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THE WEEK

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THE WEEK.

Vol. XII.

Toronto, Friday, May 31st, 1895.

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Current Topics.

The Governor General.

We beg to congratulate His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada, on the well-deserved and honourable distinction lately conferred upon him by Her Majesty the Queen. Canadians are pleased that their Governor-General is one whom his Queen delights to honour, for they regard with sincere esteem and affection Lord Aberdeen, who has ever shown himself to be animated with the single purpose of advancing what he considers the best interests of the people of the Dominion. No better proof of this feeling on the part of Canadians for the Governor-General is wanting than the splendid reception accorded to him and to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen at the Parliament Buildings in Toronto last Monday evening. A matter for further congratulation is the brilliant success which has attended the present meeting of the National Council of Women in the welfare of which both their Excellencies are so keenly interested.

A Radical Difference.

From the fact that no announcement to the contrary has been made, it is generally inferred that the conference between His Excellency, the Governor-General, and the Premier and the Attorney-General of Manitoba, in respect to the Manitoba school difficulty, has proved fruitless. Meanwhile, representatives of the two extremes of opinion are returning to the charge, some of them with increasing vigor. Among these is Mgr. Langevin, the Archbishop of St. Boniface, who talks fervently of "rights," and "scholastic liberties," and "British fair play." Now, without going into the legal or constitutional aspects of the question, we should like to ask why it is that the representatives of the Manitoba minority, especially its clerical advocates, so persistently ignore the one consideration which constitutes the real question in the minds of all honest Protestants, viz., that what is asked on behalf of the minority is the power to teach the peculiar tenets of the Roman Catholic religion at the expense of the State. These Protestant objectors deny that there is any question whatever about giving to their Roman Catholic fellow-citizens every right and privilege in respect to the schools which they ask for themselves. Where they take issue is at the point where the teaching, for which all the citizens in common provide the funds, turns aside from what is understood as school education proper, and enters upon the sinuous and obscure paths of sectarian dogma and ritual, with which they believe the State should have nothing to do.

Whether right or wrong, the distinction is surely clear and arguable. Yet we do not remember ever to have seen this, the essential and vital point of the controversy, fairly met or even recognized by the Catholic prelates.

The Attempted Compromise.

It must be admitted that the spectacle of the Governor-General, in person, holding a series of interviews with leading members of the Executive of a Province, without the presence of his constitutional advisers, is a novel if not an unprecedented one in Canada. It does not appear, however, that there is anything, either in the Constitution, the Imperial instructions, or, in the nature of things, to prevent His Excellency from communicating with whom he will, on whatever topics he may please, so long as he neither attempts nor contemplates any Executive action save at the instance and on the responsibility of his constitutional advisers. It would be no one's business, so far as we can see, where or whence the proposed action had originated, so long as the Government made the proposed measure or policy its own. There may be, it is true, an element of danger arising from the possibility of His Excellency's advisers declining to adopt a given compromise or mode of procedure which commended itself to his own judgment and conscience. In such an event, there might be possibility of unpleasant complications with those advisers, who might suspect that an attempt was being made to supersede them by usurping their functions, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution. In the present instance it is pretty certain that not only Sir Mackenzie and his colleagues, but the whole country, would have been only too glad had he been able to agree upon the terms of a compromise which would have settled the struggle without infraction of any Constitutional principle, or the establishment of any troublesome precedent. Of this there seems at present to be no hope.

An Improbable Innovation.

One of the latest cable despatches alleges that the Imperial Government, in Cabinet Council assembled, have firmly resolved on a resolute perseverance with their bills until autumn, no matter how small may be their majorities. This coincides with the amended resolution passed on Monday, at a joint meeting of the London Liberal Radical Union and the National Liberal Club, calling upon the Government to hold an autumn session for the purpose of completing the Newcastle programme. It is not unlikely, notwithstanding any agitation for a different course which may have been promoted by certain members of the party, that this, which was known to be the policy of the Government at the beginning of the session, may have been steadfastly adhered to throughout, in spite of current rumours. It is highly improbable, however, that it means what was alleged in certain rumours which were current a few weeks ago, and may be so still, in certain political circles, to the effect that the Government intend, if beaten upon either the Welsh Disestablishment, or the Local Veto Bill, to decline to accept such a defeat as a declaration of want of confidence, such as to necessitate resignation, and to continue in office, merely asking for a vote of confidence upon their general policy. It is, of course, in the almost countless multitude of amendments to be moved in Committee, quite possible that the Government may suffer defeat on any one of a dozen or a hundred, none

of them seriously affecting the principle of the Bill under discussion. But to refuse to accept defeat on any important feature of one of these bills would be, as the *London Spectator* says, not only a new departure, establishing a new constitutional precedent, but a weakening of the whole position of the Executive, by depriving it of half its driving power, the right to resign or to order a new election when its measures are rejected being one of the *special sources of its strength*, particularly with its own members.

Colonists in the
Judicial Committee.

The bill which Lord Rosebery presented the other day in the House of Lords, to enable Colonial judges of the first rank, on being sworn in as members of the Imperial Privy Council, to sit on the Judicial Committee, though it may not, perhaps, be of great practical importance, is a step further in the direction in which Imperial policy touching Colonial relations has been steadily trending for some years past. It is a fitting sequel to the appointment of Colonists to positions on councils of arbitration in regard to questions in which Colonial interest are involved, and to the giving of Colonial representatives a voice in the negotiation of commercial treaties by which the Colonies are bound. We do not see that the Colonies have any reason to complain that they are left to pay the salaries of their own representatives on the Committee. In view of the small number of cases in which questions in which they are particularly interested are likely to come before the Committee—and it is to be hoped that such cases may become more and more rare—it will be a question for the Colonies themselves to decide whether they will care to pay the large salaries which are, we presume, attached to the position in the case of the British Lords. To adopt a lower scale would scarcely comport with the dignity of the position, and might increase the danger, which will be always present, that an idea of inferiority may come to be associated with the Colonial representatives. This is, however, shooting in the dark, as we do not at the moment know what are the salaries of the British Lords of the Council. If the Colonial members should continue to exercise their functions as judges of the Supreme Courts of their respective colonies, embarrassment might possibly sometimes result from their being called on to re-consider decisions which they themselves had had a hand in making; but, on the other hand, the fact of their intimate knowledge of the matter under consideration might facilitate a just decision by the court of last resort.

The Hyams Case.

Unsatisfactory as the result is from many points of view, it is not unlikely that the interests of justice could not at present have been better served in the Hyams case than by the failure of the jury to agree. We may with a good deal of confidence say that the case is one of those, all too frequent, in which those who have followed closely the evidence find themselves led to a conviction, amounting almost to moral certainty, unfavourable to the accused, while they yet realize that the proof is not sufficiently clear and positive to warrant a verdict of "Guilty." The chain of circumstantial evidence so skilfully forged by the prosecuting counsel was so nearly perfect, in respect to both motive and action, that it was difficult to see any possibility of escape for the trembling prisoners at the bar. Yet there were obviously weak or missing links which sufficed to prevent it from taking on the nature of absolutely conclusive legal proof. These weak points were made still weaker—this is about all that can be said—by such evidence adduced by the defence as could be felt to be in any high degree reliable. Probably there were few who did not feel constrained to distrust, for

some reason, those portions of the evidence for the defence which were newest and most direct. For instance, the force of the testimony brought in to establish an alibi for Dallas Hyams was so completely discredited both by its newness and by the utter impossibility of harmonizing it with any account given at the time by either of the brothers, that one is disposed to wonder that the astute counsel should have allowed it to be presented, seeing that its tendency must have been to discredit not only itself but the accompanying testimony. But the remark we set out to make is that inasmuch as, in view of the prevalent conviction of the prisoners' guilt, their acquittal would have been regarded as a signal failure of justice, and on the other hand, that the defence had succeeded in casting so much doubt upon the evidence of their guilt that their conviction would have been regarded by many as unwarranted by the evidence, it is well that they should be held in custody so as to give ample opportunity for the crown to investigate more closely the origin of the doubtful testimony and perhaps to get permission to lay before the jury evidence in regard to the antecedent characters and conduct of the prisoners—a matter of no small importance in such a case.

A Dark
Picture.

To the unsophisticated it must often be a cause for wonder that a rest, or something approaching a rest, should not sometime be reached in the work of law-making, especially local law-making. Why, at least, should not the wise men in our local legislatures be able so completely to supply the demand, or if not the demand, the actual need for legislation, to such an extent that the affairs of the Province might go on very comfortably for several years with little new law-making? Are the conditions in a staid community such as ours really changing so rapidly that it is necessary that an assembly of representatives should be brought together at large expense, for weeks or months every year, to correct the mistakes, amend the shortcomings, and supplement the deficiencies of past years of legislation by the self-same body of representatives? Is there a genuine necessity for those scores upon scores of bills which are made into Acts, and set down in the statute-books as laws, every season? We are bound, we suppose, to believe that, in the great majority of cases, the new laws are made necessary by some changed conditions, or some serious deficiencies which have been found by experience. We should be sorry to think that the statements of the *New York Nation* with regard to the Legislature of the great State which lies next door to us, are true in any wise of our own, viz. :—"That, aside from the necessity of rectifying abuses created by former legislatures, there is not a single statute of the past ten years without which we could not have got along tolerably well;" that, in other words, "the work of the legislature has been, in the main, simple mischief, or worse." And yet one cannot but wonder why there should be perpetual need for so many new laws, and whether we are not in some danger from a plethora both of legislation and of government.

"A Legislative
Torment"

If, however, the description of the New York Legislature given by *The Nation*, one of the most reputable and reliable of American periodicals, be regarded as containing even a fair percentage of truth, neither the members of our Legislature nor the people who elect them will thank us for mentioning their names in the same connection. It may, possibly, serve as a salutary warning to quote some of the points given by *The Nation* as descriptive of the Legislature in question. We may thereby be reminded that eternal vigilance is the price of purity as well as of liberty. Says *The Nation* :—

"The members do not represent the State in any proper sense of the term. They have no connection, or none worth notice, with its industry, or trade, or commerce, or art, or science, or literature, or religion, or education. They are mostly young, obscure, and often very ignorant men. They seldom have any regular means of livelihood outside of politics. Very few of them could get private employment in any reputable calling. . . . In the belief of nearly all the intelligent portion of our population, the meeting of the Legislature every January in Albany is simply the opening of a school of vice. As soon as the Speaker is elected, the members organize, under a master who is not a member of their body, for the sale of legislation in quantities to suit purchasers, or for the levy of black-mail. Not the smallest sign do they show of any responsibility for public peace, comfort, or prosperity. They take their pay in money or offices, or 'something equally as good.' They create a small army of go-betweens and lobbyists and gamblers—a kind of 'devil drummers' who bring buyers and sellers together."

This is indeed a dark picture. One of the most hopeless features of the situation is the fact that reform in the near future is almost despaired of. "Every New York boy hears every day that the legislators are a pack of scoundrels. . . . Friends and foes say the same thing." The effect upon the political education of the children—the citizens of a few years hence—may be imagined. If any of us feel disposed to thank God that we are not as our neighbours in this matter, we shall do well also to remember that fifty years, or perhaps a much shorter period ago, these neighbours were as upright and straightforward in their politics as the most optimistic among us can claim that we now are. Would it not be well to ask ourselves what has made us to differ, so as to be able to avoid the sources of danger.

* * *

Written Constitutions.

THE written constitution is on its trial just now, both in Canada and in the United States, from which Canada borrowed the plan. A written compact of some sort is, of course, involved in the very idea of federation, but it is becoming doubtful whether an elaborate and complicated cast-iron structure is the unmixed good it has by many been supposed to be. There are two serious objections to it in operation, objections which will probably become more serious as the Constitution grows older, until some readier means of making the modifications shown by experience to be desirable is provided. In its very nature the written Constitution, in so far as it is fixed, or virtually fixed by reason of the difficulty of changing or modifying it, is based on the assumption that its framers, whether of twenty-five, or fifty, or five hundred years ago, were wiser, and knew what would be suited to the wants and conditions of their descendants or successors for all time to come better than those descendants themselves. Thus it is virtually decreed that the posterity, no matter how changed the times and circumstances, are to be governed by the men of long ago. The self-government on which they may pride themselves is to this extent a nullity, as the people of the United States are just now experiencing, and as we are in a fair way to experience.

A second objection, even more practical in its character, is that a written Constitution has to be interpreted, and, consequently, must have authoritative interpreters. Inasmuch as the times and circumstances change and new conditions are constantly arising which the framers of the Constitution could not foresee, and, consequently, could not provide for or against, it follows that the interpreters of the Constitution may themselves become virtually Constitution-makers, or under-makers, interpreting and applying its supposed principles to cases which were not and could not have been in the minds of the first framers. Practical illustrations of the force of this objection are just now afforded

in both Canada and the great Republic. These show that, while the original purpose of the written Constitution is to give stability to the nation and save it from the consequences of the possible fickleness of its people, it really may work in the opposite direction, involving questions of the first importance in the greatest uncertainty. The history of the decisions of the different courts to which the interpretation of the Canadian Constitution, in its bearing upon the Manitoba school case, has in succession been entrusted, sets in a clear light the uncertainty which prevails in our own country in regard to the meaning of the Constitution, as applied to that case. So, too, in the United States, the recent decision affirming the unconstitutionality of the Income Tax Act, a decision, reached through one man's vacillation, sets before us in a most striking manner the uncertainties of the laws' interpretation in difficult cases. Even now it may happen that the retirement or death of one member of the Supreme Court, and his replacement by another taking a different view, will bring about a complete change of result and make the now rejected Income Tax Bill constitutional and hence operative. Thus the working of the very system which was devised to prevent the enactment of legislation deviating from certain fixed lines, may lead to the most damaging financial uncertainty. There is, of course, much difference of opinion among both the people and their representatives in Congress, with regard to the justice and soundness of the principle involved in seeking by indirect means to throw the heavier burden of taxation for the public needs upon the wealthier citizens, in proportion to their wealth, but it is hard to see how there can be much room for question that the taxation of incomes, provided it can successfully be done, is about the fairest way of distributing the burden among the citizens, which can be devised. And yet when Congress has agreed to make trial of this method, it is prevented by the alleged force of a clause in the Constitution, placed there by ancestors who had probably no such conditions in mind as those which now exist and give rise to the difficulty which this legislation is intended to meet. Even were it otherwise, why should a country which boasts of absolute self-government, suffer the judgment and will of its representatives to be balked by the opinions of the constitution-builders of a century ago? Even assuming that the provisions of the Constitution are wiser and sounder than the legislation of such a Congress as the nation is now blessed with, it can scarcely be a question for one who really believes in "government of the people, by the people, for the people," as the ideal of political freedom, whether it is better for the people to learn by hard experience to guard against the short-sighted and mischievous blunders of their own representatives, or to be prosperous under the wiser rule of their dead ancestors. In other words, have not the free and sovereign people a right, at any moment, to govern themselves?

It may be said that the case of Canada is peculiar, inasmuch as we have the power of appeal to a judicial tribunal of higher authority than any in our own country for final decisions of constitutional questions which we may be unable to decide harmoniously for ourselves. We need not stay to inquire whether the power and habit of running to the Home authorities for the settlement of questions affecting only ourselves are likely in the long run to conduce to our strength and harmony, as a self-governing community, or the opposite. The point under consideration is whether the decision of such questions, on the basis of a purely judicial interpretation of a doubtful clause in a Constitution drawn up a generation ago, when the conditions of the Province immediately concerned were very different from those which now exist, is the method which accords most closely with the dignity, and conduces most powerfully to the develop-

ment and general welfare, of five millions of people, accused to think and speak of themselves as a self-governing community, *i.e.*, as a nation. Is there any doubt as to what would be the decision with respect to the establishment of sectarian Separate Schools in Manitoba were the Manitoba School Act now being drawn up?

