arctic ice that comes down into Hudson's Strait from Fox Channel. Dr. R. Bell again accompanies the Expedition in the interests of the Geological Survey, and a gentleman has also gone to watch the interests of one of the projected railways from Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay.

THE first installation of the Edison electric light in Quebec City is now in operation at the cartridge factory there, a plant of seventy-five incandescent lamps of sixteen candle-power each supplying light for the whole

*"Gone to Texas: Letters From Our Boys." Edited by Thomas Hughes. New York: Macmillan and Co.

factory. The lamps in each room can be thrown out of circuit by independent switches, while on the sockets of such lamps as are only occasionally required are keys to turn them on or off independently of the others. Safety cut-outs are placed at the junction of branch wires with the mains, to prevent any danger of fire. At the laboratory in the Cove Fields a plant of twenty-six lamps is also installed, and here special precautions were taken to avoid danger on account of the large quantity of gunpowder used and stored in the buildings. Each lamp is therefore provided with an outer glass covering, and the cut-outs are protected by wooden boxes.

THE streets of the whole City of Ottawa were lit by electric arc lights for the first time on the first of May last. The æsthetic effect of the new lights is not happy, the numerous alternations of intense light and blackest shadow being unpleasant and even painful to the eyes.

THE Government of the United States have discovered that they are being defrauded by the manufacture of coin which may be termed genuine counterfeits. These are fifty-cent pieces containing just the same amount of silver, and of just the same weight and fineness, as those that come from the Mint. Coin of standard fineness is obtained for the purpose by melting up trade dollars. The profit is found in the depreciation of silver, as the bullion value of two half dollars is now only seventy-seven cents. This leaves a margin of twenty-three per cent. for profit, and the counterfeit can be detected only by trained experts. The idea is ingenious, but can hardly be termed novel, for the English Mint is suffering in exactly the same way by the importation or manufacture of French copper coin.

THE ruling machine by which the late Herr F. A. Nobert, of Barth, Prussia, produced extraordinarily fine rulings on glass has recently been acquired by the Secretary of the Royal Microscopical Society, London. The fine work of this machine is held in high esteem by microscopical physicists on account of its depth and clearness. The latest achievement of the machine was the production of a series of bands of lines, the spaces between the lines running down to 1-225,336th of an inch. A far higher division of space could be effected with it, but Herr Nobert considered this of little practical value, as he was unable to resolve with the microscope any rulings finer than 112,668 to the inch. The late Dr. Woodward, of Washington, also failed, even with the help of micro-photography, to resolve any higher band, though he had at his command some of the most perfect microscopical appliances in the world, and was *facile princeps* in their manipulation.

THE so-called dynamite gun is in reality an air-gun throwing a projectile charged with dynamite or nitro-glycerine. That set up in New York Harbour is twenty-five feet long, with a bore two inches in diameter, and can fire its missile a mile and a-quarter. The discharge is unaccompanied by either smoke, noise or concussion, and the projectile is of wood, shaped like the ancient quarrel of an arbalist, weighing about four pounds, of which half is dynamite. It is doubtful whether the new arm will soon become a weapon of warfare, as the shells will be dangerous to store, especially on board ship, and are likely to prove as disastrous to friends as to the enemy. There would be less difficulty in using them as munitions at fortresses to be fired against an attacking fleet. GRADGRIND.

HERE AND THERE.

THE fourteenth annual report of the Dominion Bank shows that for the last year a dividend of ten per cent. has been paid, \$50,000 added to the reserve fund—which now amounts to \$980,000 on a capital of \$1,500,000, the largest proportion yet attained by any local bank—and \$10,000 applied in reduction of the bank premises account. On the whole the report is most satisfactory. The Dominion is about the only bank, if not the only one, which keeps a portion of its reserve in Government securities.

A SIGNIFICANT indication of the commercial paralysis which business men have learned to dread as a result of the passing of the Scott Act is the fact that a firm of cigar manufacturers, whose advertisement appears in another column, have thought it prudent to delay the extension of their business until the danger of a present adoption of that arbitrary measure in Toronto should have passed. Examples of a similar nature are to be found, it is understood, in many other towns and cities. Surely this is an inopportune moment in which to shake public confidence and cripple the national revenue.

THERE were twenty-one failures in Canada reported to *Bradstreet's* during the past week, against twenty-six in the preceding week, and fourteen, seventeen and ten in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were 161 failures during the week as compared with 184 in the preceding week, and with 148, 160 and 104, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-one per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

As the chances of a conflict between England and Russia grow more remote those who would rejoice in such a calamity become increasingly dissatisfied with the policy of the Gladstone Government. The Jingoism and Anglophobism, infatuated with pot-house valour and interested motives, imagine the world has forgotten that Mr. Gladstone was the choice of the British nation and that his policy is still approved by an overwhelming majority in the country—the fulminations of the metropolitan press to the contrary notwithstanding. London is not England any more than Paris is France or Ottawa is Canada. So long as an outbreak of hostilities was

possible, even the critics on this continent and in Europe who have lamented Mr. Gladstone's departure from the right path were content to overlook his many derelictions and deigned to approve the attitude of Great Britain. But with the advent of pacific counsels *nous avons changé tout cela*. Paris, Berlin, the anti-British section of New York, and the Jingo Toronto press bewail the decadence of England with suspicious tears. The tussle so eagerly looked for is "off." Jingoism will not have the gratification of seeing their political opponents court unpopularity by lavishing blood and treasure in Asia, and England's hands will be free to deal with her exceedingly diplomatic friends on the continent who might otherwise make good terms whilst the giants were grappling in mortal combat. Smarting under this disappointment, the prophets of evil have lapsed into impotent rage, nor do they attempt to moderate their vapourings; but Englishmen are not all Jingoism, nor do they place a wrong value upon taunts of loss of *prestige*, whether they come from Paris, Berlin, or the self-styled "loyal" press of her Canadian colony. In this connection a well-known writer says: "If an inquisition had to be made into the grounds on which six of the nations of Europe assume to be Great Powers, we (England) should hardly be the one which on a just array of evidence would have the best reasons from shrinking from the ordeal. We at any rate have not had to part with a rod of territory, nor lost one great battle, nor been forced to buy off the enemy at our gates. We have had our difficulties and our misfortunes, but our position as a world-wide power is untouched. We are bound to act with prudence. The vast interests centering in us teach us that lesson. But we are masters of our own policy, and have been compelled to acknowledge in no other nation the right to shackle our perfect independence."

WHILE the world is yet debating the graces and faults of the new Revised Bible, and hoping that the former may so far outweigh the latter that the new volume will become popular, the question of price is not unimportant. The cheapest edition yet published—and it is bound in cloth—costs one dollar. The fashion is against cloth bindings for bibles, and the leather-bound edition costs much more. It is printed in type too small for regular use by weak eyes, in pearl which is not too distinct and clear. The page of the minion edition is handsome and clear enough; but the price of a cloth-bound edition is two dollars, and the cheapest leather-bound copy is almost prohibitive. To most people a simple edition of the new rendering hardly fulfils their want. They desire to compare and try the two versions together; they want to test the new by the old; they want to be able to see at a glance what changes have been made in a text. The labour of using two books is almost infinite, and is, besides, distracting. But the cheapest cloth-bound edition of a Parallel Bible, with the two versions standing side by side, is no less than six dollars. This is a monstrous piece of extortion on the part of the University Presses. Here is a work carried out for the express purpose of making the people more familiar with the sacred writers. It has been carried out under a quasi-public authority. Its profits belong to the seat of learning. Yet the means whereby acquaintance can best be made by the masses with the alterations proposed are put beyond the purse of most people. It will not do to say that cheapness will come. We are entitled to cheapness without delay, so that while the controversy is at its height, the whole people may appreciate it as it proceeds. A revised version of the bible, accomplished by scholars who gave their pains to it for love of the work, ought not to be made the subject of a patentee's prohibitory policy.

THE publication of Lord Beaconsfield's "Home Letters" is simultaneous with the publication of his "Runnymede Letters." It is not at all likely that these will have anything like the interest for the general public that the former possess. This is not because they have been before the world so long. The world had forgotten them. But they are too much in Cambyse's or rather Mr. Ashmead Bartlett's view to please. They belong to the period when Mr. Disraeli described Lord John Russell as "an insect." It is amusing to observe the struggle in the minds of thorough-going admirers of Lord Beaconsfield between their desire to praise everything he did and their sense that the "Runnymede Letters" add nothing to his fame. They wish that Mr. Hitchman, the editor, had not taken the Letters quite so seriously. Mr. Hitchman thinks that these compositions "of the great lost leader of the Tory Party must be good for the present distress." The youthful Tory who looks into them for some weapon to appal the guilty and make mad the free at this crisis will be considerably disappointed. They contain no general views of policy, and are not of any particular value at any time, and were, indeed, intended to be nothing but squibs which served the purpose of rhetorical caricature and lampoon when they were written. This attempt of Mr. Hitchman's to find in everything Lord Beaconsfield wrote means for spreading the "cult" of the "great lost leader" is more likely to arouse ridicule than to command respect.

COLERIDGE, the poet, to whom with characteristic tardiness England has but just shown honour by placing a bust of him among the effigies of other great ones of the land, was one of the laziest men that ever breathed. He loved pleasure devotedly, and much preferred dreaming to work. His indolence and want of application seriously detracted from his success, and have no doubt interfered with the position which he holds in the estimation when compared with other English poets, among whom, as a matter of fact, there was no more subtle thinker than Coleridge. With reference to his aversion for exertion, it is related that after reading in bed at night-time he was always too lazy to raise himself to extinguish the candle, and so would throw the book at the light, regardless of damage to the volume,

breaking the candle, or grease on the floor and wall. What the sluggish poet did, if he made a bad shot with the book and failed in his purpose, we do not know. Under the stress of such circumstances, he probably rose and put it out, accompanying the action with such oaths as poets use.