It may be said that to reason thus is to ignore the moral obligations of a solemn compact. This raises what we readily admit are fundamental questions in national ethics. To what extent can a people be morally bound by the agreement of a former generation? Is the moral obligation irrevocable and eternal, under all changes of conditions? If not, what are its limitations in regard to time and circumstance? It is obvious that if the obligation is unlimited and perpetual, or, in any case, so long as it lasts, there can be no such thing as freedom or self-government.

But, it may be said, to deny the binding force of such an obligation is to take away the possibility of any guarantee or safeguard for the rights of a minority, and to subject such rights to the whims of a fickle majority. There is force in the objection. But it may be replied that the security provided by the written article is of value only in proportion to the justice and sense of honour of that majority, in any event, and that, if that sense of honour and that sentiment of right, reinforced, as they are certain to be mightily under our party system of government, by the political combinations and influences which even a small compact minority can bring to bear, cannot be relied on, the stability that can be given by a paper bond will prove of little avail in the end. Institutions which are not in accord with the sentiments and convictions of the majority cannot be long upheld by the decrees of a handful of predecessors, legislating under very different conditions.

* * *

Racing.

TO conduct a five-days' race meeting, with all the complicated details that such a meeting entails, and to conduct it without a hitch, and apparently to the satisfaction of all concerned, is no small matter. Accordingly the Ontario Jockey Club, its president, Mr. Hendrie, and its secretary, Mr. Lyndhurst Ogden, deserve warm commendation for the manner in which they contributed to the pleasure of all lovers of horses and horsemanship last week. The time when the annual meeting at the Woodbine was a thing of interest only to a few, when the competitors for the stakes and plates were anything but numerous, and the sum total of those stakes and plates was all but paltry, is probably within the recollection of our youngest reader. To-day all three conditions are changed, as the attendance this year abundantly proved.

The details of the racing are by this time, of course, ancient history. But it is interesting to analyse the springs of motive which draw such throngs to a horse race. There is something, surely, first of all, in the fact that a horse race is seen out in the open, on the green turf, under the blue sky. All Greek games, even the Greek drama, took place out in the open; and both, we know, were thronged from early dawn. Little as we may regard it, there is probably, even to the most urban of populaces, a potent influence exercised by the spacious earth and the lofty atmosphere of the country. They contribute to buoyancy of spirits, to relief from toil and care. But after all, the primary source of interest is no doubt the excitement aroused by the struggle for vic-

between the noblest of animals trained and chosen by the most scrupulous and scientific care. Strife for pre-eminence is perhaps the mainspring of all human action. It

is an inherent fact of all nature. Every sport attests it; every drawing-room game attests it. In its more serious aspects it is a creed, a religion. Were there no strife, there would be no progress; there would be immobility. In this strife, too, is that element of danger, requiring nerve, courage, and audacity, the exhibition of which always has, and perhaps always will, evoke the intensest enthusiasm. In horse racing, perhaps, this element is seen in its most legitimate form, for here it can in no way be called degrading, a tendency it is sometimes apt to involve. Beneath this, again, there is the interest attaching to humanity in bulk. What is it causes the exaltation of feeling engendered by a crowd? What brings about that heightening and reverberating of sentiment when masses of men and women are moved by a common impulse? Sympathy is probably at the bottom of it; but the word sympathy does not explain much. The fact remains that to be one in a concourse of our fellows is to most of us a source of enjoyment. Lastly there is, of course, the gambling element. This, no doubt, is the weak point of the turf. But there are hundreds who go to a race without risking a coin, as there are hundreds who risk coins on many things besides racing. Racing may not be an unmixed good, but that its good points are many is hard to gainsay. One of our daily contemporaries the other day astutely pointed out that nothing tended more to the production of good breeds of horses than racing. And naturally. There is no severer test of a horse's powers. And they are tested in public, in an open field, and the results are recorded and acted upon. The nation that is celebrated for its horses is the nation that is celebrated for its horse races. When all vehicles go by electricity; when every man, woman, and child rides a "wheel;" when cavalry gives place to the bicycle corps; and when the magnificent animal which now we ride and drive is useful only for leather and sausage meat, then the Anglo-Saxon may give up horse-racing. Perhaps not even then.

* * *

The Manitoba School Case.—II.

THE School Act of 1890 having been held constitutional, and therefore obligatory, a second attempt was made to get rid of it and to recover the right by law to establish and maintain Separate Schools at the public expense, and get quit of the obligation to contribute to the support of the common school system. This attempt was made by way of appeal to the Governor-General in Council from the Act as a binding enactment, and the petitions prayed for a complete restoration of the Separate School System.

It is worthy of remark here, that the appeal given lies on behalf of the Roman Catholic minority, and though it is a pure question of fact whether a certain number of persons desire a certain thing, no steps seem to have been taken to ascertain whether the Roman Catholic minority were really in favour of the retrogressive step. Analogous proceedings occur in municipal affairs when a local improvement or drainage work is desired by the ratepayers, and what is equivalent to a polling of those affected always takes place. It seems to have been assumed that the petition of a few Roman Catholics and the allegations of their clergy were sufficient proof of this serious question of fact. It could not for a moment be contended that the representations of the clergy in a purely temporal and political matter would be sufficient. They do not represent the people at the polls or in any other political movement. In fact their overpowering influence over the electors of their own faith has been held to be undue influence sufficient to avoid an election brought about by its exercise. And there is good ground for believing that if the sense of the people were taken on the question, apart from this influence, it would at least leave the matter in doubt, if, indeed, it would not result in a negative answer. And it is a most remarkable thing that affidavits of facts, thought by Counsel for the minority to be necessary

for the information of the Ministers, were immediately withdrawn when Counsel for Manitoba proposed to put in affidavits in answer. Matters of actual fact were completely ignored. Matters of assumed and alleged fact were made the basis of the argument and decision.

However, the petition of appeal was laid before the Governor-General in Council, that is, the Ministers of the Crown. Upon the presentation of the petition, the late Premier, when the Council assembled, announced that the Ministers sat in a judicial capacity to discharge judicial functions, and deprecated public discussion of their action on the ground that the question had ceased to be a political one and had become a judicial one. And before proceeding to a hearing of the petition, he announced that there was a doubt whether there was power to hear the appeal—whether it was a case in which an appeal could be taken—and in order to resolve this doubt he proposed to submit certain questions to the Supreme Court of Canada with the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. If the answers to these questions indicated that there was a right of appeal, the appeal would be heard; if not, there the matter ended.

It became very apparent, at this stage, that the Government had determined to act on the petition. It may be said that their course was perfectly logical—first ascertain that an appeal would lie, and then hear it. And it would be discreditable to the memory of the great man who then presided if it could be said that he took an illogical position. But it is too logical for daily practice. It is perfectly consistent with the assumption that the Government, having considered the matter for several years, having (or the members of it having) promised that the expenses of the appeal to England would be paid, having through the Premier promised that if the first appeal was unsuccessful he would entertain favourably their appeal to the Governor-General, had made up their minds to grant the relief, and lest their action should be subsequently challenged had determined to ascertain beforehand how far they might go. When we take into consideration also that not long ago, but before the hearing of the appeal, one or more of the Ministers publicly declared that he or they would resign if the relief were not granted, it may be taken as certain that the assumption is correct. It is hardly possible that these Ministers held different views a few months previously. The question, whether an appeal would lie or not, would have been a purely academic one and the ultimate decision of no practical value, unless the intention had been to grant the appeal. The suggestion is valuable only when we consider that the Government professed to approach and deal with the matter, not as a question of policy, but as one of judicial cognizance; and the value of a judicial utterance is vastly reduced if there is the slightest ground for belief that the judges had, before hearing the appeal, made up their minds to pursue a given course in any event, if only they had the power to do so.

Be that as it may, however, the questions were asked. They are set out in full at page 6 of a report of the case before the Judicial Committee printed for the Government of Canada. In a condensed form they are as follows:—

1. Is the appeal such an appeal as is admissible by the B. N. A. Act or the Manitoba Act?
2. Are the grounds set out in the petitions of appeal such as may be the subject of appeal under those Acts?
3. Does the decision in *Barrett vs. Winnipeg* conclude the appeal for redress?
4. Does the British North America Act apply?
5. Has His Excellency power to make the declarations or remedial orders asked for, assuming the facts to be as stated in the petitions of appeal, or has His Excellency any jurisdiction?
6. Did the Acts of Manitoba, prior to the Act of 1890, confer on or continue to the minority a "right or privilege in relation to education" within the meaning of section 22, sub-section 2, of the Manitoba Act; if so, did the Act of 1890 affect any right or privilege of the minority in such a manner that an appeal will lie to the Governor-General in Council?

I have omitted reference to the British North America Act in the last question, because it was held not to apply.

Now at this point I must again call attention to the already determined fact that no right or privilege existed at the time of the entrance of Manitoba into the Dominion

which was saved from the powers of the Manitoba Legislature; and therefore any right or privilege which was affected by the Act of 1890, was a right or privilege given by the Manitoba Legislature itself; and was therefore one which remained a right or privilege only until the Legislature, having power to repeal or vary its own acts, might lawfully take it away. Inasmuch as they might lawfully take it away (and they had the right to do so, as we have seen), the question placed before the Dominion Government clearly and unmistakably was this—Although the people of Manitoba almost unanimously agreed that a Public School System was better than a Separate School System, is the Dominion Government of the opinion that a Separate School System is so much better for the inhabitants of Manitoba than a Public School System (although the same inhabitants are not aware of it) that, having the power to do so, it should order the restoration of the Separate School System? That was the sole question to be determined by the Government, and before determining it, they asked advice as to whether they had the power to effect this vital change of policy and impose it upon a Province against its will.

It is proper to observe here also that although the Government asked this advice they were not bound by the result, although the contrary has been vigorously maintained. The Act under which the case was submitted to the courts declares that the judges shall certify their opinions to the Governor-General in Council, and shall be advisory only. There is no judgment of the court entered, and no judgment could be entered or could be compulsory upon either the Governor-General in Council or Parliament. Mr. Blake, who could not be accused of bungling his clients' case before the Judicial Committee, upon Lord Watson's remarking that the Governor-General had not asked for a political decision which would fetter him in any way, answered that "the law which created the tribunal for the purpose of giving advice expressly states that in their political capacity they are not bound by that advice:" case, p. 39. It is ludicrous to suggest that Parliament could abdicate its own independent position, or surrender the executive or political authority of the Sovereign to a court. It would be a flagrant act of disobedience to the B. N. A. Act; an abnegation of the sovereignty of the British Parliament which passed it. Again, on the reason of the thing, how could the Governor-General, by simply asking the questions, "Will an appeal lie in this case assuming the facts I have stated to be correct? Have I any power to act in this case," be bound by an affirmative answer to act? The answer to this question is, "Yes, you have the power, use your own discretion as to whether you will exercise it." If he had asked, "Have I the power to disallow an act of the Province of Manitoba?" and had been answered in the affirmative, would any one seriously contend that he would be bound to disallow it? If the decision of the court on this was compulsory, why interpose another hearing between it and executive action? If the decision had been compulsory, why not let the Governor-General act at once in the purely formal manner in which alone he could act, and why enact the farce of hearing argument where he had only one course to follow? A more stultifying course could not be adopted than for the whole Cabinet to sit in array and hear solemn argument, and at the same time assert that they had power to pursue one course only. The habits of thought, the intellectual calibre of any person who could adopt such a proposition must be, to say the least, peculiar. But party training is severe, and perhaps habits of thought are not acquired in that sphere. I have seen it asserted that party politicians give out their thinking as they give out their washing, but do not get it back as clean. The practice of submitting such questions is analogous to that of the House of Lords in its appellate capacity, which enables that august body in important cases to take the opinions of all the judges of England on questions of law for its information. But, the opinions being received, the House is not bound to adopt them, but may still act upon its own judgment. A similar practice obtained in the Court of Chancery, and, upon the consent of the parties, that court could send a stated case to a court of law for their opinion; but the opinion did not bind the Court of Chancery when received. Lawyers will readily recall this practice, but lest my assertion should be challenged I refer to authority: *Prebble vs. Boghurst*, Swanson at p. 320.

I now refer to the judgment of the Privy Council upon the questions asked, premising (as can be seen from the

questions) that their Lordships were not invited to express an opinion upon the advisability of interfering, or what steps the Government should take if they were found able to act, and that the advice of the courts on that matter would therefore have been rather worse than gratuitous.

Their Lordships did not specially answer the questions seriatim, nor were they bound to do so, but, in the judgment delivered by the Lord Chancellor, they determined: (1) That the Manitoba Act, and not the British North America Act, applied. (2) That the case of *Barret vs. Winnipeg*, having determined merely that no right or privilege which existed at the time of the union was infringed, did not conclude them in determining whether an appeal lay respecting a right or privilege which was granted by the Manitoba Legislature after the union. These answers cleared the ground for a determination of the main questions, which, condensed, may be stated to be, Have any rights or privileges, given by the Legislature of Manitoba prior to the Act of 1890, been so affected by that Act that an appeal will lie on the facts stated, to the Governor-General in Council? The answer is succinctly given in the following words:—"For the reasons which have been given their Lordships are of opinion that sub-section 2 of section 22 of the Manitoba Act is the governing enactment, and that the appeal to the Governor-General in Council was admissible by virtue of that enactment, on the grounds set forth in the memorials and petitions, inasmuch as the Act of 1890 affected rights or privileges of the Roman Catholic minority in relation to education within the meaning of that sub-section. The further question is submitted whether the Governor-General in Council has power to make the declarations or remedial orders asked for in the memorials or petitions, or has any other jurisdiction in the premises. Their Lordships have decided that the Governor-General in Council has jurisdiction, and that the appeal is well founded, but the particular course to be pursued must be determined by the authorities to whom it has been committed by statute. [Viz., the Governor-General in Council, then the Manitoba Legislature, acting upon his Excellency's order, or, in default, the Parliament of Canada.] It is not for this tribunal to intimate the precise steps to be taken."

It is abundantly clear that the Government of Canada, having been advised that they were at liberty to hear the appeal, were left perfectly free to adopt any course they thought fit. What, however, was the course taken? The ministers asserted again that in hearing the appeal they were acting judicially and not in their political capacity; that the Judicial Committee had alleged that a grievance existed which ought to be remedied; that there was no recourse but to grant some relief, bearing in mind the effect of the decision; that the question was not one of political significance, but a purely constitutional one, and that they would act according to the constitution. At a subsequent stage, after the remedial order was made, certain ministers asserted that the government had done no more than "throw the question back into Manitoba politics," or, as a French-Canadian newspaper dramatically expressed it, the judgment of the Privy Council came to the Government of Canada misdirected, and the Government readdressed the packet to the Government of Manitoba, saying, "Messieurs, it came to us by mistake!"

The claim of judicial functions for the Cabinet is a serious one, but entirely unfounded. The British North America Act, section 11, enacts that "there shall be a council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada, to be styled the Queen's Privy Council for Canada," etc. Section 13 enacts that "the provisions of this Act referring to the Governor-General in Council shall be construed as referring to the Governor-General acting by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada." The Act in its preamble declares the purpose to be to create a Dominion "with a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom." The functions of the Cabinet are therefore the same in principle as those of the British Cabinet. Bourinot, referring to the latter, says: "The Stuarts made use of it to establish a secret star chamber to usurp the functions of the courts. . . . In the course of the various changes that have occurred in English constitutional history, its judicial functions disappeared and now only survive in the Judicial Committee." [Fed. Gov. in Can., Johns Hopkins Univ. Stud. 7th series, X., XI., XII., p. 86.] Taswell-Langmead quotes from Mr. Gladstone as follows: "Every one of them [ministers] acts in no less than three capacities: as administrator

of a department of state; as a member of a legislative chamber, and as a confidential adviser of the Crown." [Eng. Const. Hist., 4th Ed., p. 710.] In his text he says: "The old constitutional maxim that 'the King can do no wrong' is now literally true, for his acts are really the acts of his ministers." [Ibid. p. 711.] Todd, after pointing out the irresponsibility of the sovereign, says: "The counterpoise and correlative of this constitutional maxim is in another, no less important, which affixes upon the Cabinet—in other words, upon the advisers and ministers of the Crown—the ultimate and unqualified 'responsibility of deciding what shall be done in the Crown's name, in every branch of administration, and with the alternative of ceasing to be ministers, if what they may advisedly deem the requisite power of action be denied them.' The political action of the monarch must invariably and everywhere be moderate and conditional upon the concurrence of confidential advisers." [Part. Gov. Col., p. 18.]

The question was, moreover, pointedly put in the last argument before the Privy Council, and there is an accumulation of opinion in favour of the only reasonable view that could be maintained, namely, that the action of the Cabinet in this case is political and not judicial. Referring again to the printed report of the proceedings, at p. 32, Mr. Blake says: "It is quite obvious that when they [ministers] enter upon the sphere of action of entertaining an appeal their functions must be political, of expediency and discretion, just as much as the functions which in the last resort upon their recommendation are assigned to the Parliament of Canada, itself of course a political body." This is substantially repeated at p. 38. At p. 88 "the appeal is a political and non-judicial tribunal." But lest Mr. Blake's opinion should not be deemed sufficient we have Lord Watson's deliberate statement at p. 193: "It is a political, administrative appeal and not a judicial appeal in any proper sense of the term." And he added that "Parliament may legislate or not as they see fit." Lord Macnaghten at p. 258: "We are a judicial body, and he [the Governor in Council] is not sitting as a judicial body."

It is true that on the argument, when he was hard pressed by Counsel for Manitoba, the Premier asserted his readiness to accept full responsibility for whatever the Government might do, and went so far as to fling a challenge in studiously refined and classical language to Mr. McCarthy to "go on the stump" and debate the question. This will readily be recognized as purely political and not in any sense judicial. But the remedial order still affects the technical language of a judgment in its phrase "adjudge and declare." A more ridiculous and pretentious assumption of judicial functions, perhaps, never was seen before. A more desperate attempt to evade responsibility is not recorded. Every turn of the thumbscrew from the constraining end of the Cabinet produced another distortion of the features of the victims, and another yell of compliance with a constitutional creed formulated for the occasion. If a still more complete and confounding refutation of the claim of the ministry to act as judges is needed, it will be found in the apologetic assertions that the Government merely "threw the matter back into Manitoba politics again," "readdressed the packet to Manitoba," and so on; or in the claim that they were constrained by the judgment of the Privy Council to allow the appeal, simply because an appeal could be lodged. "Gentlemen, please argue this vexatious matter; convince us of the course we ought to pursue; but remember we can only pursue one course. Now, gentlemen, argue to us while we sleep, for the judicial mind of this court has only one outlet."

EDWARD DOUGLAS ARMOUR

The Money Question.—III.

COMING to consider the vexed point as to the most suitable money standard we may observe, first of all, that an ideal standard will be possessed of the following qualities:—

It will not fluctuate in value during either short or long periods. This practically means that the average human exertion required to obtain a unit quantity of it will remain steady. Otherwise there would be uncertainty in every-day dealings owing to temporary fluctuations in the standard, or uncertainty in making long contracts owing to considerable changes in the course of years.

It will not be bulky, or difficult, or expensive to handle

in proportion to its value. As a medium of exchange, now-a-days, the standard is used either for small payments in some countries, or, which is its chief use, in international loans and payments, and in banking and other settlements supplementary to its main function as a standard. These large payments, if not very numerous in proportion to the others, yet require large amounts of even the least bulky standards. It must, therefore, be neither too plentiful nor too scarce.

It will be perfectly simple and uniform in quality in order that there may be no uncertainty as to the uniform basis of the various parts of the mechanism of exchange which rest upon the standard by being made redeemable in it. Simplicity is also essential in making the standard intelligible to the masses, and thereby, as far as possible, guarding against panics, on the one hand, and blundering legislation on the other, due to ignorance of the nature of the standard and its functions.

Such are the leading qualities of a theoretically perfect standard substance; but in practice there is nothing which has yet been discovered which will meet all these requirements. Our question then comes to be, which of the imperfect standards is least imperfect?

Either gold or silver we find will answer admirably the last requirement of simplicity and uniformity. Gold answers the second very well, silver answers also, but much less perfectly. Neither gold nor silver, however, will quite answer the first, inasmuch as the cost of their production is an uncertain quantity. Hitherto, however, within recent times, gold has answered more perfectly than silver, since its cost of production, as measured by human exertion, is much steadier than that of silver. True, the cost of silver, as measured by wheat or cotton or iron, is the more uniform, but this is because the cost of production of iron has greatly declined, because wheat has been over produced and hence reduced in value; and cotton partly overproduced, but also largely reduced in cost of production.

The greatest difference between gold and silver as standards may be stated thus: Gold conforms much more steadily to the unit of human effort—the unit of labor—and thus shows, on the one hand, by the relative fall in the prices of certain articles, what advantage has come to human labour and intelligence from the greater ease or facility in production, while, on the other hand, by the fall in certain other prices, as of wheat, it shows that for those who cannot produce it at greatly reduced cost it is folly to continue its production and wisdom to increase those products which have not so fallen in value, such as butter, cheese, poultry, eggs, fruit, meat, etc. This exhibits the regulative function of money, referred to in the first article. Again, by conforming to the unit of human labour rather than to the unit of product, gold keeps wages and fixed incomes fairly uniform, and not only points out the advantages gained by economic progress, but gives them to the workers by enabling them to purchase an increasing quantity of goods for their wages.

Silver, on the other hand, declining in its cost of production, keeps more nearly on a par with the other articles whose cost is also declining, and, thus while still retaining its exchange quality, loses largely its regulative quality, and no longer gives any direct indication of the gains which accompany economic progress. Indirectly, however, the difference would be shown by a rise in price for all those articles which remain constant, or nearly so, under the gold standard. With regard to wages, however, the effects would be most severely felt. Since wages and fixed incomes are always measured by a certain amount of money and not by what the money will buy, the nominal wage or income would remain much the same while the real income would be very much lowered. Money would not purchase any more of the goods maintaining their silver value or price, while it would purchase less of those increasing in silver price. This, in time, would be corrected somewhat, but only after many strikes, much waste of wealth and energy, and much increase of bitterness between capital and labour. The farmers, indeed, would not find wheat declining so rapidly in cents per bushel, unless the world's supply continued to increase as rapidly as of late, and they would find their other agricultural products, as a rule, increasing in price, but they would lose correspondingly in having to pay so much more for everything they bought. There would be little pressure put upon them to leave wheat growing to the less intelligent

portions of the race and betake themselves to the production of those agricultural products which require more skill and bring better returns.

In case of transition from a gold to a silver standard at present, all debtors would benefit to the extent of the difference between the two standards, and creditors would suffer correspondingly. But this is a good or an evil, as we are debtors or creditors, not due to a special kind of standard, but simply to the transition from one to the other, although the good or evil would be continued according as the standard afterwards decreased or increased in cost of production.

Either gold or silver, in countries where the conditions of trade are already adapted to one or the other, is practically admissible as a standard though gold is considerably more perfect. A transition, however, from one to the other, especially if rapid, would cause great disturbance both in social life and in business, though in the long run, and if very carefully managed, there would be an advantage in passing from a less to a more perfect standard, particularly if it brought the country into closer touch with the more advanced nations.

Theoretically a more perfect standard than either gold or silver, from the point of view of uniform value in the course of time, is obtained by taking certain quantities of a number of selected articles and forming a multiple standard, which may be further improved by an internal sliding scale to meet large or permanent variations in cost of production. An inconvertible paper money properly managed is of much the same nature and theoretic value. Both depend on ideal knowledge and ideal management. But both, and especially the first, are so hopelessly incapable of meeting the requirements of an international and banker's medium, and of simplicity of management that in democratic countries they are mainly of academic interest only, except when a great war or some other misfortune compels a temporary and partial resort to inconvertible paper money.

Now bimetalism is the simplest possible form of the multiple standard, being the combination of gold and silver with the added advantage of having two substances, either of which may act as a money standard. If, apart from changes in value, these two metals were equally good as standards, then the tying of them together at the market ratio at a certain time would enable them to equalize any slight variations in value by making greater demand for the cheaper metal and thus raising its value somewhat and by making less demand for the dearer metal and thus lowering its value somewhat. But where bimetalism is general, the variations must be very slight or very temporary. The extra demand for the cheaper metal, in raising its price, immediately stimulates its production, and increased production cheapens the cost of production because it makes it worth while to produce on a large scale with all kinds of labour saving inventions and devices. So the very action which levels up a small difference in value soon makes it a very considerable difference. Of this the fate of the French Copper Syndicate is one of many examples. On the other hand, the dearer metal being reduced in value by the narrowing use of it, its production ceases to be profitable, the supply falls off and there is no longer any hope of restoring it to its former level with the other. Thus monometallism is the result, and we are back to the old condition. This would be no permanent evil if both metals were equally good as standards, but they are not; and as gold is the better standard it would not follow silver in its decline by allowing silver to do its work. Almost at the beginning of the change gold would go to a premium, as in the experience of the Latin Union, and the premium would increase as the gap widened, and thus gold, and not silver, would be the monometallic standard.

To attempt to maintain permanently the price or value of silver above the cost of production plus average profit, is simply to make silver mining the most profitable line of investment, and to draw to it enough of the world's free capital to raise the profits on other products to the same level; which is the same as saying that to pump out a hole in Lake Ontario two feet deep requires the lowering of the level of the whole lake two feet and keeping it down to that level.

The attempt is made to connect the passing business depression with an alleged scarcity of gold. But if scarcity of gold were the chief cause the following conditions would be found:—

1. Gold, and hence money, rising in value, the prices

of all kinds of goods would fall in almost the same ratio. We find, however, that most of those articles whose conditions of production have remained pretty constant, have decreased little or nothing in price, while the articles whose prices have chiefly fallen, have either declined in cost of production or have been produced beyond the need for them.

2. Gold being too scarce for the work required of it, would be in constant and great demand, and rates of discount would be high, as also the rates allowed on deposits. As a matter of fact the very reverse is the case. Gold has accumulated in unprecedented quantities in the Bank of England—the world's money barometer—the bank rate has never been so low over such a long period, while the other leading English banks, to keep themselves from being flooded with money, have had to break their minimum rule and lower the rate on deposits to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Not scarcity of gold as a standard, nor scarcity of money based on it, is the cause of the depression, but the ignorant blundering of democratic legislatures in their dealings with money and tariffs, imprudent speculations on the part of investors leading to excessive caution after being nipped, over production in certain common lines, and changes in the the world's economic conditions to which the average run of business men have not yet adjusted themselves.

A. SHORTT.

Pew and Pulpit in Toronto.—XV.*

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

I DO not wonder that a goodly number of English people attend Holy Trinity Church. For there is no church that I know of in Toronto that so forcibly brings to mind the Old Country. It is like going back to England for a while to turn into that quiet, quaint square that lies off Yonge Street. You leave the roaring thoroughfare behind you and come into an atmosphere of peace, and something like antiquity, for Holy Trinity was built fifty years ago, and that is old for a Toronto church. You might easily fancy yourself in one of those odd little out-of-the-way squares in London. The church stands up big, perpendicular-gothic and slightly touched here and there by the hand of time. Around it are green, grassy spaces, and chestnuts that are now in full glory of leafage, though their trunks and branches are somewhat blackened with city smoke. The houses in the square seem to be lived in by quiet people—I have been in it two or three times and have not seen a soul, yet you are within a couple of stones' throw of one of the busiest corners in the city. It only wants rooks caw-cawing in the trees to make it perfect; rooks that would build, some of them, in the two western towers and fly slowly and gravely out now and then and hold sage conclave in the old chestnuts. Very near this church lives the venerable Rev. Dr. Scadding. He ministered in it for many years and now is one of its most regular attendants. The history of the place is very interesting.

The church was begun in 1846 and finished and consecrated in 1847, as the result of a munificent gift to the then Bishop of Toronto, Rt. Rev. Dr. John Strachan, by an anonymous donor in England, who, through the Bishop of Ripon sent the sum of £5,000 sterling to be devoted to the building of a church in Toronto to be called the Church of the Holy Trinity, the seats of which were to be free and unappropriated forever. Previous to the consecration several additional gifts arrived from the unknown donor: "Fine silver sacramental plate for use in the church, and smaller set for use in private houses with the sick; a full supply of fine linen, and a rich covering of Genoa velvet for the altar, likewise surplices for the clergy." Rev. Canon Henry Scadding, D.D., was the first incumbent of the new church; he officiated

from 1847 to 1875, the Bishop having associated with him in this duty his friend Rev. Walter Stennet. So well did Bishop Strachan husband the \$25,000 placed in his hands by the anonymous English donor that he not only built the church by its means but established some revenue for the maintenance of Divine worship within it in all future time.

The plan of the church comprises nave, chancel and two transepts. A student of architecture may fancy, perhaps, that he recognizes in the general style of the place the touch of Pugin, who, about the time that this church was built, was exercising a powerful influence on the designers of churches. It was the time of the gothic revival, and great were the things that revival did for us. There are doors at each transept, but I prefer to go to the west door, as, entering by that, one gets the full view of the interior, which, though not overpoweringly grand, is dignified and noble. In some respects its characteristics are severely plain, and I think that suits the ideas of the Englishman when he goes to church. There are no cushions on the wooden benches, and no carpets on the floor, but all the seats are free, and rich and poor may mingle together before His presence in whose eyes they are all equal. The nave of the church is a great length, and the roof is high and spacious. There are tall windows, the bases of which are above your head, and there is no glare of light. Coming from the hot pavements of Yonge Street the church feels cool and peaceful; quiet too; a place where one can be at rest. There is a wide, long central aisle covered with cocoa nut matting—aisles also at the sides of the nave. The strong, solid, skeleton benches are oak-grained and divided into sittings by strips of wood, so that a liberal space is allotted to each person without any crowding. Most of the other woodwork is of darker colour, particularly the furnishings of the chancel, which is separated from the church at the angles by a partial screen of carved woodwork.

The great east window is filled with beautiful stained glass, having eight figures of apostles or evangelists or prophets. Beneath this is a somewhat large, gabled reredos finished with an apex in the centre, above which is a cross, and on the communion table, which is altar-like in form, there is also a handsome brass cross. The large, squarish, old organ is placed at the north-west angle of the chancel, its case looks dark with age, its many gilded pipes remind one of the organs of George III.'s time. The effect of the whole is very church-like, and to some people it would be more like worship to go and sit there for an hour, quietly, than to join in the "lively" services that prevail in some conventicles with much flourish of music, movement, and restless energy of appeal. For one thing, Trinity Church is large and spacious enough for one to sit in it tolerably unobserved. There are no galleries. The point of attraction is the chancel, and you cannot see so much of your fellow worshippers as you do in the theatre style of church which so much prevails in Toronto, and the object of which seems to be to bring everybody in the auditorium opposite to every one else, especially the minister. I am more and more convinced that churches with seats placed more or less in concentric circles are a mistake. I do not think the fashion will continue. The notion that a church is an auditorium—more or less a lecture-room—a theatre for performances, will pass away.