THE fantastic brain of a lively Gallic journalist has led him to add a chapter to the philosophy of clothes, upon the subject of the correct style of evening dress to be worn by men of taste. To give lucidity to his description, he illustrates it by submitting to his readers for their admiration a sketch of a male, who is attired in knee-breeches and white waistcoat, and wears a ladylike smile as a kind of finish to his toilet, which the letter-press details with much minuteness that there may be no mistake. The shirt front, always an important item in male evening dress, must be of white piqué to match the waistcoat; and the white tie—the French *gommoux* have abandoned red—to be particularly elegant should be fastened to the collar with jewelled pins. As for studs, one, two, or three may be affected, but preference is to be shown for a single stud, supposing the fashionable youth can procure one sufficiently large and costly. Two rings are to be worn, both on the little finger of the right hand, but not outside the glove, which must be of a delicate pearl-grey tint with black stitchings, white gloves having, the journalistic *modiste* affirms, been discarded by good society. A watch may be carried—after dinner; but no external evidence must reveal the fact. Hide it somewhere about the person; if you cannot, part with it; but let nobody know you have it with you. Either small pointed-toed décolletés shoes or the Molière shape must be adopted; for a dance, the former are indispensable. Other momentous sartorial dogmas are set out with much precision, and will be keenly appreciated no doubt by the masculine pets of Parisian boudoirs, beside whom the most effeminate English dude is a model of beauty and manliness.

A NOVEL company is said to have been formed in America, entitled the "Elopement Parental Compensation and Deserted Insurance Association." The object of the concern is to compensate parents for loss and grief sustained through the elopement of their daughters, and suitors for blighted affections and disappointment through the desertion and marriage of their *fiancées*. The premiums are moderate, but clauses graduate the indemnity. What next?

THE following remarks by an English writer will find an application on this side the Atlantic. Poultry-keeping is a very profitable speculation, and one which makes but small demands upon the breeder's leisure:—"It is a notable fact that while high-born dames and gently-nurtured girls are seeking to taste the sweets of independence by earning their own living, the wives and daughters of farmers persistently neglect to improve the opportunities they have of increasing the profits of the establishments with which they are connected by the rearing of poultry and sale of eggs. And this at a time when agricultural business is sadly unprosperous. But these rustic ladies prefer the piano and the artistic joys of crewel work to the prosaic details of looking after a poultry yard, this certain source of profit being either entirely ignored by them or entrusted to a specially paid hand. The increase in the importation of eggs and poultry from abroad during the last few years has been very great—far exceeding what would be necessary if this branch of farming were not wilfully neglected in England; and a serious charge therefore lies at the doors of the female members of the English husbandman's household. They drive us to procure from foreign markets that which it is in their power to supply, if not wholly, in a great measure. This apathy to the interests of the country, if persevered in throughout other branches of industry, would be simply disastrous to Old England."

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

PROHIBITION ETHICS.

To the Editor of The Week:

"But the world is an old woman, and mistakes any gilt farthing for a gold coin; whereby, being often cheated, she will thenceforth trust nothing but the common copper."
—Sartor Resartus.

SIR,—So much is spoken and written about intemperance in connection with liquor, one would think it impossible to be intemperate in anything else—in language, say. Upon the devoted heads of dealers are poured out the vials of vituperation in no stinted measure in mangled statistics, in mutilated Scripture, and in ministerial eloquence of the brimstoned sort. Supposing these unfortunate traders so lost to self-respect as to reply in the same measure meted out to them, they might ask: Whether the commission of the Church was to teach or to compel? If the former, as is generally believed, can its hierarchy honestly sink its higher functions, in teaching the people spiritually, in its lower, as citizens seeking to compel? Or, if it be right for them to urge compulsion where they have no jurisdiction, can it be wrong to enforce it where they have? If it be right for Cæsar to act in a great moral movement, should the churches not first set the example within their own domain? They do not say plainly to their members that they must not drink wine upon pain of excommunication; and yet they ask Cæsar to compel them to abstain upon pain of fine and imprisonment. Are they afraid of the majority who drink and so abuse the minority who sell? Some of them even say that no compensation should be given when Government, for the people, cancels a mutual covenant without mutual consent, and which Government, for the people, entered into with manufacturers and traders; and then at a jump they pass from the legal to the so-called moral by saying that if compensation be given those who have damaged themselves by abusing the article

sold should also be compensated by the trade. Is it possible these ministers forget that their own ecclesiastical buildings have been built up out of the trade indirectly and directly, and been supported by it same as by other trades, and that if money so obtained is immoral they should return what they have received and refuse further contributions?

Do these believers in a Divinity not know that when the world was created with all its diversities, the grape was also formed with all its possibilities; and that the mind of man was also created to exercise itself to the utmost limits of its capabilities in finding out what these and other possibilities in nature amounted to? Do they not know that in a vine-growing country it was simply impossible not to discover what were the properties of the juice of the grape? The mere experiment of trying how long it would keep would be quite sufficient to discover the process necessary to make wine, seeing it could not be expressed from the grape without also being impregnated with a species of yeast which is formed on the outside of the skin—the white floury substance upon its bloom. How then can the conclusion be escaped that the Creator intended the people to find out this open secret of nature? And how can some say that the Son of the Creator could deny his own handiwork by teaching that a portion of it was not "good," though expressly averred to be so at the creation. That He did no such thing we know, but rather—as if in anticipation of this heresy—He marked His approval at His first recorded miracle.

In fact it is all presumptuous assumption to say the world would be better without alcohol, the possibilities of which lie dormant in almost every vegetable that grows. How does anyone know? The proofs we have tend rather to show the reverse in these countries—such as Turkey—where it is made a religious obligation by law to abstain. Talmage says that there are now 600,000 opium abusers in the United States, and it is not a little startling that that and other new vices crop up abundantly—such as easy marriage and divorce—wherever this false doctrine of making people righteous by the works of the law has been preached and obtained a hold. Ministers of the gospel surely know that when a man eats the grape he drinks its self-fermented juice in intelligent appreciation of its value; he is fulfilling both natural and spiritual law so far as these go in this particular. He breaks no law in so doing: he is temperate and against that there is no law; but the minister who would coerce him against his will breaks every law, natural, instituted, and spiritual, because he would deny him what nature provides, and steal from him a power and a privilege conferred upon him by his Maker, presumptuously holding that both laws are bad and thereby tacitly rebuking the modes of the Power he is especially ordained to uphold.

Yours, etc.,

A. B. C.

SPRINGTIDE.

(Hor., Bk. I., Car. 4.)

FIERCE Winter flees the Spring's delightful change;
The weathered boats the capstans drag to sea;
From barns the kine, from hearths the ploughmen range;
No more the hoar-frost shrouds the meadow-lea.

With moon o'erhead, now Venus leads the dance;
With arms entwined, the Nymphs and Graces sweet
Trip o'er the glebe, while Vulcan's ardent glance
Excites the Cyclops' tiresome forge with heat.

'Tis meet with myrtle green or with the flowers
The warm earth bears to crown our shining hair;
'Tis meet to offer up 'mid shady bowers
Ewe lamb or kid, as farmers may prefer.

With step impartial pallid death still gropes
Around the peasant's cot or proud king's halls;
And life's short span forbids protracted hopes.
O happy Sestius, since on you night falls,—

Since Pluto's cheerless home of fabled ghosts
Now presseth you, alas! and where you've gone
No more the dice decides the rôle of toasts,
Nor longer woo ye Lycidas your own.

T. M. HARPER.

LOVE.

WHEN winter stripped the trellis vine,
When paled the sky, and frozen snows
Hid the red sod in groves of pine,
Our love did bud and blow—a rose
That blushed mid dreariest cold, and made
A summer joy in field and glade.

And when alternate glint and gloom
Passed with spring murmurs o'er the scene,
And hopes beat high of days to come,
And sallow uplands flushed to green,
Our love had drooped, its petals shed:
You chilled it, and the flower was dead.

And now when spread on holt and heath
Petal and bud to smiling skies,
When groves are soft to tread beneath,
And steeped in light the valley lies
(O, cruel, such a flower to kill!),
The world to me is winter still.

W. E. WILSON.

THE London house of Messrs. Cassell and Company have published "Our Colonies and India: How we Got Them, and Why we Keep Them," by Cyril Ransome, M.A., Oxon, Professor of Modern Literature and History in the Yorkshire College, Leeds.

THE SCRAP BOOK.

THE LOST LAUREATE.

GLADSTONE! No doubt you've blundered now and then,
And we, your candid friends, take care you know it;
But, most of all, what puzzles gods and men
Is, why, to make a lord, you killed a poet!

You tossed the minstrel for his tunesome trick
A coronet. His thanks are less than civil;
For you—you he bespeaks a curse and kick,
And you—you he insults with lordly drivel!

That coronet has cramped a noble brain,
So that our Britain, in the leash held panting,
With ears alert for some Tyrtæan strain,
Has heard—a burst of mere hysteric ranting!

The fleet that slept in peace your word can make
To belt the world with England's floating thunder—
But ah, too late—too late it is to wake
The clarion note cracked with your generous blunder!