The choir consists of about twenty boys and the same number of men. They come in from the vestry south of the chancel, singing a processional very vigorously. In the rear are three clergymen. Two of them, Rev. Dr. Pearson and Rev. F. Dumoulin are the rector and assistant. Rev. Dr. Pearson is the beau ideal of one of the distinct varieties of the Anglican parson. Tall and imposing in figure, he has much dignity of appearance. He has large features, and white hair and whiskers of the clerical cut. His voice is strong and sonorous, with a fine ecclesiastical echo in it. Deep sincerity and conviction speak in those resounding tones, and, though altogether a different man, he reminds us somewhat of Sir William Vernon Harcourt. Propriety of demeanour and sound churchmanship are apparent in every movement, and shine from his "dome of thought" where the hair once luxuriantly grew. You feel at once that he is in every way suited to his environment, and that everything under his supervision will be done decently and in order. Rev. Frank Dumoulin, son of the well-known rector of St. James' Cathedral, is a healthy, natural-looking young man of two or three and twenty, who looks as though he knew what a

* The articles which have already appeared in this series are:— I. Sherbourne Street Methodist Church, Feb 22nd. II. The Jews' Synagogue, March 1st. III. A proposed visit that was stopped by fire, March 8th. IV. The Roman Catholic Cathedral, March 15th. V. St. James's Cathedral, March 22nd. VI. The Bond Street Congregational Church, March 29th. VII. Jarvis Street Baptist Church, April 5th. VIII. St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, April 12th. IX. At the Church of S. Simon the Apostle, April 19th. X. Rev. W. F. Wilson at Trinity Methodist Church, April 26th. XI. Rev. Wm. Patterson at Cooke's Church, May 3rd. XII. St. Peter's Church, Carleton Street, May 10th. XIV. At The Friends' Meeting House, May 17th. XV. At the Unitarian Church, Jarvis Street, May 24th.

game of cricket was, and could kick a goal in the football field. On the occasion of my visit to the church on Sunday morning last the only part he took in the service was the reading of the lessons, which he did in a wholesome, straightforward, unassuming way, like a Briton. I have heard him preach once, exactly in the same manner, and what I liked about the discourse was that, in addition to the paramount virtue of brevity, it had considerable directness and plain English about it—a sort of bluff, undecorated sincerity that filled all the extempore sentences with a good flavour.

I do not know any church in Toronto, of all the thirty-five Anglican ones, where the Church of England service is performed in a manner more characteristically Anglican than it is at Holy Trinity. When I go there it takes me back in memory to churches I attended in England years and years ago. The singing was not extra good on Sunday morning from a musical point of view, but it was voluminous and hearty. The responses in the liturgy are given by the congregation in a monotone sufficiently low in key to be easily attainable by all—baritone voices do not have to screw themselves up to a tenor note. As a consequence they have a volume and a power that is somewhat remarkable. As a matter of course "Hymns, Ancient and Modern" are used, and the tone of the service harmonizes with them and the Prayer Book. You do not go to Holy Trinity for the latest thing in church style, but you do expect a due attention to the Rubric. And you find there a certain massiveness of service which well exemplifies the character of the Anglican liturgy. Compared with some churches I have attended it is like the full diapason of a mighty organ to the well-meant efforts of a harmonium.

Dr. Pearson's sermon, like the rest of the service, was consonant with the spirit of the place. It was as plain as a pikestaff, and wandered into no new paths of originality or illustration. It was not intended to be entertaining, but it was the earnest setting forth by a pious priest of the doctrines of his church concerning the ascension of the Lord of the church; a short homily in which Christ was represented as the mediator and king in heaven. There was nothing in it that linked it with the life, the doubts, and fears of to-day otherwise than as these were the same as those of a couple of centuries ago. If George Herbert had been at church that morning he would have noted nothing unfamiliar about the discourse from beginning to end; there was no allusion in it that would have made him look up with a note of interrogation in his eye. This touch of the antique made it wonderfully suited to the surroundings. I would not have changed it by a word. It seemed as I sat there that I was linked with bygone ages, and that all around me was the historic and religious past, and I do not know anything more comforting in the midst of the changing, veering notions that possess mankind—seeking ever some new thing with an eagerness more restless than that of the Athenians—than to come into a church like this for a quiet hour or two and realise one's kinship with the faith in which the fathers lived and died. Down to the smallest detail of the service there was no jarring note. The church wardens collected the alms and "reverently brought it to the priest, who humbly presented and placed it on the holy table," as directed by the prayer book, while the offertory sentences were being sung; and the prayer for "the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth" brought the service to an end. There were several carriages at the door when the considerable congregation streamed out of the wide doorways; showing that this down-town church still has attractions for those who, in obedience to the general centrifugal law of cities, have moved away from the neighbourhoods in which, when Trinity church was new, their fathers used to live.

J. R. N.

Picton Boating Club Races.

24TH MAY, 1895.

AT the third gun, the skiffs, which had luffed round in line off Chimney Point, started on a tack easterly, the "Viva" very soon taking the lead, with her owner, Commodore W. J. Wallace, and Mr. E. C. Smith, of the Boating Club Committee, on board. Among the eight or nine skiffs following in her wake were the "Trilby," which finished second prize, and the "Tiza," finishing third prize, their owners being, respectively, Captain F. J. Beringer, and Messrs. Conger and Fraser.

The morning was unusually warm for the 24th of May, the wind north-easterly, rather light and variable, but sufficiently strong at times to show to advantage the sailing qualities of these bat-wing-rigged skiffs, whose display of gleaming canvas combined with the sky, and the sun, and the broad blue bay with its rich green sloping shores, to make a most charming water-scene to the delight of the numerous spectators on Chimney Point or scattered about the bay in skiffs and canoes.

It would be impossible to find anywhere finer sailing courses than those which the Bay of Quinte, already famed for its exceptional beauty, affords. The course for racing on this occasion was three and a quarter miles, to be sailed twice round, the "Viva" finishing in one hour and three quarters. Not every lad who takes it into his head to go to sea becomes a sailor, not every man who sets sail in a smart craft is a sailor; there must needs be a genius for sailing as well as for other things, a something apart from good boats and scientific training. That the "Viva" won first prize goes without saying. She started off as though her path had been designated by the gods of the air—it was a good one and she held to it to the finish.

It is some few years since so great an interest has been taken in boating on the Bay of Quinte at Picton, and to Mr. Wallace, of the Bank of Montreal, is mainly due this renewed enthusiasm. A club has been formed under the Lake Sailing Skiff Association, known as the Picton Boating Club, three other divisions being the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, Royal Toronto Skiff Club, and the Victoria Skiff Club of Hamilton. Races will be held here from time to time this season, and it is expected the "Viva" will go to Toronto next month to compete with the Royal Toronto Sailing Skiffs.

Regarding boating, I cannot do better than to quote, in conclusion, from an enthusiastic yachtsman:

"Yachting I would place at the very head and pinnacle of out-door amusements, indeed I think it something more than amusement. In Great Britain has it especially been found an important means of education in matters which may be said to be intimately connected with the very life of the nation. And one of ordinary observation can scarcely have failed to notice in our young Canadians that same love of adventure, that fearless encounter and keen enjoyment in the wild warfare with wind and wave that have for so many centuries characterized the denizens of the British Isles, and made them masters of the ocean world. And therefore it seems to me that this amusement should be encouraged and fostered in all reasonable ways by all who hope for a future of vigor, strength and enduring greatness for the Canadian nation."

From the sailing skiff to the yacht is but a step.

May, 1895.

HELEN M. MERRILL.

At Street Corners.

MY esteemed friend and collaborateur "J. R. N.," whom I have the privilege of knowing rather intimately, is somewhat amused at the attention which his "Pew and Pulpit in Toronto" is receiving, not only in Toronto, but in various parts of Canada. He showed me a letter the other day which he had received from a Quaker in one of the outskirts of Ontario. By his permission I transcribe a passage of it.

Says this distant friend: "I had been wondering for some time past as I read your articles in THE WEEK if you would write up the Friends' meeting in your city . . . and was delighted when this week's issue contained the longed-for thing itself. . . . I am glad to see that you prefer Quakerism in its purity instead of that which is but a bare shadow of the former teachings. . . . I have sent this week's issue to a friend in Dublin."

To jump from Quakerism to war, I may express assent to the universal verdict that the visiting arrangements of our three city regiments during the Queen's birthday holiday were a great success. The excursion of the 48th Highlanders to Windsor was especially so, and all the details of it seem to have gone off extremely well. The interest taken in the affair by the Detroit people was marvellous. When

a 48th man appeared in the streets of Detroit he was at once treated as a brother and asked home to the next meal, besides being shown everything there was to see in the way of public institutions, etc. By all accounts the Detroiters love a Highland laddie almost as much as most Americans love a lord. Good judgment too.

I am told, though I don't believe it, that Mr. Willison, of the *Globe*, who went with the Highlanders to Windsor, is so charmed with the uniform, that he has serious thoughts of practising the Highland fling with the view of giving it in character at the next meeting of the Press Association, and that he has already discovered—by the aid of Mr. Alexander Fraser, who accompanied the regiment in the same capacity—that most of his ancestors were Scotch.

Mr. H. M. Russell, the clever cartoonist of the *Evening News*, is about leaving the service of that journal, and will devote himself to unattached work, for which he has a considerable call. Mr. Russell's sketches of the Hyams trial in the *New York Herald* were among the best illustrations of that legal drama that have appeared.

I saw a curious pencil sketch that one of the minor barristers in the case made during the last day of the trial. It was exceedingly comic, and apparently done with an exceedingly black pencil, so that judge, jurymen and barristers all looked like niggers.

That Hyams trial was a terrible affair. It dragged its slow length along in a way that must have meant a great expense to the country. I was in the court on the last day and heard Mr. Osler speak for an hour and a half. His direct and masterly style was never more emphatically shown than in the impressive way in which he marshalled the evidence of the case and made it pass, panorama-like, before the jury.

The court was crowded, but there was a silence as of death when Mr. Osler rose soon after ten o'clock and stood before the twelve jurymen to address them. Every word he said could be heard to the farthest limits of the court. His dark, sallow face showed a proper estimate of his responsibility and of the magnitude of the task he had in hand. The supreme gravity of his demeanour, a gravity such as might be painted on the face of an avenging Fate, was modified occasionally by what I can only describe as a light of luminous intelligence that overspread his face and shone from his eye. I have never seen the like in any man's face before. It was not a smile.

A man said to me that the exceeding impartiality of the summing up of the Judge was indicated by the fact that of four men he had spoken to on the subject, two thought it slightly in favour of the prisoners, while the other two concluded that it was a little the other way.

The proceedings of the Woman's National Council reminds me by their universality of comprehensiveness of the gentleman who, at the conclusion of a dinner at which every conceivable toast had been drunk that anybody could think of, proposed "All People that on Earth do Dwell." I never before heard of an organization so ready to tackle any subject "either in the heavens above or the earth beneath or the water under the earth." There are so many things that have puzzled us that can be settled now, that a good many of us are already practising our *Nunc Dimittis*.

DIOGENES.

* * *

Montreal Affairs.

THE question of the municipal ownership of gas works has been raised here; and is now being vigorously discussed. The city has hitherto been supplied by the Montreal Gas Co., a contract being made with it every ten years. In the fall of 1893, when the city and the company met to discuss the terms of the contract for the decade beginning May 1st, 1895, an Englishman named John E. Coates made an offer to supply gas at a dollar a thousand if given the contract. The Montreal Gas Co. refused to match this offer with an equally good one; and though at the time there were

persons who questioned the bona fides of Mr. Coates he was given the contract. The Consumer's Gas Co. was organized, works were established in the suburbs, and a few miles of pipes were laid; but before the time came for it to supply gas under its contract it sold out lock, stock and barrel to the old company at a price which allowed it a handsome profit and left the city in the lurch. Mr. Coates then left for other fields of usefulness, and the city re-opened negotiations with the Montreal Gas Co. The Company made a series of propositions two of which recognized the right of the community to share in the profits of the Company after the payment by it of a twelve per cent. dividend; and finally an arrangement was made with the Light Committee. This provided for the reduction of gas for lighting at from \$1.40 to \$1.30 for the first year; and to \$1.20 for the remainder of the term of the contract. The rate for heating and cooking gas is \$1.00; while gas for both lighting and cooking is to be supplied in houses having a rental value of less than \$150 per annum by the English slot metre system at \$1.05. There are provisions enabling the city to control the pressure of gas at the works; and for the expropriation at the end of the contract or at the close of any subsequent quinquennial period. It is also provided that in the event of the city continuing to take gas from the company after the termination of the contract a percentage of the gross earnings are to be paid over to the city. The contract has not yet been ratified by the City Council, and an alternative proposition that the city build and operate its own gas works has been made. Mr. H. S. King, who was associated with Mr. Coates in the initial stages of the latter's brilliant campaign of two years ago, but who afterwards withdrew, has arrived from England, and, on behalf of the Whessoe Foundry Co., has offered to build gas works, and lay mains for the city, taking in payment city bonds to the value of \$1,500,000. Mr. King claims that with this plant the city will be able to make and sell its own gas at a profit at 60 cents. The proposition sounds well and there are many who are in favour of its acceptance; but there are also many sceptics. The latter point out that it will be impossible for Mr. King and his principals to guarantee that gas will be produced as cheaply as they predict. In that case the city would have its gas works and its experience; and Mr. King would have the city bonds. Gas at 60 cents a thousand in this climate sounds a good deal like a fairy story. Mr. King is, however, making a vigorous fight; and claims to have expectations of victory.

One of the things which tell heavily against any proposition to enlarge the functions of the municipal council in the way proposed, is the universal distrust of the better class of citizens in its ability and in its probity. If the city were to manufacture gas it is probable that, whatever might be the virtues of the appliances placed at its disposal, the gas would cost at least fifty per cent. more than it should; for extravagance is the rule in all the municipal departments. The bulk of our aldermen are no better than patronage brokers; and under their persistent pressure the payrolls of the city have grown until they now are beyond all reason. It is the fixed policy of the dominant party that there shall be no pruning done; and only last week the City Council dismissed summarily Mr. A. Davis, the superintendent of the Waterworks, for no other reason, though it was not so stated in the resolution, than that he administered his department with the single eye to getting the best results for the least money. He ran the waterworks irrespective of the wishes of the aldermen; he appointed men who he knew could be relied on to do their work, and he dismissed men with whom he was dissatisfied in contempt of their aldermanic "pull." He cut down the yearly cost of his department by \$41,000 last year by these means, but in doing so made enemies powerful enough to secure his discharge. A good many scandalous things are done in the City Council under cover of the race cry, for the French Canadians are in a majority in the council, and are therefore invincible when united. When, therefore, a proposed course lends itself to the exploitation of racial antipathies, these means are taken to insure its passage. Thus in the Davis matter the French Canadian aldermen, with one honorable exception, voted in a body for his dismissal in obedience to the cry that had been worked up against him that he was an Englishman who had been treating French Canadian employées with harshness. The humour of this is that Mr. Davis is no more an Englishman than any of the men who voted for his discharge. He is a French Canadian, but his name gave an opening for raising this cry.

against him, and it was done with a will. Mr. Davis is going to sue the city for wrongful dismissal, and there will be, it is expected, some interesting revelations at the trial. Mr. Davis' predecessor in this office, Mr. McConnell, threw up the office in disgust in 1892, because he could no longer endure aldermanic interference with his labours.

The Chateau de Ramezay, the quaint old building on Notre Dame Street opposite the City Hall, which was saved from the hand of the spoiler only a year ago by the interposition of the City Council, now contains the nucleus of what should grow to be a fine historical museum and library. The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society have moved their collections into the fine council room of the old building; and will take charge of the work of securing additional contributions. There was a little house warming gathering in the Chateau the other night, at which addresses were delivered by Judge Baby, Mr. De Lery Macdonald and Mr. R. W. McLachlan. Mr. Macdonald produced documents to prove that the building dated from 1705, in place of 1708 as generally stated. Judge Baby told of some of the notable occurrences that had taken place within its walls. There the three "delegates" from the United States in 1775 sat and conferred with those sympathizing with the American revolution. From there Franklin, Charles Carroll, and his son sent out their manifestoes. With these manifestoes was sent out the call from the King of France for the French in Canada to join with the revolutionists against English dominion, with the understanding that the French flag would again float over New France. "But to my mind," said the Judge, "the people did well to turn a deaf ear to these appeals," a sentiment that was followed with applause. Here most of the English Governors had sojourned. The Duke of Richmond here lay in state, having died on the banks of the Ottawa from hydrophobia. And when the old court house was burned the Court of Queen's Bench held its sessions in the building.

The finishing touches are being put to the Sir John A. Macdonald monument in Dominion Square; and it is to be unveiled on the 6th of June, the fourth anniversary of the Chieftain's death. Among those who have promised to be present is Hugh John Macdonald, of Winnipeg, the only son of the late Premier. The Maissonneuve monument, whose erection was intended for 1892 may possibly be unveiled in Place D'Armes Square on St. Jean Baptiste Day, if a last desperate effort now being made to raise sufficient funds to pay the sculptor for the statue is successful.

Miss Lily Dougall will, as usual, spend the summer with her relatives in this city. Miss Dougall in but two or three years has earned a standing in the literary world that should be a matter of pride to Canadians. It is now some four years since she published "Beggars All;" and since that date she has given to the world three successful novels: "What Necessity Knows," "The Mermaid," and "Zeitgeist," the latter just out. Two of these books are Canadian in their setting—"What Necessity Knows" being located in the Eastern Townships, while "The Mermaid" is a story of Prince Edward and the Magdalene islands. Miss Dougall finds the Canadian climate too rigorous for her in the winter months, and makes her home at Oxford; but she can be justly claimed as a Canadian writer. Her brother, J. R. Dougall, is the editor of the *Witness*; while a nephew, Hugh Cochrane, who is also connected with the *Witness*, has shown considerable talent as a poet, and recently published a volume of selections.

There has just been issued from the press of John Lovell and Son, simultaneously with its publication by the Home Book Co. of New York, a two volumed historical work: "Acadia; Missing Links of a Lost Chapter in Canadian History," which is likely to create something of a sensation among those interested in historical research. It traverses Parkman's account of the expatriation and puts the responsibility for this tragedy of a race on the British officers then in charge of Nova Scotia. The author is Edouard Richard, who, twenty years ago, represented Megantic in the Canadian Parliament and was subsequently Sheriff of the North-West Territories. Mr. Richard is a descendant not only of Acadians who suffered expulsion, but also of a British officer who took part in the forcible dispossession of the Grand Pré settlers. He has had access to many sources of information closed to previous writers on this subject. The book is published in English but a French edition may be got out later.

Dr. Jones, of the *Herald*, is preparing a work on the folk lore of a group of Ulgro-Altaic nations, the Finns and Laps; and will be glad to have Canadian variants of old world tales forwarded to him for use in the comparative notes to be attached to the book. Stories, superstitions, curious customs, local names of birds, folk songs, etc., will be most helpful. Dr. Jones has already published a work on the folk lore of the Magyar nation which earned for him the distinction of an honorary membership in the Hungarian Academy.

The *Star* deserves the hearty thanks of the Canadian people for preparing and publishing a superb series on the wildflowers of Canada, with reproductions in colours of the flowers themselves. The work is now being published in parts, but will later appear in single volume form.

One of the most industrious of Montreal writers is J. Macdonald Oxley who finds time, despite the exacting demands of business, to turn out a couple of stories for boys every year. He has two or three books ready for publication, and they will appear in the autumn.

* * *

The Lay of the Bimetallist.

(From the London *Punch*, 16th March, 1895.)

Who is Silver? What is she?
That all our swells commend her?—
Very tough and bright is she;—
The heavens such grace did lend her,
That adopted she might be,
That adopted she might be!

Is she constant as she's fair?—
Or is she light and heady?—
Gold might to her arms repair
To help him to keep steady;
And being helped, inhabit there,—
And being helped, inhabit there.

Then, if Silver plays mad tricks,
Or Gold is always changing,
So that none their price can fix,
From par to premium ranging;—
Let us both together mix!
Let us both together mix!

The above poem contains Mr. Punch's solution of the enigma which has so long puzzled and is still puzzling our good southern neighbours—how to use their two standards (so prone to vary in relative and commercial value) in a way consistent with economical principles and good faith between debtor and creditor; and it seems to me that Mr. Punch's solution is a good one. Many a true word is spoken in jest, and our American friends might take the hint and use the two metals together, not by alloying, which would be inconvenient for many reasons, but by providing that all debts and obligations to pay money shall be payable one-half in gold coin and the other half in silver coin, each of the legal weight and fineness fixed by law, and at their face value. This would be fair to debtor and creditor and would secure the great advantage of a more ample supply of real money. And, if in consideration of the great fall in the prices of agricultural produce and manufactures, it should be considered desirable to give national help to the unfortunate by enabling them to pay off mortgages and encumbrances, Americans might, perhaps, do this by free coinage of silver under strict conditions and limitations, and so adopt the principle of the Mosaic year of jubilee, in view of the pressure of hard times and general depression. The silver interest would feel the relief under the special circumstances which have blighted their prospects—unfairly as they think. Our American friends should adopt Punch's plan, or some other having like effect, and abolish the system under which the word "dollar" is without any definite meaning when used alone without the word "silver" or "gold,"—to the injury of their credit in the financial world.

* * *

* The Latest News From Paris.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

BORDEAUX and Nancy are two of the prettiest cities in France—after the capital. The first has a dash of Southern voluptuousness in its habits, and, of course, a pleasing Gasconism in its manners. It is also cosmopolitan, and above all, Colonial; it is there the missions dubbed "Scientific" are fitted out to exploit the British Niger, and to march into the region of the Upper Nile—as England does not count now. Bordeaux has just inaugurated a provincial exhibition. The capital was raised by one million shares of one franc each, and the holder of a share has the right to a few privileges. Prime Minister Ribot improved the occasion to deliver his programme speech, to preface the resumption of work by the meeting of the Chambers after the recess. That portion of the discourse alluding to the triumph

of French diplomacy in the Sino-Japan "peace" and the coming "conquest" of Madagascar was applauded *nem. con.* The home programme had dissidents; M. Ribot relies on the union of the republicans, but as these comprise moderates and extremists it is difficult to perceive how the oil and the vinegar can be mixed. He gave Anglo-Saxon common-sense advice to the Socialists; not to lose their breath in Parliament in violent speeches against instalments of legislation for the benefit of the masses, but to prepare and submit their own remedies in the form of bills to be examined.

M. Ribot has no easy task before him; the monarchists are clearly taking to the war-path; the Bonapartists, too, are mixing their paint and getting their feathers ready; and the Communists await home confusion to make the nation great, glorious and free after their peculiar manner. All that forms so many chain balls attached to the feet of France, and that she must always count with. M. Ribot had the real object of his visit to accomplish in, as Minister of Finance, alluding to the state of the revenue. The budget for the current financial year opens with a deficit of 50 million francs; the half of this he sees his way to meet, but the other moiety is less clear where to find. By taxing families according to the number of domestics they keep—wet nurses excepted—a few millions may be scraped together. As a rule these sumptuary imposts are not worth the expenses of collection and the irritation they cause. The advanced republicans want a more comprehensive scheme—the Income Tax—a solution the Prime Minister shirks, but that he will be called upon very shortly to face, as the country wishes it, and the propertied classes do not.

The war against the Britisher goes bravely on. Following their special manner all the French papers are attacked with Anglophobism. Some are coarse, others cynically hostile; in the don't-nail-his-ears-to-the-pump vein, or patronizing England, not to act disagreeably, but copy the French in Versailles manners, rectitude and straightforwardness, etc., etc. Deputy Humbert, ex-President of the Municipal Council, and amnestied Communist, indulges into two columns of hosannas over the downfall of England, and of the gain States will receive as their share of smashing her up. That is sharing the skin before the bear is killed. The name of Britain is now lowest in the rank of nations—according to French ideas; and, ostrich-like, they conclude the world does, because it must, share their opinions. As compared with the English the Germans—the victors of 1870-71—are angels. They joined France and Russia in the Anti-Japan League; in the Armenian League—where England should now be wide-awake—Germany did not join France and Russia, but John Bull did. Truth on one side of the Pyrenees, error on the other as usual. England is just receiving the contempt she has brought upon herself by her policy of honeyed words, blarney and caving in to France. Naturally the French laugh at all the blarney nonsense, and show it by going a-head on the Niger and towards the Nile. That's their discount of the verbal diplomacy of "John Bull and his isle." Then they make hay while the sun shines—while England has a sick premier and fiddles over local option, one man, one vote, etc., till Russia and France will remove the scales from her eyes and sooner perhaps than she thinks. In all the present troubled situation, observe that the name of the "Czar" is never mentioned—always "Russia," and not an allusion is made to Italy. Neutral observers do not place any confidence—but the contrary—in Germany aiding England. If the latter thinks she can count upon herself—well and good, but if not, she had better at once imitate the others and make friends with some of the mammon of unrighteousness. During the reign of Lord Palmerston the relations of France and England were sound; that Foreign Secretary's intercourse with the Gaul's was characterized by decision and promptness, with good humour, never blarney, nor saccharine nonsense. How is England going to pick herself up—that reflection ought to at once come home to every Britisher's bosom and business.

The assassination of the Abbé de Broglie, brother of the Duc d'Broglie, and a burning and shining light in the ultramontane and Orleanist worlds, is a pitiable event. His murderess is a retired dressmaker, a widow, aged 40, with an income in her own right of 1,200 frs. a year, yet she lived on alms given her by the clergy and the nuns. She is afflicted with, not religious, but church-going hysteria. She intended to kill the Superioress of a convent, whom she said

prevented her re-marrying and who would give her no work—both statements untrue. She pestered the life out of the old Abbé with her complaints and to calm her he promised to call on her and show her she was wrong about the Superioress. When he arrived she cunningly shut the door, locked it, and, after a short time, drew a revolver and emptied four of the chambers at the Abbé. He received two bullets in his body and one in his robe and might have escaped, as he rushed to open the door—that had been safety-locked—to secure help. It was then he was hit with the fourth ball in the neck, that broke the vertebrae and he fell instantly dead. The murderess then pulled back the corpse from the door and with a cloth mopped up the blood. Next she made her gala toilette, went to confession, and from there surrendered herself to the police. Of course the insinuations by the victim's political enemies are shameful. The poor old Abbé was a model man and the providence for the poor. He was always reconciling adversaries. He was a brilliant professor of religious history at the Catholic Institute, where he officiated every morning at the students' eight o'clock mass.

Parisians, in matters culinary, are ever ready to give a trial to many eccentric food supplies, but in the Clichy quarter of the capital there was a run—at the butchers, who were reported to be selling dog "cutlets" and "legs" and "saddles" for "lamb." It was a calumny, but may become one day a reality. The Chinese banquet on hairless dogs, and markets for the sale of dog-flesh exist in Austria, Bavaria, Saxony and Belgium. The dogs are fed on a special biscuit, with milk and vegetable dumplings.

The National Library of this city is in a state of bliss. An "anonymous" donor has presented the manuscript department with an English letter, dated 1750—was "Bill Stumps" then alive!—demonstrating that the game of billiards was invented by England in the sixteenth century by two Britishers named "Billy Kew" and "Billy-Yard." This looks very like a whale.

The principal streets in Paris are now laid down with rails for horse, compressed air, electric, etc., tram cars. It appears the rails exceed a little the level of the roadway and grip and cause dangerous oscillations to cabs. Are the rails to be relaid, and if so, at whose expense? The municipal engineers who passed the work? But they, like a king, can do no wrong.

M. Monnier, who is touring in Cochin China, deploras the decadence of Saigon. Its splendid harbour, that formerly had ships forest-like, as on the Thames, is now deserted; the city is crushed by accumulated debts, and there are twenty functionaries for every one trader. This seems to illustrate the charge that French colonies are founded to provide berths for officials. It will also explain the promise that M. Ribot made at Bordeaux, that in the conquest of Madagascar it shall not be peopled by the functionaries.

Can the editor of *Light*, the spiritualist journal, not give us *un poco piu di luce* still? It relates that Napoleon I., Wellington, Napoleon II., his mamma Louisa, that he never cared for, are all well in the other world and form a happy family. Cannot the journal arrange with Napoleon and Wellington to prevent any further wars between their old countries? Nelson might be beaten up and de Moltke as to the signs of the times. As for Bismarck, he is always with us, as the anti-Japan alliance attests.

The new locomotives on the Paris and Mediterranean Railways are built so that the front of the engine resembles the sock of a plough or the bow of a ship, and cut the air, thus overcoming resistance, securing greater speed and economizing fuel. It is proposed to simply place a false bow on the locomotive, as if a false nose.

In order to prevent the very poor from being victimized in consuming dog-flesh for "cag" the Municipal Laboratory has told off a staff of new sanitary inspectors to examine the meat sold in the low eating houses; that is a much better plan than seeking the adulteration in a butcher's stall. And the butcher who slaughters edible dog on his premises will be sent to prison for three months. Milk just now is very bad in Paris and is telling on the infant rate of mortality. The milk for the poor is a preparation of starch, plenty of water, and a little rejected concentrated milk.

There are sixteen titled Frenchmen married to as many American lady millionaires. The latter despise a poor citizen—perhaps he recalls their "awful dad" too much!

Letters to the Editor.

THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—I have to ask the use of your columns to add my humble quota to the discussion with regard to the propriety of adding some emblem to the British flag to distinguish it when flying at the masthead of a Canadian vessel or, elsewhere, as a distinctive mark of our political position in the Empire.

For the last century the Union Jack has been recognized as the British ensign all the world over; in this view it has been the Canadian flag. It is, I believe, now considered that there are reasons for distinguishing the Dominion distinctly in its position as an integral portion of the Empire. England, Ireland and Scotland have each a distinctive emblem separate and apart from the national ensign. In the army each separate regiment is known by its colors. On the same principle Canada, Australia, and South Africa may similarly claim each some symbol on the flag to denote their respective positions.

The Union Jack, in its present form, has been flying since the first year of the century and symbolizes the union of the three kingdoms. Before the union of Ireland with the other two kingdoms the flag was not what it is to-day. On the union of Scotland and England in the time of James I. the national ensign bore the red cross of St. George and the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field, constituting the first Union Jack. On the union of Ireland in 1801, when a new ensign was demanded, the red cross of St. Patrick was superimposed over the white cross of St. Andrew, as is seen on the familiar Union Jack of to-day.

The flag known as the British ensign shows the Union Jack in the upper quarter. There are three such ensigns, white, blue and red. The white is used as the flag of the Royal Navy, the blue ensign is borne by ships enjoying certain privileges, such as vessels in the service of public departments, or commanded by officers of the naval reserve, or belonging to members of yacht clubs. The red ensign is borne by all other British ships, and is the flag we usually see.