M.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

OUR Master Malapert's imitation of the style of the immature Disraeli is amusing enough and characteristic withal. But it is one of those outbreaks which lead men on both sides of the House to regard Lord Randolph Churchill with despair, not unmingled with dread. How can you treat seriously a politician who one day poses as a statesman and the next turns somersaults in the gutter? More than most of our contemporaries, we have endeavoured to regard the member for Woodstock as a statesman and a possible leader of a great party. But every now and then some outburst of *gaminerie* compels us to admit that the heir-presumptive to the Conservative leadership is but a political street Arab after all. No doubt Lord Randolph will console himself by reflecting that similar things were said of Disraeli, and he lived through them all to emerge as Prime Minister. But he did not emerge to Prime Minister until the people had forgotten that he ever wrote the letters of Runnymede, whereas our pinch-beck Dizzy hopes to succeed to office before Christmas. He may reply that things have changed since those days, that the new constituencies like to see statesmen changed, and that we are in for an era of bargee politics. If so, of course our Prince Flibberty-Gibberty will stand to win. But he misconceives the sober, serious character of the people whom he aspires to rule. They are diverted by his antics. He enlivens the dulness of the political arena. But to entrust him with power—that is altogether another matter. Of this we had a slight but significant illustration last Christmas, when 1,450 persons sent in voting papers indicating who in their opinion were the greatest statesmen and the greatest humbugs of the day. For every vote given to Lord Randolph as a statesman, he had three as a humbug—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The *London Spectator* says, referring to the impudent letter sent by Lord Churchill to Earl Granville:—"In our view, this letter of Lord Randolph Churchill's disposes finally of all the claims of that very clever person to leadership of any kind. You must have sanity in a leader. Cleverness is desirable, but sanity is necessary. With sanity of mind you can get along even without cleverness, but with cleverness you cannot get along without sanity. Indeed, the cleverer the man who shows no sobriety and sanity, the more dangerous are the counsels of that man. Lord Randolph Churchill will probably always retain a great power of mischief. But a great power of mischief is not an adequate credential for any leader, least of all for the trusted leader of the Conservative Party."

LADIES' FASHIONS'.

THIS is what a lady writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* about fashion, and our fair readers would do well to ponder over the remarks made:—

"Looking at the great majority of women who are dressed according to the latest fashions, it is impossible to believe that any of them can have the slightest sense of form or colour. Or do they really think the narrow-soled, high-heeled shoe, which bears but the faintest resemblance to a human foot, looks becoming on their aching-feet? Do they believe that the narrow waist, pressed in by steels and laces, is anything but fearfully out of proportion? The skin-tight bodice which forbids all graceful, easy movements, the over-trimmed skirt, with the monstrous cage at the back (dress-improver, indeed!) which performs the services of a pack-horse by bearing its owner's burdensome goods, and at the same time is a constant source of amusement to those who watch its short, sharp movements, reminding the beholder of a duck's tail more than of anything else—what are they but the ever multiplying signs of the tyranny of what is now called 'fashion'? Surely a savage from the depths of a primæval forest would shrink from some of the reptiles and monsters worn as ornaments on the bare arms and necks of our women, not to speak of the loathsome insects and creeping things worn as earrings, brooches, hairpins, etc. Laugh at the coiffure of some African native, some Asiatic despot, and beware of comparing them with some of the coiffures for ladies in our widely-circulated fashion papers. Wonder at the plumes worn by Tawhio, but do not forget that plumes have their significance with us as well, both between the ears of the steeds drawing the funeral chariot and on the 'artistic' structure known as the chignon, which is not only allowed, but insisted on in the highest circles. Listen to the conversation between a dressmaker and her fair customer,

and you will find that the very names of dress materials are rapidly going back to the age of Louis XIV., when the new fashionable shades were known as the Sick Spaniard, the Dying Monkey, the Glad Widow, and such like appellations. What is the 'scouring cloth' at present announced as a novelty of the season (not to speak of the 'crushed strawberry' or the 'London smoke') but a step backward in the same direction? However, the name is all that is objectionable in the material, which in itself is almost the only satisfactory part among our 'fashions.'

"Manufacturers of ladies' dress materials are, indeed, far ahead of modistes and dressmakers; for no one looking at the beautiful soft stuffs which are brought out in ever-growing varieties can for a moment doubt that they were intended for dresses of a very different style than that consisting of a heavy mass of 'drapery' for a skirt, and a tight sleek-looking bodice. Then there are the hats and bonnets of which the illustrations given in the latest fashion papers ought surely to speak for, or rather against, themselves. These shapeless structures are 'still increasing in height,' and not in height only but in weight as well. Where will it end, this towering-up of ribbons, flowers, fruits, feathers, birds, insects, and now and then even reptiles and small quadrupeds? Years ago objections used to be raised against the 'flower gardens' on ladies' hats. Alas! for those neat little flower gardens bedded on light straws and laces! The whole hat or bonnet of those times was less in weight than at the present day one heavy silk or velvet bow. And so it is with every part of women's dress. There is decidedly too much of it—with one exception, however, and that exception, it need hardly be said, is formed by the indecently low evening dresses to expose themselves in which goes a long way to show that our women are rapidly losing that modest womanliness which forms one of their greatest charms, and that, moreover, the laws of health are utterly disregarded by a generation which deems it a sign of enlightenment to talk of and advocate sanitary improvements of all kinds."

LAUGHABLE NOTES FROM THE "ROYAL MAIL."

THE "Royal Mail" is a storehouse of amusing and interesting anecdotes. It is the Dead Letter Office that supplies the most entertaining of these. A number of persons seem to have an unlimited faith in what the Post Office can do and undertakes to do. The dead letter is, by a mistake not perhaps very unnatural in the ignorant, supposed to be a place where information can be obtained about the dead. So one person writes as follows:—"We heard in the paper about twelve or fourteen months back Mary Ann ———, the servant-girl at London, was dead. Please send it to the Printer's Office whether there was a small fortune left for." This does not excite one's sympathy; but here is a pathetic little appeal: "I rite a Line two see if you hard Enny thing of my husband ——— that was left at ——— ill. please will you rite back by return of post as we are in great trouble." The Office again is expected to find situations. A young woman desires "a housekeeper's situation where a domestic is kept," and wishes the postmaster to find one for her, with the proviso that it "must be a dissenting family, Baptist preferred." A farmer wants to know where he can profitably sell a pig of thirty stone; another correspondent desires to know where he can buy a parcel of Mithridate mustard; a third wants to know whether "there is to be a baby show this year at Woolwich, and if so where it is to be holden, and what day." Stranger than all is the following. A gallant Frenchman wishes to propose, but first wants to know whether the lady is alive. This is his letter:—

J'ai cinquante-trois ans. Veuillez être assez bon de me faire réponse pour me donner des résultats sur l'existence de Madame. . . Si parfois elle était toujours veuve, je voudrais lui faire la proposition de lui demander sa main d'après que j'en aurais des nouvelles. En attendant, Monsieur, votre réponse.

Under the head of mistakes of course there are some very amusing things. Perhaps this is as good as any: "A St. Louis merchant, while in New York, received a telegram notifying that his wife was ill. He sent a message to his family doctor, asking the nature of the sickness, and if there was any danger, and promptly received the answer: 'No danger; your wife has had a child; if we can keep her from having another to-night, she will do well.'" "Child" had been written for "chill."

It will not be possible much longer to defer a national decision on the question of cremation. The evils of our burial customs are constantly occupying the attention of hygienists, and they will have to be seriously considered by Parliament and the public.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

Now that Niagara Falls (American side) are free and public property, large improvements will take place in their vicinity. There will be more visitors, and more need of accommodations. The railroads and hotels will be aided. One of the best points of inspection is Falls View, where the Michigan Central Railroad will erect a hotel. While all this is going on on the American side, what about the Canadian side? If Mr. Mowat could have his way, the river side from the Falls downwards would be monopolized by a railway company.—*London Free Press*.

AMERICAN Eulogy on Mr. Watts, the Agnostic Orator:—"At 3 p.m., same day and place, Mr. Watts spoke on 'Agnosticism and Theism.' He defined, explained, and defended Agnosticism as the only consistent attitude between Atheism and Theism. Atheism, the speaker said, was illogical, because it dogmatically denied that of which we had no means of gaining any knowledge whatever. He then attacked Theism, as dogmatically taught by the clergy. What followed can only be described as a tornado of logic accompanied by copious showers of wit and humour, with an occasional hailstorm of raillery thrown in. To enumerate all the brilliant things said, would transcend the limits of this letter: suffice it to say, he left the Christian Theists not the ghost of a leg to stand upon, or the dream of a peg upon which to hang the shadow of a hope."

HON. DAVID WARD expressed his belief that when the Pacific Railway is completed, and the expense of purchasing and opening up the North-West, maintaining the Mounted Police and Indians added, New Brunswick will not have less than \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 to bear. He argued with much force that we ought to be quit of this charge, and that the North-West lands should be set apart to bear, at least, the principal part of this burden.—*St. John Telegraph*.

IN the Saskatchewan difficulty the Government is plainly in the wrong; first, in allowing that venerable and oppressive monopoly, the Hudson's Bay Company, to interfere with the right of the Half-breeds and Indians to keep stores and carry on trade for themselves; and second, in insisting in applying the quarter-section survey system to the lands along the river, which, by old French Canadian custom, have been held in long narrow strips, each with a small water frontage.—*The North-West (St. Paul)*.

UNDOUBTEDLY there is something to be said on both sides of the Female Suffrage Question, many being mainly influenced by sentiment in their opinions. Old British notions and French Canadian also, not to analyze further, run stoutly against the enlargement of woman's sphere in this direction, the excitements, physical exertions, tricks and occasional fights at elections—not to speak of moral offences, like bribery—forming experiences from which modest and sensitive women should be kept free.—*Prescott Telegraph*.

WE are firmly convinced, therefore, that a well-considered exemption law, enforced only after reasonable notice given, would be productive of much good in the end. But we are just as firmly convinced that the measure recently got through our Legislature can do nothing but harm, being evil in itself. It deals a blow at the business reputation of the Province. It is a warning to all outsiders to be on their guard against us, for hereafter there is no knowing to what lengths we may go in repudiation or confiscation.—*Manitoba Free Press*.

RIEL and the Half-breeds put themselves at Batouche outside the pale by threatening to murder their captives unless the troops retreated; but it is a question whether frank redress of grievances should not be offered to the Indians. It seems clear they would accept allowances, if honestly paid, in lieu of their right to solitude, the invasion of which is their ultimate grievance, and they have a moral claim to compensation. We cannot stop the plough to save the buffalo, or acknowledge the right of savages to forty square miles apiece; but still they owned the continent, and destiny has been rough on them.—*Spectator*.

THE Government must exercise care that a rebellion is not brought about by injustice among the settlers in British Columbia. There are at present some 1,500 settlers upon Dominion lands in that Province whose claims are merely those of squatters; and many of them have for several years been in a state of suspense as to their ownership. The British Columbian people declare that the Dominion lands regulations are altogether inapplicable to the requirements of their Province, and inflict stupid and incalculable injury upon the prospects of the Province. The Dominion does not want another armed outbreak upon its hands, brought about by administrative oppression, bungling and incompetency.—*Ottawa Free Press*.

A YOUNG woman has been brought before an English police magistrate, as a violent lunatic. Dr. Pywell said that in his opinion her madness had been brought on by her connection with the Salvation Army. He added that he had known numerous cases of young persons' minds being affected by their connection with the Salvation Army. The public must be more stupid than we think it is if it was not previously acquainted with the fact. There is a good deal of excitement in the worship of the Salvation Army, and with the methods of that body we do not profess to be much enamoured. But it is quite as likely that the connection of religious maniacs with the Salvation Army is the consequence as the cause of their madness.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*.

THAT the presence of one man has been sufficient to set the whole Saskatchewan country in a blaze of war must be something most remarkable to people living outside the territories. But in the Saskatchewan there is no mystery connected with it. A match will not fire a pile of greenwood, but it will a pile of dry. Had the Saskatchewan country been in a satisfied condition a hundred such men as Riel might have come into it, and the only harm resulting would have been to themselves. But when years of careful mismanagement of the control exercised by the Interior Department, and Department of Indian Affairs had stirred up discontent among all classes, from the breech-clouted Indian to the hardworking farmer and well-to-do merchant or professional man, the pile was made ready for the fire-brand, and the fire-brand ready lighted came in the person of Riel.—*Edmonton Bulletin*.

THE Liberal opportunity has really arrived, but the Liberals cannot avail themselves of it; they cannot induce the people to abandon Sir John for the sake of adopting Mr. Blake—the leader who is without tact, and has no policy beyond that of exaggerating the errors and crimes of his opponents. It is indeed very difficult to foresee the political future of Canada. On both sides of politics that which is most conspicuous is the element of weakness; each is divided up into cliques and factions; and the distinctions of race, language and religion are too strong to admit of unity. If an election took place, and Sir John were beaten, the Liberals would have but a temporary hold of office. What is probable is that there would be a succession of short-lived governments, sometimes Grit, sometimes Tory, sometimes coalition; both parties would become disintegrated, and then, some day, somebody would raise the cry of Commercial Union with the States, and the doom of the Confederation would be signed, sealed and delivered.—*Bobcaygeon Independent*.

MUSIC.

THE Hamilton Arion Club, composed of thirteen male voices under the leadership of F. W. Wodell, a local baritone, gave their second invitation concert for this season in the large hall of the Wesleyan Ladies' College, on Wednesday evening of last week. The club had the assistance of Mrs. Robert Campbell, soprano; Mrs. Frank Mackelcan, contralto; Miss Cummings, pianiste, and an orchestra composed of the leading professional and amateur musicians. The chief number on the programme was "Mila," a cantata for male voices, soprano and bass solos, and orchestra, by Robert Schwalm. The work is Wagnerian in style, and although the club struggled hard with the intricate harmonies and awkward intervals with which it abounds, the result was not satisfactory. The vocal force engaged was too small, and there was an evident lack of sufficient rehearsal on the part of the orchestra. The soprano solos were sung by Mrs. Campbell in a broad, dramatic style, and with delightful accuracy of intonation. Mr. John Stuart sang the bass solos. The part songs "Annie Laurie," harmonized by D. Buck, and "My Loved One at Home," were very well sung indeed, and merited the encores received. The performance of D. Buck's beautiful cantata, "The Nun of Nidaros," with orchestral accompaniment, was also really worthy of high praise, the playing of the piano accompaniment by Miss Cummings being especially good. The songs by Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Mackelcan, and a duet by Messrs. George Clarke and F. W. Wodell, and one movement from a Mendelssohn trio for piano (Miss Cummings), violin (Mr. MacDuff), and cello (Mr. Parker), helped to make a programme which delighted the very large and fashionable audience present. The club has had a very successful season.

ON Thursday night last the new musical society, the Hamilton Musical Union, presented its first programme under Mr. R. Thomas Steele, formerly of Brockville, now established here as a teacher of voice culture, and choirmaster of the Church of the Ascension. The concert was given for the benefit of the volunteers in the North-West. The chorus numbered about sixty, with an orchestra of a dozen pieces. The programme is appended entire, as the initial performance of a musical society from which great things were expected is worthy more than ordinary attention:

Soldiers' Chorus (from "Faust"), Gounod; song, "Mad Tom," Purcell, F. A. Filgiano; solo and chorus for female voices from unfinished opera of Lorelei, Mendelssohn, Miss C. McDonald and chorus; trio, violin, violoncello and piano, Miss Cummings, Messrs. McDuff and Parker; quartette, "The Sea Hath its Pearls," Pinsuti, Mrs. G. Hamilton, Mrs. F. Mackelcan, Messrs. T. H. Stinson and J. H. Stuart; song, "L'Estasi," Arditi, Mrs. Keltie; chorus, "Gipsy Life," Schumann; Market Chorus from Masaniello, Auber; song, "Touch of a Vanished Hand," Pinsuti, Mrs. F. Mackelcan; chorus for male voices, "Vintage Song from Lorelei," Mendelssohn; song, "My All," J. Haydn Wand, Mr. T. D. Beddoe; three part songs (unaccompanied), (a) "The Home that I Love," F. Abt, (b) "Summer and Winter," Berthold Tours, (c) "Farewell to the Forest," Mendelssohn; song, "Daddy," A. H. Behrend, Mrs. Keltie; solo and chorus, "Tramp, now Tramp," Bishop, Mrs. G. Hamilton and chorus.

The quality of the soprano and alto voices was good; that of the basses fair, and of the tenors indifferent. The parts were well balanced as to volume of tone, but the singing was crude. There was no observance of those delicate points of accent and expression which make chorus singing enjoyable to cultivated ears. As to phrasing, it seemed as though each singer followed his own sweet will, guided only by varying degrees of intelligence and musical culture. The best singing was done in the third of the unaccompanied part songs. Ere the chorus will sing well there must be a weeding out of voices, and a great deal of strict intelligent drill. Mr. Steele has good social support, and if he takes friendly criticism in good part will work hard to show what there is in him at the next concert of the society. The chorus for female voices was quite enjoyable. Mrs. Keltie, of Buffalo, was the most admired of the soloists, so far as the public was concerned. Mr. Beddoe did the most artistic work of the orchestra. It is kindest not to be too critical at so early a stage of its work.

THE band of the Thirteenth (Hamilton) gave the last of a series of three good concerts on Friday night; object: to raise money to purchase uniforms for the band. Soloist, Mrs. Martin Murphy. Selections by the Arion Club helped to fill the programme. An arrangement of selections from "Mignon" played by the band was highly appreciated. Bandmaster Robinson has composed a very bright march, "The Royal Templars' March," which is becoming popular. An extra concert is announced for Friday next.

MR. ALDOUS is giving weekly organ recitals at Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, on Saturday afternoons. His programmes are well chosen, and the instrument is a good one. The attendance is small, but growing.—*C. Major*.

MESSRS. I. SUCKLING AND SONS, of Toronto, send the "North-West Mounted Police Waltzes," composed by Dr. St. G. B. Crozier, father of Major Crozier. The piece is inspiring and harmonious, running with an agreeable smoothness through six movements. The last (finale) is particularly quaint and charming, being an arrangement of an Indian "Hum." The waltzes are clearly printed on good paper, and when it is added that they are not difficult, enough has been said to demonstrate a reason for their popularity.

THE French Carmelites have a convent in Bagdad, the very centre of Mohammedanism, since two centuries. There are four *religieuses*, who are both clergymen and schoolmasters. The church alone is beautiful. The French Government endows it with a grant of 100 francs a year! But it pays a deputy 10,000 francs per annum salary to denounce the munificent subsidy.

THE PERIODICALS.

THE number of the *Andover* for June completes the third volume of this theological monthly, which has more than fulfilled the expectations and amply redeemed the promises of its projectors. It has taken a place in the front rank and, if it displays equal merit in the future as it has done in the past, it will maintain its high position. Professor Mead contributes a critical article on the Revised Old Testament, and Dr. Newman Smyth continues his discussion of "Social Problems in the Pulpit." The subject in the present number, "Social Helps," is treated with common-sense and in a kindly spirit, evidencing comprehensive and thoughtful consideration of subjects vitally interesting at the present time. Though "George Eliot" has been buried beneath avalanches of criticism the paper devoted to this well-worn subject in the *Andover* can be read with interest and satisfaction. The editorials are clear, thoughtful, and condensed. One on the Anglo-Russian complication is in the main just. There is a critical paper on the Song of Solomon well worth reading. The first notice of Mr. Beaty's recently published work on "Paying the Pastor Unscriptural and Traditional" we have seen appears in this number of the *Andover*. It is not such as the M.P. for West Toronto will have reprinted on satin in gold letters and hung up in his library to catch the gaze of his admiring friends.