During the last few years a flag has frequently been displayed as the Canadian flag. It consists of the red ensign with a shield containing the heraldic arms of the Dominion shown on the field. Attempts have been made to obtain, for this introduction, general recognition as the national ensign. It may, however, be objected to on several grounds: (1) The heraldic device is exceedingly complicated and can only be introduced with difficulty. (2) It is not easily distinguishable on vessels seen from a distance. (3) There is no precedent on any flag of the Mother Country for the introduction of such a combination. The flag on which the British arms are displayed is the Royal Standard, which is hoisted only when a member of the Royal Family is present. The British arms are never associated with the Union Jack on any flag, and the introduction of the escutcheon of the Dominion, on the red ensign, to denote the national flag of Canada, is obviously without warrant. The conception is said to have taken its origin with an enterprising printer of hunting in Glasgow, whose sole object was to push his trade in what, doubtless, he believed to be a perfectly legitimate way.

A good deal of attention has been directed to the subject lately. It has been properly suggested that whatever may be added to the British red ensign to make it distinctively Canadian, the addition should in no way be complicated, that it should be easily distinguishable at a moderate distance, and so simple that the wife of a fisherman or pilot would have no difficulty in shaping and placing it on the flag used by her husband on his fishing smack or pilot boat.

Two emblems have been proposed as substitutes for the heraldic arms attempted to be introduced: (1) a beaver; (2) a maple leaf. So far as simplicity is concerned no objection can be raised to either. The question, however, arises, is either, in other respects, suitable? The beaver may appropriately enough be taken to signify industry, a quality which cannot be too highly commended, but industry is not everything in the life of a nation. There are other members of the same natural order (Rodentia), such as rats and mice, not less active and industrious than the beaver, and for this quality alone no one would dream of selecting one of these vermin for our national emblem. The lion, the bear,

and the eagle have been chosen for such purposes by other nations to indicate bravery, but I am not aware that courage is one of the qualities for which the beaver is famed.

The maple leaf, whatever its recommendations, cannot be held to represent unity. In a forest of maples the single leaf is but one of the vast number in the countless foliage. Nor, can it be appropriately taken as signifying permanency as every maple leaf disappears with the summer of its life. If a single green leaf be plucked it shrivels in a few hours; if it be pressed to retain its form, it becomes as fragile as glass. In no form has the maple leaf the quality of the endurance which we desire to have associated with our national emblem, and I am at a loss to understand what special connection it has with Canadian history to lead to its selection for such a purpose. With respect to colour, it can scarcely be held that the natural colour of the beaver or of the leaf is suitable. Placed on the red ensign neither would be visible at any distance, and it would clearly be in opposition to nature to depict on the flag a white beaver or a white maple leaf.

In my humble judgement we could with great propriety append to the red ensign a single large white star, with points representing each Province radiating from a common centre. At the present time we have seven Provinces in the Dominion and consequently such a star would have seven points. With additional Provinces the element of constancy of design would be obtained by increasing the points of the star, one for each new Province.

In this proposal we would have all that can be claimed for simplicity of design. A large white star on the lower quarter of the fly of the British red ensign would be seen at any distance, the flag itself could be observed; it would be a symbol of unity, and would represent the "many" combined in "one." A star, moreover, is an object of symmetry and beauty. The star of Canada displayed on the red ensign of the Empire would soon be known wherever a Canadian ship sailed; while in our own land it would be hailed with pride and affection by every Canadian youth. In all parts of the world it would be recognized as the Northern Star of America, the meteor flag of the Dominion.

In respectfully submitting the suggestion I will add that I have considered the observance of two main principles as indispensable. *First*, that there should be as little interference with the flag of the Empire as possible. *Second*, that the addition to the flag be, alike, simple, appropriate, and effective. The same principles should similarly be observed in the flags designed specially for the use of other great British Colonies. Take the case of Australia. When our distant sister Colonies come to be united perhaps they, too, may obtain the requisite permission to place on the British ensign a star to symbolize their union. The Australian or Southern Star necessarily would differ from the Canadian or Northern Star, in colour and in the number of points constituting its form.

I submit a sketch* of the proposal which I have felt it my duty to bring to public attention.

Ottawa, May 28th, 1895. SANDFORD FLEMING.

INTIMIDATING WITNESSES.

SIR,—One of the painful episodes of the trial of the Hyams' brothers for murder illustrates the growing evil of grossly abusing witnesses who give unwelcome evidence. Witnesses often require to be animadverted upon for the manner in which they give their evidence, or for other good reasons. It is right for counsel to do this. But I refer to conduct such as we might expect to find in a bar-room, but which ought never to be permitted in a court of justice. I was present in a court in Ontario when a visibly half-drunken lawyer grossly insulted a respectable citizen who was giving evidence. The outraged man vainly appealed to the stipendiary magistrate for protection against the legal bully. At a great trial in Canada—several years ago—an eminent lawyer, without the slightest justification, assailed the fair fame of a young lady who gave evidence, and the judge did not, as he should have done, rebuke the offender. It was reported in the press that the lady's sweetheart threatened to chastise the lawyer. Had he done so, all would have said it served the man right.

* The Editor of THE WEEK is so much impressed by the appropriateness of the proposal made by Dr. Fleming in this letter that he has taken means to have the sketch printed on the cover of this issue of the journal.

All true men stand up for the fair sex when they are unfairly attacked. He who will not do so answers to the old Saxon scornful epithet—he is “niding” or nothing. In some parts of England the epithet still survives: “He is a thing—not a man.”

In the Hyams' case there were several witnesses whose evidence bore hard upon the prisoners. Mr. Lount, counsel for one of the prisoners—when addressing the jury—spoke of one witness “as having the heart of a devil” and, also, again referred to him as “that damnable man.” This was very improper and ought to have been instantly rebuked. He also grossly slandered the heartbroken wife of Harry Hyams, one of the accused. He well knew that a surreptitious attempt had been made to insure her life for \$200,000, and that when she discovered it she had directed her lawyer to stop the negotiation. It was stated in the newspapers at the time that when she first heard of the attempt she fainted. Well she might. What would have been the sequence of events if that enormous sum had been placed upon her life? Could there be any love left for such a husband?

It is easy to understand that for these and other reasons well known to the prisoner's counsel—but which limited space forbids detailing—that she felt it to be her imperative though painful duty towards her dead brother, and in obedience to the mandate of the Crown, to give evidence. She suffered terribly and swooned in court. Her dreadful suffering ought to have moved the heart of any man. Yet counsel—lacking all chivalry—most unjustly vilified her to the jury in a manner that has never been done before in any of our superior courts. I venture, therefore, to take the liberty of speaking on behalf of all right-minded men to protest against such misconduct.

In the Old Country judges will not suffer such things to be done without rebuke. A judge should be masculine. One of his duties is to protect witnesses from grossly unfair attacks. Can there be a right administration of justice if they are to be pilloried for speaking the truth?

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

P. S.—All lawyers anxious to excel in their profession should carefully study Mr. Osler's concluding speech for the Crown. It is a model of clear statement and judicial fairness, and is after the very best English manner.

In May.

The clouds that veil the early day
Are very near and soft and fine,
The heaven peeps between the grey,
A luminous and pearly line.

The breeze is up, now soft, now full,
And moulds the vapour light as fleece,
It trembles, then, with drip and lull
The rain drifts gently through the trees.

It trails into a silver blur,
And hangs about the cherry tops
That sprinkle, with the wind astir,
In little sudden whirls of drops.

The apple orchards, banked with bloom,
Are drenched and dripping with the wet
And on the breeze their deep perfume
Grows and fades by and lingers yet.

In some green covert far remote
The oven-bird is never still,
And, golden-throat to golded-throat,
The orioles warble on the hill.

Now over all the gem-like woods
The delicate mist is blown again,
And after dripping interludes
Lets down the lulling silver rain.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT.

The Religions of Japan.*

WE opened this book with anticipations which we are reluctantly compelled to confess have not been fulfilled. The subject is one of profound interest to the

* “The Religions of Japan: From the Dawn of History to the Era of Magic.” By William Elliott Griffis, D.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

student of comparative religions, and of practical interest to all who believe in Christian mission work, and desire to make use of every possible means of rendering it effective to the accomplishment of its high aims. That Dr. Griffis possesses a very intimate acquaintance with his difficult subject we do not doubt, but for the general student, and it is for him he writes, it is of first-rate importance that to knowledge should be added the gift of simple arrangement, and of lucid exposition, neither of which are exhibited in the work before us. We are continually disappointed in our expectation of getting at the heart of the subject of each chapter. Thus in Chapter V. on “Confucianism in its Philosophical Form,” after the most careful reading we are quite unable to arrive at any clear conception of the subject. Ten pages out of twenty-one are devoted to such subjects as “Japan's Millenium of Simple Confucianism,” after which we are suddenly thrown back to the “Survey of the Intellectual History of China.” This is followed by a “Contrast Between the Chinese and Japanese Intellect.” Then before it is expounded we are told that “Philosophical Confucianism is the religion of the Samwaai.” At last we are to discover that it is “a medley of Pantheism.” Here we are not enlightened but confounded by such a quotation as this, given with scarcely any comment:

“Ri is not separate from Ki; for then it were an empty abstract thing. It is joined to Ki, and may be called, by nature, one decreed, changeless Norm. It is the rule of Ki, the very centre, the reason why Ki is Ki.” Ki is Spirit, and Ri is the “Way, Reason, Law.” Again it is asserted that Philosophical Confucianism is not agnostic, according to the teaching of many modern and western writers, and yet we are told that “whether the source and fountain of life of which they (the Japanese) speak has any Divine Spirit is very uncertain, but whether it has, or has not, man need not obey, much less worship him. The universe is one, the essence is the same. Man must seek to know his place in the universe; he is but one in an endless chain; let him find his part and fulfil that part; all else is vanity. One need not inquire into the origins or the ultimates. Man is moved by a power greater than himself; he has no real independence of his own; everything has its rank and place; indeed, its rank and place is its sole title to a separate existence. If a man mistakes his place he is a fool, he deserves punishment.”

The Spirit here described bears a striking resemblance to Mr. Herbert Spencer's “Unknowable.”

Having noted the unsatisfactory features of a learned book, we desire to do justice to the standpoint of the author. The motto prefixed to his book indicates what we believe to be the proper attitude of the Christian Missionary to the faiths he desires to replace: “I came not to destroy but to fulfil.” To treat with ignorant contempt those beliefs which, however imperfectly, have raised men above the sphere of the merely temporal and material is to court certain defeat.

Again, the importance of the comparative study of religions is duly emphasized. “The church that first adopts for her intending missionaries the study of comparative religion as a substitute for subjects now taught will lead the van in the path of true progress.”

At the same time Dr. Griffis does not conceal the abuses of the various religions of Japan, nor hesitate to assert the incomparable superiority of Christianity, and is in full accord with the numerous writers who view its progress in Japan with almost enthusiastic hopefulness.

There are in Japan three religions, or rather one religion which is an amalgam of Shintoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. “The average Japanese learns about the gods and draws inspiration for his patriotism from Shinto, maxims for his ethical and social life from Confucius, and his hope of what he regards as salvation from Buddhism.” This is very clear, and yet we must confess our mind is again confused when, after being told that it is from Shinto the Japanese learns about his gods, we are told that “Shinto is simply cultured and intellectual atheism,” and after reading that from Confucianism are derived the maxims for ethical and social life, we are told that “the ideal of Shinto is to make people pure and clean in all their personal and household arrangements; it is to help them to live simply, honestly and with mutual good will; it is to make the Japanese love their country, honour their imperial house and obey their Emperor.”

Froude's Short Studies.*

THE republication of these essays in cheap form affords an opportunity to a reviewer of expressing an opinion upon the writer not generally entertained, and of noticing one or two of the subjects treated of in these short studies. Mr. James A. Froude has been most severely criticised for the publication of the notes and letters of Thomas Carlyle, and those of the philosopher's wife, he having been their literary executor. If our memory is not at fault, a pen that can claim penship with Froude's, wielded by one to whom Canada has shown scant courtesy, and yet whose every line most inconsistently she eagerly scans, in the columns of this journal cast over Froude's memory the shadow of unfaithfulness to his friend in giving to the world those records. Mr. Goldwin Smith had opportunities greater far than we can boast for judging Froude's life and work. Nevertheless, we must confess to a feeling akin to sadness, when his keen and polished sentences were made to voice the general verdict. And we remain unconvinced. We believe Froude did the right thing, and such as Carlyle would himself approve. When the stern Protector would have his portrait painted, "wart and all," he was not considering artistic taste, but reality; and the modern Diogenes loses none of his human interest by the revelation of his irritabilities such as common flesh is heir to. I am afraid that we all have kinship with Guinevere, when reflecting on the passionate perfection of her king, she says:

"He is all fault who hath no fault at all;
For who loves me, must have a touch of earth;
The low sun makes the colour."

Carlyle towering towards the immensities, tearing up shams by the roots with a Titian's strength, is beyond the range of common life; but the philosopher, worried by the cock crow in a neighbour's yard, the man irritated because his breakfast is not to his liking, the lonely penitent sighing over words of sympathy that might have been spoken to one who was only too like himself in lofty pride—these are realities, not fictions; nor do the heroisms of either man or wife suffer in the eyes of those to whom truth is above all price, as they stand out in bold relief from the background of human frailty. Froude, it seems to us, showed in thus giving to the world the true Carlyles a much keener appreciation of his master's inmost soul than have his adverse critics.

The letters on the "Oxford Counter-Reformation," first printed in *Good Words*, reveal the bias given to Froude's mind which, transparent in all his works, prevented him from being a classic historian. Susceptible, impulsive, imaginative, his life began under the influence of old-fashioned ecclesiastical Toryism and squirearchy; religion with its orthodoxy was a State care; dissent was rebellion, and pietism weakness where it was not hypocrisy. All these foundation beliefs of childhood were soon rudely shaken. The Tractarian movement was in the glow of youth when his college course began; the Reformation, which he had been taught to honour, was now the great schism; Milton was a man of horror; Protestantism was a great mistake; and Catholicism, not exclusively Roman, must be revived if the Church was to be quickened. The world was widening to young Froude's view; his impassioned nature was as a harp on which many hands were playing. Meantime the hospitality of a home in Ireland was enjoyed, where Catholicism was left to its own sphere, and Protestantism revered, as it was scrupulously followed; the contrast between Protestant thrift and the squalor prevailing where Rome was acknowledged made its mark; the methodical religion of the house, with the firm consistency of the members, were to the wondering eyes of the guest "spiritual sunshine." Here, at least, the Reformation was not a mistake, nor a Catholic revival needed. Returning to Oxford, the excitement over Tract XC. was begun. John Henry Newman's personality was of itself a power. Froude, in measure, was under its spell; reason apparently gave no certain sound; traditional views of Scripture were undermined. Newman went over to Rome, and those who like Froude had ventured out upon the Anglo-Catholic raft, "buoyed up by airy bubbles of ecclesiastical sentiment, and who would not make for the fancied harbour of an infallible Church, found "the bubbles burst, the raft

splintered, and themselves struggling in the waves." Ecclesiasticism had utterly failed him, and the Papacy being *facile princeps* among ecclesiastical claimants was a *bete noire*. At this point, it is well to recall the surrounding influences of his childhood. They are thus described: "People went to church because they liked it, because they knew that they ought to go, and because it was the custom. They had received the creeds from their fathers, and doubts about them had never crossed their minds. Christianity had wrought itself into the constitution of their natures. It was a necessary part of the existing order of the universe, as little to be debated about as the movements of the planets or the changes of the seasons." This utilitarian spirit ingrained with the child life ever appears in the future writer. Hence when narrating his impressions of the awakening connected with the Oxford movement he more than once expresses sentiments such as these:—"Truth will prevail in the end, and the trial, *perhaps*, must have come at one time or other. *But it need not have come when it did.* There might have been peace in our days, if Achilles had remained in his tent." The words we have italicised are suggestive. Given the utilitarianism therein indicated, an imaginative and frank temperament, strong Protestant bias, and historical research begun under the religious movements of those student days, we can estimate aright the element of romance and one sidedness found in the histories of James Anthony Froude. They are honest, whole-souled utterances, and have great value when account is taken of the personal equation which by no means is small.