THE *June Century* is to hand too late for more than mere mention, though in pictorial and literary features it is not behind recent issues in timeliness and general interest. There are three full-page portraits—of Sir John Herschel, William, his father, and Caroline his sister. Character and humour are the salient points of Kemble's illustrations accompanying Eugene V. Smalley's second paper on the New Orleans Exhibition. A profusion of beautiful illustrations also accompanies Mrs. Herricks' article on "Orchids." The War Paper treats of the Confederate disaster at Beaver Dam Creek and the terrible battle next day at Gaines' Mill. An anecdotal paper on Stonewall Jackson describes the famous Valley Campaign. Mr. Howells gives us more of his cultured "Florentine Mosaic," and Theodore Roosevelt graphically recounts his hunting of the grizzly. "How Shall we Help the Negro?" "John Brown at Harper's Ferry," and a short story entitled "Hilary's Husband," are also on the contents, the number closing with editorial comments on live topics.

THE London street Arab, albeit a puzzle to all but long-time residents in modern Babylon, has a world-wide reputation, and if for no other reason the current *English Illustrated* would possess a wide interest, having a capital paper on "The London Ragamuffin," by Dorothy Tennant, accompanied by some excellent and characteristic pictures. Much good material goes annually to waste in the form of these London nomads, who are a strange conglomeration of ignorance and shrewdness, idleness and ubiquity. The other subjects of the part are: "The Young Cowherd," "In the New Forest," "Sewartz," and chapters of three serial stories.

So much has been written and said of late about England's colonies and their future—from the chimerical proposals of the Imperial Federationists to the outspoken French demand for independence—that one turns with curiosity to yet another scheme which appears to come within the limits of practicability. In the *Fortnightly Review* (Leonard Scott Reprint) is a paper from the pen of Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles, entitled "Give and Take with the Colonies," in which he points out that the welding of the Queen's Empire is more an economical than a political question. A redistribution of the English customs duties in such manner as to give an advantage to the colonial producer would, he thinks, do much to consolidate the British Empire and encourage an interchange of commodities. A scathing indictment of the English law of divorce, which makes that proceeding a "perquisite" of man, appears over Mr. George Lewis' signature. Mr. Swinburne's writings are handled without gloves by Mr. W. L. Courtney. "The recedite ravings of an artificer of impotent emotion," "reckless sensualism," "wild dithyramb in favour of Atheism," are samples of the unmeasured terms used respecting some of the work of a man who sought "the expression for its own sake." Mr. William's arraignment of General Wilson also appears in this number.

In the *Contemporary* (Leonard Scott Reprint) is an able paper by Sir. A. H. Layard on England's relations with Turkey in which the whole question of Mr. Gladstone's policy is begged. Apparently more reliable and more consolatory is Sir Richard Temple's "Native Armies of India" which may with profit be read in conjunction with an anonymous essay upon "Contemporary Life and Thought in Russia." A charming illustrated paper "On Leaves" bears Sir John Lubbock's signature, and there are articles on "Catholicism and Modern Thought," "Mystery in Faith," "The Nomad Poor of London," etc.

No greater proof of the advantages possessed by the youth of to-day over that of a decade or two ago could be found than a comparison of the young folks' literature of the two periods. *Wide-Awake* is a shining example of this; and in its June number—which is No. 1 of a new volume, and therefore a good time for our young friends to begin subscribing—well sustains its reputation as a thoroughly trustworthy periodical of, much artistic excellence and high literary recommendations.

To those who predicted a speedy demise for the *Brooklyn Magazine*, its growth in interest and influence with each number must prove a serious disappointment. Its careful editing and the high standard of its literature command the respect and interest of all lovers of good reading. Martin Farquhar Tupper, the English poet, opens the June number with an entertaining reminiscent paper on the late Col. Fred Burnaby.

NOTHING could be more acceptable to its cultivated audience than the leading contribution to the *Magazine of American History* for June. It is a critical study of the professional life and character of Charles O'Connor, by Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly, of New York. There are, as usual, a large number of valuable papers by well-known writers, and the departments of Original Documents, Reprints, Notes, Queries, Replies, Societies, and Book Notices, are admirably well filled. This number of the magazine completes volume XIII.

THE *Book Buyer* for June Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons have just ready. Of particular interest is Prof. Francis Brown's article on the "Revised Version of the Old Testament," in which he takes a common-sense view of the subject, pointing out in a clear and distinct way the weaknesses and the value of the revision. Mr. R. H. Stoddard's article on Miss Edith M. Thomas and Mr. Edmund Gosse is also very interesting. The *Book Buyer* is always spicy and readable, and is certainly worth its subscription.

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for May 23rd and 30th contain "General Gordon's Life and Letters," "The Ottoman Turks in Europe," "The American Loyalists," "Mr. Ruskin's Museum at Sheffield," "Shakespeare's Fugues," "The Red Man," "Concerning some Strange Historic Doubts," "The South African Salt Lakes," "The Youth of Prince Bismarck," "The Despised Sparrow," "How Persians Die and are Buried," "The Language of Signs," "Lady Beaconsfield," "A Visit to the Amazons of Dahomey," with instalments of "A House Divided Against Itself," "Macpherson's Love Story," "Osla's Wedding," "Fortune's Wheel," and "Mrs. Dymond," and poetry.

BOOK NOTICES.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN. By Rev. J. Cyddylan Jones. Toronto: William Briggs.

St. John's Gospel has a powerful fascination for certain classes of minds. Its grand simplicity and profound thoughts attract alike the untutored and the cultured. Much has been written on this Gospel, yet its meaning is not exhausted. A full, complete and exhaustively critical work on the Fourth Gospel has yet to make its appearance. Luthardt's exposition is perhaps the best, but there is still an ample field for the student of St. John to cultivate. The excellent work whose title heads this notice does not pretend to be an exposition of the full teaching of the Apostle. Strictly speaking it is not an exposition, but a series of discourses based upon the more prominent teachings of the Gospel. Judged by the ordinary characters of sermons, usually delivered and sometimes printed, they are above the average. They are compact and textual, with grateful absence of diffuseness and irrelevant material too often introduced for padding purposes. The thinking, though sometimes subtle and profound, and occasionally paradoxical, is clear and suggestive. Though the theology is strictly orthodox it is often presented in a fresh and attractive light. The discourses indicate that their author is an earnest student not a noisy polemic. He states his views neither as an apologist nor as a controversialist, but as one who has diligently sought for truth and having found it proclaims it in an earnest and loving spirit. These sermons are not only the result of close and careful thinking but also evince extensive acquaintance with the history of Christian doctrine. It may be mentioned as one of the merits of the book that it betrays no egotistic display and no pedantry. It is worthy of an extended circulation and will stimulate religious thought and life.

A COMPANION TO THE REVISED OLD TESTAMENT. By Talbot W. Chambers. New York: Funk and Wagnalls.

"The design of this book is expressed in the title. It is intended to furnish a convenient manual to those readers of the revised Old Testament who wish to inform themselves of its origin and aim, and of the principles upon which it has been made." Dr. Chambers was a most valued member of the Revision Committee, besides a ripe and accomplished scholar and Biblical critic, and the publication of this valuable manual has been timed most opportunely.

THE NATURE AND REALITY OF RELIGION. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

This is a reprint of a controversy between Mr. Frederic Harrison and Mr. Herbert Spencer which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*, with an introduction, notes, and an appendix on the religious value of the Unknowable, by Count Dalviella. Mr. Spencer, if a recent cablegram may be believed, has caused the book to be published, much to the chagrin of his opponent, who brands the act as a literary piracy, and asks if Mr. Spencer is content to take the profits of a book of which they are joint authors.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN. By T. Arnold Haultain, M.A. Illustrated. Toronto: The Grip Publishing Company.

In this neat little book Mr. Haultain gives a synopsis of the Soudanese campaign, with his own impressions of the causes which led to it, adding short biographical sketches of the principal persons engaged. A large amount of information has been collated, and the volume will doubtless take its place, after perusal, as a valuable reference book. A capital map of the country is prefixed, the whole get-up being a credit to the press from which it issues.

WAKE-ROBIN. By John Burrows. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

VENETIAN LIFE. By W. D. Howells. In two volumes. Same publishers.

Two additions to the dainty "Aldine Series,"—both too well-known to require further testimony to their literary excellence, but each having an added charm by reason of the handsome setting which Messrs. Houghton have made a distinguishing feature of this series. Whether or no there will be further additions to these anchor and dolphin books has not yet been made known; but so excellent an idea ought surely to have met with a reception which would encourage the publishers to extend the list.

COLLECTION SCHICK: Novellen, Humoresken, und Skizzen. Der hestenen neueren schriftsteller. Chicago: L. Schick.

The publisher claims that the best way to learn German is to ignore the grammar and go right to the use of books the interest of which will prevent ennui. To provide material for this method of study he proposes to publish at intervals short stories in English and German which, read side by side, will enable the student to learn as it were involuntarily. No. 1 contains, "Rudolf Lindan," "Hans, the Dreamer," "All in Vain," and "First Love."

THE ADVENTURES OF TIMIAS TERRYSTONE. By Oliver Bell Bunce. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

Mr. Bunce's hero is one of the least heroic conceptions ever assigned the post of honour in a work of fiction. Whilst engaged to a rustic Quakeress Timias, who is a dilettante artist, enters upon the most unpardonable flirtations with two other ladies, and when the unavoidable complications ensue, weakly throws the blame for his perfidy upon them. Of course, Mr. Bunce brings the erring one home in the concluding chapters, but without dramatic incident, and there is little or no plot in his story. Nevertheless, "Timias Terry stone" is a charming book, full of originality, including in its "caste" some most lovable characters, fresh and invigorating as the pastoral scenes which adorn it, and one lays it down as one parts with a valued friend.

WORKS OF JOHN RUSKIN. Vol. I. New York: John B. Alden.

Mr. Alden contemplates publishing a complete illustrated library edition of Mr. Ruskin's works, and has just issued a "specimen" volume at a nominal price. It contains "The Seven Lamps of Architecture," "Lectures on Architecture and Painting," "The Queen of the Air," and "The Ethics of the Dust." As this matter is printed in large legible type upon good paper and neatly bound it will be easily understood that the volume is a substantial, not to say bulky, one. Mr. Alden is certainly a well-abused man, and it is not easy to see where he makes a profit, but he has unquestionably placed much good literature within reach of persons with limited purses.

MR. JOHN H. INGRAM's work on "The Raven," which will be published very shortly, will give the origin, history, variorum readings, bibliography, chief translations, parodies, and entire literature of Edgar Poe's well-known poem.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE former editor of the *Manhattan Magazine* says that the publication of that periodical is certainly to be resumed, probably within two or three months.

EIGHTEEN articles, carefully selected from the great reviews and magazines, are given in the June number of the *Library Magazine*, which completes the fifth volume of the new series.

WISE people when they go to Rome do as the Romans do. The English carry this a step further: when they go to Egypt they do as the Romans did. They establish a camel corps, just as the Romans established the *Ala prima Valeria dromedariorum* and the *Ala Antana dromedariorum*. The French antiquaries have been the first to point it out.

FIVE thousand guineas is reported to have been the price paid by the publishers for the copyright of General Gordon's Diary. We are informed that the story is briefly told, and will not, even in General Gordon's digressive style, fill more than an ordinary one volume book. The editing and eliminating of the original manuscript has been undertaken by Mr. Egmont Hake, General Gordon's cousin.

THE *Manchester Examiner* is publishing some letters descriptive of life in British Columbia, written by an English lady who has made Victoria her home. The diction is easy, and the authoress has the enviable knack of putting her descriptions, even of everyday occurrences, in such language as compels her readers to follow her to the end of her letter, and then to wish that the end had not come.

It is understood that Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons have in preparation a very important and gratifying surprise for lovers of Thackeray, in the publication during the year of certain remarkable and decidedly autobiographical papers and letters of the great novelist, which have been for many years in the possession of an intimate friend. They have now been placed in the hands of the American publishers with the full authority of all concerned, to appear first on this side of the Atlantic.

WE have been favoured by the *Varsity* Company with some advanced proofs of their forthcoming book—which, it will be remembered, is to be a collection of poems and prose contributions from the University organ. It is obviously impossible, as it would be undesirable, to give specimens of the matter to be included, but it may be added that the volume is full of promise, and as it will embrace the best literary work of the college for some time it will no doubt commend itself to the reading public.

MR. CHARLES MARVIN, the author of "The Russians at the Gates of Herat," feels a strong interest in the drift of American opinion on the present difficulties, and realizes, like most thoughtful men, the large measure of truth in the saying that "a foreign nation is a kind of contemporaneous posterity." In a recent letter to Messrs. Scribner, publishers of his American edition, asking to have certain reviews sent to him, he says: "The criticisms of persons uninfluenced by party or national passions naturally possess a value of their own, to which I attach considerable importance."

THE revision of the Old Testament is a literary success, but it has no pretensions to scholarly completeness. There have been practically no alterations in the text, the variants of the Septuagint, even when undoubtedly superior, being relegated to the margin. The literary merits of the Authorized Version have been retained and on the whole enhanced, and its majestic rhythm has not been disturbed, and has even been allowed fuller play by the arrangement of the prose books in paragraphs, and of the poetical books in separate lines. The revisers are to be congratulated on the satisfactory result of their fifteen years' labour.

THE *Halifax Critic* has come out in new and improved shape, having been modelled mechanically upon THE WEEK. Every newspaper reader who is nauseated with the bespattering of party hacks—and who is not?—will wish our contemporary success in its attempt "to supply the reading public with a first-class independent journal, fully abreast to the times in its several departments, such as will prove of service to commercial men, and at the same time be read with pleasure by those interested in our mining, manufacturing, and fishing industries, and be found acceptable to those whose predilections lead them to seek for an independent discussion of the great political, literary, educational and social questions of the day."

THE *Gospel Union News* is a twenty-four page monthly journal, published at New Haven, Conn., by John C. Collins, in the interest of Christian workers. It contains news, items, suggestions, plans, correspondence, sermons, sketches, etc., for the furtherance of special Christian work in the churches by evangelists, and otherwise, to reach the masses and unevangelized classes of America. The subscription is nominal. The June number contains portraits, finely engraved from recent photographs, of Rev. Dr. G. F. Pentecost and Mr. and Mrs. George C. Stebbins, the Gospel singers, with brief biographical sketches of the evangelist's methods of work in the Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, Brooklyn, by which this church has grown in four years from a membership of 200 to one of 900. Many of Dr. Pentecost's plans may easily be made of use in other churches.

MESSRS. FUNK AND WAGNALLS announce for publication, in the latter part of this month, a book from the White House by Miss Cleveland. The volume will consist of critical and expository essays. The President's sister writes vigorously, we are assured, and gives evidence of extensive reading. She has no patience with the modern pessimists. She discusses with equal readiness the teachings of Gautama, Carlyle, Mr. Hume, and Mahomet. The problems of ethics, the disputed points of aesthetics, and the conundrums of history she grapples with eagerness. It now appears that Miss Cleveland's protracted absence from the White House, which had given rise to false reports of a disagreement between herself and her brother on the question of the use of wine at the dinner-table, was occasioned, in fact, by business with her publishers. Having made the necessary arrangements for printing the volume containing her essays on ethical and historical subjects, and for putting the same upon the market, Miss Cleveland has returned to Washington.

AN undertaking, extraordinary even in these days of novelty and originality, has been proposed by a well-known English capitalist, and, if the idea is well received, it may before long be carried out. The suggestion is to establish a "Circulating Picture Loan Society," on the principle of the well-known Mudie's Library. In consideration of an annual payment, subscribers will be entitled to the loan of one or more pictures by living artists of every degree of talent, according to the amount of their subscription. These pictures would be changed from time to time—say every three or six months, as the subscriber's taste or the terms of his contract might dictate. A list of artists and their works available for circulation would be published by the company periodically. It is claimed by the promoter that by means of his scheme the artistic taste of the middle classes throughout the country would be well served and educated as well, the inconvenience of paying down a lump sum for the acquisition of a picture would be obviated, a great impetus would be given to art, and a very necessary encouragement offered to artists of every grade.

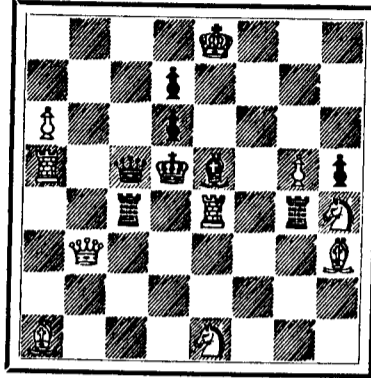
CHESS.

All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 103.

By Geo. H. Thornton, Buffalo, N. Y.
From *The Mirror*.

BLACK.



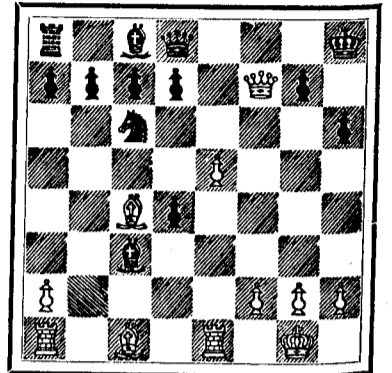
WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

END GAME.

From an Evans Gambit, played at Toronto Chess Club.

BLACK—Mr. M.



WHITE—Mr. Phillips.

White to play. Move made B K Kt 5.

A SKITTLING SKIRMISH.

Played at the Toronto Chess Club Rooms between Mr. C. W. Phillips and Mr. F. L. S., the former giving the odds of Queen's Knight.

(Remove White's Q's Kt.)

Philidor's Defence.

| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|--------|
| Mr. Phillips. | Mr. S. | Mr. Phillips. | Mr. S. |
| 1. P K 4 | P K 4 | 8. R K 1 | B Q 3 |
| 2. Kt K B 3 | P Q 3 | 9. Kt x B P | K x Kt |
| 3. P Q 4 | P x P | 10. R x B | Kt Q 4 |
| 4. B Q B 4 | P K R 3 | 11. Q R 5 ch | K x R |
| 5. Castles | Kt K B 3 | 12. B x Kt ch | K Q 2 |
| 6. P K 5 | P x P | 13. Q B 5 ch | K K 1 |
| 7. Kt x P | B K 3 | 14. Q B 7 mate. | |

CHESS ITEMS.

THE prize winners in the Sixth Bohemian Problem Tourney of the Svetozor are John Dobrusky, Joseph Paspisil, and George Chocholous.

AT the annual meeting of the New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club, held last week, the present officers were unanimously renominated. The reports show the club in a very flourishing condition, with a balance in the treasury of several thousand dollars.

THE first annual programme of the British Chess Association is announced. A tournament for British subjects will be held at Simpson's Divan, from June 15th to June 29th, with prizes amounting to 40 guineas. The exercises also include an international problem tourney, for problems in two, three and four moves. For best set of three, £5 5s.; second best, £3 3s.; third best, £2 2s. Best three-er and four-er, £3 3s. each; best two-er, £2 2s. Address, with motto and five shillings entrance, L. Hoffer, 21 Fulham Place, Maida Hill, London, W. Send duplicate copies, with name and address, to F. H. Lewis, 51 Holland Park, Kensington, London, W.