The Oxford Movement is a tempting theme in its many sidedness and far-reaching influences, some other time—perhaps. The study on the life and times of Thomas Becket is a strong plea for Henry as against the Archbishop—certainly the church is handled without gloves, and apparently deserves it; the account given of the work of Celsus as gathered from his critic, Origen, is clothed in nineteenth century dress; the "Siding at a Railway Station" is not a successful allegory, though fascinating in literary style. *Short Studies*, Vol. IV., is a fitting *finale* to the series which are models of charming English, full of vigour, like fresh breezes from the hills, and suggestive to those who read with wise discrimination.

Gravenhurst.

JOHN BURTON.

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BRIEFER NOTICES.

Fleurs Champêtres. (Montreal: Bureau de La Patrie. 1895. Price 75 cents.)—The author of this pretty little book tells us no more of her name than Françoise; and we can only hope this, apparently her first venture, may lead her to reveal herself more completely. The stories are slight, and sometimes disappoint us by coming to an end when we expect more. But this is not a bad quality; and the manner of the writer is very charming. It is French and yet Canadian French, and Anglo-Canadians will do well to familiarize themselves with the spirit of their compatriots through such literature as is offered by this brochure.

The Great Dominion—Studies of Canada. By George R. Parkin. (London and New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The first edition of this valuable and interesting book was reviewed in *THE WEEK* immediately on its publication so it is hardly necessary to do more than draw attention to the fact that this present edition forms one of Macmillan's well-known "Colonial Library" series, which is "intended for circulation only in India and the Colonies." One is inclined to view with some suspicion anything made in England especially for the Colonial market. It is apt to be rather second-rate. But Messrs. Macmillan & Co. never put out second-rate work: their printing and binding always are of the best even in their paper-bound books. We are glad that they have added this admirable book of Mr. Parkin's to their "Colonial Library." The price should stand in the way of no one who wishes to possess the work, and every Canadian should certainly possess it. The author is not only well-informed but his point of view is one which can be commended without reserve. His literary style, too, is excellent.

* "Short Studies on Great Subjects." Vol. IV. James A. Froude. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

Music.

Raoul Koczalski, the 13 year old boy pianist, has, according to report, been engaged by a very enterprising, but one would think almost reckless impresario, for a series of one hundred concerts in America next year, the stipend being \$250,000. Such a sum is entirely ridiculous, being on an average of two thousand five hundred dollars for each recital. Three years ago this coming July, the boy, then ten years of age, played a recital in Ischl, the fashionable and beautiful watering place among the mountains in Lower Austria, where I was then staying, and performed among other things a Bach Fugue, a movement from a Beethoven Sonata, a Chopin Valse, and a nocturne; and a little piece of his own composition. These were played with extraordinary facility when one remembers his years, but after all, there was no depth of sentiment or distinct intellectuality. How could there be? These come only with maturity, although I confess there are some who exhibit remarkable repose and feeling even in their early teens. But one needs experience, wide acquaintance with the world, and profound, serious study to arrive at that degree of absolute mastery over technic, and over ones own emotions, as to produce effects which will live in the minds of those who hear them. There cannot be anything about the playing of a mere lad so remarkable, unless it be purely external (technic), which would appeal with such irresistible force to the public, as to warrant the payment of such an exaggerated sum for a series of one hundred concerts. Sensation, speculation, novelty, and a craze for something out of the ordinary, as formerly practiced by Barnum, are the only suggestions which offer themselves as reasons for such lavish expenditure, which in the end is extracted from the great innocent public who are attracted to the concerts by skilful, persistent and flattering advertising.

A professional orchestra, under the direction of so good a musician and conductor as Sig. F. d'Auria, as has been announced, will, if it materializes, be a gigantic stride in the way of musical development in the city. I understand—and it has been freely discussed among musicians during the past ten days—that several gentlemen of wealth have signified their willingness to become guarantors for the scheme, and are desirous of equipping a permanent orchestra with such material that the best orchestral compositions can be given in a style worthy of their artistic value. I believe if the programmes are carefully made up, and are comprehensive, success will follow from the very start. Much depends on the character of the programmes. A cursory glance over the catalogues of orchestral literature reveals mines of magnificent creations, of varied character, which makes ones nerves vibrate at the very thought of their latent harmonies. Toronto has made extraordinary advances in the way of musical development during the past eight or nine years, as I have before stated in these columns, and possessing an orchestra of the calibre spoken of above, with good programmes and Sig d'Auria for its director, we may naturally expect an era of further artistic and musical prosperity.

The sacred cantata "Ruth," by A. R. Gaul, was produced with considerable success by the excellent choir of Beverly St. Baptist Church, on Tuesday evening, the 22nd inst. The choruses were sung with but one or two exceptions in splendid style, evincing the conscientious care which must have been observed in their preparation by the conductor and choir director, Mr. W. J. McNally. The soloists were Miss Maggie Huston, Miss Bridgeland, Miss Henderson and Mr. Fred W. Lee.

A very excellent concert was given in the College of Music one evening last week, by pupils of Mr. H. M. Field, and Mr. Tesseman. The programme embraced many classical numbers which were admirably performed by Miss Birnie, Miss Carter, Miss Boulton, Miss Martin, pianists, and Miss Lund, Miss May Taylor, Mr. Carnahan and Mr. Sherlock, vocalists. A large and delighted audience was present.

W. O. FORSYTH.

One of the best vocal recitals of the past season was given by the pupils of Mr. J. Trew Gray, assisted by his talented wife and the Glionna Orchestra, in St. George's Hall, on the 21st inst. Amongst the pupils who were decidedly worthy of mention are Miss Iolantha Wie, Miss Allan, Mr. Donald Macdonald, and Mr. Greaterex, all of whom show careful training in their singing. Mrs. Trew Gray sang an old Scotch ballad with charming grace and taste. The pupils may congratulate themselves on being under such a competent master as Mr. Trew Gray, who is to be congratulated on his first attempt at a pupils' recital.

* * *
Art Notes.

"What becomes of them all?" is a question frequently asked by the onlooker who watches the stream of students who go through the mill in Paris. This query often arose in my mind when I was one of them: it is not satisfactorily answered yet. The weak, as I have before suggested, are annihilated. They may survive London; they may exist after Rome; but Paris kills them. Why? Because they learn, finally, that they are weak. Conceit may have inflated them, but the bladder is pricked in Paris; hope may have sustained them, but in a metropolis of cleverness that prop is ruthlessly knocked away. An *atelier* is a sieve where a rough process of "shaking up" reveals a small minority of retainable talent, and buries in oblivion the useless and impotent particles. Without any benevolent intention, therefore, the *atelier* accomplishes a great purpose much to be applauded of mankind. The feeble painter is saved from a life of despair in the realms of art, and probably accomplishes great things in a field more peculiarly his own—which may be the making of boots, or the selling of pork—and humanity is saved from the contemplation of pictorial efforts which add materially to the sum of earthly woe. But the process by which the tyro is gradually convinced of his incapacity to draw or paint is one of unmitigated pain. The *Quartier Latin* is the theatre of innumerable tragedies. The would-be Leonardo comes from his little American Vinci meagrely financed by his admiring parents. His departure is chronicled, with the usual shrieking head-lines, by *The Vinci Sun*; the towns-folk present him with a purse. His first week in Paris introduces him to the wonders of the new life—the life of which he had dreamed when he was idly roaming "around" in his own ugly back settlement. He enters Beaux Arts, pays his *punch*, does his first drawing. Then comes Gerome. After Gerome has passed to the next student our young Leonardo is conscious of a "buzzing" in the head, has a vague sensation that the world is rocking up and down, wonders if he is awake, tries to recollect if he has committed a murder or whether the present condition of things has been brought about entirely by his drawing. He leaves the school, and in a neighboring café he unconsciously drinks coffee with cognac, and smokes a cigarette. In an hour his native courage begins to return, but considerably abated in force. He wanders through the galleries of the Louvre and Luxemburg. He meets a friend who rallies him on his melancholy. He returns to work the next day. For a week, a month, a year, he combats the fiend of bad drawing; and on two occasions Gerome says "*pas mal*." He gets drunk on each of these days. But a year decides his fate. Not conceit, not parental affection, nor *The Vinci Sun* can save him from the realization of the fact that he has mistaken his vocation. If he has the courage he returns to his native place and successfully follows a trade; but, alas! how many of his kind have fallen victims to despair and dissipation. The moral to be drawn from the study of student life in Paris is not, of course, that it

is better to keep the budding genius at home, but rather that he should go there and try his 'prentice hand. If he be really talented the training will be of inestimable value to him, and, surrounded as he will be by students of equal or greater power, he will modify that inflated opinion of himself which is begotten by the fond but foolish admiration of his lay friends. His artistic friends are not likely to spoil him by flattery, certainly not in Paris: the men who are a grade or so above him will give him condescending criticisms the general tenour of which is to the effect that if he gets up early in the morning and works till late at night and keeps this up for about ten years he may eventually be able to paint a little.

E. WYLY GRIER.

* * *
Personal.

Mr. J. G. Ward, the Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand, left London for Canada yesterday to discuss with the Dominion Government a commercial treaty.

Amongst the Canadians who have recently left for England to spend the summer are: Sir Oliver Mowat, M.P.P., of Toronto; Mr. H. Corby, M.P., of Belleville; and Rev. G. Osborne Troop and Rev. Canon Mills, of Montreal.

Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen, arrived in Toronto from Ottawa, on Monday morning last, and are occupying Derwent Lodge, the residence of Lady Thompson. The Vice-Regal party includes Lady Caron, Miss Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Mr. Erskine, and Captain Urquhart, A.D.C.

Mr. A. R. Milne, on whom the decoration of C.M.G. has lately been conferred by Her Majesty, is the collector of Customs at Victoria. Ever since the Behring Sea trouble and subsequent negotiations have come before the public, Mr. Milne has taken a prominent part in that connection. He has rendered the State no small service through his perfect knowledge of the situation and his recommendations have been received with a great deal of consideration.

Sir Walter Besant, the recently knighted author, was born in 1838 at Portsmouth. He is president of the Society of English Authors, and was educated at Cambridge. He was intended for the Church, but abandoned this career. His first work, in 1868, was "Studies in early French Poetry" and since then he has steadily contributed his charming novels and works of graver affairs. Among the first may be noted "The Captain's Room," "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," "Armored of Lyonesse," "The Holy Rose," and of the latter "Readings from Rabelais," a "History of Jerusalem," "The Survey of Western Palestine." He is a writer of plays, and has also written biographies.

Dr. John C. Schultz, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, has been knighted. It is interesting to note that the father of the new Knight came from Norway. Sir John was educated at Kingston and Toronto, and evinced a special taste for botanical pursuits. He graduated as an M.D. in 1861 and settled in Rupert's Land, afterwards taking an active part in promoting Confederation. During the first Riel rebellion in the North-West he was arrested by the officers of the Provisional Government, but eventually escaped. In 1870 he returned to Manitoba which had just entered Confederation. Since then he has been intimately connected with the Government of the Prairie Province, of which he was appointed Lieut.-Governor on the first of July, 1889.

The "Chevalier sans peur et sans reproche" of the Province of Quebec, Hon. H. G. Joly de Lotbiniere, and Dr. W. H. Hingston, of Montreal, are now Knights of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The honour is well deserved. Sir Henri has been one of the leading men of his Province for many years. He springs from one of the best of the old French families, and though a Protestant he has enjoyed the greatest confidence of a Roman Catholic community. He has in-

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cessantly laboured to create good feeling among the various nationalities and has achieved some success. His record in public life is unimpeached, and is often pointed to as a model for young men. As an arboriculturist he has rendered valuable services. Born in France on December 5, 1829, he is in his 67th year still hale and hearty. One of his favourite pastimes is to chop down trees, and he is still able to walk miles on snowshoes. Sir W. H. Hingston has had a most distinguished career as a physician. He was at one time Dean of the Medical Faculty of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and, later, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Quebec. He is an honorary member of the British Medical Association, and is considered one of the greatest of living surgeons.

The newly knighted William Howard Russell, the celebrated war correspondent, is a son of Erin, and was born in Dublin in 1821. He was also educated in that city. In 1843 Russell first wrote for *The Times*, and seven years later he was called to the British Bar; but when war was declared in the Crimea, he went to the scene of action and remained there until the close of the fighting. Russell's letters from the Crimea on the mismanagement of the British army affairs are there said to have defeated the British Government because of the storm which they raised. In 1856, Russell described the coronation of the Czar at Moscow, and the following year found him in India, writing graphic descriptions of incidents of the great mutiny there. He received the Indian war medal with the Lucknow clasp. Russell had a unique experience when acting as correspondent for the *Times* in the United States during the civil war. He was regarded by the North with great hostility and threats were made against his life. This correspondent reported the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866, and he went through the Franco-Prussian campaign. He has also done service in Egypt and South Africa. Russell established the *Army and Navy Gazette* in 1860, and is at the present time its editor and principal proprietor.

Sir Henry Irving, as the famous actor, will hereafter probably be known, has also another name, John Henry Brodrib. He was born near Glastonbury, England, in 1838. At the age of eighteen, he made his first public appearance at the Sunderland Theatre, and afterwards played in the provincial towns. Ten years later Irving had made a name, which led to a permanent London engagement. He trod the boards of St. James's, Drury Lane, the Haymarket and Gaiety and Vaudeville theatres. In the latter theatre, in 1870, Irving appeared as Digby Grant in the "Two Roses." For 300 consecutive nights he played this part. His representation of Hamlet in 1874, created a great sensation, and the play ran for 200 nights. Irving afterwards devoted himself to Shakespearean plays and gained the great reputation in the next few years which now attaches to him in that connection. The record of Mr. Irving's successes in his various impersonations is long, striking, and would be tedious to reproduce. In 1883, he first appeared in Canada accompanied by Miss Ellen Terry. Henry Irving controls the Lyceum Theatre in London. He has frequently been requested to play before the Queen, and all the laurels that attach to his profession have been showered upon him. The great actor fully deserves the honour of knighthood which was conferred upon him last Friday.

Sir Lewis Morris, (Kt.) M.A., is a Welshman, born amid the charming mountain scenery of Carmarthen, and his compatriots of the principality are not a little proud of the fact and are prouder of him than ever now that he has been created a Knight. That Mr. Morris should early show signs of poetic genius is not to be wondered at. The Welsh are nothing if not poetic, in sympathy if not in fact; the landscapes amid which he spent his childhood and early youth should make a dumb man sing, and last, but not least, he had poesy in his very blood, for his grandfather, Lewis Morris, of Penhryn, was a poet of no little acceptance in his day. Unlike most other poets of the same rank, Mr. Lewis Morris is nearly as well known as an able lawyer and a politician as by his offerings to the Muse. He graduated as M.A. from Jesus College, Oxford, in 1858, and was called to the bar in

November, 1861. In 1879 he was made a Knight of the Order of the Saviour (Greece). In politics he has been signally unsuccessful, retiring from one attempt to enter Parliament and being defeated in another. But it is as a poet that he is most widely known. His songs of "Two Worlds," "The Epic of Hades," "Ode to Life," "Songs Unsung," and last but not least, "Gwen, a Drama in Monologue," one of the most beautiful things in the English language, have all run into a large number of editions. For many years Mr. Morris's poems appeared anonymously over the subscriptions "A New Writer," but are now collected and published under the author's name.