THE members of the "Oldtown Chess Club" set up a little game on Colonel Thompson, not long since, during Zukertort's visit to Cincinnati. One of the members disguised himself and was introduced to the "club" as "Dr. Zukertort!" The Colonel, feeling the importance of the occasion, desired to play with the celebrated champion, and of course the club were only too willing to select him as the player of the evening. Immensely delighted, the Colonel sat down at a table with the redoubtable Dr., around which gathered the rest of the club, and the playing began. Everything ran smoothly for awhile, until at last the feigned Dr. looked across the board and announced, "Mate in five moves!" "What!" yelled the Colonel, "five moves? It can't be done!" Zukertort (?) demonstrated the mate. "Yes; but I won't play in that way," said the Colonel. "What will you do?" asked the Dr. "Do?" roared the Colonel, "why, I won't play at all, sir; and if I don't play, how in thunder can you mate me, sir?" and he arose from the table in disgust. "Thanks!" replied the Dr., and soon took his departure. Then it was discovered that the Colonel had a mate on the move on the supposed Zukertort War? Well, you can bet. And the old man believes to this day that Zukertort tried that trick, and did it to beat him, too.

THE Oldtown Club had among its members one of those fellows who are to be found in almost every club, who interferes in everybody's game, gives advice where it is not wanted, and whose knowledge of the game is in inverse proportion to his officiousness. This fellow was known generally as the nuisance. To no one was he more of an annoyance than to the veteran Colonel Thompson, who had wasted on him all the arrows of fierce wrath and sarcastic sneer, to no effect. The nuisance had a hide like a rhinoceros. One day a discussion arose as to odds-giving. The nuisance, of course, "chipped in:" "If anyone ever gives me the odds of a Rook and wins the game, I will resign from the club." The colonel was on him like an office-seeker on a congressman who is supposed to have "influence" with the administration. "Set up the men, sir." "For what?" "I am going to give you the odds of a Rook and beat you." "You can't do it." "But I will, sir." The fellow looked puzzled, but there was no room to back out. The men were set up, the game played, and the Colonel scored it. Amid roars and jeers the fellow left. "Well," said the Colonel, "this is the first time I ever played scavenger." "Scavenger! How is that, Colonel?" "Why, I have just been abating a nuisance."—*Southern Trade Gazette.*

DOMINION BANK.

Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders held at the Banking House of the Institution in Toronto on Wednesday, May 27, 1885.

The Annual General Meeting of the Dominion Bank was held at the Banking House of the Institution on Wednesday, May 27, 1885.

Among those present were noticed—Messrs. James Austin, G. Boyd, Walter S. Lee, James Scott, Hon. Frank Smith, R. S. Cassels, Anson Jones, W. T. Dingle, Wilmot D. Matthews, R. H. Bethune, E. Leadlay, Aaron Ross, George Robinson, S. K. Dingle, Wm. Ince, E. B. Osler, etc.

It was moved by Mr. G. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Wm. Ince, that Mr. James Austin do take the Chair.

Mr. Wilmot D. Matthews moved, seconded by Mr. James Scott,

Resolved—That Mr. R. H. Bethune do act as Secretary.

The Secretary read the report of the Directors to the Shareholders, and submitted the Annual Statement of the affairs of the Bank, which is as follows:—

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Balance of profit and loss account, 30th April, 1884..... | \$8,632 63 |
| Profits for the year ending 10th April, 1885, after deducting charges of management, etc., and making full provisions for all bad and doubtful debts | 203,496 51 |
| | \$212,129 14 |
| Dividend 5 per cent., paid 1st November, 1884..... | \$75,000 00 |
| Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st May, 1885..... | 75,000 00 |
| | 150,000 00 |
| | \$62,129 14 |
| Carried to reserve fund..... | \$50,000 00 |
| Written off bank premises account..... | 10,000 00 |
| | 60,000 00 |
| Balance of profit and loss carried forward..... | \$2,129 14 |

The alterations and additions to the Head Office which were in progress last year are now nearly completed, which the Directors trust will meet the approval of the Shareholders.

It will be observed that \$10,000 has been applied to the reduction of the Bank premises account out of the profits of the year, a policy of writing off more or less every year, as circumstances warranted, having been observed since the Bank commenced business.

A vacancy at the Board was caused in December last by the resignation of Mr. Crowther, which was filled by the appointment of Mr. Wm. Ince, of the firm of Messrs. Perkins, Ince & Co., of Toronto.

Owing to the rapid growth of the city the Directors have thought it advisable to open an agency of the Bank at the corner of Queen and Sherbourne Streets.

JAMES AUSTIN,
President.

Messrs. R. S. Cassels and Walter S. Lee were appointed Scrutineers.

Mr. James Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Edward Leadlay, and

Resolved—That the report be adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Aaron Ross, seconded by Mr. Anson Jones, and

Resolved—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the President, Vice-President, and Directors for their services during the year.

It was moved by Mr. Walter S. Lee, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and

Resolved—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Cashier, Agents, and other Officers of the Bank for the efficient performances of their respective duties.

It was moved by Mr. W. T. Dingle, seconded by Mr. S. K. Dingle, and

Resolved—That the poll be now opened for the election of seven Directors, and that the same be closed at two o'clock in the afternoon, or as soon before that hour as five minutes shall elapse without any vote being polled; and that the Scrutineers, on the close of the poll do hand to the Chairman a certificate of the result of the poll.

Mr. Aaron Ross moved, seconded by Mr. G. Robinson, and

Resolved—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. James Austin for his able conduct in the Chair.

The Scrutineers declared the following gentlemen duly elected Directors for the ensuing year:—Messrs. James Austin, Wm. Ince, E. Leadlay, Wilmot D. Matthews, E. B. Osler, James Scott, and Hon. Frank Smith.

At a subsequent Meeting of the Directors Mr. James Austin was elected President and the Hon. Frank Smith Vice-President for the ensuing term.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| LIABILITIES. | |
| Capital Stock paid up | \$1,500,000 00 |
| Reserve Fund..... | \$980,000 00 |
| Balance of Profits carried forward | 2,129 14 |
| Dividends unclaimed..... | 814 00 |
| Dividend No 23, payable May 1st | 75,000 00 |
| Reserved for interest and exchange | 61,222 13 |
| Rebate on Bills Discounted..... | 22,288 83 |
| | 1,141,453 60 |
| | \$2,641,453 60 |
| Notes in circulation..... | \$991,500 00 |
| Deposits not bearing interest..... | 855,780 45 |
| Deposits bearing interest..... | 4,327,914 61 |
| Balances due to other Banks in Great Britain..... | 143,709 49 |
| Balances due to other Banks in Canada | 242 66 |
| | 6,309,127 21 |
| | \$8,950,580 81 |
| ASSETS. | |
| Specie | \$149,167 36 |
| Dominion Government Demand Notes..... | 537,740 00 |
| Notes and Cheques of other Banks | 100,309 54 |
| Balances due from other Banks | 545,288 10 |
| Government Securities..... | 462,753 49 |
| Municipal and other Debentures..... | 922,278 16 |
| | \$2,797,536 65 |
| Bills Discounted and Current (including advances on call) | \$5,935,467 72 |
| Overdue Debts secured | 34,968 34 |
| Overdue Debts not specially secured (estimated loss provided for) | 36,285 81 |
| Real Estate | 9,745 41 |
| Bank Premises..... | 193,309 88 |
| Other Assets not included under foregoing heads | 3,243 00 |
| | 6,153,044 16 |
| | \$8,950,580 81 |

R. H. BETHUNE,
Cashier,

DOMINION BANK,
Toronto, 30th April, 1885.

CANADA LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY.

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\$20,000

is now prepared to consider

New Applications, or Increases of Present Assurances up to that amount.

A. G. RAMSAY,
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

DIVISION OF PROFITS, 1885.

ASSURERS JOINING NOW

WILL SHARE IN THE PROFITS ABOUT TO BE DECLARED.

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By order of the Board.

CHARLES DRINKWATER,
Secretary.

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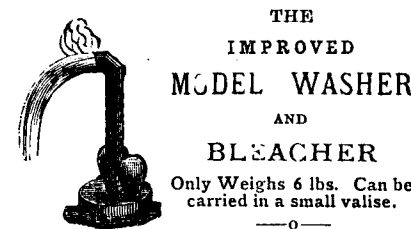
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WHAT IS CATARRH!

From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

Catarrh is a muco-purulent discharge caused by the presence and development of the vegetable parasite amoeba in the internal lining membrane of the nose. This parasite is only developed under favourable circumstances, and these are:—Morbid state of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of urebala, the germ poison of syphills, mercury, toxo-moa, from the retention of the effeted matter of the skin, suppressed perspiration, badly ventilated sleeping apartments, and other poisons that are germinated in the blood. These poisons keep the internal lining membrane of the nose in a constant state of irritation, ever ready for the deposit of the seeds of these germs, which spread up the nostrils and down the fauces, or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat; up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; burrowing in the vocal cords, causing hoarseness, usurping the proper structure of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.

Many attempts have been made to discover a cure for this distressing disease by the use of inhalants and other ingenious devices, but none of these treatments can do a particle of good until the parasites are either destroyed or removed from the mucous tissue.

Some time since a well-known physician of forty years' standing, after much experimenting, succeeded in discovering the necessary combination of ingredients which never fail in absolutely and permanently eradicating this horrible disease, whether standing for one year or forty years. Those who may be suffering from the above disease, should, without delay, communicate with the business managers,

Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King St. West, Toronto, Canada, and inclose stamp for their treatise on Catarrh

What the Rev. E. B. Stevenson, B.A., a clergyman of the London Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, has to say in regard to A. H. Dixon & Son's New Treatment for Catarrh.