The occasion of the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Indian Association this year was made really noteworthy by the presence and assistance of an Indian lady who is not only fully "civilized," but belongs first of all to the literary guild by right of the excellent poems which she has published, and as a secondary accomplishment, is a gifted elocutionist. Sometimes when Boston "Indian sentimentalists" go west and see the native creatures who hang about the Pacific Railway stations, corrupted by the white men's vices, they have an awful moment of wondering whether they have not been mistaken all the time—whether, after all, Indians are not "pizen!" But, of course, those who really know the Indians know much better, and those who cannot know them from actual contact with them at their homes must be relieved of any such doubts by meeting such a woman as Miss Pauline Johnson, who read at the Indian fair at the Vendome the other day. The daughter of Chief Johnson of the Mohawks of Canada—a famous man in his country, who was well described as an Indian gentleman—and granddaughter of old John Smoke Johnson, who led his tribe against the New York persecutors of the Six Nations in 1812, this young lady retains the characteristic lines of the Indian's physiognomy in its noblest and purest type—that of the chieftains of the Iroquois race. It is capable of terrible expression, as some of the ladies who heard Miss Johnson read her stirring poem, "The Cattle Thief," may remember for a good while; but it softens into very charming smiles when its possessor reads a bit of her own lyric verse describing the delights of canoeing on a northern river, or some other offering from a muse which as readily enters gentle and flowery fields as the darker paths of war and of the wrongs of a race.—*Boston Transcript.*

* * *

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

Applications for the position of Professor in Latin in University College, Toronto, will be received by the undersigned up to August 15th, 1895, the initial salary will be \$2,500 increasing by annual increments of \$100 till it reaches \$3,200. Applications must be accompanied by testimonials. Duties will begin on the 1st of October.

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Toronto, 28th May, 1895.

* * *

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Applications for the position of Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry will be received by the undersigned up to August 15th. The initial salary will be \$1,000, increasing by annual increments of \$100 until it reaches \$1,800. Applications must be accompanied by testimonials.

The duties of the Lecturer will be to assist the Demonstrator in the superintendence of the laboratories under the direction of the Professor of Chemistry; and also to deliver such lectures on Physiological, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry as may be assigned to him by the Professor.

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The Expository Times for May has many articles of interest. Mr. Witten Davies continues his papers on Dillman, this time dealing with his teaching. The Great Text Commentary has, 2 Cor. vii. 10, "Godly Sorrow," for its subject. Several excellent hints for exposition of parts of the text are given, and outlines of sermons based upon the whole are furnished from F. W. Robertson and C. H. Spurgeon. Mr. A. C. Headlam carries on his "Theology of the Epistle to the Romans," and Mr. R. C. Ford gives some excellent sermonettes on the Golden Texts here: "The Cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" "He is despised and rejected." "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

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Publications Received.

- E. Lynn Linton. *The New Woman*. New York: The Merriam Company.
- M. E. M. Davis. *Under the Man-Fig*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- Lilian Bell. *A Little Sister to the Wilderness*. Chicago: Stone & Kimball.
- H. C. Chatfield Taylor. *Two Women and a Fool*. Chicago: Stone & Kimball.
- Henry Rutgers Marshall, M.A. *Æsthetic Principles*. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Geo. R. Parkin, M.A. *The Great Dominion (Studies of Canada)*. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- H. S. Wells. *The Time Machine (an Invention)*. New York: Henry Holt & Co.
- Francoise. *Fleurs Champetres*. Montreal: La Cie D'Imprimerie Desaulniers.
- A New Note. New York: Geo. Bell & Son. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Bound Copies, 6 mos, *The Century*. New York: The Century Co. London: T. Fisher Unwin.
- Luther H. Porter. *Cycling for Health and Pleasure*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Ben Jonson. *The Best Plays of the Old Dramatists*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Wm. De Witt Hyde, D.D. *Outlines of Social Theology*. New York and London: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Prince Schornaich Carolath. Translated by Margaret Symonds. *Melting Snows*. New York: Dodds, Mead & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.
- Lord Brassey, K.C.B., D.C.L. *Imperial Federation and Colonization from 1880 to 1894*. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co.
- Wheelbarrow. *Articles and Discussions on the Labour Question*. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co.
- Mrs. Wm. Starr Dana. *How to Know the Wild Flowers*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Noah Brooks. *How the Republic is Governed*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

James Anthony Froude. *English Seamen in the 16th Century*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Henry T. Finck. *Lotus-Time in Japan*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Paul Bourget. *Outre-Mer, Impressions of America*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Walter Cranston Larned. *Churches and Castles of Medieval France*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Douglas Sladen. *On the Cars and Off*. London: Ward, Lock & Bowden, Ltd. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

Dean Harris. *The Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula, 1626 to 1895*. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

J. W. Sullivan. *Tenement Tales of New York*. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Rosemary. *Under the Chilterns*. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

George Gissing. *Eve's Ransom*. London: Geo. Bell & Sons. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

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From the Prescott Journal.

On a beautiful farm in the township of Oxford, seven miles from Kemptville, resides Mr. George Pettipiece and family. A correspondent of the Journal met Mr. Pettipiece in a drug store enquiring for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. He made the remark to the proprietor that he had such faith in them that he never allowed his house to be without them. This led your correspondent to ask why he praised them so highly, when Mr. Pettipiece told the following wonderful story: He said that his daughter, Miss Margaret, aged 20, owes her life to Pink Pills. About two years ago she was taken ill with a severe cold, which terminated in a dry hacking cough, and from that time she began to decline. She gradually grew weaker and weaker, until she had to take to her bed. She was under medical care, but did not in the least improve, and we made up our minds that consumption had fastened upon her, and that her life was but a question of a few months at the most. We read much in the papers concerning Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and thought that perhaps they might benefit her, as all else seemed to fail. After taking the pills for awhile a change for the better was noticeable, much to our joy and satisfaction. Thus encouraged, she continued to take Pink Pills for several months. By the end of this time she was fully restored and there is not now a healthier girl in the township. About the time she began taking the Pink Pills her eldest sister also began to grow pale and sickly, and showing the same signs of decline. She also used the Pink Pills with the same beneficial results. "I believe, said Mr. Pettipiece, "that but for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills one or both would be in the grave and you can, therefore, understand why I am so enthusiastic about this medicine and why I always keep Pink Pills in the house. You can print this if you wish, and you can say, too, that it but faintly conveys the feeling of gratitude I have for what this medicine has done for me and mine."

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POET-LORE
 THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
 LETTERS
 Browning Anniversary Number.
 May, 1895.
 ANNALS OF A QUIET BROWNING CLUB. J. N.
 Coy (Historian).
 "MR. SLUDGE, THE MEDIUM" Rev. Francis B.
 Hornbrook.
 RUSKIN'S LETTERS TO CHESNEAU: A Record of
 Literary Friendship. II. Pre-Raphaelitism. Wil-
 liam G. Kingsland.
 THE COST OF A POET: Elizabeth Barrett Brown-
 ing's "A Musical Instrument." Prof. Hiram Corson.
 URIEL ACOSTA. IV. Karl Gutzkow. Translated by
 Richard Hovey and Francois Stewart Jones.
 "THE AIMS OF LITERARY STUDY." P. A. C. Some
 Elizabethan Books: Spenser, Lyly, and Ford.
 SCHOOL OF LITERATURE: Poems illustrative of
 American History; Discoveries; Lowell's and Whit-
 man's Columbus. (Conclusion.) P. A. C.
 NOTES AND NEWS. In Memoriam Miss Helen Bell.—
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Public Opinion.

Winnipeg Tribune: With the price of wheat booming, and the price of other produce steadily increasing, the outlook for our farmers is more hopeful than it has been for a number of years.

St John Telegraph: Dr. Bourinot may rest assured that the Liberals will never consent to any measure which will increase the authority of the Senate. At present if it is useless it is also harmless.

Bobcaygeon Independent: Venezuela will be getting its head in a sling next. It has been hauling down the British flag. Britain does not mind having its tail trod on, or being snarled at, or even nipped a bit, but when it comes to monkeying with the flag,—well, look out now!

Montreal Gazette: In five years Liberal Governments have increased the expenditure of the Provinces nearly 30 per cent., while, in the same period, the expenditure of the Dominion was increased 3 per cent. In the face of a record like this, it is idle for the Liberal leaders to expect the people to put faith in their professions of economy and retrenchment.

Hamilton Times: Not wanting to be inquisitive, a fellow would really like to know, you know, how it happens that Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn had to buy drugs the day after each of his big "wines and liquors" bills at Chicago. Was it seidlitz powders, or some other sort of pick-me-up? How does it feel for Mr. Foster to tax the poor man's sugar to pay for the rich man's budge?

Ottawa Citizen: The excellent people who wish to prohibit the manufacture and use of liquor by law should turn their attention to the cigarette evil. The statement that seventy millions of these little articles were consumed in Canada last year means that \$7,000,000 were spent upon an injurious habit. This is only one branch of the tobacco business. Could not the prohibitionists put tobacco on the list.

Victoria (B.C.) Colonist: It is most likely that the prejudice against Canada that is so intense and so active in Newfoundland was engendered and kept alive by the libels against their country that are continually being published in the Grit newspapers and proclaimed by Grit politicians. We are greatly surprised that the rank and file of the Liberal party do not give the blue ruin journalists and orators to understand that they have had enough of their dismal discourses.

* * *

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Scientific and Sanitary.

Professor Ludwig Schaffli, the well-known Swiss mathematician, has just died at Berne, at the age of eighty. In 1853 he was appointed professor of mathematics at the University of Berne, where he first acted as *privat docent*, but some time ago he gave up his post on account of advanced years.

"Surgeon-Captain R. H. Elliot, of the Indian Medical Service, has recently reinvestigated the value of strychnin as an antidote against snake poison in the most thorough manner," says *Nature*. "He experimented chiefly with cobra poison, but also with the venom of Russell's viper and the krait, using frogs, lizards, ducks, fowls, hares, guinea-pigs, dogs, goats, pigs, and monkeys as test animals. He confirms the results of Drs. D. D. Cunningham and A. A. Kanthack, that strychnin is not an antidote against snake-poison."

The following directions for sterilizing milk are given by *The Journal of Hygiene*: "Place it in a clean glass bottle or can, then place the bottle in any metallic vessel and pour water around it till it has reached the level of the milk, and place over a fire and heat to a temperature of 150 degrees. Keep it at this temperature for thirty minutes, then plug up the mouth of the bottle with clean cotton and keep till needed. The cotton offers a barrier to the entrance of all germs which is truly wonderful. They struggle in it as a man does in a jungle, and can not get out."

"A corps of engineers," says *Electric Power*, "is now engaged on the work of damming the Susquehanna River, about two miles north of Conowingo, Md. It is claimed that 25,000 horse-power can be obtained, which will be used for the generation of electricity for use in Baltimore city. Power sufficient to light the city and operate all the trolley lines, factories, etc., will be generated at this point. It is also stated that Philadelphia will be supplied with some of the electric power. There is a probability that Conowingo will become one of the greatest electrical centres in the United States."

Strength of wood.—"As a result of nearly 40,000 tests of timber made at the laboratory of the Washington University of St. Louis, under the direction of the forestry division of the Department of Agriculture," says *Railway Engineering and Mechanics*, "the following facts have been determined:—Seasoned timber is about twice as strong as green timber, but well seasoned timber loses its strength with the absorption of moisture; timbers of large sections have equal strength per square inch with small ones when they are equally free from blemishes; knots are as great a source of weakness in a column as a beam; long-leaved pine is stronger than the average oak, and bleeding timber does not impair its qualities. It is stated that a large amount of chestnut felled in Alabama for the tanbark was allowed to rot because its value for railroad ties was not known. The Division of Forestry called attention to the superiority of this timber for ties, and the wood is now so utilized, with a saving to that region alone of nearly \$50,000 per year."

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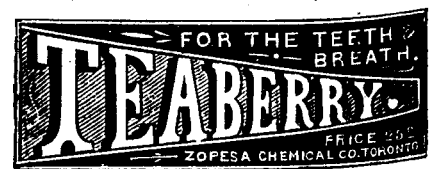
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Miscellaneous.

EDGAR A. POE AS A PROPHET OF SCIENCE.

The discovery by Professor Ramsay in a terrestrial mineral of the gaseous element helium, hitherto believed to exist only on the Sun, and known only by its spectrum, was recently described by *The Literary Digest*. *The Lancet*, London, April 13, notes a curious passage in one of Poe's tales that seems almost to point to the possibility that its author knew of the existence of this gas. Whether he did or not, the passage is certainly worthy of quotation, and we give it with *The Lancet's* introduction and conclusion.

"In our issue of two weeks ago we announced the discovery, by Professor Ramsay, of another new gas, when, in company with argon, he obtained from the mineral cleveite, by merely acting upon it with sulfuric acid. This new constituent proved to give the spectroscopic characters of an element hitherto supposed to exist only in the Sun, to which therefore the name helium was given. Professor Ramsay has obtained a considerable quantity of this mixture, we learn, and hopes soon to be able to report upon its properties; and since helium has been regarded as much lighter even than hydrogen the determination of its actual density promises to be of unusual interest. If helium could be obtained in tolerable quantity, what an important bearing it might have in aeronautics. Thus, if it be much lighter than hydrogen, its lifting power would be much greater, and the cumbersome and clumsy dimensions of our present balloon, it is easy to see, could be reduced with very great advantage. Was this wish father to the thought, we wonder, when, more than fifty years ago, Edgar Allan Poe, in his narrative of the adventures of Hans Pfaal, referred to the use of a gas much lighter than hydrogen for inflating the balloon in which he undertook his thrilling journey. The passage referring to the preparations for the balloon voyage is so remarkable in connection with recent chemical discoveries that we reproduce it in its entirety. Thus, after referring to the purchase of numerous instruments and materials for experiments in the upper regions of the atmosphere, Hans goes on to write:

"I then took opportunities of conveying by night, to a retired situation, east of Rotterdam, five ironbound casks, to contain fifty gallons each, and one of a larger size; six tin tubes, three inches in diameter, properly shaped, and ten feet in length; a quantity of a particular metallic substance, or semi-metal, which I shall not name, and a dozen demi-johns of a very common acid. The gas to be formed from these latter materials is a gas never yet generated by any other person than myself—or at least never applied to any similar purpose. I can only venture to say here that it is a constituent of azote, so long considered irreducible, and that its density is about 37.4 times less than that of hydrogen. It is tasteless, but not odorless; burns when pure, with a greenish flame; and is instantaneously fatal to animal life. Its full secret I would make no difficulty in disclosing but that it of right belongs (as I have before hinted) to a citizen of Nantz, in France, by whom it was conditionally communicated to myself. The same individual submitted to me, without being at all aware of my intentions, a method of constructing balloons from the membrane of a certain animal, through which substance any escape of gas was nearly impossibility. I found it, however, altogether too expensive, and was not sure, upon the whole, whether cambric muslin with a coating of gum caoutchouc was not equally as good. I mention this circumstance because I think it probable that hereafter the individual in question may attempt a balloon ascension with the novel gas and material I have spoken of, and I do not wish to deprive him of the honour of a very singular invention."

"The italics, which are not ours, might well have been at the present juncture. Could it possibly have been the conception purely of a highly imaginative and poetic mind, or had Edgar Allan Poe really learned from a friendly philosopher of the existence of a gas lighter than hydrogen, and whose discoveries may not have reached us for a host of conceivable causes? Perhaps Professor Ramsay or Lord Rayleigh will explain."

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