Oakland, Ont., Canada, March 17, '85.

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DEAR SIRS,—Yours of the 13th instant to hand. It seems almost too good to be true that I am cured of Catarrh, but I know that I am. I have had no return of the disease, and never felt better in my life. I have tried so many things for Catarrh, suffered so much and for so many years, that is hard for me to realize that I am really better.

I consider that mine was a very bad case; it was aggravated and chronic, involving the throat as well as the nasal passages, and I thought I would require the three treatments, but I feel fully cured by the two sent me, and I am thankful that I was ever induced to send to you.

You are at liberty to use this letter stating that I have been cured at two treatments, and I shall gladly recommend your remedy to some of my friends who are sufferers.

Yours, with many thanks,

REV. E. B. STEVENSON.

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 The following letter from one of our best-
 known Massachusetts Druggists should be of
 interest to every sufferer:—
RHEUMATISM. "Eight years ago I
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 Rheumatism, so se-
 vere that I could not move from the bed, or
 dress without help. I tried several reme-
 dies without much if any relief, until I took
 AYER'S SARSAPARILLA, by the use of two
 bottles of which I was completely cured.
 Have sold large quantities of your SARSAPARILLA,
 and it still retains its wonderful
 popularity. The many notable cures it has
 effected in this vicinity convince me that it
 is the best blood medicine ever offered to the
 public.
 River St., Buckland, Mass., May 13, 1882.
 E. F. HARRIS."

SALT RHEUM. GEORGE ANDREWS,
 overseer in the Lowell
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 was for over twenty years before his removal
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 worst form. Its ulcerations actually covered
 more than half the surface of his body and
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 SARSAPARILLA. See certificate in Ayer's
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BROWN STOUT
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 Testimonials Selected.
 TORONTO, April 12th, 1880.
 I hereby certify that I have examined samples of JOHN LABATT'S
 INDIA PALE ALE, submitted to me for analysis by JAMES GOOD & Co., agents
 for this city, and find it to be perfectly sound, containing no ascetic acids, im-
 purities or adulterations, and can strongly recommend it as perfectly pure, and
 a very superior malt liquor.
 HENRY H. CROFT.

BEAVER HALL HILL, MONTREAL, Dec. 20, 1880.
 I hereby certify that I have analyzed several samples of INDIA PALE ALE
 and XXX STOUT, from the brewery of JOHN LABATT, London, Ont. I find
 them to be remarkably sound Ales, brewed from pure malt and hops. I have
 examined both the March and October brewings, and find them of uniform
 quality. They may be recommended to invalids or convalescents where malt
 beverages are required as tonic.
 Signed, JOHN BAKER EDWARDS, Ph.D., D.C.L.,
 Professor of Chemistry and Public Analyst.
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SICILIAN
Hair Renewer.

Seldom does a popular remedy win such a
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 color to the hair, and vigorous health to the
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 Old people like it for its wonderful power to
 restore to their whitening locks their original
 color and beauty. Middle-aged people like it
 because it prevents them from getting bald,
 keeps dandruff away, and makes the hair
 grow thick and strong. Young ladies like it
 as a dressing because it gives the hair a beau-
 tiful glossy lustre, and enables them to dress
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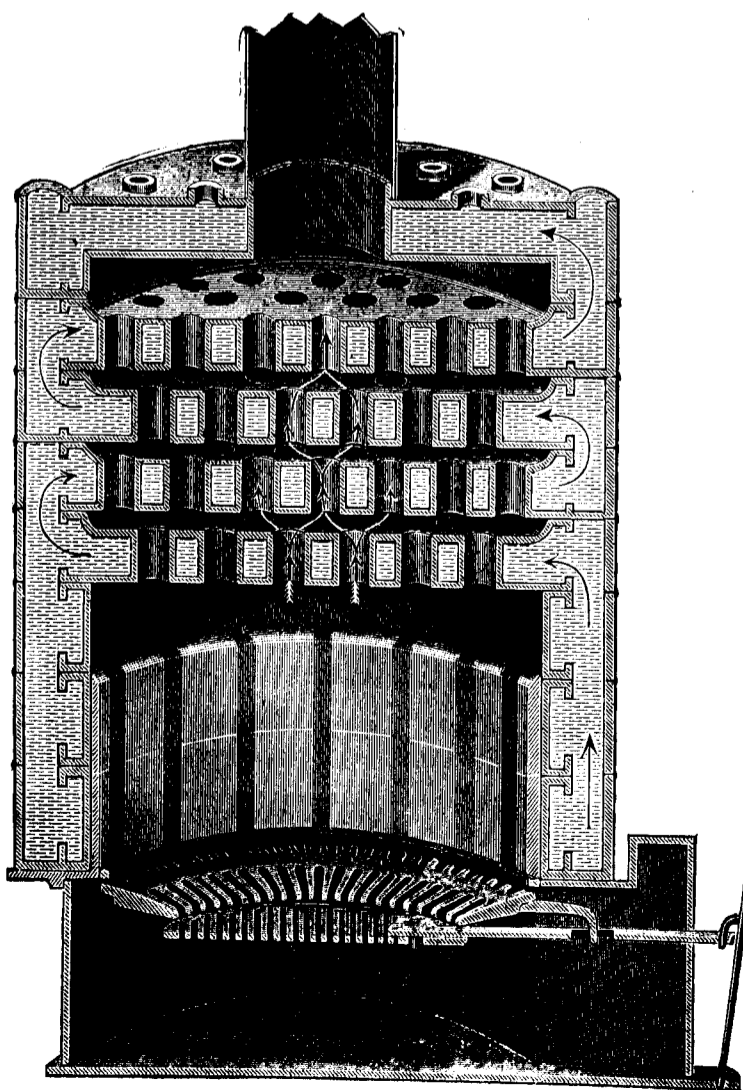
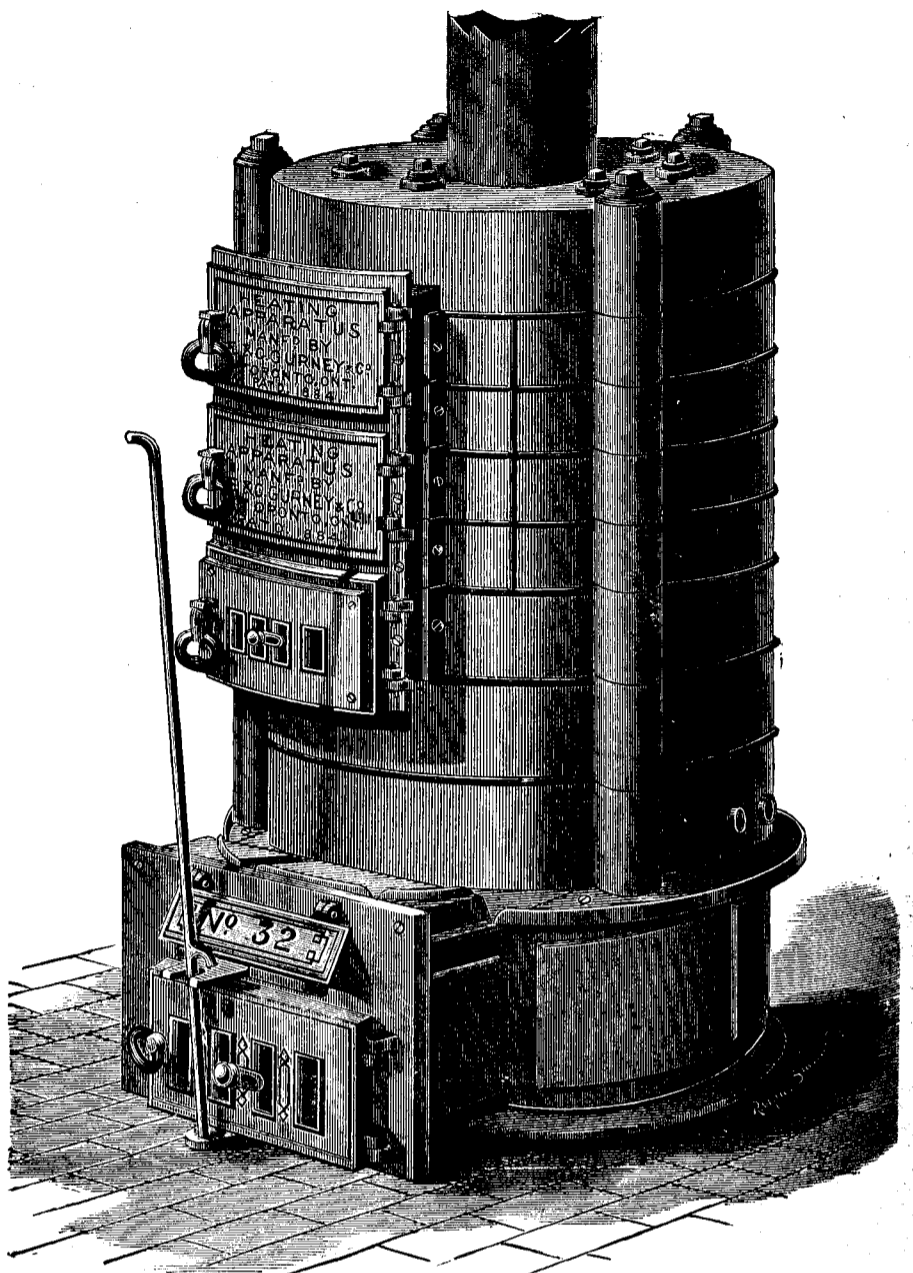
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